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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CITY OF URBANA ASKS YOUR HELP IN PRIORITIZING FUTURE SPENDING

The City of Urbana will be hosting in-person and on-line interactive activities on the five themes identified in the initial community engagement phase of the City's *Imagine Urbana* Comprehensive Plan update process. For the full report on *Imagine Urbana's* phase one's community engagement, the October 2022 Community Outreach Summary, can be accessed on-line at ImagineUrbana.com or obtained in hard copy at the Urbana City Clerk's Office and The Urbana Free Library.

The second phase of *Imagine Urbana* community engagement will get underway in June 2023. Andrea Ruedi, Senior Advisor for Integrated Strategy Development, stated, "The primary focus of the Comprehensive Plan update's next phase of community engagement will be the public's participation in simulated "spending priorities" activities. Interactive scenario simulation software will allow participants to immediately see the impact of their decisions and ultimately help the City determine how best to accomplish what the community has prioritized."

The public can access the on-line activity anytime through July 31, 2023, at <https://ImagineUrbana.com/balancingfutureproposals> to provide their priorities to the City. To walk through the on-line spending priority activities with City staff, the public is invited to join any of three webinars for a 15-minute demonstration, followed by an open session for participants to ask specific questions. Stayed tuned to City of Urbana social media and ImagineUrbana.com for web links for the webinars to be held on:

- June 6, 2023, from 3 to 4 p.m.
- June 6, 2023, from 6 to 7 p.m.
- June 7, 2023, from 12 to 1 p.m.

To reach a broader audience and engage those not actively involved in their City government, in-person spending priorities activities will take place across the City. The in-person meetings will be held at the following dates and times and are open to the public.

- Thursday, June 8, from 6 to 7 p.m. at Twenty-five O' Clock, 208 West Griggs Street with Council Member Chris Evans (Ward 2)
- Tuesday, June 20, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at USD #116 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary, 1108 Fairview Avenue with Council Member Shirese Hursey (Ward 3)
- Wednesday, June 21, from 9 to 10:30 a.m. at Town & County Apartments, 1032 Kerr Avenue with Council Member Chaundra Bishop (Ward 5)
- Thursday, June 22, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Channing Murray Foundation, 1209 West Oregon Street with Council Member Maryalice Wu (Ward)
- Wednesday, June 28, from 3:30 to 5 p.m. at Steer Place Apartment Community, 1202 East Harding with Council Member James Quisenberry (Ward 7)
- Wednesday, June 28, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at USD #116 Freedom School, 1106 South Vine Street with Council Member Jaya Kolisetty (Ward 4)
- Saturday, July 29, from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Salt & Light, 1819 Philo Road with Council Member Grace Wilkin (Ward 6)

Mayor Diane Wolfe Marlin encourages City residents and visitors to Urbana to provide their feedback to the City. “Your participation in these brief and engaging spending priority activities will give City staff the direction they need to draft our next Comprehensive Plan.” She added, “The development of the next Plan will be a transparent process with drafts available on-line for review and public comment.”

Imagine Urbana, the City’s Comprehensive Plan update process was launched in 2020 with extensive community outreach in 2021 – 2022. For a quick Q & A on the City’s Comprehensive Plan and process, go to [ImagineUrbana.com/about-Imagine-Urbana](https://www.imagineurbana.com/about-Imagine-Urbana). To see the full report on phase one’s community engagement, the Imagine Urbana Community Outreach Summary, go to [ImagineUrbana.com](https://www.imagineurbana.com). To learn more about issues and history related to the Comprehensive Plan go to [examine.urbanainillinois.us](https://www.examine.urbanainillinois.us).

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