I created this branch because I was unsure what stack everyone was working with, currently this branch uses MongoDB, Express, React (plus TailwindCSS) and Node.js (MERN stack).

A large majority of what is in here is the example frontend (thanks Gavin) but extracted and presented in a way that's more appropriate in a repository. In its current state I doubt it'll run with any meaningful result because I'm halfway through changing from Gavin's CSS to TailwindCSS. I'm not sure if this is even a good idea with the size of our project but it should theoretically decrease the amount of code needed.

On the topic of the frontend, the example one works but we probably want to have separate pages with their own Javascript (I've created a bunch of boilerplate for ones I think we'll need) rather than just putting everything in main.jsx and App.jsx. main.jsx should mostly just be used for loading everything in App.jsx which itself should route to the pages we actually want to render (look at Arkash's project for an example: https://github.com/ArkashJ/Spotify-to-Youtube/tree/main/Personal_Mantine-Vite-master/CS411Project/client/src).

For the backend, we still need some models for things we want to store in our database such as users, their passwords etc. We can also use the database to store datasets that we don't have API keys for by just storing them locally on our server but we only have 512MB storage max on MongoDB's free tier. Additionally we also have to do the routing for our APIs based on Nikki's outline and the math for calculating the optimal recommendations (this will probably be the hardest part).

If you want to develop with this branch, clone the repository and then npm install in both the outermost folder and the frontend folder, because they both have different package.json files and therefore different dependencies you need.

For the database and API access, you need either a password or a key. For database access you need to make a MongoDB account and then I can invite you to make your own password for access. For the APIs, I currently have access to the EIA and Census APIs which we can either share or you can request your own. (Also Gavin, I looked at the APIs you suggested and the Walkability one is viable but the other one only allows for a maximum of 50 queries a month unless you pay).

For your passwords and keys remember to make a .env file and create variables for all of them so that you don't accidentally push your authentication to github. The .gitignore file already ignores .env.