



LOUHUFF PARK

PUBLIC MEETING SUMMARY

GARLAND

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# ENGAGEMENT PROCESS GOALS

- **Listen** to the community's perspective
- **Understand** the park's importance within the local context, especially its strong ties to the community
- **Develop** an inspiring vision for the future Lou Huff Park in partnership with the community
- **Create** a draft master plan for further community input based on community recommendations
- **Complete** the master plan design and offer suggestions/tactics for its implementation

## Current State of the Site:

- The park is named after the prominent, cherished and respected Garland resident Lula “Lou” Huff.
- Lou Huff Park is set for a \$4.4 million renovation.
- The revitalization of the park will be an important source of connection for the community.
- The park is adjacent to Garland Power and Light Operations located northeast of the site.
- The existing recreation center/pavilion was closed in 2002 and is currently used for storage.
- The current rec center cannot be repurposed due to structural issues.
- The community residents utilize the next nearest recreation center at Gale A. Fields in Embree Park.
- The 5,800 square foot playground was replaced in 2021.
- The onsite softball field is maintained by the City of Garland and is available for rental.
- There is an active project in the Engineering Department to stabilize a portion of the site-adjacent creek channel.

- Multigenerational gathering place
- Overall site safety
- Local Park – Local Focus
- Welcoming – A gateway of sorts (comfortable, a place for longer use)
- Connect to adjacent neighborhood (Rainbow Estates) – easy access
- Creative landscaping
- Versatile programmable space to include passive and active spaces
- Historical ties to Lou Huff and the community
- Reimagine the sports fields and sports courts
- Incorporate a memorial and public art (storytelling)
- Investigate other enhancements to tie the park to other community benefits
- Reuse of materials where possible

# CITIZEN ADVISORY GROUP ACTIVITIES

- Two meetings took place on **February 28, 2023**, and **April 4, 2023**.
- The Citizen Advisory Group was comprised of members from various organizations:
  - Rainbow Estates Neighborhood Association
  - Garland NAACP
  - Carver Alumni Programs and Services Inc. (CAPS)
  - Former residents, clergy members, community volunteers
  - Individuals who have previously frequented the park
- The objective was to grasp the significance and relevance of Lou Huff within the community, prompting community stakeholders to share their personal stories.







# CITIZEN ADVISORY GROUP ACTIVITIES

*"The park was an area of personal growth and a gathering hub"*

- WHAT DOES LOU HUFF PARK MEAN TO THE COMMUNITY?
- The community developed some key phrases that centered on creating an inviting and welcoming place for the community:
  - "Foundation that shapes our future"
  - "A place for families to meet & gather"
  - "It informed my career path"
  - "Building bridges"
  - "We learned teamwork and coordination"
  - "Cultivating ourselves"
  - "Cultural district affects the lives of the young and old"
  - "Gathering & growth because it was the only one"
  - "Experiences that empower wisdom"



# CITIZEN ADVISORY GROUP ACTIVITIES

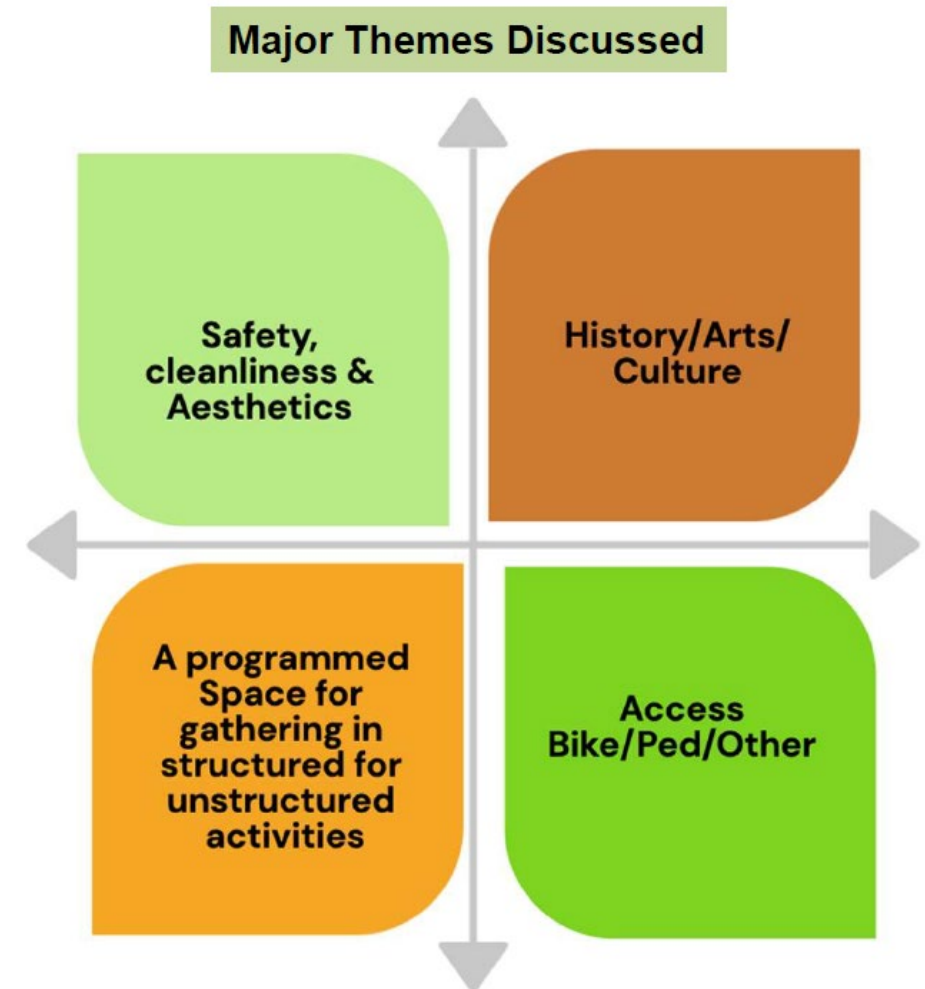
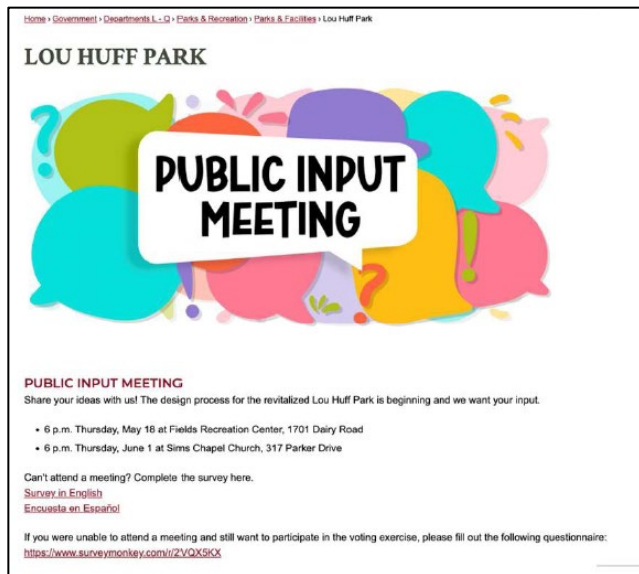
- The design team conducted an exercise with the CAG to develop an inspiring logo and tagline for the proposed revitalization of the park.
- Based on the feedback received, the proposed logo and tagline were developed, integrating the suggestions provided by stakeholders, which included:
  - Building on the legacy of community
  - Community and culture bridging to the future
  - Bridging community and culture to reimagine the future
  - Celebrating a legacy of community
  - A legacy of community and culture
  - Celebrating legacy, creating community
  - Bridging generations and culture
  - Celebrating legacy, bridging community & culture





# PUBLIC MEETINGS / TOWN HALLS

- The City of Garland PARD held two public meeting opportunities for the community to provide input on Lou Huff Park
  - Meeting #1 –Thursday, May 18 at the Fields Recreation Center @ 6 PM
  - Meeting #2 –Thursday, June 1 at Sims Chapel Church @ 6 PM





- The design team developed a survey to gain a deeper understanding of the desires for the project
- Leading up to the public meetings, an array of notices and surveys were distributed:
  - 400 Flyers with QR codes were distributed at every public-facing facility (City Hall, libraries, rec centers, etc.)
  - 163 doorhangers
  - Ads on the City website
  - Garland City Press Magazine.
  - Social media promotion (Facebook & Nextdoor)
- Surveys were provided in both English & Spanish
- 43 completed surveys received by stakeholders, all involved in the early stages of the process
- Around 40 people participated in the “Huff Buck” voting exercise



- **What Do You Like About Lou Huff Park?**

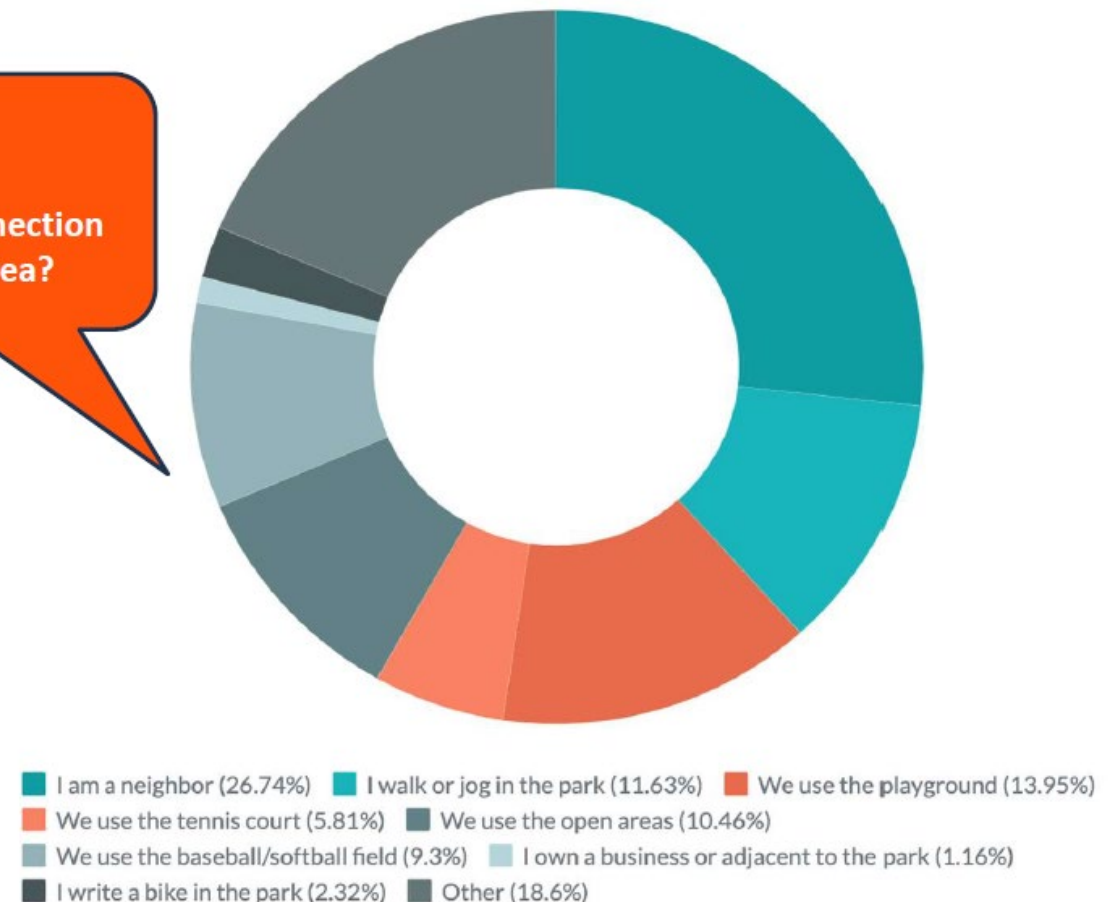
- Lots of open space
- The opportunity to bring the community together
- Accessible to area residents
- The park is a great place for my kids
- Its history and potential
- It's a park close to a neighborhood
- I grew up there

- **What Do You Not Like About Lou Huff Park?**

- Not fulfilling its potential
- Poor maintenance
- Visibility needs to be improved
- It's not well seen or obvious to the public
- It's a hideout spot
- A place for people to go hang out and do illegal activities

Survey Question:

What is your connection to the Lou Huff area?







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# PUBLIC MEETINGS / TOWN HALLS



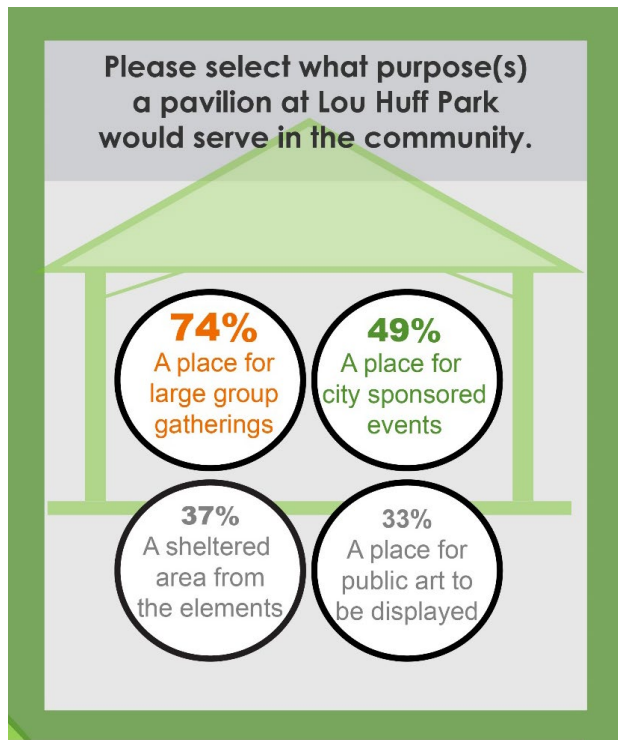


# PUBLIC MEETINGS / TOWN HALLS

- The **voting exercise** included boards presenting various park program elements and their different implementation levels, each associated with relative costs.
- The **program elements** included a pedestrian bridge, walking trails, pavilion, and sports courts.
- To encourage **public participation**, community members were allocated a budget of three million dollars, referred to as "**Huff Bucks**," to distribute among these elements.
- Each **person received** one \$1M bill, two \$500K bills, and ten \$100K bills, which was intentionally insufficient to cover all elements, thus prompting participants to prioritize their spending.
- The **outcome** revealed the community's priorities and the value assigned to each park program element.







# COMMUNITY RESPONSES

## Activities respondents would participate in at the improved Lou Huff Park

- 1 Improve *health / fitness*
- 2 Develop or learn new skills
- 3 Celebrate special occasions
- 4 Everyday unstructured play
- 5 Interact with *friends and family*
- 6 Meet *new people*
- 7 Leisure time
- 8 Experience being part of a *team activity*
- 9 Gardening
- 10 Participate in non-athletic *organizational meetings*

(1 = voted most important, 10 = voted least important.)

## Top 10 elements respondents felt it is important for the City of Garland to build or redevelop

-  Safety
-  Walking trails
-  Restrooms
-  Additional playgrounds
-  Basketball courts
-  Soccer fields
-  Family picnic areas
-  Pavilion
-  Exercise stations
-  Pickleball

## Top priorities respondent felt should be promoted at Lou Huff Park

- 56% Updates to the park
- 53% Expansion of *trails* and improved *connectivity*
- 49% Add more *recreational opportunities*
- 47% Promote *physical activity and wellness* at Lou Huff Park
- 44% *Community activities and events*
- 30% Maintain *green space*
- 21% Build *community partnership opportunities* at Lou Huff Park





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# CONCEPT MASTER PLAN

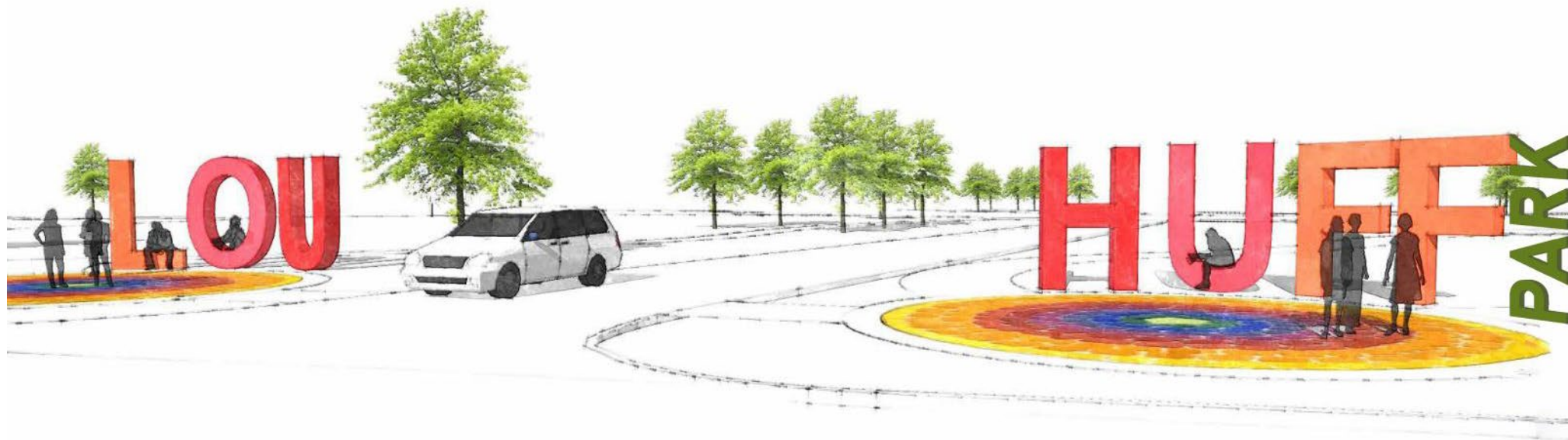
- (1) Main Entry
- (2) Walking Trail
- (3) Exercise Station
- (4) Forest Restoration
- (5) Parking
- (6) Multi / Basketball Court
- (7) Signature Bridge
- (8) Culture Ring
- (9) Creek Access
- (10) Pavilion and Restroom
- (11) Existing Playground
- (12) Futsal
- (13) Neighborhood Entry





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# CONCEPT MASTER PLAN



main vehicle entry to park

# Lou Huff Park

