



CHAPTER

04

Public Engagement

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GREENprint Engagement Summary

To envision the future of Fort Worth’s park system, the community engagement process was designed as a joint effort between residents and the city. This process captured the voices, feedback, and collaboration of the people who will play, gather, and celebrate in Fort Worth’s parks and green spaces. Through meaningful participation, the community’s essence, aspirations, and collective vision were reflected in this plan—a plan created by and for the people of Fort Worth.

The engagement process included focus groups, stakeholder meetings, public workshops, community pop-ups, and a citywide survey. A variety of facilitation tools were used to gather community feedback, identify priorities, and explore opportunities and challenges. The survey was open for three months and received 1,643 responses. Public meetings were held in all five Park Planning Districts. This chapter provides a breakdown of key findings from each engagement method and illustrates how this input shaped the GREENPrint vision, mission, goals, and transformative ideas.



1,643
Survey Responses

10
Public Meetings

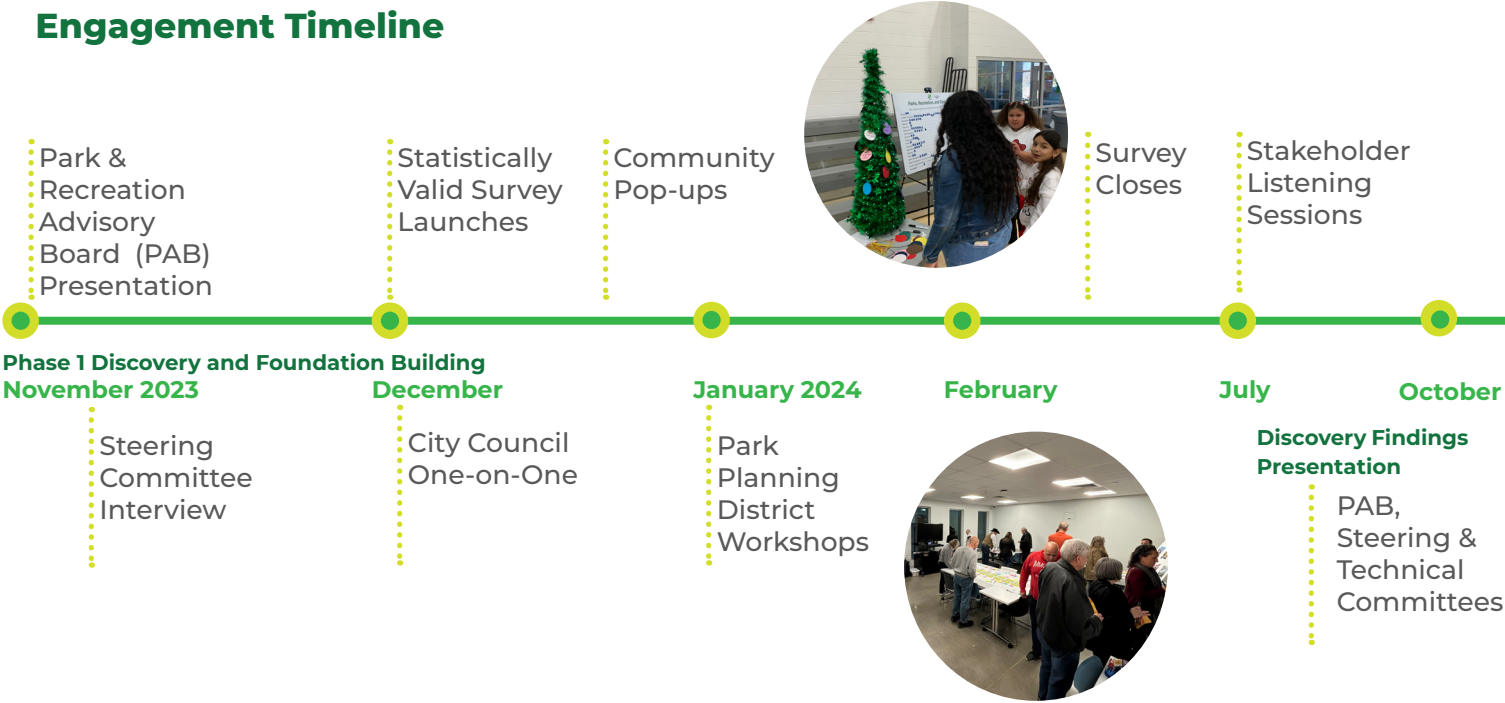
450
Public workshop participants

11
Focus Group Meetings

60
Website comments

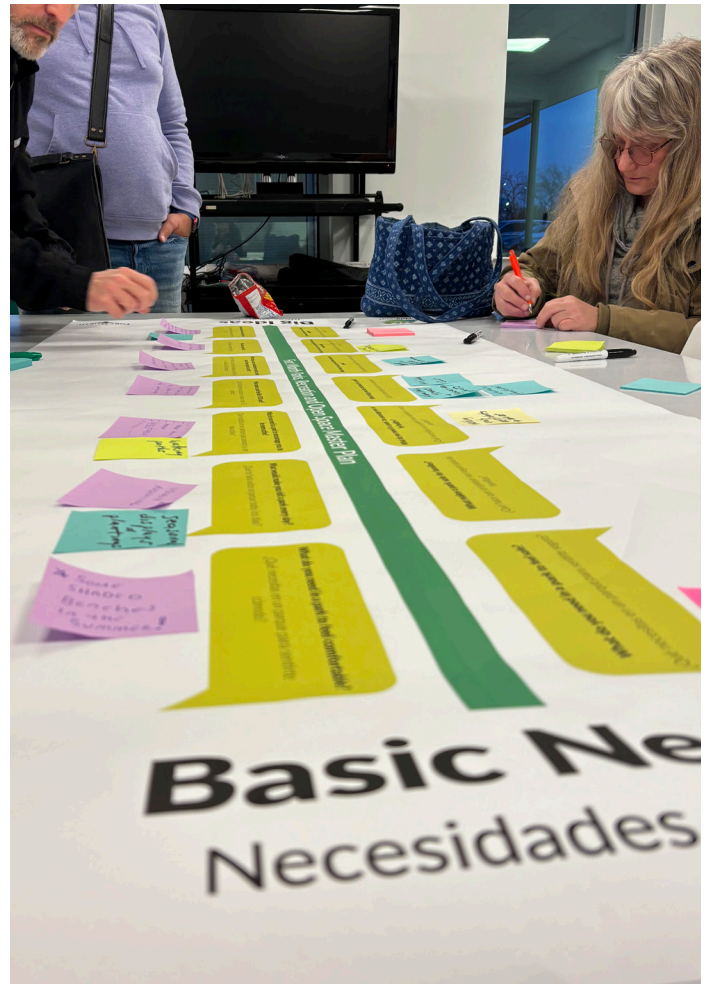
6
Pop-ups

Engagement Timeline





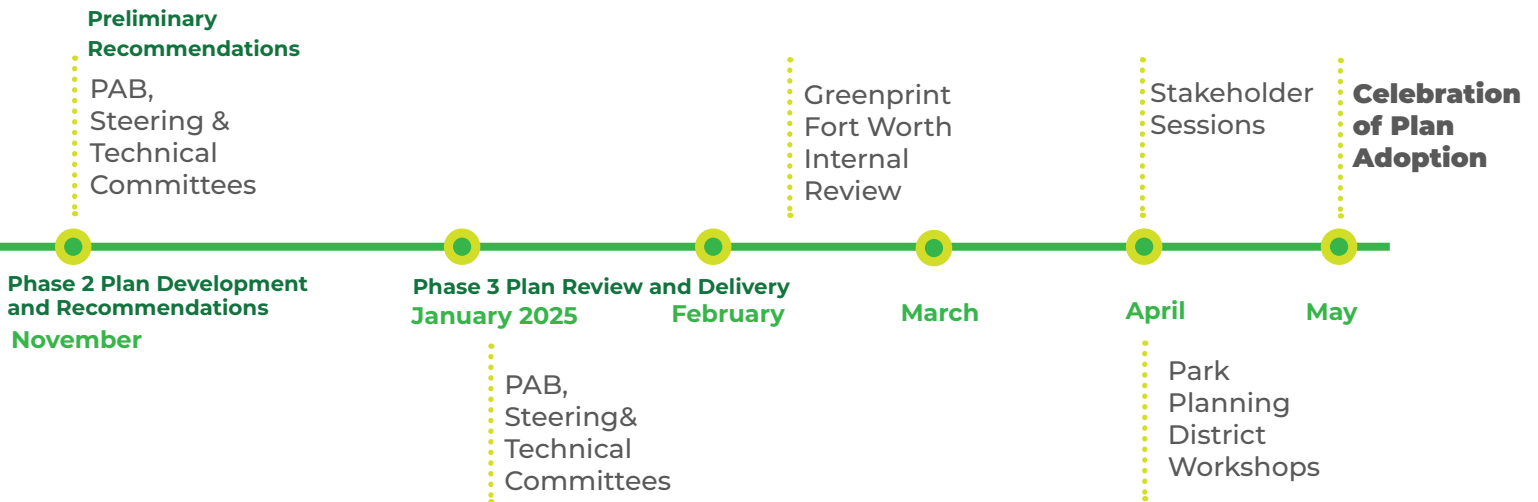
Park Planning District Workshop, Highland Hills Community Center



Parks Planning District Workshop, Golden Triangle Library



Parks Planning District Workshop, Northwest Community Center



Engagement Groups and Methods

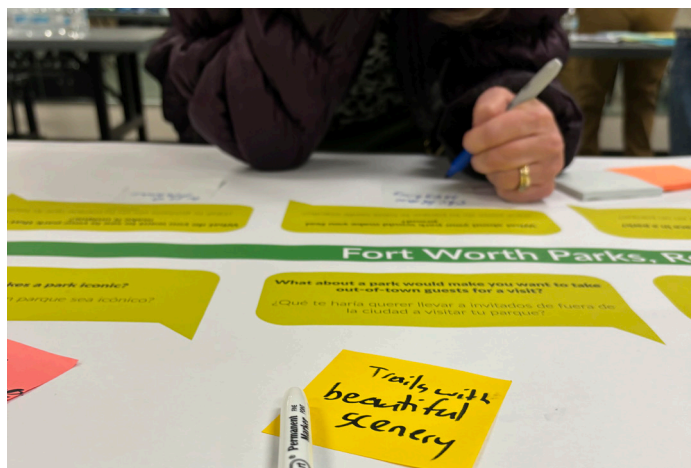
To ensure the GREENprint plan was a truly collaborative vision, it was essential to listen to a diversity of voices, perspectives, and experiences. A range of engagement methods was developed to promote broad representation, accommodate different participation preferences, and foster inclusive dialogue. This approach included public meetings, focus groups, a community-wide survey, and pop-up events designed to meet people where they naturally gather. These varied methods helped ensure community input was accessible, meaningful, and reflective of Fort Worth's diverse population.

Outreach

Outreach serves as the primary vehicle for reaching audiences and inviting them to participate in the planning process. By employing various communication channels, such as social media, websites, newsletters, community meetings, and direct outreach efforts, to inform about the planning process, upcoming events, and opportunities for involvement.

A number of outreach methods were employed to inform community members of the GREENprint and engagement opportunities, including:

- Email blasts
- Press releases
- Project website
- Social media – Facebook, Instagram, NextDoor
- Announcements during City Council meetings



Park Planning District Workshop, Highland Hills Community Center

Mayor and City Council

The Mayor and City Council members were interviewed to gain a focused understanding of their constituents' needs, preferences, and concerns. Their support and endorsement were also sought for the GREENprint Fort Worth, particularly regarding its implementation and development.

Stakeholders and Focus Groups

Key stakeholders—including community organizations, advocacy groups, businesses, and government agencies—were involved to gather their insights, leverage their expertise, and foster collaboration throughout the planning process. These partnerships played a crucial role in shaping the plan and ensuring long-term success.

Pop-Up Engagement

To maximize public participation, pop-up events were held at community centers, local events, and gatherings, meeting residents where they already are rather than relying solely on large public workshops. These events focused on interactive activities such as visual preference surveys, online surveys, and facilitated discussions. Passersby were encouraged to share their input, ensuring a more inclusive planning process.

Park Planning District Workshops

Large, interactive workshops provided an opportunity for community members to collaborate and offer input on neighborhood parks, trails, facilities, and amenities. These discussions helped shape recommendations tailored to the unique needs of each district.

Survey

A statistically valid survey was conducted to collect quantitative data on community preferences, park usage patterns, and satisfaction levels. The survey was open for three months and received 1,643 responses, providing critical, data-driven insights to inform decision-making.

Facilitation Tools

To ensure meaningful community engagement, a variety of facilitation tools were used during pop-ups and public workshops to gather public feedback. These activities encouraged participants to share their visions for the future of Fort Worth's park system, identify preferred amenities, highlight funding priorities, and pinpoint specific needs or opportunities on maps. The diverse engagement methods ensured all voices—across ages, abilities, and interests—were heard and incorporated into the GREENprint Fort Worth Master Plan.

Wish Tree

The Wish Tree activity invited participants to share their dreams and ideas for park improvements by writing them on tags and attaching them to a tree. This interactive tool encouraged community members to express their desires in a visual and engaging way, revealing key priorities and aspirations for the park system.

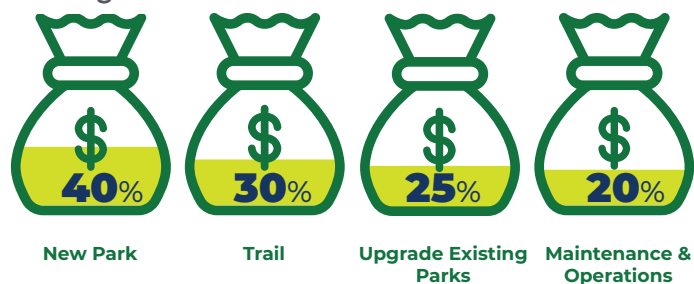
Top Responses:

- More basketball courts (including covered and outdoor options)
- Increased availability of pickleball courts
- Expansion of senior programs and activities
- More group dance classes

Funding Priorities

In this hands-on budgeting activity, participants received an envelope containing 10 coins and were asked to distribute them among different funding categories. This exercise provided a tangible way for the community to express how they would prioritize park investments.

Funding Priorities Results:



Wish Tree Exercise , Community Pop-up at Hillside Community Center



Wish Tree Exercise , Community Pop-up at Chisholm Trail



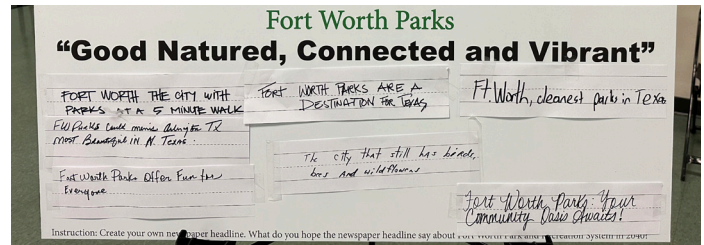
Funding Priorities Exercise, Golden Triangle Library Workshop

Newspaper Headlines

This visioning exercise asked residents to imagine Fort Worth 20 years into the future and create newspaper headlines that would capture their ideal city. The goal was to inspire participants to think boldly about the city's growth, its parks, and the role of public spaces in enhancing quality of life.

Newspaper Headlines Included:

- Fort Worth City in a Park
- Fort Worth Green and Peaceful
- Fort Worth as a Destination for People of All Ages and Abilities
- A Thriving Ecosystem with Abundant Pollinators and Vegetation
- Parks and Green spaces Described as Safe, Vibrant, and Lively
- Fort Worth Voted Best Parks in the US
- Bright and Vivid Fort Worth



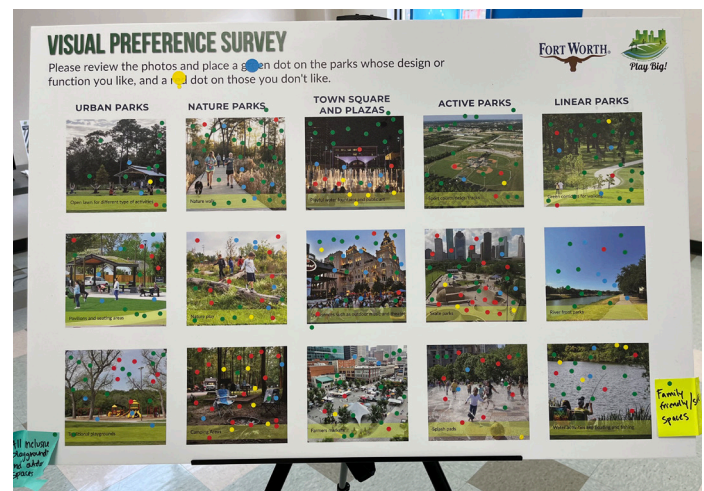
Newspaper Headlines from Park Planning District Workshops

Visual Preference Survey

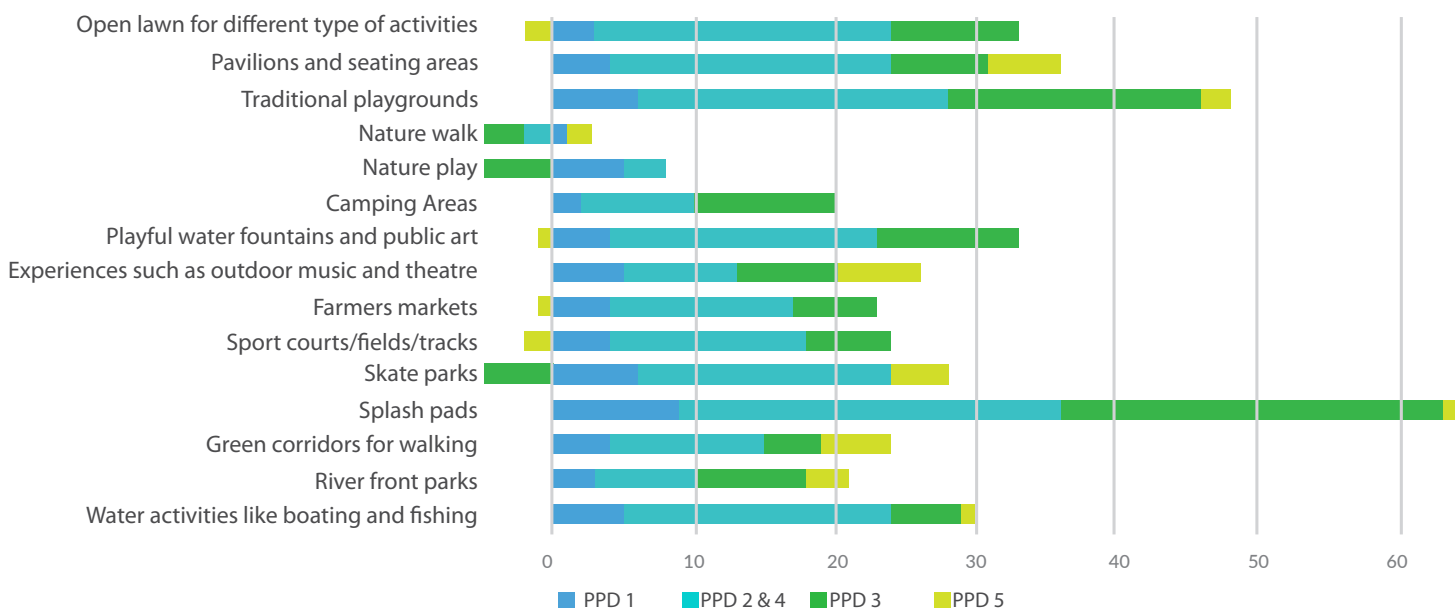
The Visual Preference Survey helped identify the types of parks that resonate most with the community. Participants selected images that represented their ideal park spaces, allowing planners to understand the unique needs and priorities of different neighborhoods.

Top Amenities Results:

- Splash Pads
- Playgrounds
- Pavilions
- Playful water fountains and public art



Visual Preference Survey Results from Park Planning District Workshops



Preferred Amenities

This activity sought to pinpoint the most desired amenities across Fort Worth's Park Planning Districts. Using sticky dots, participants indicated their top choices for park and community center features.

Most Desired Amenities:

- Trails
- Outdoor active recreation facilities
- Pools and water recreation areas
- Indoor recreation centers, and playgrounds



Top Park Amenity Preferences from Park Planning District Workshops

Imagine Your Park

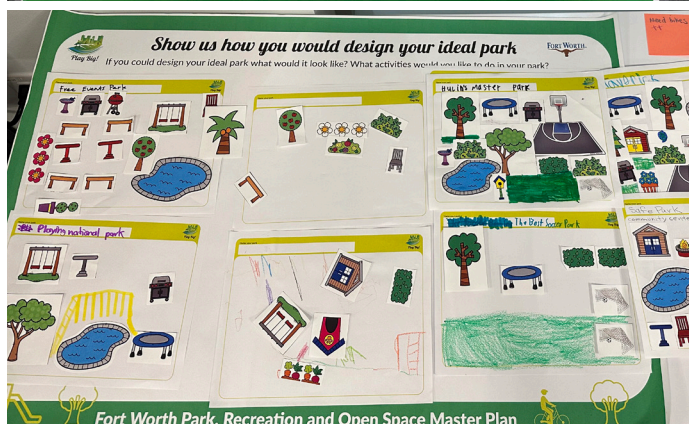
To engage Fort Worth's youngest residents, an Imagination Station was set up where children could design their dream parks using stickers and crayons. This activity recognized that youth are key stakeholders in shaping the future of parks and often provide creative, unrestricted ideas.

Common Themes from Kids' Designs:

- Art parks and performance spaces
- Skate parks and sports fields/courts
- Green spaces with abundant landscaping and shade



Imagine Your Park Exercise, Handley Meadowbrook Community Center



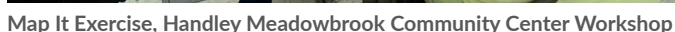
Imagine Your Park Exercise Results from Park Planning District Workshops



Imagine Your Park Exercise, Highland Hills Community Center

During the PPD workshops, the Map It activity allowed residents to provide location-specific feedback on their district's park system. Equipped with district maps, pens, and sticky notes, participants identified key areas for improvement, challenges, and favorite community spaces. This exercise leveraged local knowledge to ensure that park planning decisions align with community needs.

- Identification of underserved areas needing park access
- Requests for better trail connectivity and safer pedestrian routes
- Highlighting of beloved parks and amenities worth enhancing



Big Ideas

The Big Ideas activity encouraged participants to think about the essential elements that make parks successful, ranging from fundamental needs to aspirational goals. Using sticky notes, residents shared thoughts on various themes that shape the future of Fort Worth's parks.

Recurring Themes:

- Safety, comfort, and family-friendly environments
- Natural beauty, sustainability, and green infrastructure
- Community identity and destination potential



Big Ideas Exercise, Handley Meadowbrook Community Center



Shade at playgrounds for safer play during the hot summer

Ball fields and courts (baseball, softball, pickleball, tennis, soccer, basketball)

Good connectivity to neighborhoods, connected trails.

Places to walk exercise stations, and athletic facilities

Ample space for all levels of activities, passive and active

Unique playgrounds for all abilities and ages

Programming that promotes health, wellness, and community building

Public art, butterfly garden, native plants, water features. Nature preservation education classes.

Repair sidewalks, and install sidewalks to improve connectivity and safety

Focus Groups

As part of the GREENprint listening session, we engaged with eight focus groups to gain deeper insights into key areas shaping our community's future. These discussions provided valuable perspectives on recreation, development, conservation, and partnerships, helping to identify opportunities and challenges that will inform our planning efforts. By bringing together diverse voices, we aimed to foster collaboration and ensure that community needs and priorities are reflected in our strategies.

Independent School District (ISD)

ISDs expressed interest in improving park safety, enhancing connectivity, and expanding the use of parks and water bodies for education and recreation. There is potential for partnerships between ISDs and the Park & Recreation Department (PARD) to share facilities and integrate parks into science curricula.

Key Takeaways:

- **Safety:** Ensuring parks are safe to maintain family and student usage.
- **Water Bodies:** Opening rivers and lakes for activities like tubing and swimming while improving perceptions of water quality.
- **Education Partnerships:** Using parks for hands-on learning, including water testing, citizen science stations, and Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) initiatives.
- **Connectivity:** Expanding trail networks, especially around Marine Creek Lake, to provide safer routes to schools.

Higher Education Institutions

Colleges and universities are looking for ways to enhance student engagement with parks through research, wellness initiatives, and public health partnerships. They also emphasized the need for improved transportation, safety, and urban green spaces.

Key Takeaways:

- **Higher Education Partnerships:** Collaborating with public health researchers to study water quality, walking patterns, and public health impacts.



Economic Development & Tourism Focus Group Session

- **Safety and Accessibility:** Addressing concerns about park safety, especially in urban areas like 7th Street and the Stockyards.
- **Student Engagement:** Integrating PARD programming and facilities into student higher education orientation to promote park use among students and young professionals.
- **Public Health & Blue Zones:** Promoting initiatives focused on active living, food security, and mixed-use developments.

Economic Development & Tourism

Tourism and economic development stakeholders focused on the intersection of parks, water access, public art, and downtown revitalization.

Key Takeaways:

- **Park & Trail Connectivity:** Strengthening links between parks, neighborhoods, and incentive development along the Trinity River.
- **Water Quality & Access:** Improving public perception of water bodies and expanding activities like kayaking and tubing.
- **Public Art & Placemaking:** Integrating functional



Naturalists Focus Group Session

public art into parks, such as shade structures funded through the city's bond program.

- Urban Parks & Development: Investing in downtown parks and converting surface parking lots into green spaces.

Naturalist Focus Group

Naturalists emphasized the ecological role of parks, calling for better wildlife connectivity, sustainable maintenance practices, and stronger community engagement. They stressed the need for long-term resilience and thoughtful park design.

Key Takeaways:

- Wildlife & Habitat: Support native species through connected green spaces and ecological design, like linking the Botanic Garden to Trinity Park.
- Maintenance & Infrastructure: Improve water access year-round, enhance park upkeep, and address safety concerns in underused parks
- Ecological Practices: Reintroduce no-mow zones and prescribed burns; support native planting and pollinator-friendly landscapes.

- Community Involvement: Invite residents into planning processes and build support for environmental stewardship.
- Climate Resilience: Plan for heat, flooding, and water quality in future park development.
- Tree Preservation: Protect mature trees in new developments.

Non-Field Sports Organizations

The biggest concerns among non-field sports groups were the lack of quality pools, accessibility issues, and limited programming opportunities for all ages.

Key Takeaways:

- Pool Shortage: A need for more public pools and better access to existing ones, including year-round heated facilities and competition facilities.
- Affordability & Accessibility: Addressing high fees, lack of digital access, and limited public use during team practices.
- Aquatic Programming: Expanding swim lessons to reduce drowning risks and offering aqua fitness for seniors.

- Marketing & Outreach: Increasing awareness of facility upgrades, availability, and programming

Field Sports Organizations

Field sports groups emphasized the need for improved and expanded facilities, better lighting, and increased year-round access.

Key Takeaways:

- Field Development in Floodplains: Building multipurpose, flexible sports fields with lighting.
- Lighting & Accessibility: Ensuring proper lighting for evening activities and keeping fields open year-round.
- Gateway Park as a Sports Hub: Potential to develop the park into a major sports and competition venue. Potential to include concession or a food park and host league tournaments.
- Leagues & Community Services: Expanding space for leagues, including rentable storage for equipment.
- Public-Private Partnerships: Exploring opportunities for the city to own facilities while third-party staff manage programming.

Development Community

Developers highlighted challenges in parkland dedication policies, urban design guidelines, and water management.

Key Takeaways:

- Placemaking & Design Guidelines: Encouraging active frontages and urban design principles in new developments.
- Parkland Dedication Challenges: Streamlining approvals and ensuring quality park spaces in new developments.
- Stormwater & Riparian Preservation: Using the river system as an organizing element for sustainable city planning.
- Natural Features & Maintenance: Ensuring each park has a signature natural feature and long-term maintenance strategies.
- Urban Development & Quality of Life: Prioritizing infill and Greenfield development with integrated green spaces.

County Representatives

County leaders expressed concerns about park safety, trail design, and equitable access to green spaces across communities.

Key Takeaways:

- Trail Design & Safety: Making trails more inviting by adding shade, amenities, and ensuring after-dark safety.
- Model Communities: Learning from places like Katy Trail and White Rock Lake to create welcoming spaces.
- Walkability & Connectivity: Connecting lower-income neighborhoods to affluent areas through parks and trails.
- Cultural & Economic Diversity: Supporting local businesses, food vendors, and cultural experiences in park spaces.

Philanthropic Organizations

The discussion with philanthropic organizations focused on Fort Worth's potential for park development, funding challenges, and strategic investment approaches. Participants emphasized the importance of partnerships, compelling storytelling, and legal hurdles that impact private donations. There was a strong push for high-quality sports facilities and a more strategic focus on impactful projects.

Key Takeaways:

- Strategic Investment: A "crown jewel" project would garner more support than spreading resources thin.
- Partnership Potential: Opportunities with the Texas Rangers, YMCA, and Boys & Girls Club for sports and aquatic programs.
- Challenges to Giving: Legal barriers and lack of investable opportunities hinder private funding.

Healthcare Focus Group

Healthcare professionals underscored the connection between parks and public health, emphasizing the need for walkability, equitable access, and investment in health-focused programming. The discussion highlighted barriers such as maintenance issues, transparency concerns, and a lack of accountability in park management.

Key Takeaways:

- Equitable Access: Addressing disinvestment in historically underserved areas and improving safe routes to parks.
- Health-Driven Programs: Using tools like the "Healthy Parks, Healthy People" guide and community initiatives like school gardens.
- Technology & Accountability: Suggested park navigation apps and improved 311 response tracking to enhance accessibility and responsiveness.

Community Survey Results

As part of the GREENPrint plan's community engagement process, the planning team conducted a community survey from November 2023 to February 2024. The survey invited Fort Worth residents to share feedback on the current conditions of park facilities, programming needs, and their vision for the future of the city's park system. Below are the results from the 1,643 survey responses. For detailed survey results please refer to Appendix E of this report.

Based on the provided responses, the common themes among respondents' preferences for parks include:

- **Desire for Additional Amenities:** Many respondents express a desire for more amenities in parks, such as splash pads, playgrounds, walking trails, picnic areas, and improved lighting.
- **Maintenance and Upgrades:** There are numerous mentions of neglected parks that require maintenance, upgrades, or total overhauls. This includes repairing trails, addressing erosion issues, installing new playground equipment, improving lighting, and enhancing overall aesthetics.
- **Connectivity and Accessibility:** Respondents emphasize the importance of connectivity between parks and trails, as well as better access to parks for communities, including providing more community centers and indoor facilities.
- **Safety and Security:** Concerns about safety and security were raised, including the presence of homeless individuals, drug use, and vandalism in parks. Many suggested increasing police patrols and community monitoring to address these issues.
- **Environmental Concerns:** Some respondents highlighted the importance of preserving natural areas within parks and incorporating native plantings to support wildlife, as well as addressing trash and pollution in waterways.
- **Specific Park Mentions:** Several parks were mentioned multiple times, including Trinity Park, Gateway Park, Foster Park, and others. These parks seem to be focal points for community members and are in need of various improvements and additions.



Taking Paper Surveys, Botanic Garden Workshop