

AUGUST 16 WORKSHOP OVERVIEW

During our kickoff workshop at Autmnwood Senior Center on August 16 we introduced the project including:

- Project Background
- About Houghton Park
- Review Houghton Park Master Plan Project Scope
- How to Interact with the Project and the Consultants
- Conservation Area overlap

You can view and download the PowerPoint presentation [here](#).

During the interactive portion of the meeting, we asked participants to use image cards to express the obstacles to success for Houghton Park and to think about how to overcome those obstacles. Here's are some highlights of what they had to say:

What is holding Houghton Park back?

- Shelter building always locked; damaged (broken glass card)
- Need more trash receptacles; community support (small child – garbage bags)
- Better lighting and better walkways; should feel comfortable alone!!! (tree, person in tunnel)
- Hard to envision what's possible; community apathy (sad mom card) (end of road card)
- Apathy is a huge problem as a result of institutional letdown – city is holding the park back! (mom trying to listen)
- City management has been lacking! Concern about follow through after the improvements have been made. Ongoing maintenance is important during prioritization (brick wall card) (“Friends organization”?)

If you could move those obstacles, what could be possible?

- Listening ear and comments put into action (man trying to listen)
- Swimming back at the park; better utilization of the other area & active trails
- Connect the results of the study by UB with in depth analysis delivering on potential to lift up the whole area (person helping another up the mtn.)
- The sky is the limit! (magnifying glass)
- Community coming together/dispel apathy (all hands card)
- Senior activities (i.e. Zumba); large groups can participate! (donkey card)

What will it take for success for Houghton Park?

- Money – more money
- Long-winding process
- Focus and everyone moving in one direction. Alignment!
- Starting the digging
- Listening to each other!

What partners or resources do we need for Houghton Park?

- Grant writer
- Friends group
- Money
- Federal government
- Funding sources for climate change
- Partners interested in planting trees
- Local businesses
- Good events to bring people to the park