



CITY PARK

CONSERVANCY

Public Meeting #1 September 27, 2023

Below you will find questions submitted by the public via the first public meeting, postcard, or email as of October 6, 2023. To view the recording of the meeting, [click here](#).

Is there a complete list of the design team?

- The Design Team includes 12 different disciplines: MVVA as Team Leader and Landscape Architect; Activitas as Athletic Facilities Designer; Attractions Management Group as Amusement Operations Consultant; ETM as Operations & Maintenance Consultant; HR&A Advisors as Park Governance Consultant; The Hawthorne Agency and Seventeen18 as Public Engagement Consultants; OPEN as Wayfinding and Graphic Designer; AEI as Ecologist; Dharam Consulting as Cost Estimator; LimnoTech as Hydrologist; Stantec as Site Investigator, Site Engineer and Mobility Planner; and Suzanne Turner as Landscape Historian. The planning effort is also supported by highly experienced City Park staff.

What if City Park was the safest place in the city for children to ride bikes? Grandmothers too.

- We love that aspiration for City Park! Our Master Plan Design Team includes experts in bicycle and pedestrian mobility from Stantec. Expanding existing safe biking networks will be explored for the Master Plan.

How will the Master Plan leverage existing services and businesses in proximity to the Park to unite the Park to its surrounding neighborhoods?

- Access to City Park is one of the first things the Design Team is studying and addressing. MVVA will work with transportation, traffic, and mobility experts from Stantec to improve multimodal (public transportation, vehicular, pedestrian, biking) access to and from the Park, as well as mobility within the Park. Improved access, as well as Park enhancements, will boost surrounding businesses and neighborhoods.

What can we do to get people out on the water *Everywhere*? -Water recreation opportunities Park-wide available to Everyone.

- The Design Team includes hydrologists from LimnoTech, and civil engineers from Stantec. As part of the Master Plan process, they will assess the lagoon and water systems of City Park and propose solutions to address water quality issues and promote proper water circulation throughout the Park.

In addition, through the Market Study, HR&A will complete a Regional Positioning Assessment and a Programmatic Inventory Assessment to identify new opportunities for City Park that complement what already exists in the Park and in other parks in the region.

These two efforts will allow us to integrate opportunities for people to enjoy City Park on the water.

What are the ideas for improving waste collection and reducing trash/ litter/dog waste through common-use areas & by waterways, particularly Bayou St. John?

- The Design Team includes experts on park Operations and Maintenance (O&M) from ETM. As part of the Master Plan, they will assess CPC's current maintenance and operations programs, identify gaps and opportunities for efficiencies, and develop a new O&M Plan. This new plan will also take into consideration future O&M needs for the Park interventions put forward in the Master Plan.

This O&M plan will include strategies for trash/waste collection and management throughout the Park.

Q1) Can we bring back the swimming pool? That would be so great! Thanks!

Q2) Why did the 2nd speaker say "we don't think we're bringing back the pool"? We definitely need to bring back the pool plus have other wading areas.

- No design decisions have been made yet. However, we are mindful that the parkwide plan for the City of New Orleans shows an appropriate number of public pools for the residents. It is our hope that NORD receives funding to ensure existing pools in the city are open to the public and able to be maintained.

Splash park site (Palm Dr) any plans?

- The Design Team has not developed any specific plans for a splash park site yet, but as a first step, they are completing a Programmatic Inventory Assessment to understand existing opportunities at City Park and identifying missing opportunities to be implemented through the Master Plan. As the Design Team develops design options, they will share these with the community during the next four Public Meetings so they can gather input. All information shared at the Public Meetings will be available through the CPC website (<https://neworleanscitypark.org/master-plan-community-input/>) for those who cannot attend but want to be in the loop and share their feedback.

Is "Drain to the Park" from local areas still a possibility?

- The Design Team includes experts in resiliency and civil engineering from Stantec, hydrology from LimnoTech, and ecology from AEI. As part of the Master Plan process, we will be assessing the existing stormwater system infrastructure and evaluating how City Park can support surrounding neighborhoods in a way that does not worsen existing conditions at the park and is sustainable in the long term. Concepts will focus on solutions that are compatible with CPC's maintenance and operations capabilities. Concepts from past and future planned system-wide

improvements from USACE SELA program, SWBNO CIP, and the City of New Orleans shall be evaluated including strategic nature-based storage concepts that may help reduce flooding in the wider drainage basin.

The trees & waters have long been neglected. Invasive species are increasingly crowding out natives. Waters are covered by invasive water plants. What does new park management intend to do about the invasion?

- City Park Conservancy currently works in partnership with Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries as well as local consultants to address existing conditions which we intend to improve via the Master Planning Process. The Design Team includes experts in ecology from AEI, hydrology from LimnoTech, resiliency from Stantec, and maintenance and operations from ETM. MVVA will work with these experts to assess existing conditions in City Park and propose solutions to:
 1. Address water quality issues and promote proper water circulation in the lagoons and water systems throughout the park.
 2. Manage invasive species.
 3. Establish native plantings.
 4. Create rich ecological zones.
 5. Identify a long-term maintenance plan that is sustainable.

I have a few questions about overall health of waterways in City Park & balancing that with educational opportunities on living sustainably in New Orleans. Will signage be incorporated that explains the natural systems/ forces at work? Will your plans include "permeable paving" systems? Will it include floating wharf spaces/walkways with relaxing benches?

- Many recent improvements in the Park have made use of green infrastructure, educational signage, bioswales and permeable paving.
- The Design Team includes hydrologists from LimnoTech, ecologists from AEI, and civil engineers from Stantec. As part of the Master Plan process, they will assess the lagoon and water system of City Park and propose solutions to address water quality issues and promote proper water circulation throughout the Park for long-term health, as well as rehabilitation strategies for the edges of the water bodies to support natural transitions between terrestrial and aquatic habitats. Additional interventions will create opportunities to access these water bodies for recreation and educational opportunities, as well as enjoying them passively from a distance by creating opportunities for visual access.

It is too early in the process to know exactly what programs and materiality will be included in the Master Plan, but we will integrate educational opportunities and comfortable places to sit and relax. Our Design Team has experts on Graphic Design and Wayfinding from OPEN who will be developing signage for the Park.

How long will areas be closed as renovations occur?

- This will be dependent on the project taking place. The Park values minimizing impact on Park users as much as possible.

Are running trails, running events or if running activities are part of the future vision for City Park? Currently running events have not been permitted in the Park.

- Currently City Park hosts heritage races and middle school and high school cross-country meets. New race events are not currently permitted because the existing road network cannot accommodate road closures for these events; however, the Design Team includes transportation, traffic, and mobility experts from Stantec who will rethink the existing circulation network, including the trail networks, and assess the feasibility of supporting events in a way that does not negatively affect surrounding neighborhoods and Park Partners, such as NOMA and LCM.

How will the plan encourage active transportation (biking & walking) and running?

- Circulation & Access to City Park is the first thing that the Design Team is studying and addressing. MVVA will work with transportation and bicycle and pedestrian mobility experts from Stantec to improve multimodal (public transportation, vehicular, pedestrian, biking) access to and from the Park. A big challenge is connecting the north and south areas of the Park through I-610 which currently bisects the Park. Internal circulation, including hiking and biking trails, will be assessed and rethought so the Park can function as a whole, and it can be safer and more intuitive to move within the Park through different modes of transportation. This will enhance visitors' ability to experience the entire Park and enable them to better get from one destination to the other.

What plans do we have to provide more access to Bayou St. John along the Wisner trail?

- The Design Team has not developed any specific plans yet, but as a first step, they are completing a Programmatic Inventory Assessment to understand existing opportunities at City Park, including Bayou St. John, and identifying missing opportunities to be implemented through the Master Plan. As the Design Team develops design options, they will share these with the community during the next four Public Meetings so they can gather input. All information shared at the Public Meetings will be available through the CPC website (<https://neworleanscitypark.org/master-plan-community-input/>) for those who cannot attend but want to be in the loop and share their feedback.

Can a bicycle safety maintenance zone be added on the North end with an air pump, water fountain, bench, trash can, and shade?

- This is a great idea! The Design Team includes bicycle mobility experts from Stantec who will be assessing existing internal circulation and developing a safer and more intuitive network to move within the Park. They will consider this idea as they develop the Master Plan.

Will there be areas to walk w/dogs off leash besides City Bark?

- We do not yet know. There is an existing 4.6-acre off-leash dog park, City Bark, available for use for a fee, within park property as well as a number of off-leash dog parks within the City of New Orleans.

Any plans for dog park?

- There is an existing 4.6-acre dog park, City Bark, within City Park. The Design Team has not yet assessed the need for additional dog parks yet, but as they develop design ideas and options, they will share these with the community during the next four Public Meetings so they can gather input. All information shared at the Public Meetings will be available through the CPC website (<https://neworleanscitypark.org/master-plan-community-input/>) for those who cannot attend but want to be in the loop and share their feedback.

There were no animals in any of the pictures you provided as examples-domestic or wild. How do you encourage Park use with animals?

- We love when parks are enjoyed by pets and wildlife! The Design Team will work to develop areas for enjoyment with pets and will incorporate comfort elements such as shade, sitting areas, water fountains, etc.

Regarding wildlife, rehabilitating degraded habitat areas and increasing landscape type variety and biodiversity within the Park will improve and create new habitat opportunities for wildlife species. The Design Team includes ecologists from AEI that will guide this work.

Q1) What additional recruitment methods sampling strategies will you use to ensure all users are well represented to ensure you receive diverse input/feedback?

Q2) New Orleans is a very diverse city, how are you addressing the diversity in your plan especially since the team is not reflective of the New Orleans demographic?

Q3) What does City Park plan to do to truly make the Park inclusive to all of New Orleans residents?

Q4) The room tonight does not reflect the diversity of park users. How do you plan to reach out into communities of color to make sure the input of all New Orleanians is included in the master plan?

- Creating the best version of City Park that serves and welcomes everyone in New Orleans is the main goal of this Master Plan. The first step in doing this is having a robust and inclusive Public Engagement process where everyone has an opportunity to provide feedback and be heard.

The Design Team includes New Orleans locals The Hawthorne Agency and Seventeen18, who are guiding the public engagement process for this Master Plan. This process is flexible so that the Design Team can adjust, and pivot as needed so everyone is given an opportunity to participate.

Throughout the Master Plan process, there will be six (6) public meetings that will take place in different venues throughout the City. During these meetings, design ideas and concepts will be shared for feedback. In addition, meetings with Focus Groups will be held as needed. Focus Groups will be formed by individuals that share common interests or that belong to specific target groups, such as youth or seniors. Alternative feedback opportunities will be available through online surveys, email, snail mail, or phone calls.

Outreach efforts to promote feedback opportunities and meetings have been completed via emails, phone calls, and printed materials, as well as in-person during some events. Community organizations, schools, libraries, leaders, etc. from all parishes have been contacted, made aware of these efforts, and asked to help us share with their communities. These efforts will continue throughout this process. Messaging and opportunities to provide feedback have been made available in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese.

Will you prioritize work with/ local companies to perform work?

- The Design Team includes consultants with local representation: The Hawthorne Agency, Seventeen18, Stantec, and HR&A, as well as the participation of City Park staff. Local consultants and companies will change as projects get implemented.

Does City Park anticipate continuing and/or expanding its commitment to youth engagement through partnerships with entities such as LOOP and Grow Dat? Both programs attract program participants who reflect the socioeconomic and racial diversity of our city in a way not reflected at this meeting.

- Yes, CPC anticipates continuing our commitment to youth engagement through local partnerships that serve all demographics. In addition, as part of the Master Plan process, we anticipate expanding youth engagement via multiple avenues, such as Focus Groups and targeted outreach efforts, to encourage youth participation in this process and capture these voices in the final Master Plan.

Is there a plan for basketball courts?

The Design Team has not developed any specific plans yet, but as a first step, through the Market Study, HR&A will complete a Regional Positioning Assessment and a Programmatic Inventory Assessment to identify new opportunities for City Park that complement what already exists in the Park and in other parks in the region. As the Design Team develops design options, they will share these with the community during the next four Public Meetings so they can gather input. All information shared at the Public Meetings will be available through the CPC website (<https://neworleanscitypark.org/master-plan-community-input/>) for those who cannot attend but want to be in the loop and share their feedback.

Will the Park take action to better serve the full racial demographic of the city?

- Yes, creating the best version of City Park that serves and welcomes everyone in New Orleans is the main goal of this Master Plan. This will be achieved through multiple aspects of the Master Plan, such as improving multimodal (public transportation, vehicular, pedestrian, biking) access to and from the Park, and mobility within the Park; increasing existing uses and recreation opportunities and diversifying landscape types to allow for a wider range of visitor experiences; acknowledging the Park's history of racism; and increasing the cultural diversity of programming and activities currently offered.

I notice that there doesn't appear to be any black people on the lead design team. Does MVVA view this as a problem for understanding and representing adaptively the majority black

population of New Orleans? How will MVVA address the lack of representation on the design team?

- The MVVA Team includes Asian and Latin members; however, are aware that there are no black people on our internal lead design team, which highlights a bigger issue in the Landscape Architecture field where it is estimated that only 0.4% of professionals are Black or African American. When assembling our team of consultants, we look for firms with perspectives and backgrounds that differ from our own. For this Master Plan effort, we have partnered with consultants that have the professional experience and local knowledge and presence (The Hawthorne Agency, Seventeen18, Stantec, and HR&A) to help guide the master planning process in a way that allows us to understand, listen to, and engage with New Orleans diverse population so we can develop and shape the final Master Plan together.

How are you including the youth voice in the Master Plan? Are youth leaders actively engaged in this process?

- One of our current community engagement efforts is the online survey, and the lowest category of representation is individuals under 25. We have issued targeted communications to schools, churches, and other community organizations to ask for help encouraging youth to participate in the survey. The Master Plan cannot be completed without the voice of New Orleans youth, it is critical that we provide opportunities for youth to use City Park to connect with nature, have unprogrammed play, and do some cool things. Often there is not a lot for youth to do in New Orleans, so we must address that. As part of the Master Plan process, we anticipate having some structured guidance from youth leaders via multiple avenues, such as Focus Groups with youth leaders and targeted outreach efforts.

This is an extremely white crowd in a historically black city. We know that parks are not as simple as you make them out to be. They're also often linked to forces like gentrification and displacement of BIPOC communities. So where are these communities in this meeting? How will you address these concerns in the plan in Meaningful ways? Why aren't these communities on the stage with you?

- The crowd at the public meeting did not represent the diversity in New Orleans. While the project Team was thrilled for everyone who attended the meeting, we are aware that to get the Master Plan right and develop a vision for the best version of City Park that serves and welcomes everyone in New Orleans, we need to hear all the voices. The Design Team includes New Orleans locals The Hawthorne Agency and Seventeen18, who are guiding the public engagement process for this Master Plan and are charged with ensuring we reach as many communities as we can. This process is flexible so that the Design Team can adjust, and pivot as needed so everyone is given an opportunity to participate. For the current online survey, we are assessing participation by zip codes, identifying areas with low participation, and reaching out to community organizations and leaders, schools, libraries, etc. in these areas via emails, phone calls, and printed materials to make them aware of these efforts and ask them to help us encourage their communities to participate. In

addition to this, we are showing up at community events to continue to spread the word. These efforts will continue throughout this process. Messaging and opportunities to provide feedback have been made available in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese.

- There was a slide in the presentation shared during the meeting that showed an image of a swimming pool adjacent to a field. The swimming pool existed in City Park when the park was segregated, and when the park was desegregated by the Supreme Court, instead of opening the pool for everyone to enjoy, the pool was filled in. The narrative of City Park is about memories that people create when they visit; however, not all people in New Orleans have had the opportunity to make memories at City Park in the past. The complex history of City Park is not known by all, but as part of this Master Plan we are exploring it, we will be sharing it, and we will be addressing it. We need to understand the past to be able to envision an inclusive future.

Wildflowers - What is happening?

- Annually, City Park plants the beloved 'Cosmo' wildflowers. The yellow flowers are *cosmos sulphureus* and the purple and white flowers are *cosmos bipinnatus*. The seeds are sown by hand in the spring. The Master Plan will incorporate different landscape types that will provide seasonal interest through different planting palettes and promote biodiversity.

Where in the project structure does the selection of plants occur?

- We think and consider planting when we start developing design ideas during the Master Planning process. At this time, it is in a broader way, we think about experiential qualities that we want to achieve through the landscape and the type of plants that would allow us to achieve this (deciduous trees that provide dapple shade or dense shade, ornamental trees that flower in a particular season, evergreen trees, plants that thrive in wet conditions, etc.). Plant palettes get refined as the project goes through the remaining design phases (schematic design, design development, and construction documentation), and finalized during construction based on plant availability at the nurseries.

Who is in charge of the diversification of plant life and the preservation of natives?

- The Design Team includes ecologists from AEI, and MVVA has plant experts on staff who will be involved in this effort. In addition, the Design Team will coordinate with CPC's grounds team, as well as consult with local experts through the Technical Advisory Panel.

Do you envision nature plants and natural areas as a "section" or "sections" of the Park or will nature plants be integrated into the entire landscape?

- Distribution of Landscape Types and planting palettes is something we will be developing throughout this process. However, we do envision nature plantings integrated throughout the Park to provide a continuous experience/framework that brings everything together, while selected plant palettes will be incorporated into specific areas to enhance and complement some programs or experiences such as gardens and water bodies.

With light pollution becoming a growing concern, how can you address this if you greatly increase the nighttime use of the Park?

- For the Master Plan process we are only reviewing the existing light standards for City Park and developing recommendations based on the Design Team's professional experience. However, as the project continues through future design phases, a Lighting Designer will be engaged to develop an appropriate lighting design. This would include developing target light levels based on specific programs, as well as for safety; identifying different lighting fixtures and poles for set functions (pedestrian, vehicular, athletic, etc.); developing lighting distribution plans; and completing a photometric assessment to ensure appropriate light levels within the park and compatibility with lighting in the immediate surrounding, amongst other tasks. We value minimizing light pollution, and this will be a key factor in selection of light fixtures.

Will the plan mitigate the sound pollution caused by traffic on 610?

- Sound pollution impacts the user experience as well as wildlife. The Design Team has not developed any specific plans for sound mitigation along I-610 yet, but as they develop design ideas and options, they will share these with the community during the next four Public Meetings so they can gather input. All information shared at the Public Meetings will be available through the CPC website (<https://neworleanscitypark.org/master-plan-community-input/>) for those who cannot attend but want to be in the loop and share their feedback.

Plans for addressing extreme heat impacts in the Park & surrounding communities?

- The Design Team has not developed any specific designs yet, but they are aware of the extreme heat in New Orleans and the limitations it imposes on enjoying the Park, and this will influence design options. The Design Team will incorporate elements that will provide comfort during these moments such as shade and water fountains, as well as programs that can ameliorate this, such as water recreation or a splash pad, and safety measures to extend the Park hours so the Park can be enjoyed at night when the temperature is more manageable.

Q1) Any plans to incorporate specifically native plants into the landscape of City Park?

Q2) Will native plant species be emphasized to support the ecosystem?

- Yes, our plant palettes always include as many native plants as possible. The Design Team includes ecologists from AEI, and MVVA has plant experts on staff who will be involved in this effort. In addition, the Design Team will coordinate with CPC's maintenance and operations crews and consult with local experts through the Technical Advisory Panel.

The wild trails on Harrison offer a full nature immersion. Will you keep the Wisner Tract and Couturie Forest as is but maintain the trails better?

- In the past, especially after Hurricane Katrina, City Park pursued some opportunities for commercialization in an effort to fund recovery efforts and to support general operations (unlike most parks, City Park has to earn most of its operating support and receives very little government appropriations). However, that is not what this Master Plan effort is about. The

Project Team understands how important the Wisner Tract is for many people and the opportunity it provides for visitors to immerse themselves in nature. The results from various outreach efforts (previous surveys and the current online survey) clearly reflect the community's desire to keep nature areas in City Park. It also shows to ensure that people of all abilities can make use of the 'wild areas' of the park, including providing visitor support services such as bathrooms, wide and smooth paths, clear signage and wayfinding, and improved long-term maintenance, which will all be considered as part of the Master Plan process. The Design Team has been committed through their professional career to this and they were chosen to develop this Master Plan based on those shared values. It is important to note that the Wisner Tract suffers from poor ecological health. Invasive species choke out native plants and habitat, making the area vulnerable to fire and drought. A healthy, native urban landscape will be able to withstand the worst effects of climate change. It is also paramount to creating habitat and increasing existing biodiversity, as well as improving the landscape's ability to hold water. Doing 'nothing' is not a choice if we want to ensure the health of wilder areas, and if we want to ensure they are accessible to people of all abilities.

How do you keep spaces wild?

- All nature in urban parks has been altered by humans at some point throughout their history, this can be something as simple as implementing a maintenance regime such as mowing, or it can be more invested such as building the lagoon system that currently exists in City Park.

Spaces that are perceived as wild or natural are spaces that allow us to immerse ourselves in nature and feel like for a moment we are not in the middle of a City. The Design Team is aware that there are some existing spaces at City Park that provide this experience and as a first step, they are analyzing existing conditions to understand current plant species composition and coverage, and plant health to inform any recommendations put forward in the Master Plan. The general goal for these areas will be to restore degraded habitat and enhance biodiversity to better support wildlife habitat in the Park. In addition, an appropriate maintenance regime that is in line with the natural character of these areas will be developed and outlined in the Operations and Maintenance Plan. The Design Team includes experts in ecology from AEI and operations and maintenance from ETM.

Can Pelican Greenhouse expertise be leveraged in education as a destination?

- The Pelican Greenhouse is the central hub within City Park for the cultivation and propagation of critical plant species. City Park's Greenhouse program currently supports City Park's collaborations with state-wide partners such as the LSU AgCenter and Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries. It is our goal to expand programming that will also support innovative statewide education.

What is your plan to preserve Couturie Forest in regard to being a world-class area for birding? Keeping understory? Caring for trees? Keeping natural?

- City Park is an Important Bird Areas (IBAs) that supports the Mississippi Flyway. The Design Team includes experts in ecology from AEI and operations and maintenance from ETM, as well

as local consultants on the Technical Advisory Panel, and all are passionate about wildlife and birding. AEI has several decades of experience working in NOLA, southern Louisiana, and Coastal Mississippi and understands the importance of the coastal zone, including the Couturie Forest, Piney Woods, and other ecosystems for neotropical migratory birds.

To date, the Design Team has not developed any plans for Couturie Forest. As a first step, they are analyzing existing conditions to understand current plant species composition and coverage, and plant health, as well as visiting regional reference natural areas to inform any recommendations put forward in the Master Plan. The goal for this area, however, will be to restore degraded habitat and enhance biodiversity to expand birding opportunities and better support wildlife habitat in the park. AEI's deep dives into the history of vegetation systems of NOLA, and the larger coastal region, suggest restoration of existing degraded forested areas and also of short-leaf, long-leaf pine barrens, and coastal prairies suggest the habitat and specifically birding and migratory bird habitat can be greatly improved through restoration of the canopy and native understory, and ground plane native vegetation.

We live in a city without police protection, trash problems, underfunded schools. Why should we keep paying millions of our tax dollars to a self-described private business who won't open the books so we can see where our taxes are going? PS. The private company is City Park

- Unusual for most parks, City Park self-generates most of its funding and receives less than ten percent of its budget from the city, despite performing a number of important traditional municipal functions for our community (such as providing the local high school sports stadium). Our books are, and always have been, 'open'. As a state agency, our audit is public and as a newly formed nonprofit, our 990 financials will be public once they are finalized early in 2024.

How much does generating revenue shape/inform the direction/specifics of the master plan?

- City Park is a public amenity, and it will remain as such. In the past, especially after Hurricane Katrina, City Park pursued some opportunities for commercialization to support operations as we are responsible for earning our funds, unlike most urban parks. However, that is not what this Master Plan effort is about. The Design Team includes experts in Park business planning from HR&A. While revenue-generating opportunities are important for the long-term sustainability of the park, they will not be the only opportunities that are considered in the Market Study or for the Master Plan. A goal of the Master Plan is to find the right balance of free and revenue-generating opportunities to best serve everyone in New Orleans, while still supporting long-term park maintenance and sustainability.

Cost of events- Celebration?

- The costs of each event changes year to year. In general, Celebration costs approximately \$1 million to produce and generally nets around \$2 million making it our largest annual fundraiser and supplying nearly 10% of our operating needs.

Is there funding for implementing aspects of the master plan?

- The Plan and resulting projects will be funded by a variety of financial resources including earned income, government grants, and philanthropy.

How is planning process funded? Consider croquette, Incorporate Pops Fountain

- The Plan is being generously sponsored by the Greg Keller Foundation, and resulting projects will be funded by a variety of financial resources including earned income, government grants, and philanthropy.

How much are these landscape designers getting paid?

- The firm was chosen through a competitive selection process which included a comparison of fees. The planning process is very extensive, lasting 18 months and will include the development of a comprehensive Master Plan Report supported by a Market Study and a robust Public Engagement Process. Additional documents will be developed to further support the Master Plan, including Cost Projections, Existing Conditions Survey, Ecological Restoration Plan, Forestry Management Plan, Planting Typology Plan, and an Operations & Maintenance Plan.

To complete all of this work, the Design Team includes 12 different disciplines: MVVA as Team Leader and Landscape Architect; Activitas as Athletic Facilities Designer; Attractions Management Group as Amusement Operations Consultant; ETM as Operations & Maintenance Consultant; HR&A Advisors as Park Governance Consultant; The Hawthorne Agency and Seventeen18 as Public Engagement Consultants; OPEN as Wayfinding and Graphic Designer; AEI as Ecologist; Dharam Consulting as Cost Estimator; LimnoTech as Hydrologist; Stantec as Site Investigator, Site Engineer and Mobility Planner; and Suzanne Turner as Landscape Historian.

As you can imagine, to do this project right is very expensive. We are grateful that the Greg Keller Foundation has stepped up to generously sponsor this effort.

It's been about 10 years since the Park pushed the Bayou Oaks Golf Course as a way to support the Park financially. It's turned out that the Park is financially supporting the golf course. Obviously, the course is a huge investment. Could a long-term cost-benefit analysis of the golf course be built into the Master Plan?

- The Park's golf courses operate at a profit. As part of the planning process, we are assessing opportunities to increase existing revenues and enhance the visitor experience. The Design Team includes experts on Park governance from HR&A. As part of the Master Plan, HR&A is completing a Regional Positioning Assessment and a Programmatic Inventory Assessment to comprehend the demand for existing facilities at City Park in the local and regional market, including athletic facilities, understand how these facilities are currently being used, identify gaps and/or redundancies in programming, and develop recommendations to be incorporated into the Master Plan.

Is there a plan for sports field upkeep and maintenance?

- The Design Team includes experts on park Operations and Maintenance (O&M) from ETM, athletic facilities from Activitas, and park governance from HR&A. As part of the Master Plan, HR&A is completing a Regional Positioning Assessment and a Programmatic Inventory Assessment to comprehend the demand for existing facilities at City Park in the local and regional market, including sports fields, understand how these facilities are currently being used, identify gaps and/or redundancies in programming, and develop recommendations to be incorporated into the Master Plan. In addition, ETM will assess CPC's current operations and maintenance programs, identify gaps and opportunities for efficiencies, and develop a new O&M Plan. Activitas will assist in these efforts as they relate to athletic facilities.

The Master Plan will address existing sports fields inventory, identify if new facilities need to be incorporated, and will include O&M strategies for existing and new sports field upkeep and maintenance.

In Alabama, Gulf State Park has lovely elevated beach-style homes which are situated in the park for rent. Have you considered this vacation treehouse model in City Park?

- Residing in the Park is not allowed in City Park.

What's wrong with the Park how it is?

- While City Park is a beloved Park, there are elements that could significantly improve visitors' experience and transform it into a Park that better serves everyone. For example, transit alternatives to driving do not adequately serve the larger NOLA community's ability to visit and enjoy the Park; once in the Park, circulation is confusing, and conditions are not safe for pedestrians and bikers; the water quality in the lagoon system is low due to poor water circulation, which negatively impacts diversity and wildlife habitat; amongst others. Many park facilities are very old, and in need of upgrading to accommodate modern usage. Park changes with or without direction. The goal of the Master Plan is to identify a direction for City Park to evolve in a meaningful way so that the park can welcome everyone, and CPC can maintain and operate it in a sustainable way.

What is going on with historical signage that has been stolen?

- Sadly, like many organizations throughout the city, we have been targeted for scrap metal material. We work with NOPD on issues such as this.

Kennedy site- What is happening?- Should not be a parking lot.

- The Kennedy site is owned by the Orleans Parish School Board. Questions and comments should be directed accordingly.

18 months- is that timeline for developing MASTER PLAN? What are milestones?

- Yes, the Master Plan phase will last 18 months. The Design Team will bring the community along the design process through 6 public meetings that will be held as outlined below. Additional updates and information will be circulated through CPC's newsletter and available through

CPC's Master Planning webpage. As part of the Master Planning process, a Market Study is being developed which will be completed by early 2024. The final Master Plan will be completed in December 2024. The Design Team will present the Master Plan during the last public meeting and the Master Plan document will be published and publicly available through CPC's website after the meeting.

1. September 27, 2023 - Kick-off meeting
2. December 06, 2023 - Circulation & Access
3. March 2024 - Lagoons, Lakes & Water Systems
4. May 2024 - Landscape Types
5. September 2024 - Destinations, Traditions, & Programming
6. December 2024 - Final Master Plan Presentation

When Master Plan is developed will it be published?

- Yes. During the last public meeting that will be held in December 2024, the Design Team will present the Master Plan. The Master Plan document will be published and publicly available through CPC's website after the meeting.

Will plan include phases of implementation?

- Yes.

Will the Master Plan be Dynamic? Chargeable? Or Static, Fixed?

- The Master Plan will offer a coordinated vision for City Park's future that integrates the findings of the Market Study and the Public Engagement efforts with recommendations for improvements to the Park's systems, including wayfinding, ecological, infrastructural, and programmatic upgrades. The Master Plan will also outline design principles to guide its implementation.

Once completed, the Master Plan vision and design principles will provide a "loose fitting straight jacket" to guide future design efforts as concepts and ideas are developed into constructible projects, while allowing flexibility to adapt and accommodate technical findings once more involved site investigations are completed. Any proposed significant alterations to the Master Plan would be informed by an additional public input process.

Are you aware of how many people use the golf course versus how many people use Wisner Tract? The golf course would be a better fit for these "Master Plans".

- The Master Plan is assessing City Park in its entirety. As part of the Master Planning process, HR&A is completing a Regional Positioning Assessment and a Programmatic Inventory Assessment to comprehend the demand for existing facilities at City Park in the local and regional market, understand how these facilities are currently being used, identify gaps and/or redundancies in programming, and develop recommendations to be incorporated into the Master Plan.

Some wonderful ideas emerged in the Wisner tract (north of I-610) planning effort led by Design Workshop but they all seemed to get shot down in public meetings because people did not trust City Park leaders(in my view). How will you gain the community trust?

- City Park Conservancy is led by an administration with a history of successfully implementing a master plan informed by the public. This is paramount to the success of a park, and to any park project Public input is the foundation of this Master Plan, so our Public Engagement process will be robust and inclusive, so everyone has an opportunity to provide feedback and be heard. The Design Team includes New Orleans locals The Hawthorne Agency and Seventeen18, who are guiding the public engagement process for this Master Plan. This process is flexible so that the Design Team can adjust, and pivot as needed so everyone is given an opportunity to participate. The Design Team will bring the community along the design process through six (6) public meetings during which design ideas will be presented for consideration and feedback. In addition, meetings with Focus Groups will be held as needed. Focus Groups will be formed by individuals that share common interests or that belong to specific target groups, such as youth or seniors. Alternative feedback opportunities will be available through online surveys, email, snail mail, or phone call.

Materials used during these meetings, answers to all questions received, as well as updates on the process, will be shared through CPC's website for full transparency.

Who is "demanding" changes to City Park?

- City Park is required by legislation to operate under a master plan. We consider the previous master plan complete and are now developing a plan for the next many decades of the Park. While City Park is a beloved Park, there are elements that could significantly improve visitors' experience and transform it into a Park that better serves everyone. For example, transit alternatives to driving do not adequately serve the larger NOLA community's ability to visit and enjoy the Park; once in the Park, circulation is confusing, and conditions are not safe for pedestrians and bikers; the water quality in the lagoon system is low due to poor water circulation, which negatively impacts diversity and wildlife habitat; amongst others. Park changes with or without direction. The goal of the Master Plan is to identify a direction for City Park to evolve in a meaningful way so that the park can welcome everyone, and CPC can maintain and operate it in a sustainable way.

What is the difference between a Master Plan and a Development Plan?

- Our Park Master Plan includes components that would not be in a development plan such as an urban forestry management plan, business plan, fundraising plan, and programming plan.

Will City Park/Tad Gormley ever host an event as big as The Beatles in? Just Wondering! I was there.

- We don't know yet. We hope Tad Gormley will serve a variety of functions, including cultural events. (And we would love to see any pictures you may have.)