Understanding Quality Regarding Houston Parks, Fall 2016

This HART, made up of undergraduate students from Architecture, History, Linguistics, Sociology, and Policy Studies, was asked by the Houston Parks and Recreation Department (HPARD) to determine a way to better understand the relationship between park quality and user improvement preferences.

In the first of two parts to address this issue, the team created the Parks and Urban Recreation Evaluation (PURE). The PURE provides a quantitative means by which parks can be assessed along eight distinct aspects of park quality, and was created after an analysis and critique of multiple other instruments. It uniquely combines field-based evaluation with other available public information to provide a holistic understanding of park quality. The PURE is the first systematic measure of park quality applied in the City of Houston and will contribute important new data about master planning priorities for HPARD.