Assessing Park Quality though Users Assessment, Spring 2016

This HART, made up of undergraduate students from Anthropology, Statistics, Political Science, Kinesiology, Hispanic studies, and Linguistics, provided insight for Houston Parks and Recreation Department's (HPARD) master planning process by developing a method to evaluate park quality from a user's perspective. The team designed an open-response style survey, and conducted 238 interviews across six Houston parks. Their findings provided HPARD with greater insight into potential discrepancies between professional park evaluation and user perceptions of park quality. Their contributions revealed an important connection between the perception of park quality by park-goers and the park’s community. A particularly important finding is the high degree that social environment plays in user opinions of park quality, a metric that is inherently difficult to objectively evaluate.