

# Shahan Park Master Plan

## Community Engagement Round 1: Uncovering the Community Vision

### *Engagement and Input Summary*

March 11, 2025

## About the Project

The City of Whitehouse has engaged Halff to provide master planning and design services for Shahan Park. The study area consists of approximately 34 acres of an undeveloped parcel located at each end of Happy Circle in the Shahan Ranch neighborhood, west of State Highway 110, and north of W Main Street. The primary goal of this project is to develop a framework to guide the future development of the park, its programming, facilities, features, general layout, funding requirements and potential implementation strategy through a study of goals, site and area context analysis and a robust public engagement process.

Community engagement includes two touchpoints, or rounds of engagement, including the introduction of the project and design concept options. Each round of community engagement includes a Community Open House and an Online Survey. Results from this effort shall be used as a roadmap for the future park development, park programming, operations and management. The master plan will also be used as a promotional tool to generate public interest, support and funding for future parkland development and partnerships.

## Engagement Approach and Details

Community engagement efforts began in January 2025. Outreach efforts included a variety of tactics to raise awareness, share information, and invite people to participate in engagement opportunities. These tactics included email notifications from the City, social media posts, and updates to the project webpage promoting the project. Virtual presentations were made to community residents and business owners, as well as City Council members and Whitehouse ISD staff. Project outreach materials included a QR code and link to the project webpage, which included project details and an online survey link.

An Open House was held on February 10, 2025 in the Council Chambers. The meeting was open to all and was conducted in a come and go format with no formal presentation. The objectives of the meeting were to:

- inform the community about the project, tentative schedule, and engagement efforts;
- share existing conditions, opportunities and challenges;
- encourage participation in the online survey; and
- share information about next steps.

During the open house, the project team shared details about the project. Interactive boards were used to gauge initial reactions to potential programming elements to be used in preliminary concepts. Participants used stickers to vote on preferred programming elements and left comments on boards via sticky notes. Participants were provided the online survey link and were encouraged to complete the survey and share it with others in the community.

Presentation materials are available on the project website at:

<https://www.whitehousetx.org/286/Shahan-Park>.

The online survey was launched on February 10, 2025 and closed on March 3, 2025. It included 16 questions which gathered feedback on the types of active, passive, natural, and cultural experiences and activities people were interested in seeing in Shahan Park. Participants were also asked broad demographic questions to determine help identify whether outreach efforts were connecting effectively. Feedback from the survey is included in the “survey responses” section.

### Participation Summary

The table below includes the times, dates, locations and summary of number of participants at the various engagement opportunities.

Event / Activity Type	Date & Time	Location	Number of Participants
Open House	February 10, 2025 5:00-7:00p.m.	Whitehouse City Council Chambers	15*
Online Survey	February 10, 2025 to March 3, 2025	Online	226

\*Number of participants is usually inaccurate since not all participants feel comfortable signing in, or only one person in a group of two or more may sign in.

### Input Summary

The survey asked respondents to provide input on a range of questions. The high-level take-aways from survey input are summarized in the table below. Full detail is available in the survey response section of the report.

High-Level Take-aways from Community Engagement Round #1	
Topic Area	Insights
Typical respondent	Nearly all respondents live within a ZIP code that is associated with a Whitehouse address. Most respondents have lived in Whitehouse 10 years or less (53.34%) and live more than 1 mile from the park (62.5%).
Shahan Park may function as both a community and neighborhood park.	While most respondents live more than 1 mile from the park, the highest response rate of survey participants per square mile live within a quarter mile of the park (refer question 3). This is typical.
Getting to Shahan Park	Most people (85%) would prefer to arrive at Shahan Park via vehicle which speaks to most

	respondents living more than 1 mile from the park. However, 25% of respondents show an interest in walking, jogging or running to the park.
Activities/programming	Respondents support a variety of active and passive uses, with natural/environmental and art/cultural activities less preferred.

The number of survey participants and comments received is proportionately high relative to cities with much larger populations. A summary from respondents is available in the survey response section of the report. Full details including all written comments are provided separately to this document.

### Survey Responses

The online survey had 226 participants, and 216 comments to open ended questions. The charts and tables below represent the input received from all respondents to the survey. The project website provides a link to the report of comments received to the open comment questions.

#### Q1. What is your zip code? (223 Responses/3 skipped)

Response	# of Responses (Percent)
75791	197 (88.34%)
75703	11 (4.93%)
75789	8 (3.59%)
75707	6 (2.69%)
75704	1 (0.45%)

#### Q2. How long have you lived in Whitehouse? (225 responses/1 skipped)

Response	Percent of Responses
Less than 5 years	29.79%
5 to 10 years	23.56%
11 to 20 years	17.33%
21 to 30 years	10.67%
More than 30 years	15.11%
I do not live in Whitehouse	3.56%

#### Q3. How close do you live to Shahan Park? (224 responses/2 skipped)

Response	Percent of Responses
Less than ¼ mile	10.71%
Between ¼ to ½ mile	9.38%
Between ½ mile to 1 mile	17.41%
Between 1 to 2 miles	37.95%
More than 2 miles	24.55%

**Q4. If you were to travel to Shahan Park, how would you prefer to get there?**

*(224 responses/2 skipped)*

Response	Percent of Responses
Walk, jog, or run	25.45%
Bicycle	13.39%
Personal Vehicle	82.59%
Other (please specify) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Responses were not related to the question.</li> </ul>	1.34%

**Q5. Of the ACTIVE items listed below, which would you prefer to see in the Park?**

*(225 responses/1 skipped)*

Response	Percent of Responses
Playground (nature play, structured play, etc.)	79.11%
Splashpad	41.78%
Exercise	40.00%
Sports courts (basketball, pickleball, tennis, etc.)	65.78%
Mountain biking facilities (pump track, skills course, etc.)	27.11%

**Q6. Of the PASSIVE items listed below, which would you prefer to see in the Park?**

*(226 responses/0 skipped)*

Response	Percent of Responses
Pavilions/picnicking	72.57%
Social games (bocce, horseshoes, cornhole, washers, etc.)	36.28%
Trails (paved, gravel, natural)	77.43%
Disc golf	25.66%
Open space/unprogrammed play	39.38%

**Q7. Of the NATURAL/ENVIRONMENTAL items listed below, which would you prefer to see in the Park? *(199 responses/27 skipped)***

Response	Percent of Responses
Birding/nature viewing	48.74%
Restoration/protection	37.69%
Demonstration Garden	33.67%
Nature education center	42.21%
Natural/environmental/geological interpretive exhibits	42.71%

**Q8. Of the ARTS & CULTURE items listed below, which would you prefer to see in the Park?**

*(191 responses/35 skipped)*

Response	Percent of Responses
Public/interactive art	76.96%
Historic interpretive exhibits	33.51%

**Q9. What types of activities would you like to see in the Park? Rank in order of importance.**  
*(215 responses/11 skipped)*

Response	Rank
Passive (nature viewing, picnicking, unprogrammed play)	2.88
Active (playgrounds, exercise equipment)	3.59
Natural/environmental (restoration/protection, exhibits)	2.19
Arts and cultural (art, event space, history, food/beverage)	1.34

**Q10. Are there any additional activities you would like to see at Shahan Park?**

- Pool (11)
- Pickleball (7)
- Dog park (7)
- Pond/water feature (6)
- Splash pad (5)
- Event pavilion/classroom (5)
- Basketball court (4)
- Skate park (4)
- Soccer (3)
- Fishing (2)
- Volleyball court (2)
- Football (1)
- Tennis (1)
- Batting cages (1)
- Rentable pavilion (1)
- Little library (1)
- Food truck area (1)
- Geocaching (1)

Comments specific to elements and design of amenities/features discussed in Questions 5 through 8.

- Playgrounds (26)
- Trails (15)
- Disc golf (4)
- Picnic facilities (2)
- History (2)
- Open space/lawn (1)

**Q11. What are your hopes or concerns about the development of Shahan Park?**

*(103 responses/205 skipped)*

• CONCERNS

- Traffic
- ATVs
- Harvesting of firewood
- High cost, low use
- Take too long to implement
- Over-saturation of park elements in City
- Maintenance
- Privacy for neighbors

• HOPES

- Connection to surrounding community
- Safe/inviting
- Useful to adjacent elementary
- Inclusive to all ages/abilities
- Useful all year (shade, lighting)
- Adequate parking
- For families

**Q12. What considerations should the planning team think about while planning the park?**

*(115 responses/111 skipped)*

- **Safety:** Ensure the park is safe for all visitors, including lighting, clear pathways, and security measures.
- **Accessibility:** Make the park accessible for people of all ages and abilities, including ramps, wide pathways, and accessible restrooms.
- **Maintenance:** Plan for regular maintenance and upkeep of park facilities and landscaping to ensure a clean and welcoming environment.
- **Neighborhood Impact:** Consider the impact of the park on the surrounding neighborhood, particularly regarding traffic.
- **Aesthetic Appeal:** Design the park to be visually appealing, considering landscaping and views.
- **Budget:** Plan within the budget constraints while ensuring quality and longevity of park features and amenities.
- **Public Amenities:** Provide essential public amenities such as benches, restrooms, water fountains, and trash bins for visitor convenience and comfort.

**Survey Effectiveness**

The survey asked for the following information to help identify whether the project team has effectively reached the greater Whitehouse community.

**Q17. How did you hear about this project? (219 responses/7 skipped)**

Response	Percent of Responses
Social Media (Instagram, Facebook, Etc.)	66.21%
Friend, family or neighbor	10.05%
E-newsletter from the City of Whitehouse	12.33%
City of Whitehouse website	13.70%
Flyer	0.46%
Other (please specify)	10.05%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>News (KLTV, KBTX, KETK)</i></li> <li>• <i>Resident of Shahan Ranch</i></li> </ul>	

**Q18. Which part of the City do you live in? (225 responses/1 skipped)**

Response	Percent of Responses
Area A	15.11%
Area B	23.11%
Area C	35.56%
Area D	16.00%
I do not live in Whitehouse	10.22%

**Q19. What is your age range? (225 responses/1 skipped)**

Response	Percent of Responses
Under 18	0.89%
18-24	1.78%
25-34	28.00%
35-44	30.67%
45-54	19.11%
55-64	9.33%
65-74	7.56%
75+	2.67%

**Q20. Do you have children under the age of 18 who live with you? (225 responses/1 skipped)**

Response	Percent of Responses
Yes	68.44%
No	31.56%

**Priorities**

Question 9 is weighted, and when combined with Questions 5-8, a prioritized list of park amenities can be created. Park amenities, and their associated weight/score are listed below from most to least desirable:

- (2.84) Playground
- (2.36) Sports courts – Pickleball, basketball, volleyball mentioned in Question 10.
- (2.23) Trails – Walking and running mentioned in Question 10.
- (2.09) Pavilions/picnicking
- (1.50) Splash pad
- (1.44) Exercise
- (1.13) Open space
- (1.07) Birding/nature viewing
- (1.04) Social games
- (1.03) Public art
- (0.97) Mountain biking
- (0.94) Nature/environment exhibits
- (0.92) Nature education center
- (0.83) Restoration/protection of nature
- (0.74) Disc golf
- (0.74) Demonstration garden
- (0.45) Historic exhibits