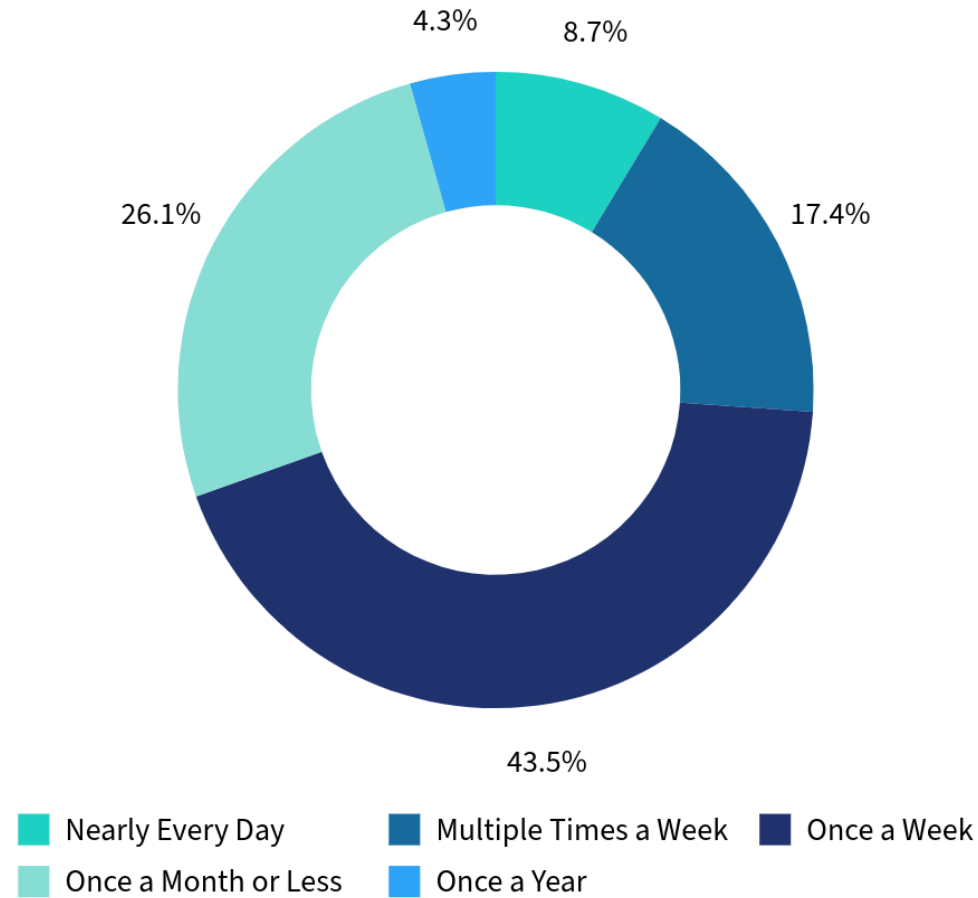


# ICE BREAKER:

## How often do you visit Eliza Howell Park?





# ICE BREAKER:

## What is your earliest memory of Eliza Howell Park?

- Attending an Afro American Festival and African Dance Class
- Playing Softball in the 1970's
- Exploring! My uncle lived south of I-96, and we went along river to get to Eliza Howell, I also got married in Eliza Howell
- I drove by Eliza Howell 40 years without knowing it, finally stopped in a few years ago and was mesmerized by the nature and mature trees
- Live music concerts
- Planetarium
- My daughter and I lived off Craft in Redford 21-22. We used to go camping. We loved exploring and being liberated
- 2013 planting trees at the park and helping to create the stick work sculpture with so many amazing people
- 1992 Annually for perhaps a Caribbean festival in the summer
- Sunrise
- How active it used to be
- I started visiting Eliza Howell approx. 50 years ago. I remember the park being so nice and well maintained. There were quite a few little playgrounds and a comfort house, also a nature center.

# ICE BREAKER:

## What is your earliest memory of Eliza Howell Park?

- Early date, my partner took me to the prairie here in 2018 it was absolutely beautiful.
- Coming to play at EH park as a kid
- Going for a walk with my girlfriend and dog after we moved to the city in 2021
- 2021 Detroit Audubon Walk
- 1983 City of Detroit employee attending community meeting for mayor Young
- Taking the dog for walks with the family since I was young
- Walking the trail from end of Lyndon Greenway to the bridge and on into the park June 2010
- Children went to Murphy 1980's basketball practice at Murphy 1971
- Walking the trail from the neighborhood to the park
- Walking family and dog 45 years ago & concert w Maso/WJLB radio
- Seeing information about it on sidewalk Detroit's Instagram
- Goin there with my kids once we moved back from ATL seeing the community show up and stick together
- Walking the path along the rivers

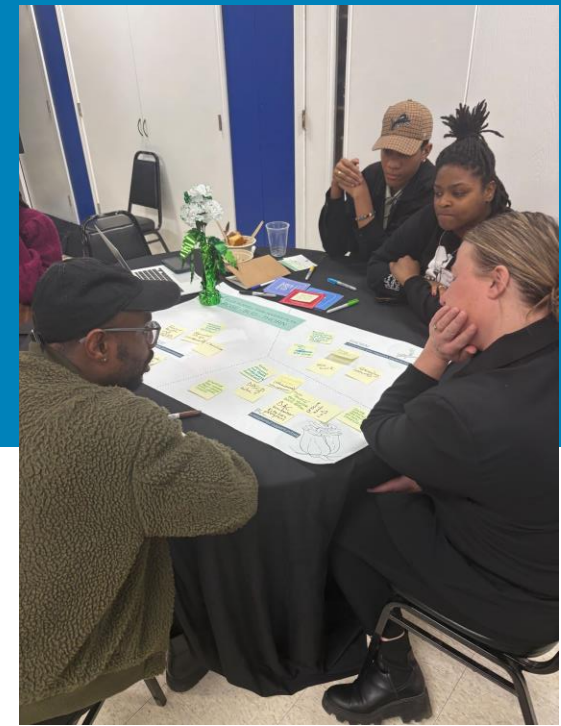
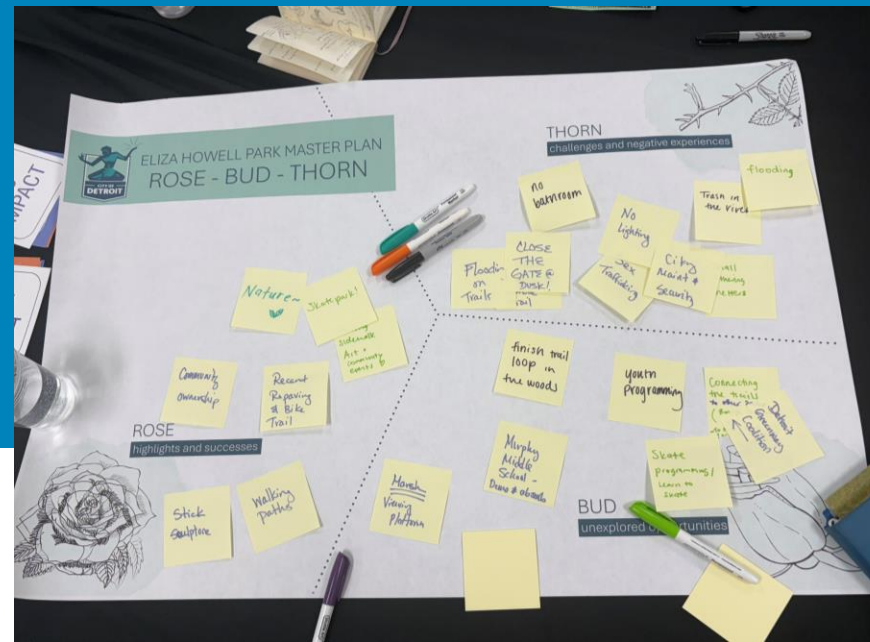




# ROSE – BUD – THORN

## ROSES

- **Nature & Wildlife:** wildlife habitat, nature trails, old growth forest, stunning trees
- **Community Features:** community ownership, activities, art events, passion for EHP
- **Recreation & Spaces:** walking paths, skatepark, bike path, playground, green areas
- **Infrastructure & Improvements:** recent repaving, new road/bike lanes, bioswales, parking, cleanliness
- **Events & Ambiance:** music, jazz concerts, yoga, serene ambiance





# ROSE – BUD – THORN

## BUDS

- **Nature & Wildlife:** Nature paths, wildlife, ecological restoration, native habitat, clean waterway, nature center, and informational signage (plants, animals)
- **Community & Collaboration:** Youth & senior programming, cooperative community collaboration, partnerships (schools, after-school programs, Detroit Greenway Coalition), and public art walks.
- **Recreation & Amenities:** Trails (wooded, bike, gravel), skate programming, playgrounds (accessible, splashpad, water feature), picnic amenities, dog park, horses for healing, farmers market, food trucks/vendors, and seating.



# ROSE – BUD – THORN

## THORNS

- **Safety & Security:** Crime, illicit activities, sex trafficking, sex work, history of feeling unsafe, and lack of park control/hours. Lack of security, parking issues (ticketing/towing), driving on grass, and unsafe conditions in nature areas.
- **Maintenance & Cleanliness:** Trash, garbage, river pollution, invasive species, lack of trash pick-up, dirty restrooms, no bathrooms, grass cutting issues, and too much mowed grass.
- **Accessibility & Infrastructure:** No lighting, no restrooms, no signs, speed bumps for speeding, and long wait for bus routes.
- **Environmental Issues:** Mosquitoes, poison ivy, motorized vehicles in nature areas, and invasive plants.
- **Animal & Pet Concerns:** Loose dogs, dog waste, dog safety, and no dog waste bags.
- **Health & Safety:** Water pollution, sledding hill safety, and danger from ticks.

# What's your wildest dream for the park?

## Natural Areas & Environmental Conservation

- Permanent Nature Areas Stewardship Staff
- Nature areas with diverse activities (e.g., kayaking, canoeing, swimming in the Rouge River)
- Natural pond for swimming
- Grove of American Chestnuts
- A river to swim in and abundance of biodiversity
- Butterfly garden
- Large, comprehensive nature trail network similar to Heritage Park
- More wildlife

## Recreation & Play

- Giant slide
- Tree houses connected by canopy bridges
- Campground with a backpacking loop across the Rouge
- Kayaking down the Rouge River through Eliza Howell Park and swimming in the river
- Canoeing on the river
- Horse park
- Public swimming area with a cabana
- Playground for seniors
- Innovative Hills-style playground with natural water features
- Hanging rope bridge connecting Beaverland slide to main park
- Southside for adult “play” (e.g., rock wall, zipline, other activities)
- Paddle boats on the river



# What's your wildest dream for the park?

## Connectivity & Infrastructure

- Connect the south side of the park with a bridge
- Connect EHP (Eliza Howell Park) with Rouge Park, biking loop for canoes/kayaks
- Bridge to connect various park sections
- Rouge Greenway Trail (Thornton Blackburn trails)
- Proper funding to finish plans
- Use of southside for adult play (rock wall, zipline, other activities)
- Connection to Rouge Park
- Park is a gem and revitalizing Brightmoor area

## Amenities & Facilities

- Seating (picnic tables, benches)
- Concerts again just north of I-96
- Christmas lights along road loop (also listed under Community Engagement)
- Clean it up
- Protected for public use for perpetuity