



Future of Hughes

March 14, 2023

City Council
Work Session

- History and Project Overview
- What We've Heard
- Next Steps
- Discussion



QUESTIONS:

1

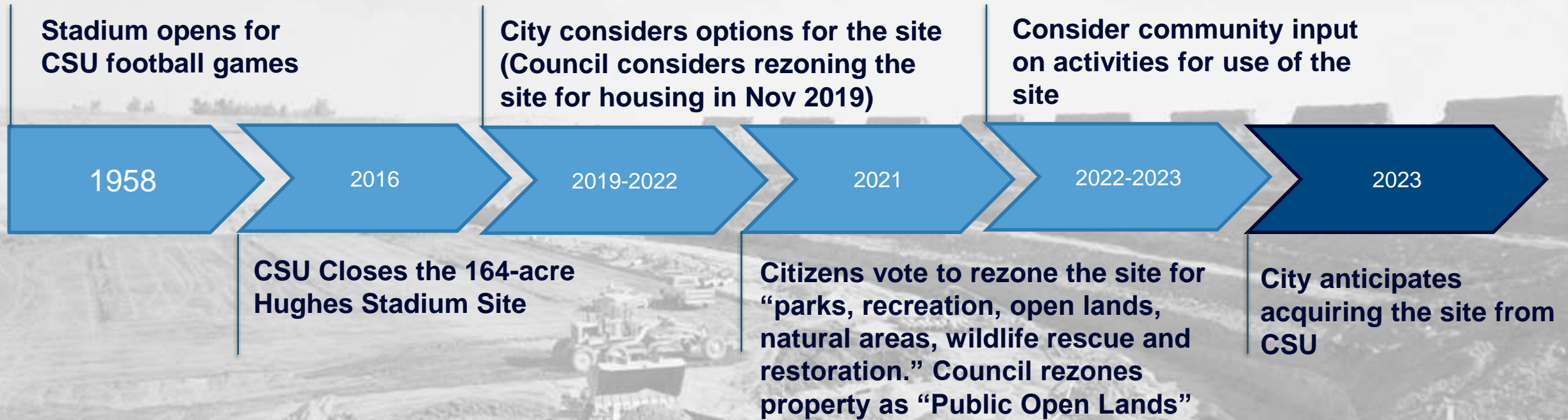
What initial thoughts does Council have regarding feedback to date?

2

Are there activities Council would like to continue to explore on the site?

3

Does Council support staff bringing 2-3 options that could include both short-term and long-term opportunities for discussion later in 2023?





1950



2017

- August 8, 2019
- Approximately 265 attendees
- Many drawings indicated a desire for “Public Open Lands” or POL across the entire site.
- Many other drawings indicated a preference for some development on the site with a protective naturalistic or open space buffer along the western edge of the site.



What would you like to see on the site?

Use the site outline to draw your preferred site configuration.

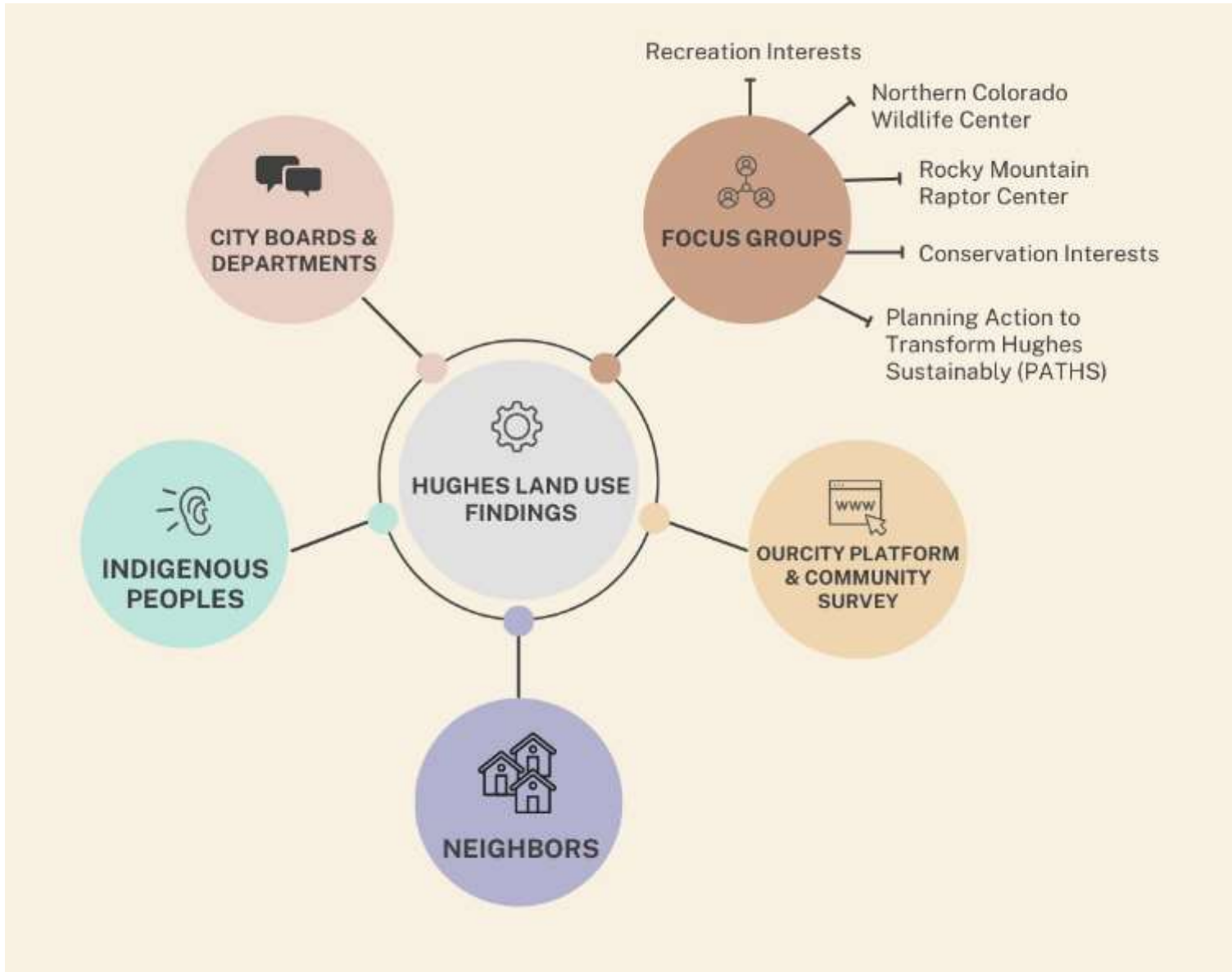
Things you might choose to consider on the site:

- Where housing should be built (such as single-family, townhomes, multifamily, mixed use)
- Location of neighborhood services and amenities
- Open space features (such as trails, community parks, pocket parks, open space, etc.)

- Protect views of the foothills.
- Create community space for recreation and nature.
- Consider environmental protections and buffers for nature.
- Maintain and increase access to nearby natural areas.
- Increase trails, bicycle, and pedestrian infrastructure.



- In 2019, citizen-initiated petition to rezone the 164.56-acre Hughes Stadium to the Public Open Lands District for “**parks, recreation, and open lands, natural areas, and wildlife rescue and restoration**”
- Acquire the property (in progress)
- 3,531 verified signatures for the petition (8,385 lines used)
- 28,492 voted “Yes” for the ballot initiative (68.6% approval rate)



- Groups engaged
 - Recreation
 - Wildlife Rescue
 - Conservation
 - PATHS
 - B&Cs
- Surveys
 - Purpose and structure of #1
 - Numbers
 - Purpose and structure of #2
 - Numbers

Natural Areas:

- Program established in 1992
- Mission: To conserve and enhance lands with natural resource, agricultural and scenic values, while providing meaningful education and appropriate recreation opportunities.”
- Dedicated funding through the “Help Preserve Open Space (County)” and “Open Space Yes (City)” sales taxes
- Land generally owned by the City and protected/preserved for ecological/aesthetic value

Public Open Lands (POL):

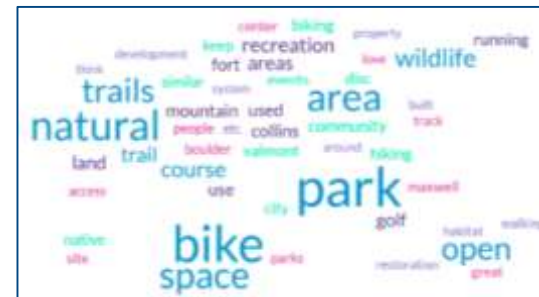
- Zoning designation or district for Natural Areas, Publicly-Owned Parks, and open lands which have a community-wide emphasis

Parks, recreation and open lands:

”shall mean natural areas as described in the Natural Areas Policy Plan, parks and recreation facilities as described in the Parks and Recreation Policy Plan whether such facilities are owned or operated by the City or by another not-for-profit organization, environmental interpretation facilities, outdoor environmental research or education facilities, or public outdoor places.”

Future of Hughes Stadium Site Survey (Survey #1) 2,710 unique responses

- Based on the 2021 ballot language, how would you prioritize the following uses?**
 - 15% of respondents supported recreation
 - 16% open lands
 - 16% parks
 - 11% natural areas
 - 18% wildlife rescue and restoration
 - An “other” option was also available for elaboration on the type of open lands or recreational activities they hoped to see on the site
- How would you like to see the space used?**
 - High preferences for a bike park, open and natural space, mixed use recreation space, multi-use connected trails, Indigenous Peoples community gathering area, and maintaining the disc golf course



FUTURE OF HUGHES SITE SURVEY RESULTS

Q: Based on the 2021 ballot language, how would you prioritize the following uses?

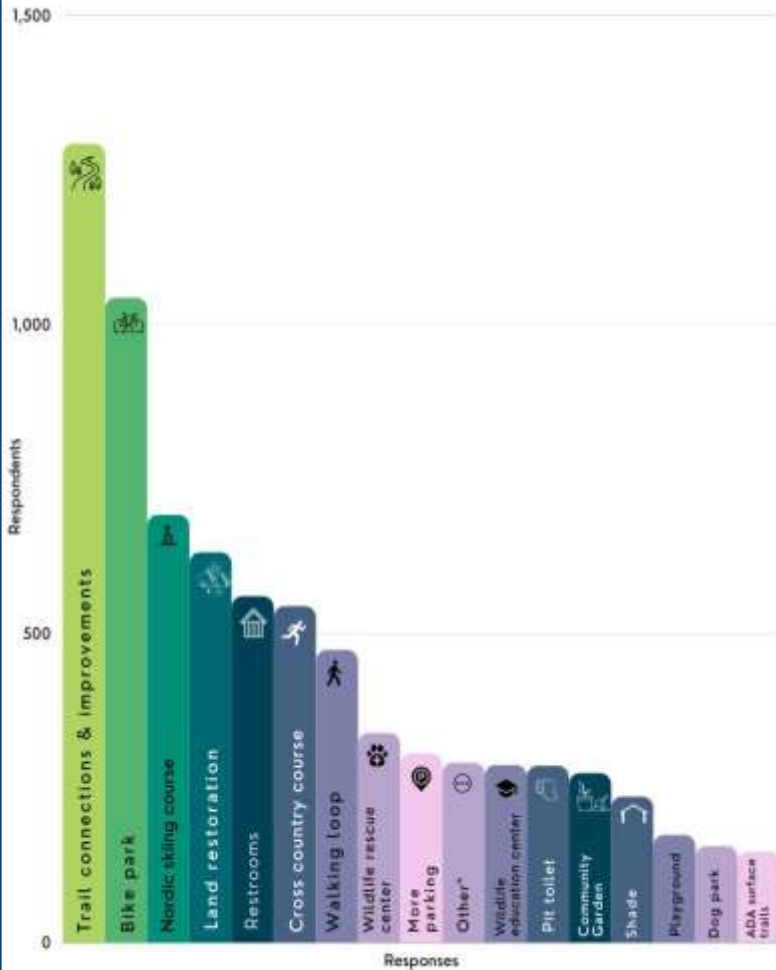
As a result of the 2021 ballot initiative, the City rezoned the property as “Public Open Lands,” which allows the site to be used for parks, recreation, open lands, natural areas, and wildlife rescue and restoration.

DESIRED USES:

Higher Preference

Lower Preference

DESIRED ACTIVITIES



*Other includes stargazing, "do nothing," pickleball, transit connections, & an Indigenous Peoples center.

Future of Hughes Stadium Site Survey (Survey #2) 1,896 unique responses

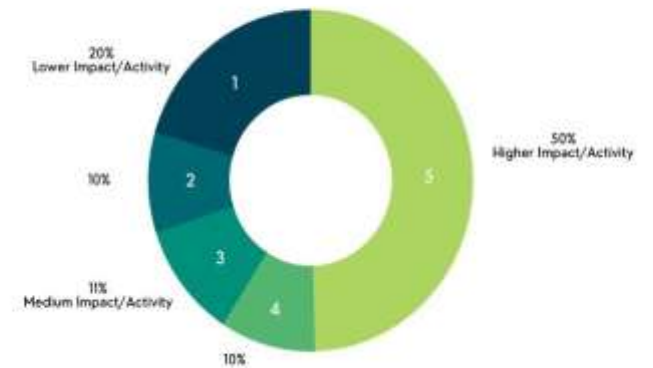
Desired Level of Impact

- High preferences were voiced for trail connections and improvements, a bike park, a Nordic skiing course, land restoration, restrooms, and a cross country running course.
- The survey also included a free response question where many respondents reiterated their activity preferences.

FUTURE OF HUGHES COMMUNITY PRIORITIZATION SURVEY

RESULTS

Q: What level of activity would you prefer to potentially see on the site?



- Maintain connections to nature and the feeling of being in open space.
- Maintain the community character of the site.
- Use the space for only low-impact recreation use, such as low-impact trails.
- Emphasize the value of this property in relation to Pineridge and Maxwell Natural Areas
- Help the City become a regional destination for bike riders and wildlife enthusiasts.
- Create a multi-use recreational space (encompassing a bike park and “lower footprint” activities).
- Create a wildlife rehabilitation center and a space for wildlife-related education opportunities.
- Provide a space that inspires residents to explore new hobbies or nature.
- Create opportunities for use or preservation of the land by Indigenous Peoples.

NEXT STEPS:

Staff is proposing continuing to work with Council and the public to determine potential activities or improvements to pursue in future budget cycles. This will likely be a multi-year iterative process. Council will approve a 2025-26 budget in November 2024.

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Discussion

