

10-Minute Walk[®]

Community of Practice

2021-2022

- 1 Park Equity: Approaches and Measures
- 2 Incorporating Equity into Project Prioritization
- 3 Centering Community in Parks Decision-Making
- 4 Increasing “Access” through a Holistic Lens
- 5 The Power of Partnerships for Stronger Parks and Systems Changes
- 6 Healthy and Resilient Communities: Long-Term Park Impacts



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WHY

The *10-Minute Walk* Program was launched in 2017 to address the U.S. park equity divide—the gap in close-to-home park access that exists for 100 million U.S. residents. This gap is only becoming more urgent and local governments seek equitable and innovative ways to ensure the wide-ranging and significant benefits of parks are available to everyone. Barriers to closing this gap range from insufficient or under-leveraged funding, to systems and policy that enforce inequitable investment. In response, the *10-Minute Walk* Program cultivates peer-to-peer learning opportunities for cities to exchange strategies and best practices to improve park equity, safe access, quality, and outline steps to accelerate action.

WHAT

Since Fall 2021, the *10-Minute Walk* Program convened a peer learning community series that brought together nearly 150 city stakeholders including city officials, planners, and parks professionals from over 50 cities. This network serves as both a collaborative hub for cities that are actively focused on improving park equity, as well as an essential place for identifying and elevating leading-edge practices for addressing park access and quality via policy and other systemic changes. We are fostering discussion and collaboration between practitioners and policy-makers to discuss current opportunities and challenges and chart the path forward.

SESSIONS

- 11.2021: Park Equity: Approaches and Measures
- 01.2022: Incorporating Equity into Project Prioritization
- 03.2022: Centering Community in Parks Decision-Making
- 05.2022: Increasing “Access” through a Holistic Lens
- 07.2022: The Power of Partnerships for Stronger Parks and Systems Changes
- 09.2022: Healthy and Resilient Communities: Long-Term Park Impacts

It was a wonderful opportunity for peer-learning and collaboration, as well as advance thought leadership around park access.

PAST PARTICIPANT



OVERVIEW

Cities should target investments in neighborhoods with low park quality and access. While the term “equity” is increasingly a stated priority, its meaning often remains ill-defined. How can we measure equity in a city’s park system? What are the metrics that will account for a park’s *quality*?

LEARNINGS

EQUITABLE RESOURCES



Which neighborhoods have access to the most and/or best park resources (acreage, activities, investments)?

According to ParkScore 2022, parks serving a majority of color, on average, are half as large as parks that serve a majority-white population, although they serve nearly five times more people. Advancing park equity means accounting for access and quality, and recognizes the importance of long-term investment in community vision and underserved neighborhoods.

INCLUSION and BELONGING



Who feels welcome in parks? If people don't use local parks, why not?

Assess usage and satisfaction by demographics rather than just geography. Are there people who don't feel welcome or don't feel like the park belongs to them?

PROCESS and PARTICIPATION



Who has influence to make decisions about how resources are distributed and how parks are designed?

Partnering with on-the-ground partners and local leaders can help better understand needs, conduct outreach, and center community values when embarking on park projects and programming.

ATLANTA, GEORGIA

As a part of Atlanta's 10-year master plan, the Department of Parks and Recreation developed a [Recreation Equity Data Tool](#) to identify disparities between their parks. The city then used the tool to inform decisions and target resources. The interactive platform will also help measure the success of their efforts and promote equitable funding practices.



PRESENTERS

Kirsten Mickow, Sr. Manager of Urban Analytics,
Trust for Public Land

Will Klein, Associate Director for Parks Research,
Trust for Public Land

Christina Jang, Sr. Program Manager, Technical Assistance for the
10-Minute Walk Program
Trust for Public Land


2 Incorporating Equity into Project Prioritization

OVERVIEW

With an overall increase in park access (average 10-minute walk access to parks among 100 largest US cities) since the launch of [ParkScore](#) in 2012, where have new parks been located, and who do they serve? Data-driven equity frameworks and policies that direct investments to under-resourced neighborhoods are critical. This session focused on cities' equity metrics and prioritization frameworks, and how they are applied to park planning, funding, and improvements.


LEARNINGS

PARK DEVELOPMENT and PROCESS

 **How is an equitable planning process iterative, and how can cities use equity data to allocate funds for community engagement, programming, and stewardship?**

Have a planned process for equitable park development. Use equity data to inform spending, and help to make the case to leadership to increase parks funding and programming.

RESEARCH and EQUITY DATA

 **What are opportunities and challenges in building out and using equity metrics to address capital planning, project maintenance, directing investments to under-resourced areas?**

Investing in data systems to measure things like park quality and use can help prioritize and raise funds for equitable park development, as well as identify opportunities and challenges in neighborhood development.

BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

Equity measures were critical to informing decisions and redressing the history of redlining in Baltimore. Baltimore City Recreation & Parks used equity data for their capital prioritization plan and created a process to improve parks not eligible for capital improvements. Through this process, the city was able to allocate funds for community engagement and maintenance to bring in recreational programming for non-capital parks projects.



PRESENTERS

[Shannon Arms](#), *Facilities Supervisor*, Milwaukee Recreation

[Pam Linn](#), *Facilities Project Manager*, Milwaukee Recreation

[Tim Almaguer](#), *Division Chief of Community Engagement*, Baltimore City Recreation & Parks

[Adam Boarman](#), *Chief of Capital Development*, Baltimore City Recreation & Parks

[Kathleen LeVeque](#), *Assistant Director of Parks Planning*, Denver Parks and Recreation

[Joe Lovell](#), *GIS Data Administrator*, Denver Parks and Recreation

OVERVIEW

Parks are natural containers for community activities that gather residents around common goals. Investing in parks or renovations doesn't automatically deliver social benefits, and community engagement is critical to improving park quality and activation. By centering locals in decision-making, cities are investing in the well-being of people to find local solutions to growing climate, health and equity challenges.

LEARNINGS

MEET PEOPLE WHERE THEY ARE

? How do you reach community members in the places they already congregate, as well as invest in those spaces and create new opportunities for dialogue?

Sponsor or partner on events like neighborhood clean-ups to nurture relationships. Use both in-person (eg hosting language specific events and providing food, and childcare) and digital channels like neighborhood apps and online groups to engage residents.

BUILD OUT LOCAL NETWORKS

? How do you build relationships between community members and community-based organizations to works towards a common goal and vision?

Map who's there and see how you can support work already happening. Invite locals to be advisors and provide the facilitation, organizing, and administrative support that they need.

INVEST IN LOCAL LEADERSHIP

? How can you anchor partnership development among community groups and organizers who can represent diverse aspects of local culture and identity?

Integrate local leaders into civic processes by funding and building their capacity to capture community needs in parks. Invest in civic education so all can engage and be socialized to city processes. Having representatives who are inviting and feel relatable to community members is critical.

AUSTIN, TEXAS

ForkLift Danceworks shared how community performances cultivated transparency, trust and celebrated local histories, broadening conversations about the city's aquatics system, pools policy, and history. As a result of this deep community engagement process, Austinites voted 85% in favor of funding \$40 million for pools in 2018, which increased the annual budget by \$1 million.



PRESENTERS

Geneva Vest, Program Manager, Trust for Public Land

Dayana Molina, Community Organizer, Trust for Public Land

Community Leader from **Equipo Verde**, Los Angeles

Krissie Marty, Associate Director, Forklift Danceworks

Jodi Jay, Aquatic Division Manager, Austin Parks and Recreation

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Increasing “Access” through a Holistic Lens

OVERVIEW

How can cities increase the sense of belonging in a park? Beyond physical access, we explored how to increase access through partnerships and programming. Cities shared strategies on how parks became a platform to increase access to opportunities, improve health, address mental/emotional/social well-being, and bring environmental benefits to local communities.

LEARNINGS

CULTIVATE BELONGING



How can we better understand barriers to park access and use?

Use data to identify under-resourced neighborhoods. Explore why parks are not activated in those areas, and who is and isn't using these space. Be creative and look across sectors - barriers can include transit options, safety, lighting, among other factors.

DIVERSIFY PROGRAMMING



How can we elevate strategies to address gaps in programming and access to parks and green spaces?

Consider the variety of outdoor recreational programming and the awareness, or lack thereof, around these activities. Identify barriers, such as lack of marketing, engaged partners, and representation of parks staff that reflect the communities they serve.

PARTNERSHIPS



How can a partner network engage, inform and strengthen how a park can better serve a community?

Create a framework to engage different types of partners, and their roles in meeting community needs. Map a diverse group of local stakeholders to address how parks impact community needs and how local organizations can advance these needs.

TOLEDO, OHIO

Metroparks Toledo began building trust with locals by identifying barriers to using natural areas. Their goal was to deepen relationships and understand community values and needs. There were misperceptions about the cleanliness of the rivers and lack of knowledge of water sports, so they brought inflatable pools to the parks and offered kayaking lessons on land.



PRESENTERS

Ronda Chapman, *Director of Equity, Trust for Public Land*

Colby Fangman, *Park Planner, Des Moines Parks and Recreation Department*

Amarre Negusse, *Recreation Supervisor, Des Moines Parks and Recreation Department*

Ashley Smith, *Manager of Public Programs, Metroparks Toledo*

Akiima Price, *Community Liaison Consultant, Friends of Anacostia Park*

The Power of Partnerships: Stronger Parks & System Change

OVERVIEW

We explored three partnership strategies—working with private developers, opening schoolyards, and collaborating with utilities and watershed agencies—to both increase *10-minute walk* access and deliver park access and programming more effectively.

LEARNINGS

PRIVATE DEVELOPERS



How can cities work with private developers to build public parks, and maximize benefits for the general population?

ParkScore 2022 found that the primary way cities are increasing access to parks is through partnerships to creatively add park space in urban areas, such as working with private developers. For cities where land is expensive or scarce, local policy solutions that require developers to build publicly accessible parks can greatly advance park access and quality.

MUNICIPAL UTILITIES



How can parks departments partner with other municipal agencies to provide public, open and green space?

Expand park access for residents through innovative partnerships with departments like Water Utilities which can provide public access to reservoirs and natural lands.

COMMUNITY SCHOOLYARDS



What is the untapped potential in opening schoolyards to the public and local communities?

If all schoolyards were renovated as parks and open to the public, they could provide park access to 20 million people. Public school grounds are a cost-efficient means to acquire park land. See our [2021 report here](#) and check out the [SPARK School Park Program](#) which has been integral to accelerating *10-minute walk* access in Houston.

HENDERSON, NEVADA

The City of Henderson Parks and Recreation Department established best practices and guidelines for working with housing developers to maximize community benefits for residents. The city was able to build new parkland more efficiently resulting in 43% of new parks coming from private developers in the last 10 years.



PRESENTERS

Noel Durant, Director of Tennessee State Office, Trust for Public Land

Erin Reisweg, Park Planner, City of Henderson Parks and Recreation Department

Kevin Sigman, Business Analyst, City of Henderson Parks and Recreation Department

Elizabeth Howley, Assistant Director, SPARK School Park Program

Rachel Ware, Park Planner, Oklahoma City Parks

Subi Gamagedara, Park Planner, Oklahoma City Parks

OVERVIEW

Throughout the pandemic, parks have shown their value as the glue that holds communities together. Green spaces contribute to healthy and resilient communities, whether it is cooling or protecting neighborhoods from extreme flooding, to social connectedness and a space to exercise or find respite.

LEARNINGS

ADVANCE CLIMATE GOALS

? How can parks help us deal with unbearably hot days and destructive floods as weather events become more extreme and frequent?

Neighborhoods within a 10-minute walk of a park are as much as 6 degrees cooler than others. Green spaces have the power to fight climate change through flood protections, stormwater management, and wildfire protection.

ADVANCE HEALTH GOALS

? How can local health partnerships help to elevate parks as a key strategy to improve physical, mental and community wellbeing?

Partnering with hospitals and community health organizations can advance long-term impacts that parks have on communities. Integrating parks into community health improvement and evaluation plans can include increasing park usage in existing health policies, funding park beautification and infrastructure improvements, and increasing outreach and programming for local community members.

STOCKTON, CALIFORNIA

Stockton's health disparities encouraged Dignity Health to focus on parks for their Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP.) Partnering with public health, housing and homeless services, education and business, city and council government, and community organizations, Dignity Health prioritizes equitable access to parks to improve physical, mental and community wellbeing.



PRESENTERS

[Brendan Shane](#), *Climate Director, Trust for Public Land*

[Sadiya Muqueeth](#), *Health Director, Trust for Public Land*

[Tammy Shaff](#), *Director of Community Health, Dignity Health*

[Brett KenCairn](#), *Senior Policy Advisor for Climate and Environment, City of Boulder*

Resources

FOR THE COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

[TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND](#)

We create parks and protect public land where they're needed most so that everyone will have access to the benefits and joys of the outdoors for generations to come.

[THE 10-MINUTE WALK® PROGRAM](#)

The 10-Minute Walk Program helps cities expand access and green spaces for everyone.

[ALL 10-MINUTE WALK RESOURCES](#)

Find and download park resources by category.

[PARKSCORE](#)

See how the 100 largest cities' parks systems rank.

[PARKSERVE](#)

The ParkServe® mapping platform empowers users to plan and advocate for new local parks to help close this gap in park access.

Recordings of past sessions:

 **SESSION 3**

 **SESSION 4**

 **SESSION 5**

 **SESSION 6**