Shawangunk Ridge, NY
In partnership with Open Space Institute, we have protected more than 21,300 acres on and around the Shawangunk Ridge.
Photo by: Chris Bennett

Park Qualities Incubator
Session III - Workshop, Visualizing Metrics
January 18, 2022
Park Qualities Incubator, Session III

- Nov 16: Framework – Linking park experience types and health outcomes
- Dec 14: Framework – Translating concepts to metrics and action
- Today: Workshop – Review new mapping approaches developed from the first two sessions
- Feb 15: Workshop – Review revised approaches and open review period for participants
- Mar 15: Beyond experiences – Exploring additional approaches to park quality metrics

Today’s Agenda:

- Recap December’s session
- TPL Presentation - Draft examples in Cleveland, OH & Raleigh, NC
  - Technical Q&A (5min)
- Breakout Groups (50min)
- Session Closing & Exit Poll
Recap: Session 2 Plenary - Translating Concepts to Metrics and Action

Experience mapping examples from the field

San Diego’s recreational value-based system

Portland’s park experience mapping
Recap: Session 2 Breakouts - Translating amenity data to experience metrics

Goals:

- For each experience type, share with the group how you would summarize the amount available to a neighborhood.
- Share feedback not only on how we’re counting, but also what we’re counting.
- Zooming out, what city-wide policy goal would be most successful in your city?

Measuring Access to Natural Areas

How would you characterize public access to natural areas in these two neighborhoods?

A. XX% of neighborhood has access to a natural area within a 10 minute walk.
B. Residents in this neighborhood have access to XX acres per capita.
C. Residents in this neighborhood have access to XX natural areas.
D. Other - please describe.

Measuring Access to Recreational Activities

In your opinion, what is the most effective way to summarize how many recreational activities/amenities Resident A has access to?*

A. By total active amenities = total amenities
B. By unique amenity types = different activity types (Sport & Playground)
C. By parks with active amenities = 3 parks with at least one active amenity
D. Other, please describe

*assume all residents have 1 minute walk access to all parks shown

Social Interaction - what gets counted?

Active & Social Amenities
- Fields, diamonds, courts, informal fields
- Playgrounds
- Water play areas
- Fitness zones & walking loops/tracks
- Specialized facilities (e.g. golf, skate park, disc golf, boat landings)
- Trailheads

Passive Social Amenities
- Picnic/BBQ Areas
- Dog off-leash areas
- Community garden
- Restaurant/food areas
- Pools / informal open space
- Game areas (bocce, horseshoe)

Question
For counting opportunities for social interaction, would you include:
- Both active & passive amenities a)
- Only passive b)
- Other - please describe c)

To the left is a draft of park features that facilitate social interaction. What would you add, remove, or change?
Recap: What we heard

Suggested approaches/feedback for calculating city and neighborhood access to...

**natural areas:**
- % of population living within ~2 miles of a ‘large’ natural area
- Mileage of trails within natural areas or a version of 10MW to a natural area trailhead
- Acres of natural area per capita
- Hybrid approach, depending on density, of either a distance (e.g. 10MW) or acreage approach

**recreational experiences:**
Significant discussion on whether to count the total number of all active amenities or count available unique amenity types (net count vs. diversity). Key question when counting by type - how do you set the ‘types’ so you are not overly prescriptive.

→ Open question: what’s value of counting amenities without additional attributes related to quality/condition (age, usage, hours open, permitted, etc).

**social interaction:**
- Include cultural and arts amenities
- Align active and passive categories with planning or funder classifications
- Reframe active/passive as formal/informal

→ Open question: would it be more useful to use visitation patterns (anonymized cell data) rather than an asset-based approach. All park amenities are inherently social, so at what point do you lose the utility of counting everything
Recap: What we heard

When asked which approach would be most successful as a city-wide policy goal, participant responses were evenly distributed among the following choices:

• 10 Minute Walk to specific park types
• Identify neighborhoods with relatively less of a park type than other neighborhoods
• All neighborhoods should have a certain number of different types of park experiences
• Identify neighborhoods with lower diversity of park experiences relative to others
Applying the framework

With lessons learned from previous sessions, the TPL team tested approaches to mapping access to active and social amenitized experiences in Cleveland, OH & Raleigh, NC
Step 1: Classify amenities

Create a standard model to characterize park amenities based on experiences offered as they relate to health outcomes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>“Active” amenities (physical activity)</th>
<th>“Social” amenities (social interaction)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Amenity Type</strong></td>
<td><strong>Amenity Type</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fields &amp; Diamonds</td>
<td>Picnic Area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hard Courts</td>
<td>Counts by physical shelter, food stand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playground</td>
<td>Dog park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water play areas</td>
<td>Garden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walking loops &amp; fitness zones</td>
<td>Includes community and specialty garden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specialized facility</td>
<td>Informal gathering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trailhead</td>
<td>Performance spaces</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Notes**
- Includes both fields and diamonds
- all courts (basketball, tennis etc)
- Splash pads
- BMX, disc golf, skate park, and others
- Includes both land and water trails
- Bocce, Horseshoes (limited physical activity)
- ampitheatres, pavilions, etc
Beyond the existence of park space, we can now see the distribution of *amenitized* experiences.
First, a disclaimer…

Known limitations:

• Currently mapping only *amenitized experiences*, this excludes programming, park landscaping/natural features, community arts & culture, etc.

• Only mapping assets tracked by the city - this excludes school amenities, private or other agency-owned assets

• Data gaps (amenities are hard to keep track of!)

• Important aspects exclude from this analysis:
  • asset condition or age
  • permitted vs. unpermitted amenities
  • amenities like swimming pools or indoor features
  • general park comforts and safety features like bathrooms, trash, staff, and lighting
Step 2: Characterizing parks - by amenity count
Step 2: Characterizing parks - by density of amenities
Step 2: Characterizing parks - by unique amenity types

Amenity Types:
- Fields & Diamonds
- Sport Court
- Playground
- Water play area
- Walking Loops & Fitness Zones
- Specialized facility
- Trailhead
- Picnic Area
- Dog Park
- Garden
- Informal gathering space
- Game Court
- Performance Space
Revisiting access - 10-minute walk to parks with diverse amenities
Step 3: look at distribution of resources at the neighborhood and city scale

Park Acres Per Capita
Active Amenities per Capita
Social Amenities Per Capita
How does this approach fit into existing park planning and advocacy tools?
Cleveland, OH

**Map A**: Park acres per capita

**Map B**: Active amenities per capita
Cleveland, OH

**Map C:** 10-minute walk park access to all parks

**Map D:** 10-minute walk access to parks w/4 or more unique activities
Cleveland, OH

**Map E**: Stacked priorities

- Lowest park acres per capita
- Lowest park amenities per capita
- 10-minute walk to diverse parks gap

Areas with the lightest shade show in the map as a priority area for one of the any of the above metrics. Areas called out in the darkest hatched shade show up as priority areas in all of the above metrics.
Raleigh, NC

Map A: Park acres per capita

Map B: Active amenities per capita
Map C: 10-minute walk park access to all parks

Map D: 10-minute walk access to parks w/4 or more unique activities
Raleigh, NC

Map E: Stacked priorities

- Lowest park acres per capita
- Lowest park amenities per capita
- 10-minute walk to diverse parks gap

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Different metrics, different stories, cont’d.

**Cleveland**
- 10 Minute Walk: Low-income households: 85%, High-income households: 84%
- Acres per capita: 1% more park space
- 'Active' amenities per capita: 67% more

**Raleigh**
- 10 Minute Walk: Low-income households: 51%, High-income households: 48%
- Acres per capita: 28% less park space
- 'Active' amenities per capita: 96% more
Questions?

Please add any technical questions in the chat or Q&A
Breakout Groups

For the past few sessions, we’ve asked deep-dive questions about what and how to count, this discussion will be focused on zooming out to look at how these approaches could fit into your planning toolkit.

Review the maps on your own, adding notes and comments as you see fit. As a group, you will respond to the following overarching questions:

• **Immediate reactions & critique.** What’s ‘working’? What isn’t? What would you change?

• **Audience & use cases.** How would this work in your city? A primary goal of this effort is to improve park planning and advocacy. In looking at these additional metrics, what are the ways, if any, that you envision any of these approaches (or combination of approaches) could be used by you or your colleagues?
Breakout Poll & Wrap-Up

- Share your answers from the breakouts with the larger group: [https://pollev.com/christinajan159](https://pollev.com/christinajan159)

Next session >> Feb 15: Workshop – Review revised approaches and open review period for participants

>>Please share feedback on sessions & materials in the exit ticket: [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScESVZsZbXvROQd1yph-U3qomkt4G-i_qJFHYfWt6Zirj3Unw/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScESVZsZbXvROQd1yph-U3qomkt4G-i_qJFHYfWt6Zirj3Unw/viewform)