

# Community of Practice: Community Power

*Power mapping for sustained park equity*

*November 9, 2023*

# The Common Ground Framework

**Community Power:** A community's capacity to employ **democratic** processes to pursue their self-determined vision, regardless of identity or status

Community  
Power

Community  
Identity

Community  
Relationships



# America has a community power problem

1/5

Of Americans that trust the government to do what's right

3x


Increase in Americans that report lacking a single individual in their life who serves as a close confidant

58%

Percent of Americans report feeling lonely some or all of the time

81%

Percent of major metropolitan areas that are more racially segregated in 2019 than they were in 1990



**“Every moment is  
an organizing opportunity,  
every person a potential activist,  
every minute a chance to  
change the world...”**

*Dolores Huerta*

# Parks are powerful social infrastructure

66%

Increase in social ties for Americans who live near parks and green spaces

3x

Increase in voting participation among park organizers in 2018 case study project in Washington State

19%

Boost in community trust for local governments that invest in their parks

58%

Increase among people public meetings, if they also volunteer for environmental orgs

An ecosystem of  
social infrastructure



# How can we build community power?

A community's capacity to employ **democratic** processes to pursue their self-determined vision, regardless of identity or status

## Democracy in the community

Contributing to a healthy democracy is a community project

- Voting
- Calling representatives
- Petition signing
- Mutual aid
- Volunteering

## Democracy in the parks

Parks are an entry way for communities to practice a local scale of democracy

- Taking a survey
- Attending public meetings
- Stewardship groups
- Event organizing
- Advocating at city council



## Power building strategies

- ✓ Include community members in strategic **decision-making**
- ✓ Support the establishment of park **stewardship groups**
- ✓ **Transfer knowledge** on navigating public processes



## Impacts of community power

- ✓ Resilience to effects of climate change and the pandemic
- ✓ Lower crime rates
- ✓ Resistance to green gentrification
- ✓ Trust in local government
- ✓ Community organizing for local issues



A group of people are engaged in a community art project, painting a large, colorful mural on a paved area. The mural features various shapes and colors, including green, blue, yellow, and brown. The scene is set in an outdoor public space with a fence and trees in the background. The text is overlaid on the image in a white, sans-serif font.

*Visualization exercise:*

**Imagine a current project  
where you're in the stage of  
trust building**

# Track sessions

- **January 18 | Participatory planning:** How can parks transform community vision into reality?
- **March 14 | Civic education:** How can parks engagement be a bridge to civic participation?
- **May 9 | Park stewardship:** How can we strengthen the capacity of friends of groups and their community?
- **July 11 | Social resilience:** How can parks serve communities in times of crisis?

See you  
January 18!

# PowerPoint resources

## TPL Primary Logo



## TPL Icons



CLIMATE



CLIMATE



CLIMATE



COMMUNITY



COMMUNITY



COMMUNITY



EQUITY



EQUITY



EQUITY



HEALTH



HEALTH



HEALTH



LANDS



LANDS



LANDS



LANDS



LANDS



LANDS



PARKS



PARKS



PARKS



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TRAILS



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TRAILS



TRAILS



TRAILS



SCHOOLYARDS



SCHOOLYARDS



SCHOOLYARDS



SCHOOLYARDS



SCHOOLYARDS



SCHOOLYARDS

# PowerPoint resources

## TPL Icons Continued

Community

Health

Climate

Equity

Lands

Parks

Schoolyards

Trails

