



Park Equity Policy Incubator

Session 1- October 2, 2024

Park Equity Policy Incubator

Session 1 Agenda

1. Overview
2. 10-Minute Walk Policy Framework
3. Q&A with speakers
4. Breakout groups
5. Group report out
6. Closing and next steps



Trust for Public Land is a national nonprofit, working to create parks and protect land for people, ensuring healthy, livable communities for generations to come.

**We believe in
OUTSIDE FOR ALL**





Today, 100 million people across the U.S, including 28 million kids, don't have a park within a 10-minute walk of home.



10-Minute Walk[®] Mission: Closing the Park Equity Gap

Present day inequities in park space and outdoor access are often the result of decades of problematic policy decisions.

Without policy solutions, the gap will continue to widen.

Park Equity Communities of Practice



Policy Incubator



**Connecting People
to Parks**



**Parks Plus:
Economic Vitality**



COLLEGE OF
CHARLESTON
THE RILEY CENTER FOR
LIVABLE COMMUNITIES

Advancing Park Equity Through Policy: The State of the Field and a Path Forward

Valerie Friedmann, AICP, Trust for Public Land 10-Minute Walk® program

Dr. Morgan Hughey, Joseph P. Riley, Jr. Center for Livable Communities;
College of Charleston

Connecting everyone to the outdoors™



Accelerating Park Equity through Local Policy

Local policies—adopted laws, regulations, and formalized procedures—are critical to advancing park equity at scale.

Local policy has the power to:

- Ensure sustained action across changes in leadership.
- Hold departments, leaders, and stakeholders accountable.
- Demonstrate commitment on a city-wide level.
- Complement ongoing programming and practices.

10-Minute Walk® Key Park Equity Policies Framework

Research-backed framework that identifies eight key policy categories that shape:

- Park investment and improvements
- Access to parks
- Public processes involved in these decisions



Defining a Knowledge Gap

Local policy is a key support for improving park access.

What are the various policy mechanisms that help promote equitable access to parks?



Project Objectives

Develop, test, and validate a data collection tool for the Park Equity Policy Framework.

Summarize policies aimed at increasing equitable park access in a sample of 25 U.S. cities.

Identify supports, challenges, and most impactful policies aimed at equitable park access.



Methodology Overview

Develop Park Equity Policy Scan Framework

- Literature Review
- Development of 8 category Park Equity Policy Scan Framework
- Development of Data Collection tool and Instructions Manual

City Selection and Policy Scan Data Collection

- 25 city sample selected
- Systematic scan for policy documentation
 - Adopted government plans and approved reports
 - Government websites
 - Code of Ordinances

Interview Data Collection

- 1-2 interviews per city
 - Key professionals in Mayor's offices, parks and recreation, city planning
 - Confirm policy scan data collection
 - Identify policy implementation supports and challenges

City Selection and Sample

25 total cities

Initial 300 list of cities from 10-Minute Walk

Reduced to sample to capture representation across U.S. regions, population sizes, socioeconomic status, and racial/ethnic composition

City Sample Characteristics

Population Average: 539,954
(74,000-3,800,000)

Median Household Income
Average: \$66,171

Racial Ethnic Composition
Average: 42.9% non-Hispanic
White



Policy Categories and Mechanisms

1. Park Needs Assessment

2. Community Engagement

- Citywide capital improvement
- Park and recreation specific

3. Public Funding

- Bond measures
- Tax referendums

4. Maintenance and Operations

5. Shared Use Agreements

7. Connectivity

- Complete streets
- Trails, Greenways, Bikeways

8. Externalities & Anti-Displacement

- Rent control
- Right of first refusal
- Inclusionary zoning
- Local hiring

6. Land Use and Development

- Impact Fees
- Park Dedication
- Parkland Reservation
- Common Open Space and Recreation Area
- Comprehensive Planning

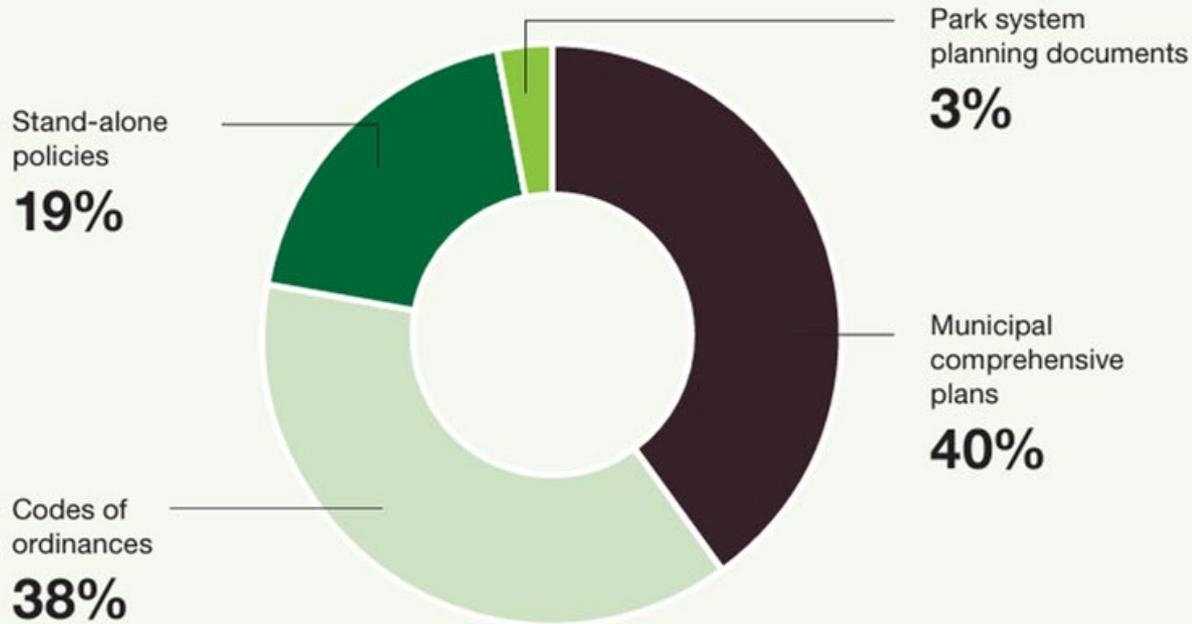
Presence of Policies by City

	Park Needs Assessment (8%)	Community Engagement (52%)	Public Finance (80%)	Maintenance (48%)	Shared Use (32%)	Land Use & Development (84%)	Connectivity (96%)	Anti-Displacement (64%)
Albany, New York								
Baltimore, Maryland								
Boston, Massachusetts								
Bridgeport, Connecticut								
Chattanooga, Tennessee								
Cleveland, Ohio								
Denver, Colorado								
Detroit, Michigan								
Fort Worth, Texas								
Henderson, Nevada								
Honolulu, Hawaii								
Johns Creek, Georgia								
Lexington, Kentucky								
Los Angeles, California								
Madison, Wisconsin								
Miami, Florida								
Missoula, Montana								
Newark, New Jersey								
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma								
Portland, Oregon								
Salt Lake City, Utah								
San Jose, California								
Scranton, Pennsylvania								
Tacoma, Washington								
Waukegan, Illinois								

Presence of Policies by City



Where did we find these policies?



City Interviews - Key Insights from Leaders and Staff

1 Meaningful **community engagement** and quality data from **park needs assessments** are crucial for informing fair and equitable decision making processes.

2 **Public funding and land use and development policies** as the most effective policies for creating parks

3 **Political support and collaboration across departments and the private sector** are essential for successfully implementing park equity policies

What to Expect

SESSION 1
Oct. 2

SESSION 2
Dec. 4

SESSION 3
Feb. 5

SESSION 4
Apr. 2

SESSION 5
Jun. 4

REVIEW

What is the 10-Minute Walk Policy Framework and Scan?

ACTIVITY: How do you define park equity in your work?

ASSESS

What policy area do you want to advance locally?

What is a 'technical' vs. 'adaptive' challenge?

EXPLORE

*How can policy change serve as a collaborative model to advance park equity? Case study on **park needs assessments and community engagement.***

EXPLORE

*How can policy change serve as a collaborative model to advance park equity? Case study on **public funding and land use.***

APPLY

How can you build your roadmap for policy change?

Q&A



Breakout rooms

35 minutes

Theme: How does park equity show up in your work?

Questions:

1. Describe how park equity is (or is not) showing up in your city.
2. What resources and tools do you need to advance policy change in this area?



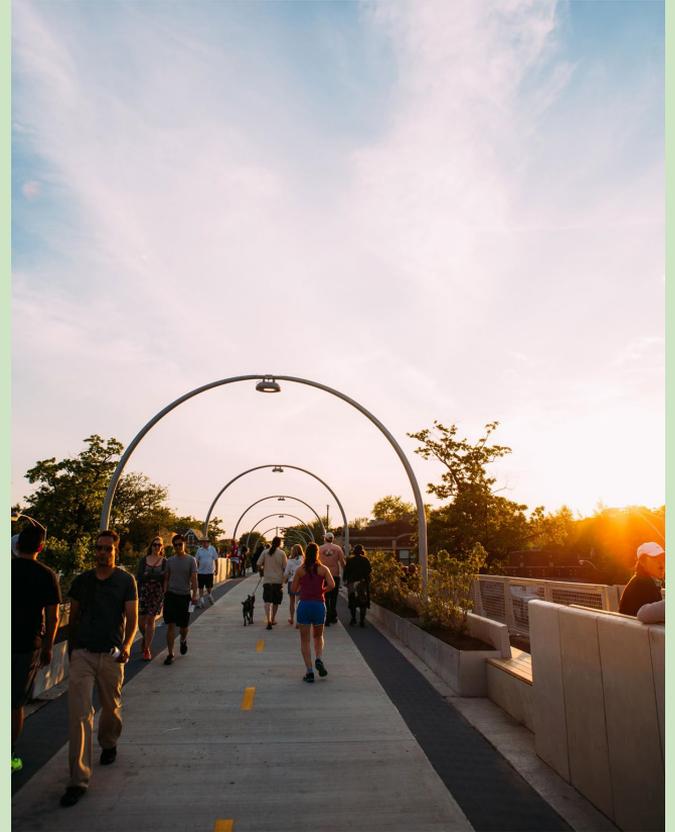
Welcome Back

Group report out



Sessions

- Oct 2:** 10-Minute Walk Park Equity Policy Framework
- Dec 4:** Local Policy Challenges
- Feb 5:** Community Engagement for Park Needs
- Apr. 2:** Levers for Funding and Land Use Policy
- Jun. 4:** Roadmap for Policy Change



Preparation for December 4

- ❑ Prepare a **brief (max. 5 minute)** overview of your Policy Incubator challenge.
 - ❑ Each city will present a brief background on your policy challenge, relevant details about your park system, and what you're hoping to achieve through the Policy Incubator
 - ❑ Designate one representative from your team to present your overview. Inform Christina who will present from your city.
- ❑ A PowerPoint template will be provided (5-7 slides) for teams to use and adapt.
 - ❑ Team leaders will submit a draft of the presentation by **Friday, November 22.**

Policy Categories & Local Challenges

Benchmarking

*Honolulu, HI
Oakland, CA*

**PARK NEEDS
& COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT**

Prioritization Schemes

*Atlanta, GA
Boston, MA
Detroit, MI*

Funding and Developer Requirements

*Henderson, NV
Lexington, KY
Mecklenburg County, NC*

**LAND USE &
PUBLIC
FUNDING**

Infill Development & Developer Requirements

*Lewisville, TX
Tempe, AZ*

Sustainability & Affordable Housing

*Denver, CO
Missoula, MT*

Exit ticket

Please take a moment to share your feedback with us.





Since 1972, TPL has protected 4 million acres of public land; created 5,364 parks, trails, schoolyards, and iconic outdoor places; raised \$93 billion in public funding for parks and public lands; and connected nearly 9.4 million people to the outdoors.

To learn more, visit tpl.org.

Connecting everyone to the outdoors™

Thank you!

Valerie Friedmann
valerie.friedmann@tpl.org

Christina Jang
christina.jang@tpl.org