

Park Stewardship Learning Cohort: Right-Sizing Requirements and Streamlining Systems

April 17, 2025

Welcome!

In the chat, share:

- Your name
- Your city
- Your agency
- Your favorite thing to see or do in your parks in the spring!





Agenda

- Session 1 Recap
- Unraveling "Red Tape"
- Opportunities to Right-Size Requirements: Q&A with Design Trust and Pittsburgh City Planning
- Defining Risk Exercise & Discussion
- Peer City Discussions
- Next Steps





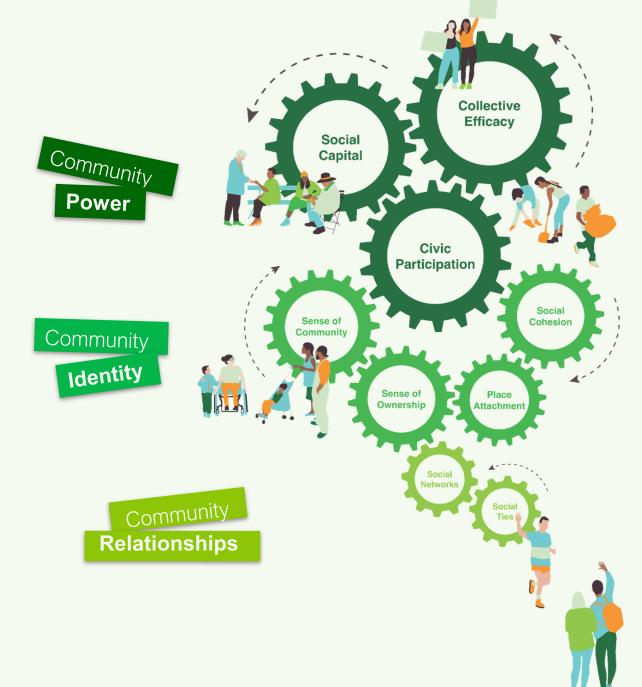
What is Park Stewardship?

In this Learning Cohort, we're focusing on the aspect of park stewardship that is...

Community-driven leadership and participation in the care, activation, and preservation of public parks and green spaces.



Community relationships facilitate the development of community identity, which is a foundation for building community power.



Form relationships

Hire community organizers

Spend time at existing community events

Build trust with residents who have close ties to the community

Communicate in accessible languages

Build place identity

Activate the site with consistent programming

Identify and invest in community skills and assets

Intentionally organize around arts and culture

Seed community power

Include community members in strategic decision-making

Support the establishment of park **stewardship groups**

Transfer knowledge on navigating public processes

Unraveling Red Tape

What are the greatest barriers to community park stewardship faced by public agencies?

Permitting Requirements

Complicated Systems

Limited Staff Support

Inter-Agency Coordination



Unraveling Red Tape

What are the greatest barriers to community park stewardship faced by public agencies?

Permitting Requirements

Complicated Systems

Limited Staff Support

Inter-Agency Coordination

- Outsized insurance
 & liability
 requirements
- Unclear or inconsistent rules & requirements
- Limited flexibility
- Individual processes for every event
- Opaque, difficult to navigate – lack of clear instructions or process for users and agencies
- Individual systems for each agency
- Designed for agency system, not user experience
- Processes require staff discretion – potential for inconsistency & longer approval timelines
- Lack capacity & resources to properly support residents

- Users are responsible for coordination, rather than agencies
- Lack of integrated systems or shared infrastructure
- Limited capacity & relationships slow communication





Reflection

Think about the stewardship activities that take place in your public spaces. Which ones would you consider high risk? Medium risk? Low risk?

For the next few minutes, quietly brainstorm:

- What defines a high- vs. medium- vs. low-risk activity?
- (How) Are these tiers of activities handled differently by your agency?
- Where are there opportunities to "right-size" the requirements of each of these tiers?

In a moment, you'll be split into breakout rooms to discuss. *Questions?*



Group Report-Out What did you hear?



Peer City Groupings

Establish a
Citywide
Stewardship
Network

Right-size
Support to
Stewardship
Groups

Interagency
Coordination and Funding

Build Social
Cohesion and
Community
Leadership

Baton Rouge, LA Camden, NJ Scranton, PA

Baltimore, MD
Houston, TX

New York, NY
Austin, TX
Philadelphia, PA

Raleigh, NC Chicago, IL





Peer City Discussions

With your peer cities, discuss:

- What is a takeaway that you have from the 'defining risk' activity?
- What surprised you about how other cities approach defining risk?
- Where are you most poised to take action based on what you've heard/discussed?

In a moment, you'll be split into breakout rooms to discuss. *Questions?*



Action Planning

Scan the QR Code or use the link in the chat to open the Action Planner

- Complete the reflection questions individually
- In your breakout rooms, briefly report out on the first 3 questions and set action items together

Wait to click "Submit" until the end of your breakout room

Responses will be sent to the email address you provide. Kate, Christina or Sophie can resend responses as needed.







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™

Christina Jang

christina.jang@tpl.org

Sophie Neuhaus

sophie.neuhaus@tpl.org

Kate Gannon

kate.gannon@tpl.org

Next Steps

- Submit your Action Planning Form
- Complete your assigned tasks
- Report-Out Slides & Recording
- Session 3: May 15, 2025
 Building and Sustaining Community Leadership

Thank You!