



Crossing Sectors to Create Parks

Session 1 - September 25, 2025

Crossing Sectors to Create Parks

Session 1 Agenda

1. Overview
2. Presentation: Dallas Greening Initiative
3. Q&A
4. Closing

Transition

1. Breakout groups
2. 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**





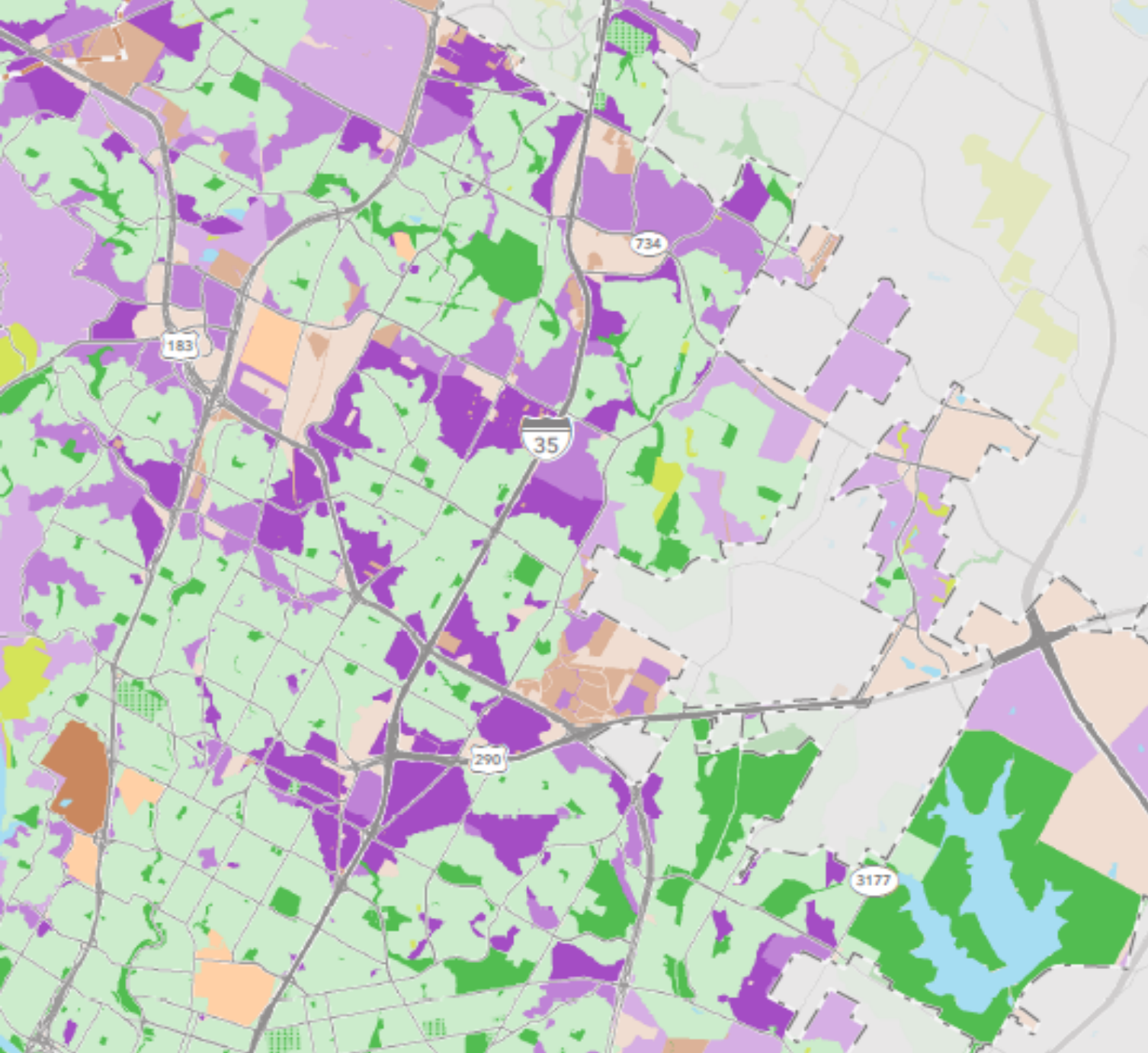
Today, 100 million people across the U.S, including 28 million kids, don't have a park within a 10-minute walk of home.



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.



Driving Systems Change

To advance local policies and promote system's change, TPL's Parks Initiative and 10-Minute Walk® Program are dedicated to expanding equitable park access nationwide by building:

- Strong collaborations with mayors
- Cross-sector public and private partners, and
- Community leaders

Park Equity Communities of Practice



**Planning for Policy
Action**



Crossing Sectors to Create Parks



**Programming with
Purpose**

VISION
Unlock
Lands for
Parks and
Greenspaces



1- Identify Park Gaps



2- Ground in Community Values



3- Navigate Land Use



4- Activate the Shared Space

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**TRUST FOR
PUBLIC
LAND™**

Connecting everyone to the outdoors™

Unlocking Spaces for Parks and Public Use

Why Parks and Living Greenspaces?

TPL is focused on the multiple benefits of parks and people-oriented outcomes:

- Essential spaces for people to exercise, connect, rejuvenate, learn, and earn
- Proven to improve physical and mental health, heal communities, protect the environment, and strengthen our democracy and economy
- Parks are an underutilized solution to today's most pressing issues, with achievable steps to implement



inclusive

cohesive

resilient

Parks are proven catalysts for thriving communities.

healthy

safe

happy

equitable

sustained

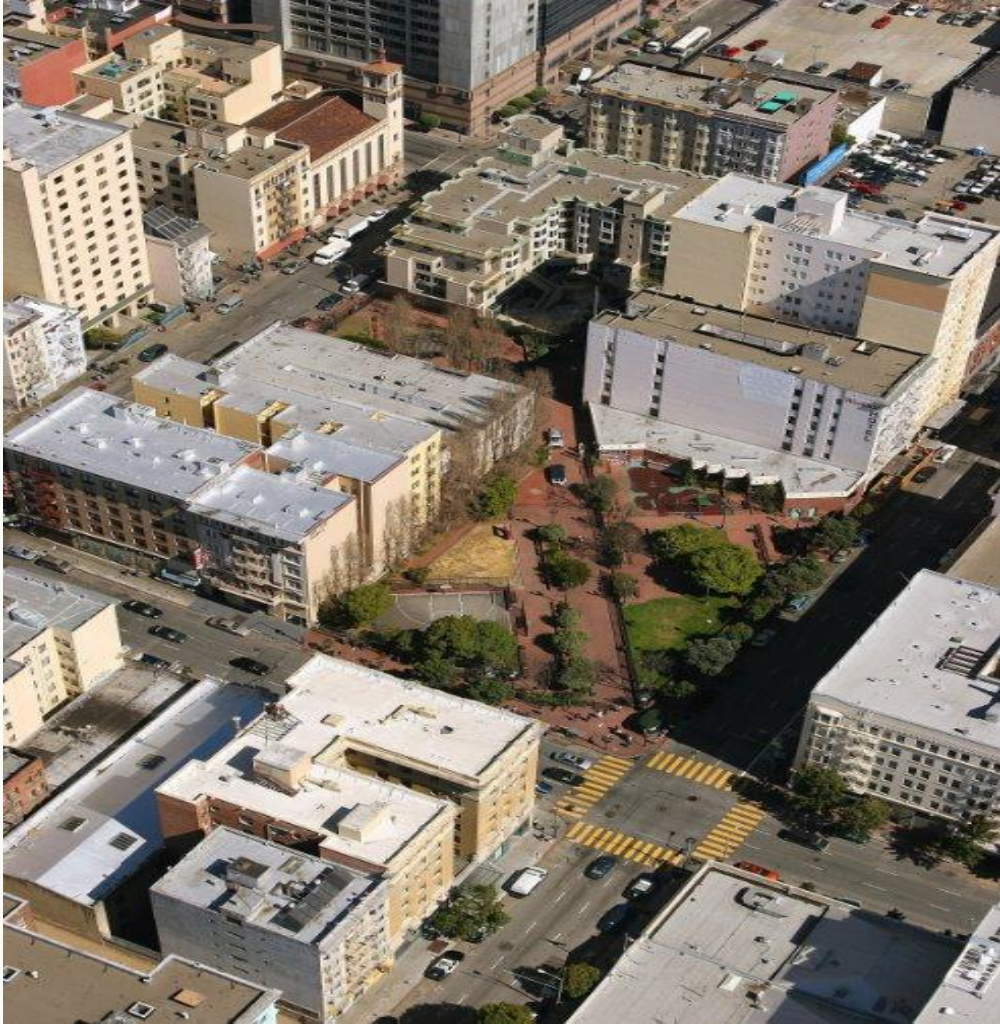
Despite the vital role parks play in the success of our cities and quality of life, we have a detrimental **Park Equity Divide** across the U.S.

1 in 3 U.S. residents – including almost **40% of children** – lack access to close-to-home parks.

Back of the envelope, **over 20,000 new parks are needed**, just to fill the access gap. This need increases significantly when factoring in accessibility, quality, and use.



Digging into “Park Equity Gap” – access & quality



Digging into "Park Equity" – the walk and context



Digging into "Park Equity" – neighborhood assets

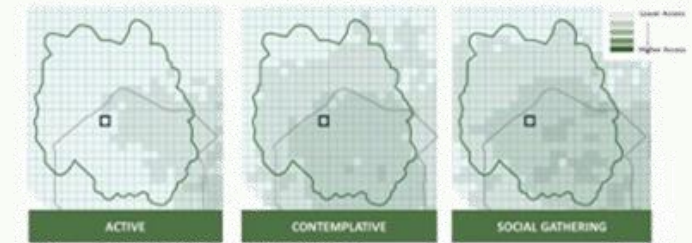
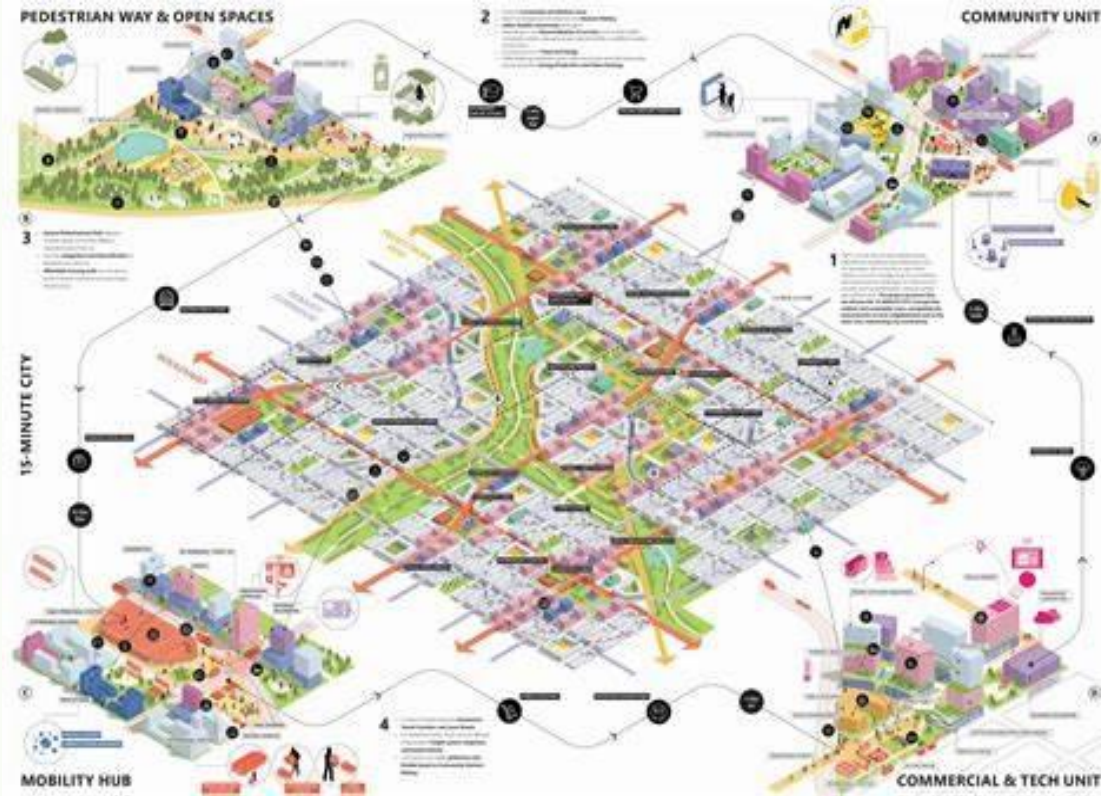


Figure 6 - Supply Analysis: Walkable Access to Experiences.

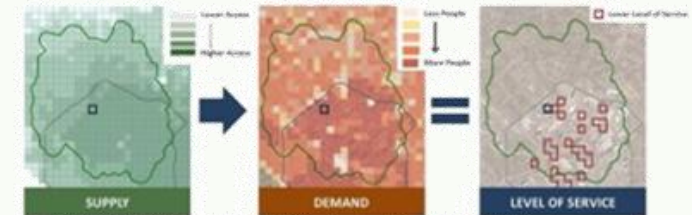


Figure 7 - Sample Supply and Demand Analysis with resulting Lower Level of Service Map.
A full-sized version of this graphic is shown as Figure 28 in Chapter 3.



**A key, scalable, multi-benefit solution:
Unlock underutilized spaces for parks and green spaces**

Reimagining Land Use

- From grey schoolyards to **community playgrounds**
- From vacant lots to **community gardens**
- From road medians to **greenways**



MAXIMIZE EXISTING RESOURCES

Land Type	Benefits
Schoolyards	• May have existing park-like infrastructure • Direct access for youth
Public Libraries	• Opportunities for educational & other services • Existing public access and programming
Public Housing	• Direct access for residents; builds community ownership • Supports holistic community development
Utility Land	• Corridors can support light trail & greenway connectivity • Limitations on development & use can support habitat development & conservation goals
Rights-of-Way	• Supports multi-modal transportation goals • Increase connectivity to and between parks
Public Cemeteries	• Maintained as passive park-like spaces • Opportunities for educational programming
Public Buildings	• Footprint already publicly owned • Foster sense of welcoming and civic engagement
Other	• Vacant lands, existing naturalized lands, and other under-utilized lands in your area may be able to address local park equity goals.

STRATEGIES TO UNLOCK LANDS

Strategy	Land Types
Shared Use Agreements	• Schoolyards • Existing naturalized lands • Watershed lands • Utility lands
Activate Spaces	• Public libraries • Public housing properties • Public buildings
Transform Lands	• Vacant lots • Brownfields • Parking lots
Greening Corridors	• Light trail and greenway connectivity • Rights of way • Transit stations and stops
Temporary Activations	• Open streets • Pop-up parklets
Multi-use for passive experiences	• Public cemeteries
Public Private Partnerships	• Privately Owned Public Spaces (POPs) • Plazas

Cities Advancing Partnerships to Unlock Parks and Greenspaces

- **Archdale Village**, Boston Housing Authority, MA
- **Lakeview Terrace**, Cleveland, Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority, OH
- **Park Equity Accelerator on Park Connectivity**, Birmingham, AL
- **Dallas Greening Initiative**, Dallas, TX



Q&A



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1- Identify Park Gaps
November 13



2- Ground in Community Values
January 15



3- Navigate Land Use
March 12



4- Activate the Shared Space
May 14

November 13

Finding Gaps:
Identifying
Potential
Parkland

Sign up for
our next
webinar!

Committed
Cohort

Stay on the line

We will split into
peer discussion
groups shortly!



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!

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Unlocking Spaces for Parks and Public Use Breakout Session

Welcome!

In this committed cohort, we will...

1. Meet every other month, over 5 sessions (see next slide)
2. Engage in peer exchange, knowledge sharing, and circulating resources
3. Share feedback (via exit tickets) to inform topics for subsequent sessions



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Visioning Exercise

20 minutes

Independent Brainstorm (5 min.)

1. Identify 1-3 park equity goals for your organization.
2. Identify overlaps between your organization's goals and the potential benefits of cross-sector partnerships.

Pair, Share, & Partner (10 min.)

1. Share your park equity goals and how they align with cross-sector partnership opportunities.
2. Draft a vision statement for each organization's cross-sector partnership.

Group Share-Out (5 min.)

Crossing Sectors to Create Parks

Session 1 Worksheet | September 25, 2025

Use the prompts provided below to generate ideas about how cross-sector park partnerships can support your city's park equity goals.

Step 1: Independent Brainstorm

On your own, identify and/or summarize your organization's park equity goals. Start by writing down as many as you can think of, then narrow down to 1-3 core goals.

Step 2: Align Goals & Benefits

Using the reference provided on Page 2, review the list of potential benefits of cross-sector partnerships. Identify any areas of alignment between your stated goals and the benefits list.

Step 3: Pair, Share, & Partner

In pairs, share your goals and how they connect to cross-sector partnerships. Together, draft a vision statement for each of your organizations that bring the two together. Use the questions below to help guide your discussion.

- Which cross-sector partnership type best fits the goals you're trying to achieve?
- What impact would this partnership have on your community? On your city? What problems would this help solve?
- How would you "pitch" this partnership to your organization's leadership? To your elected officials? To community members?

Crossing Sectors to Create Parks: Session 1 Exit Ticket



Complete your Exit Ticket!

Click the link below or the QR code to complete your exit ticket before you log off today:

<https://forms.office.com/r/QUhpjSJF8R>

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