



Central Valley Communities of Practice: Approaches to Park Equity & Access in the Central Valley

November 19, 2025

Welcome!

Today's Agenda:

- Welcome & Introductions
- Presentation & Interactive Polls
- Q&A Session
- Small Groups Discussions
- Report Back to the Group
- Next Steps & Exit Survey



Partner Team



Trust for Public Land

national nonprofit with the mission of protecting land and creating parks for people to ensure healthy, livable communities for generations to come.



PlaceWorks

Planning and Design firm that thrives on working with communities to tackle complex problems and develop workable solutions, with extensive experience in Stockton.



WRT

WRT is rooted in ecology, social equity, and community-based planning, with a parks and open space practice that works across scales. WRT works extensively in Fresno.

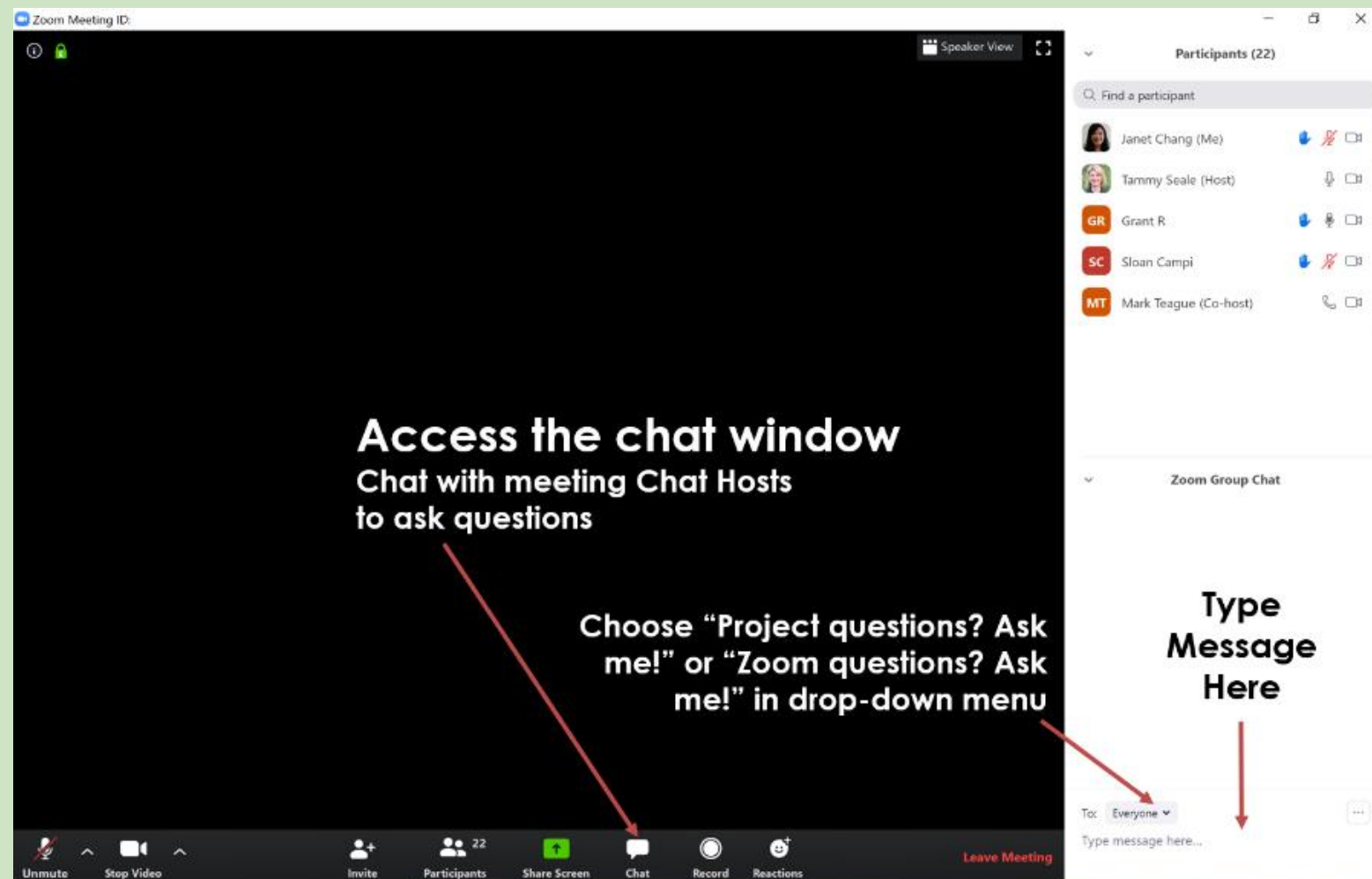


MIG

Multidisciplinary firm specializing in participatory planning, design, and policy, with extensive experience in Bakersfield.

Questions?

- Send your questions to
Questions? Ask me!
- Send zoom support
questions to **Zoom**
Questions



Icebreaker Activity

Introduce yourself in the chat:

- What is your name?
- What is your organization?
- What city, county, or community are you affiliated with?



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.



Closing the Park Equity Gap

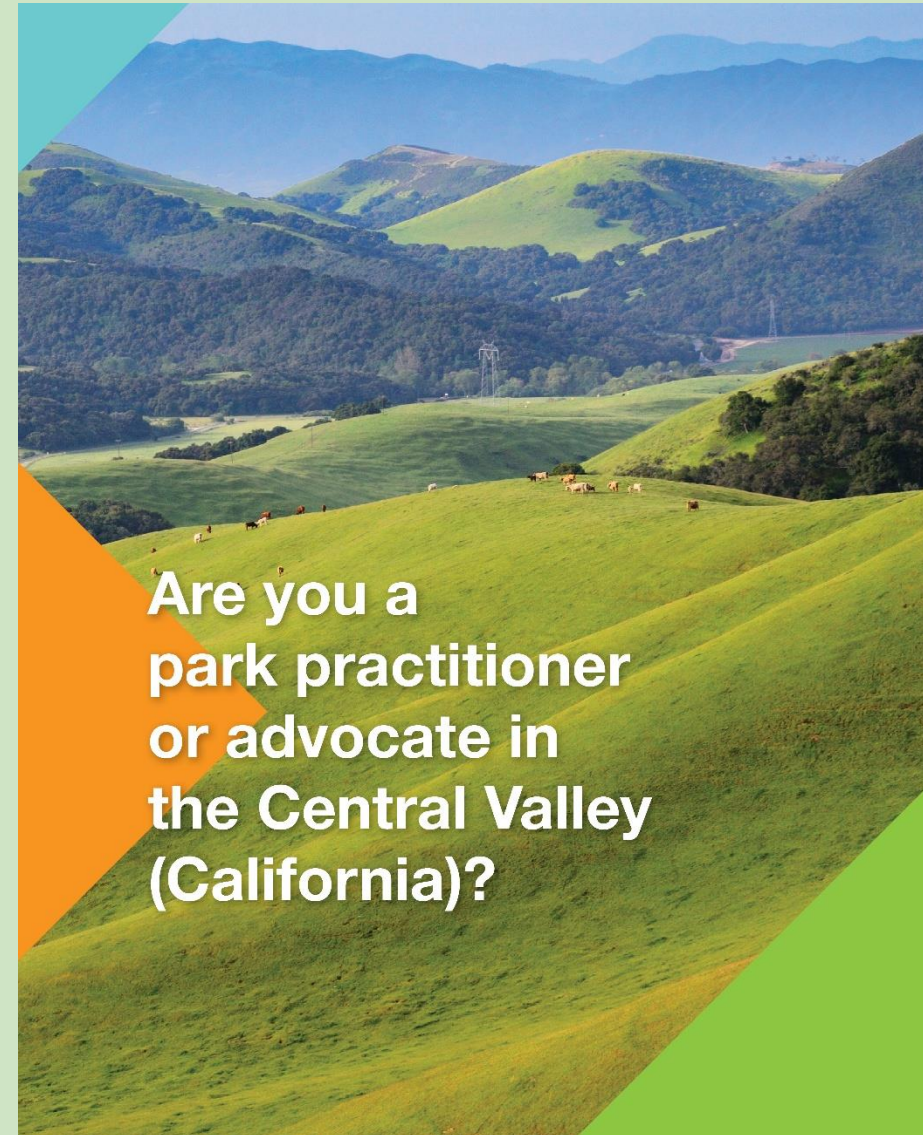
Present day inequities in park space and outdoor access are often the result of decades of problematic policy decisions.

Without policy solutions, the gap will continue to widen.

Central Valley Communities of Practice

A workshop series designed to advance equity-driven park policies and strategies in the region.

- Virtual workshops to enhance local capacity
- Subject matter experts and case studies
- Opportunities to learn about funding options
- Peer support and networking
- **GIVEAWAY! Through the exit ticket, enter a chance to win a prize for this session and/or the grand prize at the end of the series!**



Are you a
park practitioner
or advocate in
the Central Valley
(California)?

Sessions – Join Us!

Program Structure

- 90-minute virtual workshops
- Panel presentations
- Sharing tools and resources
- Small group discussions
- Attend any session that interests you
- **Everyone is welcome – help us spread the word!**



Today's Objectives

Park Equity and Access

- Develop an understanding of park equity and what it means for your community
- Learn TPL's approach to measuring park equity
- Know how to use the ParkServe tool
- Learn about mini-grant opportunities



Park Equity



Park Equity



Three Frames of Park Equity

Resources

Park acreage per capita
Availability of amenities/programs
Park quality (capital or maintenance investments)



Inclusion

Satisfaction
Sense of belonging



Process

Regular community engagement
Park advisory board



Prioritize Parks

Customize the park priority areas by adjusting the weighting on the variables below.

☐ Hide other layers

Moderate

High

Very High

Low-income households (%)



People of color (%)



Heat islands



Air pollution



Population density



Poor mental health



Lack of physical activity



ParkServe

- Consolidates data from a variety of sources to create a tool for planners, advocates, and leaders
- Prioritize where people from various demographics lack a 10-minute walk to a park
- 10-minute walk most useful in urban areas
- **Solution: Drive Time**
 - How far will people drive to parks?
 - What makes a space a "destination" park?

Zoom Poll!

How do you typically travel to a park or recreational open space?

- Walk
- Bike
- Drive
- Bus

How far are you willing to travel to reach parks or recreational open space?

- Up to 5 minutes
- Up to 10 minutes
- Up to 20 minutes
- Up to 30 minutes
- More than 30 minutes



Urban and Rural Access



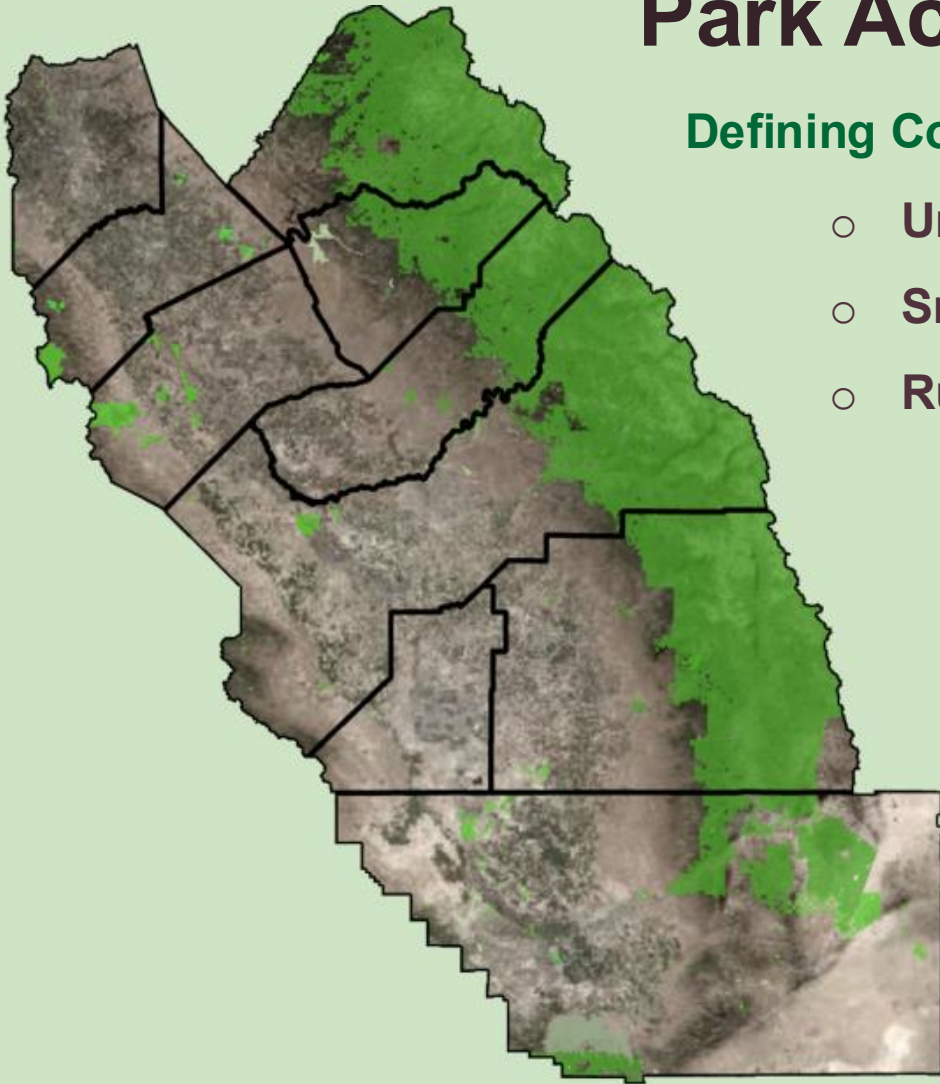
Park Access in the Central Valley

Defining Community Size

- **Urban** – Census Places that intersect a Census urban area
- **Small** – Census Places that do not intersect an urban area
- **Rural** – Parts of each county outside of Urban and Small communities

Decoding what makes a place a "destination" park

- Literature is ambiguous on definition
 - Size?
 - Type?
 - Attractions?
- Likely varies by region
 - Opportunity to connect with communities about what they value in a park





Zoom Poll!

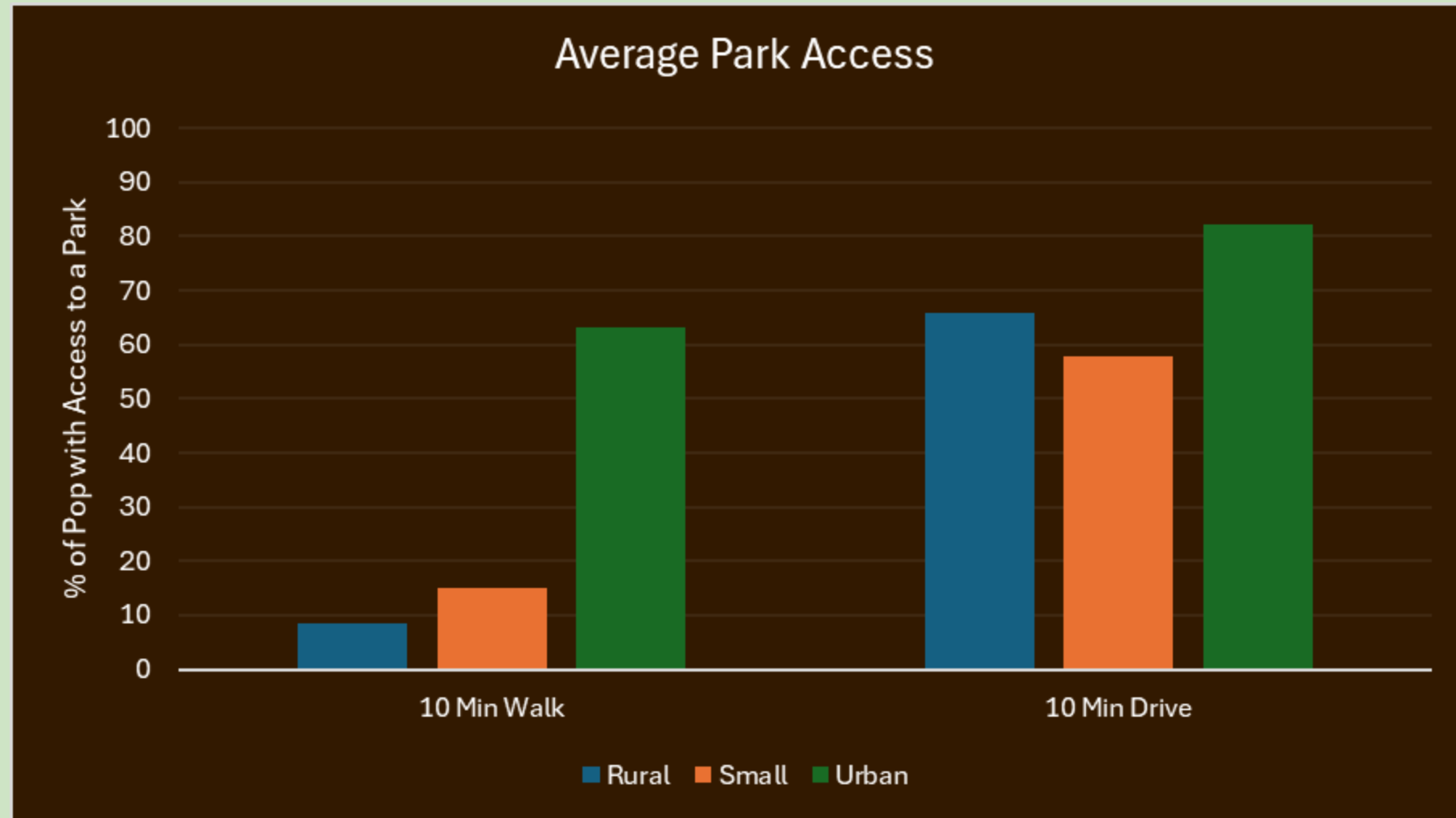
What amenities would motivate you to drive to a park: *(select top 3)*

- Large natural area
- Trails
- Campgrounds
- Hunting/Fishing
- Lakes/Rivers/Beach
- Playgrounds
- Sports Fields and Courts

Park Access

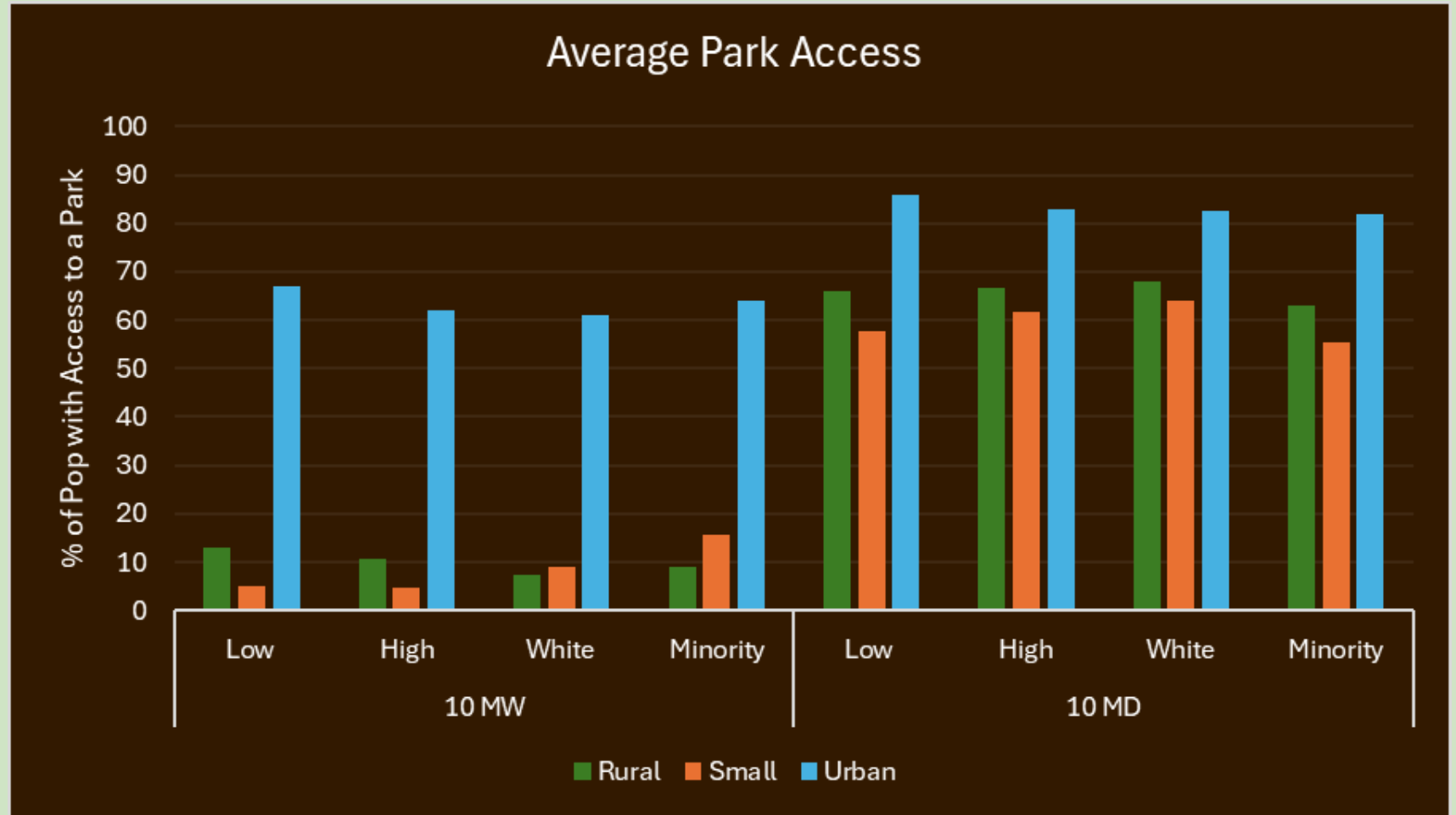
By Community Type and Transportation Type

- Community Size & Density affects park access
 - Urban areas: high demand, limited space, overcrowding
 - Small and Rural communities: more space per capita, fewer resources



Additional Factors Influencing Park Access

- Race & Ethnicity
- Income Levels
 - Transportation barriers compound access for those without cars
- Intersecting Impact
 - Disparities overlap—low-income POC communities face compounded barriers



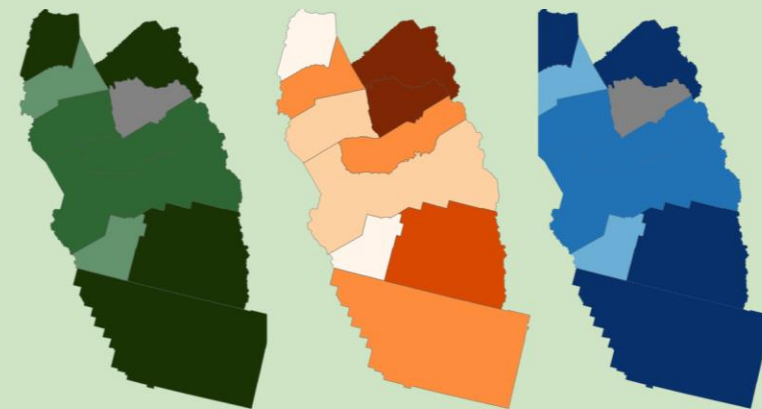
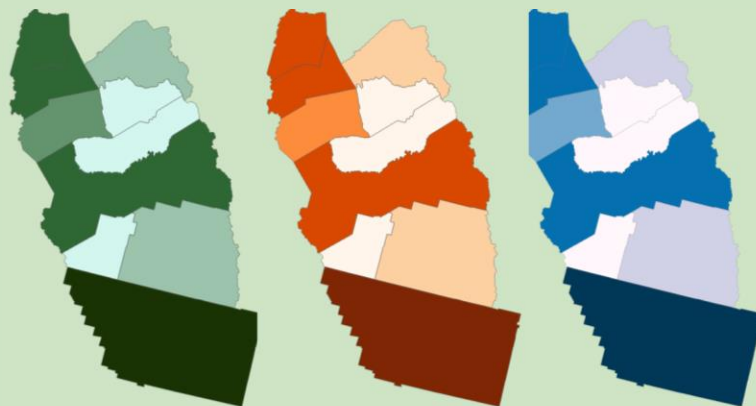
Park Access by County for People in **Rural**, **Small**, and **Urban** Communities



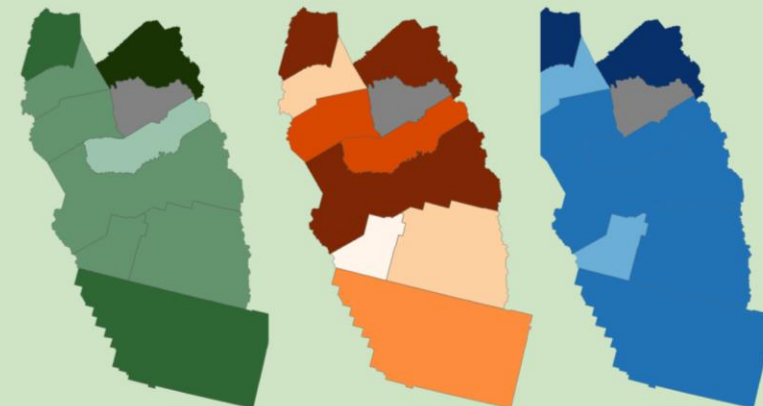
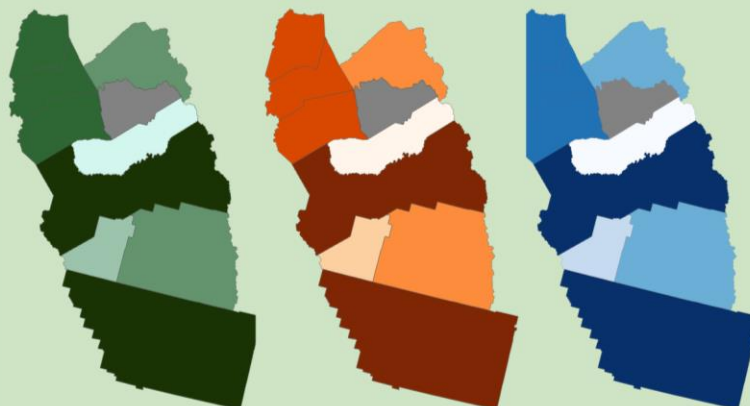
10-Minute Walk

10-Minute Drive

For
Everyone



For Low
Income
Households





What does park access mean in the Central Valley?

Next Steps:

- Acres per capita
- Exploring park amenity data
- Further analyzing car access

Central Valley Park Access & Activation Grant Program

Two Grant Types Available:

Park Activation Grants

\$25,000

per grant award (10 awards)

i.e., events or experiences to increase park use and foster social connection, signage to raise awareness, engagement/outreach

Park Planning & Project Grants

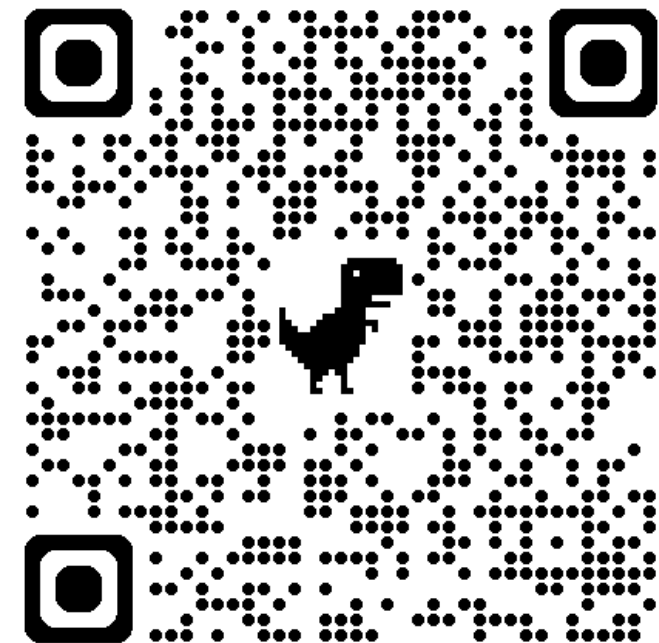
\$50,000 - \$100,000

per grant award (10-15 awards)

i.e., physical improvements, enhanced connections, participatory park planning efforts

Applications due:

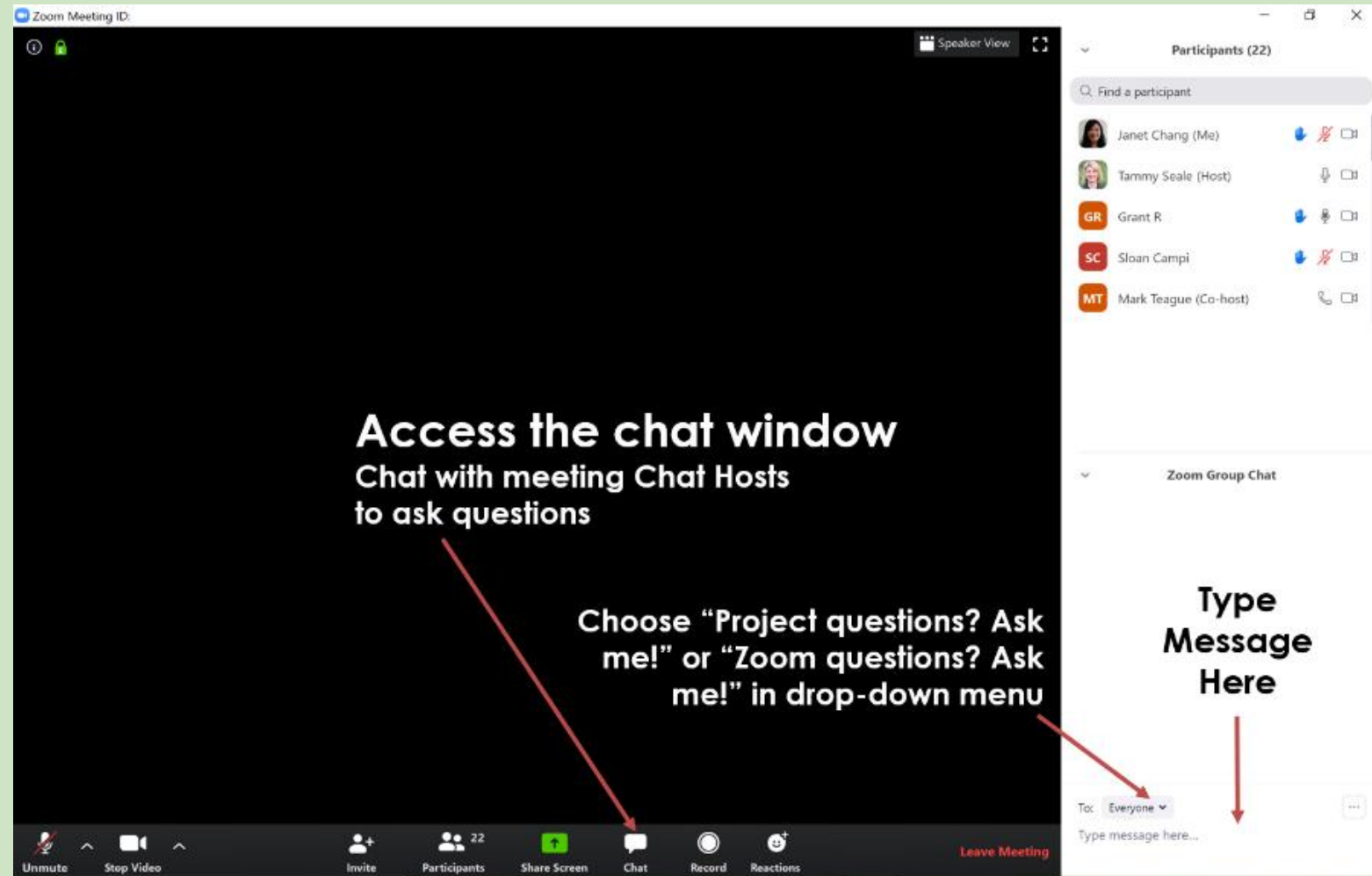
January 6, 2026



Q&A Session

Questions?

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- Send zoom support questions to **Zoom Questions**





Small Group Discussions

Breakout Groups

Question 1:

What would you like to see happen to improve park access? How have you worked to improve park access or overcome barriers in your community or the location/areas where you work in the Central Valley?

Question 2:

What resources do you need to advance park equity in your community or the location/areas where you work?

Report Back to the Group



Next Sessions – Wednesdays at 12!

- **January 21** - Parks as a Climate Solution: Environmental Justice and Community Resilience
- **March 18** - Parks as a Driver to Improve Public Health
- **May 20** - Funding for Parks: Creative Strategies to Increase Park Investments and Development
- **July 22** - Community Engagement in Action



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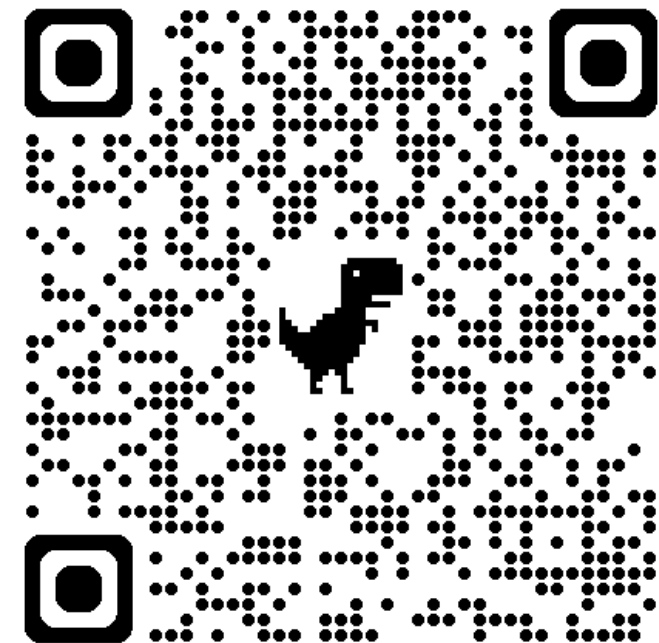
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Session Survey

Take our survey to join the giveaway!

Scan the QR code or click the link in the chat.





Thank you!

Connecting everyone to the outdoors™

Since 1975, TLP has protected 6 million acres of public lands, streams, and parks, trails, riparian, and coastal resources. We have also helped build 100,000 miles of trails, and we continue to work on new projects.

To learn more, visit tlp.org.