



10-Minute Walk[®] Park Equity Accelerator

Over 100 million people in the U.S, including 28 million children, do not have access to a quality park within a 10-minute walk of home. In the largest U.S. cities, neighborhoods where most residents identify as people of color have access to an average of 43 percent less park space than predominantly white neighborhoods. Similar disparities exist in low-income areas.

The Trust for Public Land's (TPL) 10-Minute Walk Program works with mayors and other city leaders to advance park equity. We identify, test, and share high-impact policies and advanced practices that narrow the park equity divide.

Policy and practice can accelerate and sustain a city's work to close the park equity divide. However, cities lack a clear road map of these systems-level interventions. The **10-Minute Walk Park Equity Accelerator** (PEA) provides focused resources and technical assistance, partnership, and education to help cities move the needle on park equity. These focused, local engagements field-test policy ideas, gather real-world insights on the process of change, and gather learnings that can be scaled to benefit other communities.

Accelerator Goals

The goals of the Park Equity Accelerator are:

1. Increase park equity in local communities by developing and advancing policy and systems-change interventions.
2. Strengthen the way in which local priorities, equity, and the community is centered in local policy making related to parks and greenspaces.
3. Bring park equity to scale by sharing policy models, case studies, and other insights with communities across the country.

At the conclusion of each engagement, we aim to produce tools and resources that synthesize and share real-world insights (e.g. model policy language, case studies, how-to guides, etc.) that can be implemented.

The Accelerator supports cities as they pilot new ways of increasing park equity. It also identifies lessons learned and shareable examples that will drive learning and innovation in other cities. Select examples from previous Accelerators are highlighted below.

- Chattanooga: Partnered with the City to develop a standardized community engagement process for park development, management, and improvement.
- Cleveland: Conducted a conditions analysis of all city parks that will inform a new equity-based capital allocation model that TPL advised on.
- Fort Worth: Analyzed non-traditional and publicly-owned land available in the city that could be converted to parks.
- Lexington: Conducted case-making research for a policy that would increase the quality of privately-developed greenspace.
- Los Angeles: Supported the development of a equitable development strategy for a park to mitigate gentrification and displacement.
- Scranton: Analyzed the connectivity between city neighborhoods and parks.

Learning Objectives

Each Accelerator project will explore specific questions that address high-priority local needs, while also responding to broader questions. In 2024-2025, the themes and questions TPL is investigating are:

THEME	EXAMPLE AREAS OF FOCUS	EXAMPLE POLICIES TO TARGET
Increasing funding, resources, and sustainability of parks systems	<p>How can local park funding overall be increased and improve the staying power of parks (e.g., maintenance, operation, stewardship, programming, etc.)?</p> <p>How can budgets and spending (resource allocation) support community priorities, benefits, and park equity?</p>	<p>Public finance policies</p> <p>Budget policies</p> <p>Maintenance funding and models</p>
Ensuring park equity across markets and city typologies	<p>How can cities ensure park access in growing or evolving cities?</p> <p>How can cities invest in parks, as part of broader equitable development strategies?</p> <p>How can public-private partnerships be leveraged to support parks while advancing equity goals?</p>	<p>Development fees, open space requirements, land use dedications</p> <p>Land use policy and zoning</p>
Leveraging non-traditional lands to increase park access	<p>What policies and practices can be used to “unlock” and sustain “non-traditional land” to be used as parks? For example, “non-traditional lands” can include utility lands (including those planned for clean energy), libraries, cemeteries, vacant land, schools, and under-utilized public land, in closing park access gaps?</p>	<p>Shared use policies</p> <p>Connectivity policies</p>
Maximizing the role of parks in providing multiple community benefits.	<p>How can cities create parks that generate value for local communities?</p> <p>How can cities increase park equity and create new parks, while minimizing negative externalities?</p> <p>What policies help maximize benefits of parks for climate, health, community, and equity goals?</p>	<p>Value capture & public benefit contribution incentive programs</p> <p>Anti-displacement and housing-related policy and practice</p>

Technical Assistance Offerings & Supported Activities

TPL, in partnership with participating cities, will work together to establish a scope of activities for each Accelerator engagement. The types of services supported and/or available to participating cities include:

- Planning support, such as park conditions assessments, surveying, benchmarking, and GIS/mapping.
- Research and analysis to identify, analyze, and evaluate different policy options that could help to increase park equity.
- Deep dive exploration and recommendations from subject matter experts around cross-sector community development and policy issues.
- Topical expertise from TPL's subject matter experts in documenting and maximizing health, environment, community, and equity benefits of parks.

In addition to this technical support, the PEAs will benefit from a cohort learning model, coming together throughout the program to learn from one another as well as subject matter experts.

Timeline

This second cohort of Park Equity Accelerators will involve a 10-12 month-long engagement, with a target launch date in September 2024. Applications will open in late July 2024. The cohort will be identified based on commitment to advancing local park goals; readiness to explore, experiment with, and adopt new strategies or approaches; and potential to advance field understanding around a common issue.

Support for Delivery

With generous foundation support, 10-Minute Walk is able to support these projects and bring technical assistance, learning and evaluation, and final product development to participating cities. Cities will also be supported for travel to an in-person convening that will help to launch the cohort.

About The Trust for Public Land

Trust for Public Land (TPL) is a national nonprofit that works to connect everyone to the benefits and joys of the outdoors. As a leader in equitable access to the outdoors, TPL works with communities to create parks and protect public land where they are needed most.



Connecting everyone to the outdoors™
tpl.org

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