



The Park Equity Divide

Presented by:
Christina Jang, 10-Minute Walk

October 2022

How often do you walk to a park close to home?





Trust for Public Land is a national nonprofit that works to connect everyone to the benefits and joys of the outdoors.

Trust for Public Land's impacts:

- **5 thousand+** places created
- **3 million+** acres protected
- **70 billion+** public funds generated
- **8 million+** people within a 10-minute walk

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

1 in 3 U.S. residents do not have a park or green space within a 10-minute walk of home.

We call on mayors to accelerate the creation of parks that drive equitable, healthy and thriving communities.





10-Minute Walk Cities

Nearly **300 mayors**, representing **57 million people** in cities nationwide, have signed on to the 10-Minute Walk Commitment to expand access to close-to-home parks and close the park equity gap

Maryland Cities and Towns

- *Baltimore*
- *College Park*
- *Gaithersburg*
- *Mount Airy*
- *Rockville*
- *Salisbury*



HEALTH



COMMUNITY



CLIMATE



EQUITY

Importance of Equitable Park Access

- Increased **social connections & emotional/mental health**
- Reduced **environmental risks** like pollution, carbon emissions, flooding, and urban heat
- Increased **environmental and social resilience** of communities
- **Economic development** and workforce opportunities
- **Higher academic achievement** and environmental literacy



10-Minute Walk in Action

- **Mayors'** commitments
- Peer **learning** and networking
- **Technical assistance** to cities
- **Policy** recommendations
- Building a **coalition** of partners and experts

Who is and isn't able to benefit from a city's park system?

How is walkability a factor?



Current State

100 million people,
including **28 million children,**
do not have access to parks
within a 10-minute walk of
home



Equity and Walkability

- **Walking disproportionately serves** communities of color and low-income households
- **Higher road safety risks**
- **More dependent on transit**, but have less sustainable mobility options to reach essential destinations like parks
- **Less access, space, time, and opportunities** to go enjoy parks and green space and recreate



Income Disparities

Parks serving primarily low-income households on average are **four times smaller** than parks that serve a majority of high-income households

Racial Disparities

Parks serving a majority of people of color on average:

- Are **half as large** as parks that serve a majority-white population
- **Serve nearly five times more people** as parks that serve a majority-white population
- Predominantly Hispanic/Latinx neighborhoods have access to **54% less park acreage** per person than predominantly white neighborhoods.

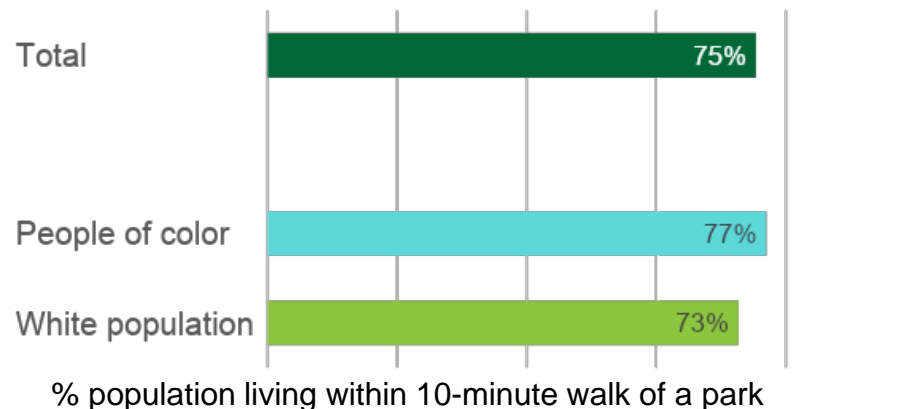


Different Metrics, Different Stories

Among 100 largest US cities

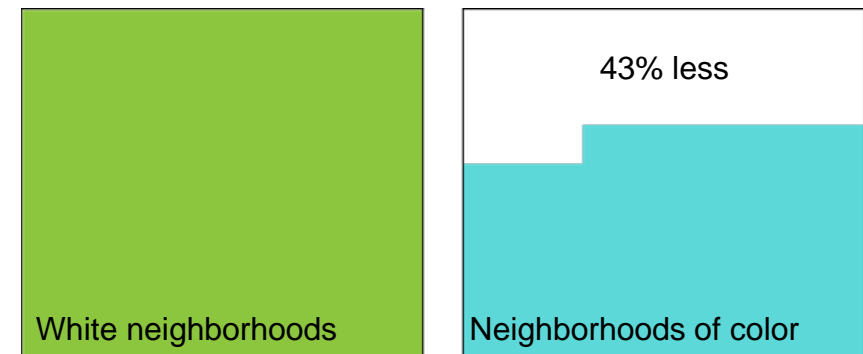
10 minute walk

Better park access for people of color
(77%) relative to white population (73%)

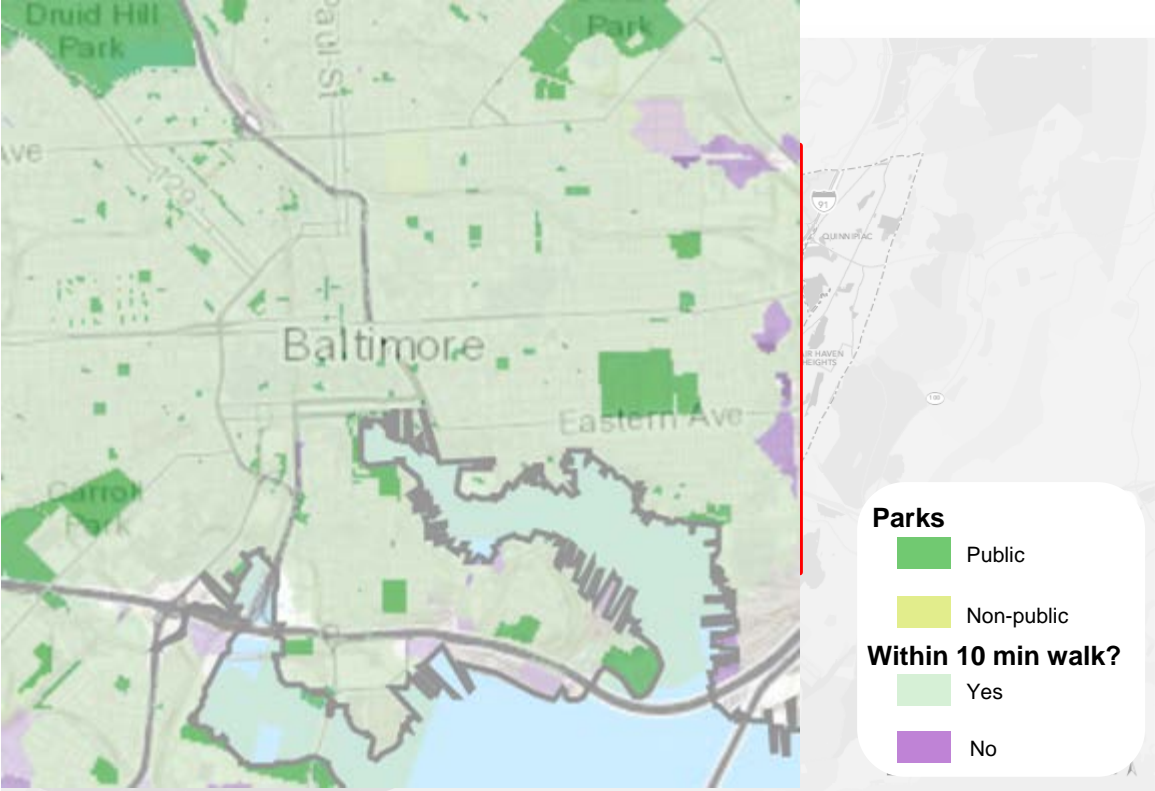


Park acreage per capita

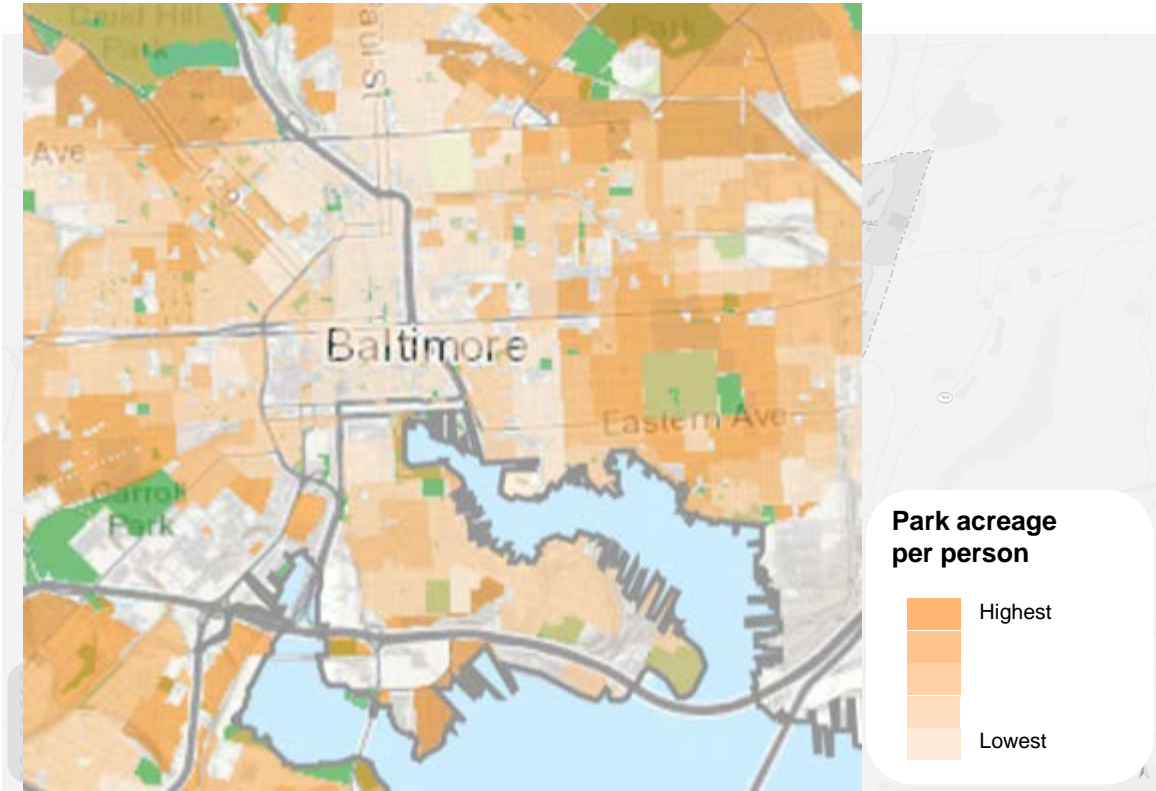
Worse park access for residents in neighborhoods of color... 43% less park space compared to those in white neighborhoods



Access vs. Acreage



% residents within 10 minute walk of a park by race and income



Comparison of park acreage per capita between neighborhoods by race and income

Equitable Access: Strategies and Approaches





Ensure Access

- Safe and enjoyable 10-minute walk or roll
- 20-minute bike ride
- 30-minute transit ride
- 40-minutes of activation



Center Community

Ensure meaningful engagement through

- **Partnering** with local organizations
- **Investing in local leaders** (both formal and informal)
- **Empowering park users** by identifying and elevating their needs and values



Uncover underutilized spaces for parks and green spaces

Over 28 million kids in America don't have a park within a 10-minute walk of home.

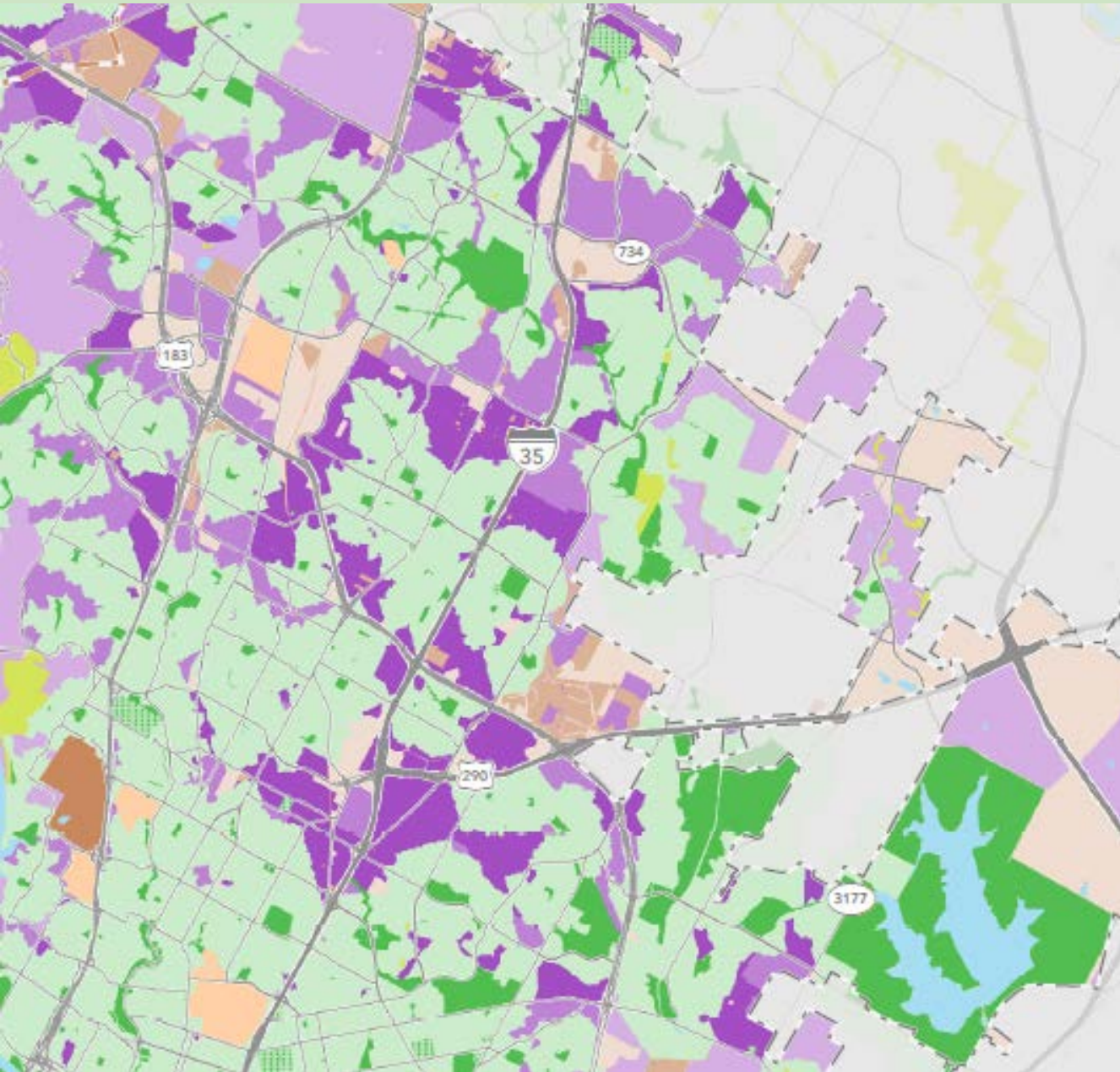
A solution is hiding in plain sight: schoolyards.



Unlock well-distributed parks and green spaces

Areas within a 10-minute walk of a park can be as much as **6 degrees cooler** than neighborhoods outside that range.

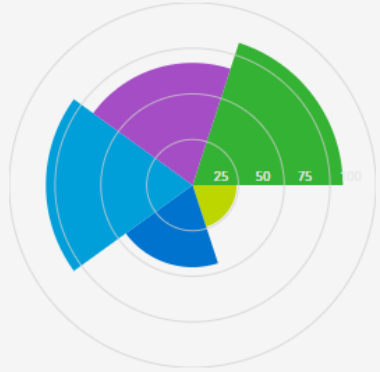




Use Data for Targeted Investments & Planning

ParkServe provides data for 14,000 cities and towns across the U.S.

- Population Density
- Income/Race
- Health (mental health & physical activity)
- Urban Heat
- Pollution Exposure
- Schoolyards



CITY
Baltimore, MD

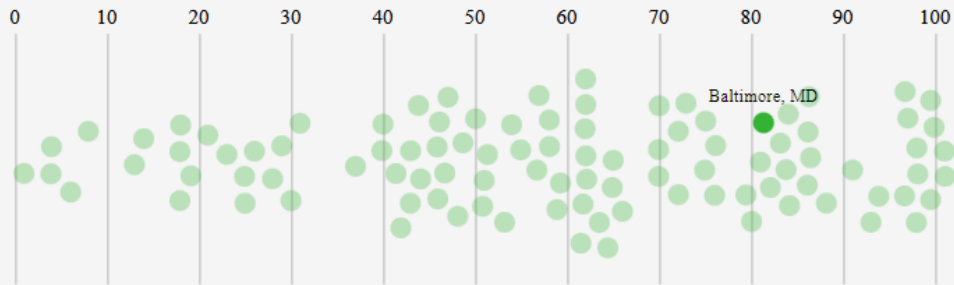
This tool allows cities to improve their park systems by exploring and weighting various scenarios related to park access, investment, acreage, amenities, and equity.

RANKING
30TH



COMPARE THE SCORES ⓘ

ACCESS ⓘ
82



City Rankings

How does your city rank in comparison to other peer cities?

A man in a dark jacket and blue jeans is walking away from the camera on a path through a field of tall, dry grass. He is holding the hand of a small child in a green jacket and red skirt. In the background, there is a dense forest of trees, some with autumn-colored leaves. The sky is overcast.

**Celebrate National
#WalktoAParkDay
on October 10**



10-Minute Walk



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 it is needed most.

Since 1972, TPL has protected more than 3 million acres of public land, created more than 5,000 parks, trails, schoolyards, and iconic outdoor places, raised \$84 billion in public funding for parks and public lands, and connected more than 9 million people to the outdoors.

Connecting everyone to the outdoors™

Thank You!

Christina Jang

10-Minute Walk, Trust for Public Land

christina.jang@tpl.org