



ParkIndex

A tool for advancing parks and public health research and practice

Summary of Phase 2 Data Collection & Preliminary Findings

The overall purpose of ParkIndex is to create a tool that would allow researchers, planners, and citizens to evaluate the potential for park access and use for a given area.

ParkIndex Phases

The ParkIndex project included two primary phases:

Phase 1: Input from interviews with a community advisory board and other key informants was gathered in Fall 2016 regarding the value, content, feasibility, and dissemination of ParkIndex. Please see the key informant [summary document](#) for detailed findings.

Phase 2: Throughout Fall 2017, data collection was conducted in four communities – Brooklyn, NY, Greenville County, SC, Raleigh, NC, and Seattle, WA – and involved multiple integrated components:

GIS Park Mapping

A combination of low- and high-income block groups and low- and high- park availability block groups were identified within each study area using U.S. census data and GIS files provided by each city's parks and recreation department.

Park Audits

The Community Park Audit Tool (CPAT) is a six-page, four-section observation tool that evaluates park information, park access and

surrounding neighborhood, park activity areas, and park quality and safety. Trained research assistants used the CPAT to audit a total of 275 parks across the four cities.

Park Use Survey

Maptionnaire – an online, map-based survey tool – was utilized to gather data on participant park use, health behaviors, and health status.

Preliminary Findings

Brooklyn, NY

- 64 parks audited
- 46 participants
- 67.4% of participants reported using a park in their neighborhood in the past 30 days

Greenville County, SC

- 46 parks audited
- 82 participants
- 62.2% of participants reported using a park in their neighborhood in the past 30 days

Raleigh, NC

- 71 parks audited
- 99 participants
- 71.7% of participants reported using a park in their neighborhood in the past 30 days

Seattle, WA

- 94 parks audited
- 136 participants
- 80.9% of participants reported using a park in their neighborhood in the past 30 days

Phase 2 of ParkIndex will be completed in 2018 and will include the development of a ParkIndex park access algorithm and ParkIndex maps for each of the study areas.

Future Directions

Validating ParkIndex in more communities and with more people

Standardizing and encouraging collection of key park indicators across communities

Association between ParkIndex and diverse health behaviors and outcomes

Addressing environmental injustice using comprehensive ParkIndex mapping

CONTACT US

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