Funding Parks and Green Infrastructure In Low-Income Communities
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SPEAKERS

Matt Eldridge, Policy and Research Manager, Urban Institute

Stephen Burrington, Executive Director, Groundwork USA

Lesly Melendez, deputy Director, Groundwork, Lawrence

MODERATOR: Catherine Nagel, Executive Director, City Parks Alliance
HOW TO INVEST IN PARK EQUITY

An **equitable approach to funding** urban parks and green space requires examining:

- Existing and potential sources of funding
- Where the needs are
- The ways decisions are made (and by whom)
- The impacts of investments on communities

**Two uses of funding:**

- capital investments
- operations and maintenance
HOW TO INVEST IN PARK EQUITY

Specific solutions differ but shareable lessons abound:

**Demonstrate the benefits and shared value** of parks to different users/systems

**Think creatively** about funding: be open to emerging models and re-imagine existing ones

**Part of broader conversations** on equity and community engagement

**Local conditions and capacities** should inform strategy
Funding Strategies for Low-Income Communities

Stephen Burrington
Groundwork USA

Lesly Melendez
Groundwork Lawrence
Equitable Funding: Strategic Frameworks

1. Local gov’t planning & resource allocation systems
   • “Best Practices for Driving Equitable Investments”
   • Large, better resourced cities

2. Community capacity
   • Visioning, engagement, and collaboration over parks’ life cycle, attracting funding from diverse sources
   • Mid-sized and lower-income cities
A Tale of Three Cities
Richmond, CA
Funding Sources: Richmond Greenway

- CA Strategic Growth Council – Proposition 84
- MPO – Transportation for Livable Communities
- Environmental agencies: EPA, US Forest Service, CA Coastal Conservancy, Calfire
- City – capital improvement program, other
- Corporate philanthropy
- National NGOs
- Sweat equity
Yonkers, NY
Funding Sources: Yonkers Greenway

- EPA Brownfields Areawide Planning Program
- NYS parks agency
- Community foundation, Impact 100, banks
- City of Yonkers -- bonds, CDBG
- NYS Department of Transportation
- NYS Office of Environmental Justice, US Fish & Wildlife Service
Lawrence, MA
Funding Sources: Spicket River Greenway

- MA urban parks program
- Brownfields property owners
- EPA brownfields programs
- Local foundations
- Banks
- City -- capital program (bonds), CDBG
Elements of high-impact strategies:

1. Vision – community development, health, environment
2. Participation and collaboration – asset mapping?
3. Resourcefulness – NGO grantwriting
4. Staying power – long view + adaptive leadership
5. City Hall/NGO relationship – building trust, sharing credit
SPEAKER CONTACT

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MEMBERSHIP

Your connection to information and expertise on new urban park models, practices, and innovative partnerships.

Members have access to a suite of highly-curated resources specifically designed for the parks community including:

- Webinars
- Online resource library
- Urban park study tours
- Advocacy tools
- Discounted registration to Greater & Greener

Join City Parks Alliance today! To learn more, visit our membership table in the exhibition hall or go to cityparksalliance.org/membership.

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