



saferoutespartnership.org

Safe Routes to Parks: Seven Years of Impact

Since 2017, the Safe Routes Partnership has partnered with community-based organizations, government agencies, and other national partners to improve local park access via walking and biking. In those seven years, we have shown that there is significant demand to unlock the full potential of neighborhood parks for health and community building by activating the routes to them. Along the way, this movement has highlighted the power of engaging parks and recreation stakeholders in creating safer, more equitable streets, ensuring that parks are integral to connected, thriving communities

Safe Routes to Parks: By the Numbers

We have worked closely with

52 COMMUNITIES

from 2017 through 2024.

6 states

We supported six states each bringing in staff from at least three agencies.



We received

399 APPLICATIONS

for our local-level Safe Routes to Parks programs from 2018-2023.



Hundreds Trained



We trained hundreds of local and state advocates on community engagement, equity, and funding for safe, convenient, and equitable access to everyday destinations, with a focus on parks.

We have helped communities draw in over

\$30 million

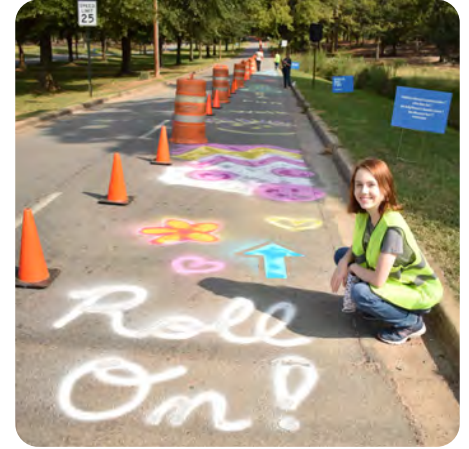
and counting of additional community investment



Snapshots of Success: Safe Routes to Parks in Action

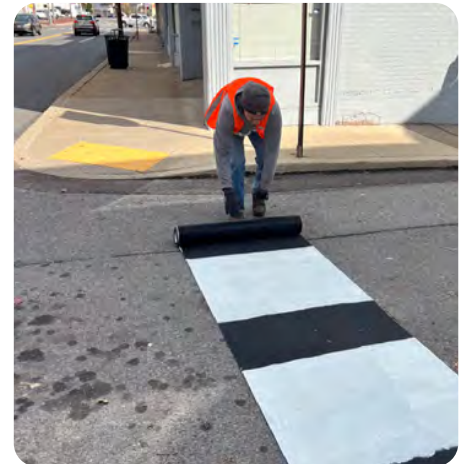
The Safe Routes to Parks program includes a planning process to guide long-term work and a short-term implementation project to build momentum and catalyze future investments that make routes to parks safer for people walking and biking. This combination of short-term actions and long-term planning has paid off big time for program participants.

Little Rock, Arkansas (2020 Grantee, Central Arkansas Library District): We helped them build partnerships and identify community needs that led to a month-long, temporary “walk and roll” lane connecting Memorial Park to a neighborhood south of Interstate 630. This project physically bridged the racial divide of the interstate, offering a safe walking and biking route to the park. In 2021, Little Rock received about \$1 million in Transportation Alternatives funding from their Metropolitan Planning Organization, and the city provided a 20 percent match to fund permanent walking and biking improvements where the Safe Routes to Parks demonstration project was the year before. The coalition building the grantee did during our program and the resulting action plan made it easy for the director of public works to say “yes” to the permanent project and support their funding application. Read more: [Innovative Library and Parks Department Partnership Demonstrates Safer Connections for People and Parks via Highway Bridge](#)



Walk and Roll Lane (Little Rock, AR)

Scranton, Pennsylvania (2023 Grantee, NeighborWorks Northeastern Pennsylvania): In West Scranton, NeighborWorks spent years developing a community-driven revitalization plan but needed support to make Safe Routes to Parks a reality. To draw attention to pedestrian safety needs on Main Avenue, a busy state road connecting two parks and several businesses, we helped them work with state and local agency officials to coordinate a pop-up event. The event, featuring temporary high-visibility crosswalks and signage, coincided with the annual Trick-or-Treat Event on Main Avenue, which attracts hundreds of families and involves local businesses every year. The pop-up highlighted pressing safety issues and community demand for improvements. As a result, the City approved \$1.2 million in American Rescue Plan Act dollars to improve Main Avenue and add upgrades to 78 crosswalks and 27 intersections across the city.



Pop-Up Cross Walks (Scranton, PA)

Boulder, Colorado (2024 Grantee, PLAY Boulder): In 2023, Boulder Parks and Recreation (BPR) began planning a park for North Boulder’s largest manufactured housing community. During park design, residents raised concerns about park access, especially for kids and people with disabilities. We worked with PLAY Boulder and BPR to connect with the city’s Transportation and Mobility team. Together, we conducted a walk-and-roll audit and hosted a Safe Routes to Parks workshop. This collaboration led to temporary and permanent safety improvements on the routes to the park. The team drew attention to the work with a block party, adding temporary signage designed by residents that celebrated the new park name and temporary mats and ramps for people with limited mobility. They invited key decision-makers to the event. As a result of this increased attention and engagement the city earmarked \$7.5 million in city funds for a bridge replacement near the park.



Primos Park (Boulder, CO)

There is demand for this work, funding is available, and we have a proven approach to get the work done.

[Get in touch with us to kick-start your Safe Routes to Parks work.](#)

