

# ON THE PATH TO SAFE ROUTES TO PARKS

**SAFE ROUTES TO PARKS**  
ACTIVATING COMMUNITIES

## CONNECT THE COMMUNITY TO QUALITY PARKS

Conduct a Safe Routes to Parks walk audit with park personnel, community residents, and other key partners to identify routes that people take to get to parks, and how to improve walking, biking, and accessibility to and from homes, schools, workplaces, grocery stores, libraries, and other destinations. [Learn more.](#)

## MARK THE ROUTES

Install maps, signs, and community art that resonates with and is designed by neighborhood residents. Translate information into languages commonly spoken in the community.

## PUT THE "SAFE" IN SAFE ROUTES TO PARKS

Work with community residents to understand what prevents them from feeling safe on the way to the park. Build trusting relationships with law enforcement and community members to discuss conflicts and collaborate on ways to address crime and violence concerns and enhance personal safety in and around the park. Host family-oriented events such as movie screenings in the park, live music, or free or low-cost sports clinics.

## ENGAGE THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Community residents should be at the center of all efforts to improve park accessibility to make sure priorities align with their neighborhood's unique needs. Reach out to residents, law enforcement, neighborhood associations, faith-based organizations, and other community-based organizations. [Learn more.](#)

## CELEBRATE THE BENEFITS

People living closer to parks are more likely to visit parks and be physically active more often than those who live further from parks. Studies also suggest that access to parks, playgrounds, and recreation centers can lead to active behaviors by youth, including walking or bicycling to parks.

Everyone deserves safe and easy access to parks, but not all people and neighborhoods have that opportunity.

**Safe Routes to Parks** are of particular concern in communities lacking infrastructure, for example sidewalks, crosswalks, and speed humps to support safe walking and bicycling; where violence and crime are prevalent; and where there are high rates of weight-related diseases or conditions. Safe Routes to Parks aims to improve accessibility for people walking, bicycling, and taking public transportation, creating routes that are safe from traffic and personal danger for people of all ages, abilities, incomes, and races, and ensuring that well-maintained and well-programmed parks are conveniently located within a 10-minute walk (approximately one half mile) from where people live.

The Safe Routes to Parks concept provides advocates with the language to champion safe and equitable access during consideration of park siting, community engagement, allocation of funds, planning, and implementation of traffic and public safety initiatives, as well as park improvements. Over the long term, with increased safety and accessibility, Safe Routes to Parks seeks to increase park usage and improve health and wellbeing for people of all ages, races, abilities, and income levels.

To learn more, visit [SafeRoutesToParks.org](http://SafeRoutesToParks.org).

 Safe Routes to School  
**National Partnership**  
[www.saferoutespartnership.org](http://www.saferoutespartnership.org)