



City of Takoma Park  
Housing and Community Development, Planning Division:

## Racial Equity Project Profile- Park Quality, Accessibility, and Race

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**City Website Link:** <https://takomaparkmd.gov/government/housing-and-community-development/planning-and-community-development/public-space-management-plan>

### Project Goal

- The findings are intended to help the City prioritize the development of more public space for underserved people and areas in the City.

### Project Description

- The Planning staff is developing tools to guide decisions about access and improvements in public space. These tools include a park amenity data collection process, a park grading scale, and an analytic distance matrix process with racial demographics to look at accessibility. The Assessment of Park Quality, Accessibility, and Race will help to identify gaps where the city can improve on public space quality and accessibility with respect to racial demographics. When combined with Census block group racial demographic data, the Mapbox Matrix API portion of this project provides data on park accessibility within the city on different racial groups and what kinds of parks and amenities are most accessible to these same demographics (active parks or passive parks).

### City Council Priorities

- A Livable Community for All, Environmentally Sustainable Community

### Racial Equity Considerations Submitted to City Council

- Takoma Park does not have many tools to understand race equity issues in the City. This project is developing data to understand existing differentiated impacts and to use, as applicable, to estimate the impacts of changes in parks and other public space.

# Racial Equity Toolkit Questions

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## What does data tell us about who is likely to be impacted by the project? What data sources are you using and are there any data gaps?

**A:** The data shows us that residents in eastern most block groups are further away from all parks in the City on average. This data can enable the City to prioritize certain geographic areas when determining where to allocate funding for future public space and improve current space. The project uses Census racial demographic data at the block group level. The block groups do not align perfectly with the city boundary so racial demographics for block groups which are only partially in the city may not be entirely representative of those residents living within the city boundary.

## What is your community engagement strategy for this project? How will you use community feedback to avoid unintended consequences?

**A:** This project did not involve community engagement at this stage as it focused solely on data analysis. With that said, the results from this analysis can be viewed online by anyone. A public space survey was developed to give City Planning staff a sense of what kinds of public spaces city residents have access to, what kinds of improvements they would like to see to public spaces, and what the needs are for public space in Takoma Park. Both the data analysis and survey contribute to the development of a citywide Public Space Management Plan.

## How are you evaluating the success of this project?

**A:** As with many projects, the aim of this project was to assess the current geographic distribution and quality of public amenities and then determine if and where inequities exist. This helps enable Council to prioritize areas which are currently being underserved with respect to access to high quality public spaces. This project also contributes to the overall development of a Public Space Management Plan.

## How might a successful project advance racial equity in Takoma Park, in a sustainable way?

**A:** A successful project will help to address and decrease racial inequities with respect to of proximity to parks, quality of parks, and types of parks. This means that all city residents, regardless of race/color, live within close proximity to both active and passive spaces which are high quality and consistently maintained.

## **Report Back!**

Project Outcome & Racial Equity Impact

TBD- this project is still ongoing.

## **Next Steps:**

What were the challenges of this project? What further action and resources are needed?

TBD- this project is still ongoing.