

Parks & Equity Report

The Promise of Oakland Parks 2020

Oakland Parks and Recreation Foundation

February 2021

Land Acknowledgement

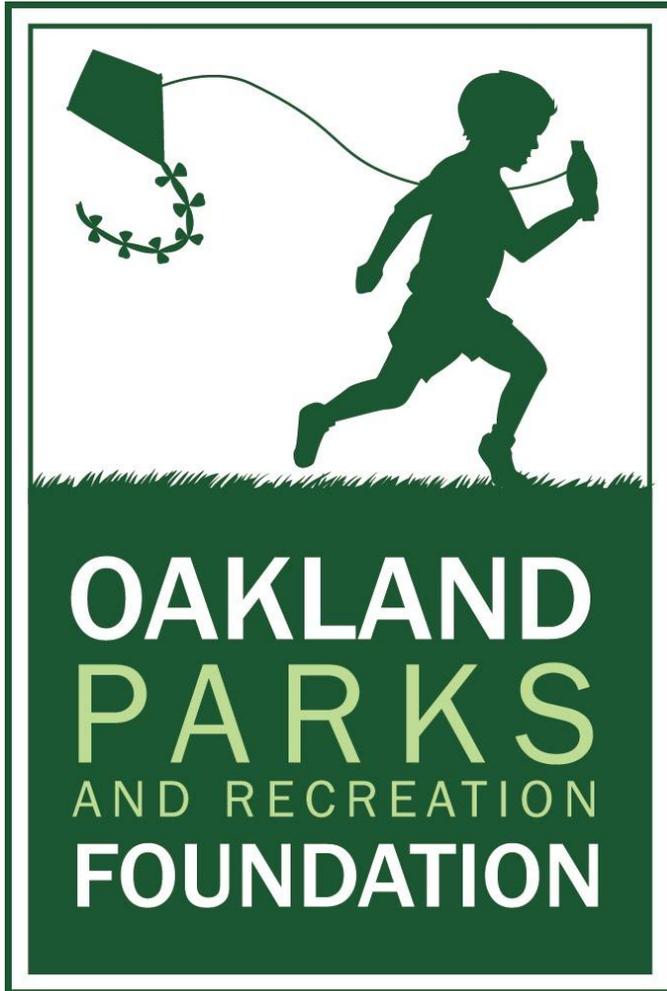
OPRF works on unceded homeland of the Ohlone Confederated Villages of Lisjan Territory of Huchiun

The Chochenyo-speaking Lisjan people belong to the land and live in reciprocity with its plants and animals

OPRF pays respect to the Ancestors, Elders and Relatives of Ohlone people



We support parks & recreation for everyone in Oakland



- The only citywide nonprofit dedicated to Oakland Parks
- Partnering since 1981 with city and community
- Our surveys show that Oakland is inseparable from its parks

The Promise of Parks



- **Park activation confers community benefits**
- **Key civic infrastructure**
- **Part of the solution**



Parks are part of the solution

Community benefits



- **Health & Wellness**
- **Safety & Connection**
- **Justice & Equity**
- **Cultural & Economic Vitality**
- **Youth Engagement**
- **Climate Resilience & Protection**

Activated parks

Deliver benefits when:



- **Well-maintained**
- **Safe**
- **Equitably accessible**
- **Fully utilized**
- **Beloved by the community**

Activation is key

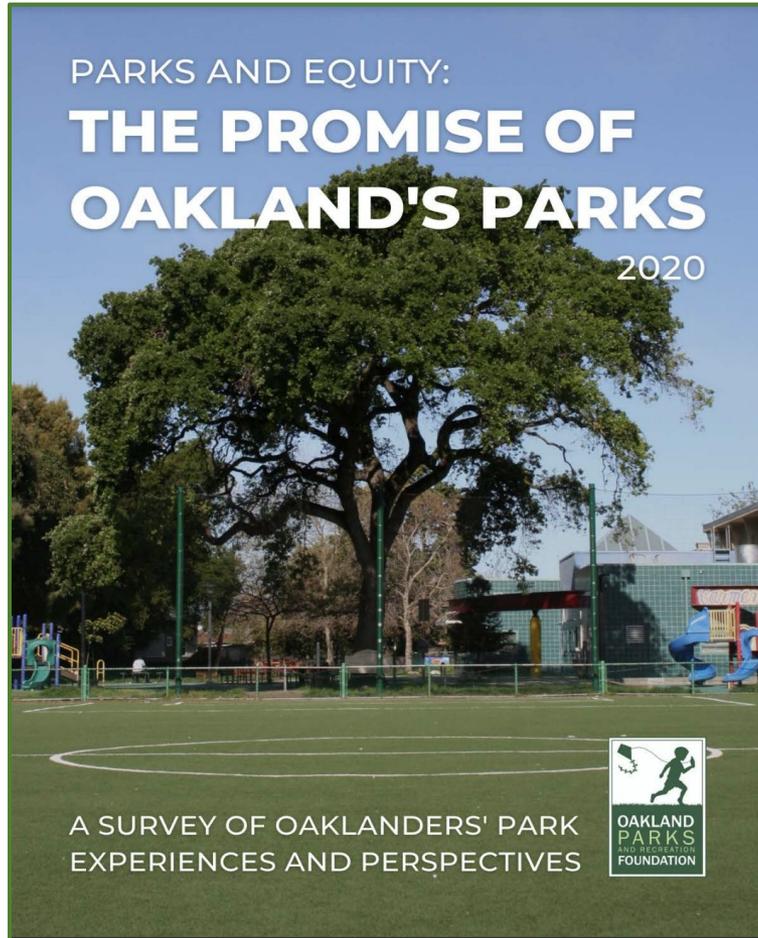


Parks are not neutral



2020 Perspectives & Experiences: Parks & Equity

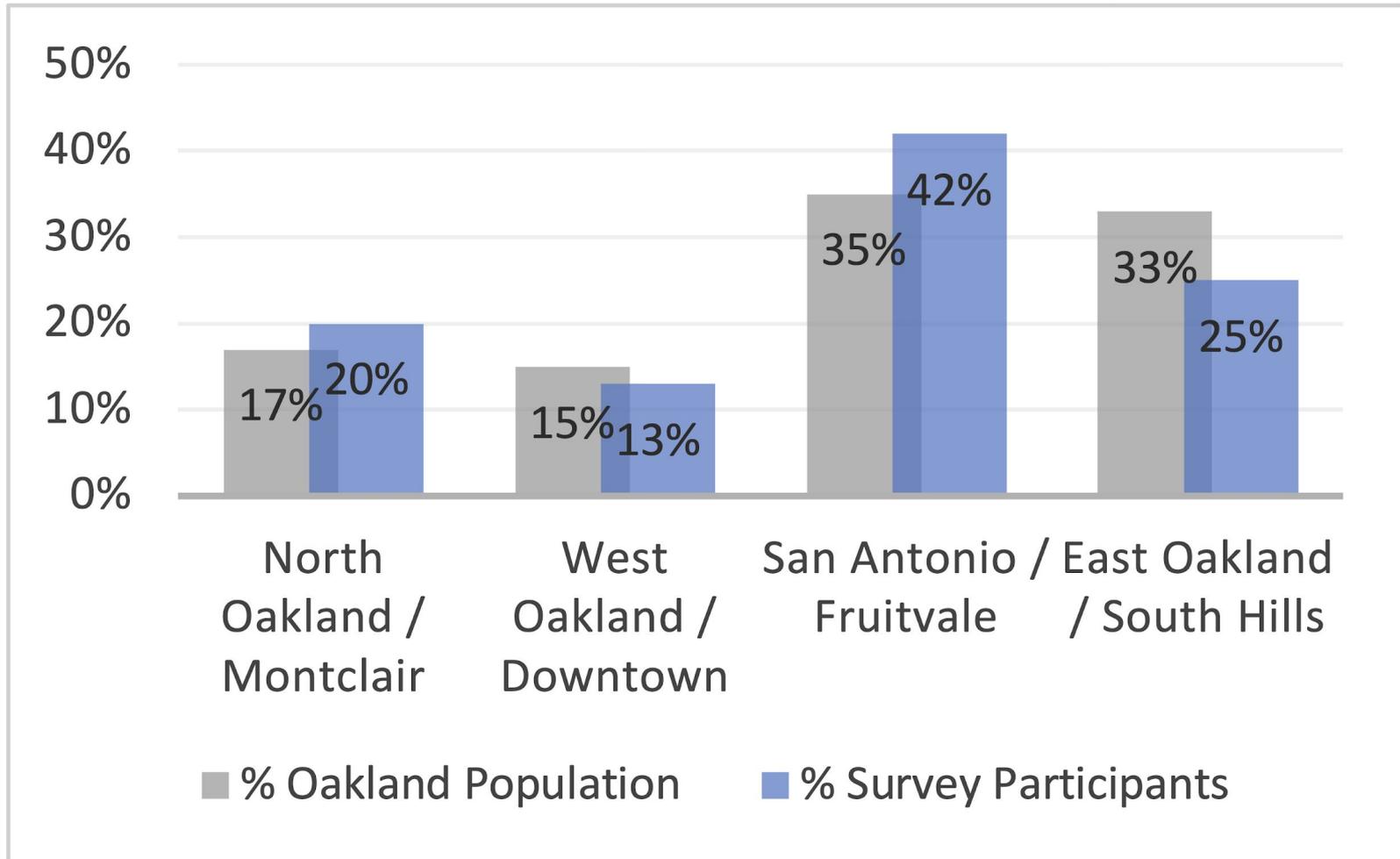
1,334 participants citywide



- A New Approach
- New Voices
- New Partnerships
- New Impacts

Survey Participation

City Area of Residence

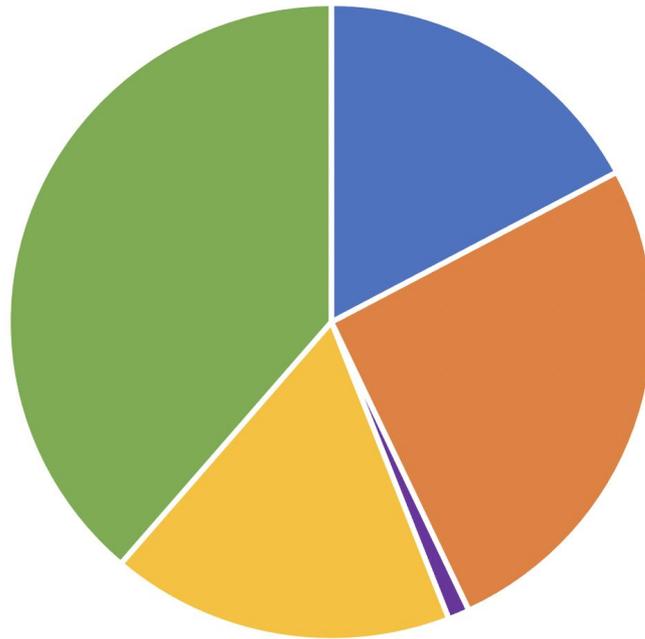


Survey Participation

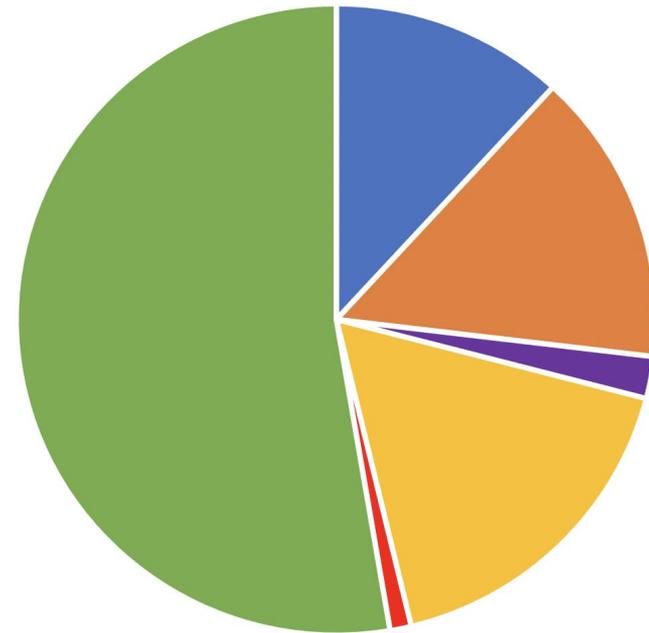
Race / Ethnicity



% Oakland



% Survey



■ Asian/Pacific Islander

■ Black/African American

■ Indigenous/Native American

■ Latinx/Hispanic

■ Middle Eastern/North African

■ White/Caucasian

Unity in Oakland!

A vision for parks, for Oakland



<https://www.flickr.com/photos/xmasons/5147431492>

**95% agreed that
activated parks serve
people and make
Oakland better!**

Unified call to action

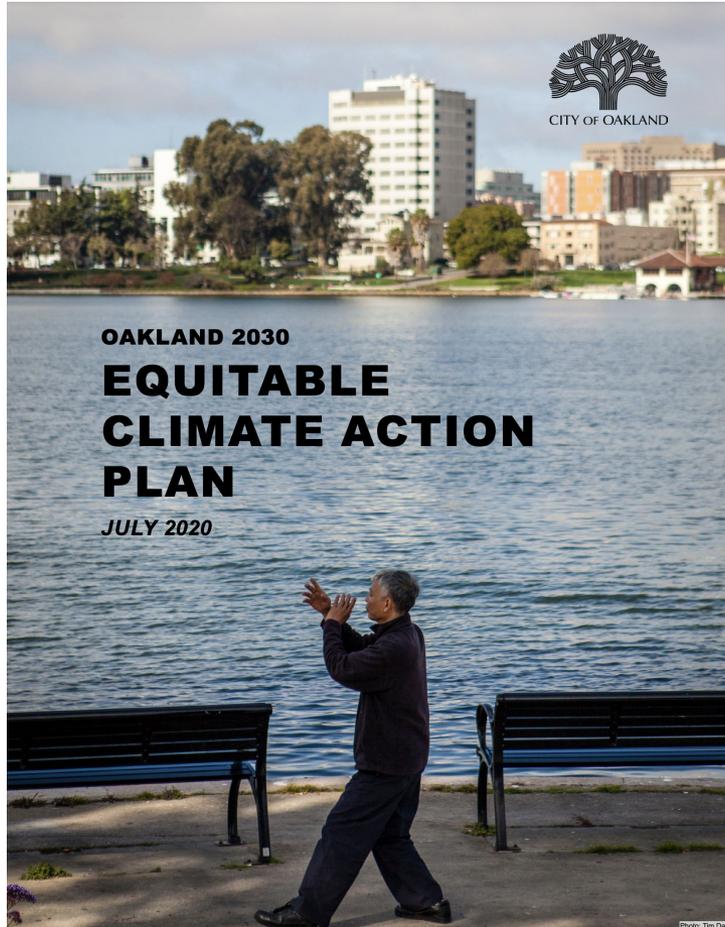
Oaklanders want to invest in parks!

- 94% parks, fields, pools, recreation facilities
- 77% recreation centers open seven days a week
- 78% art, events, cultural activities in parks
- 92% support candidates who strongly support parks



Parks for community resilience

Recreation centers as climate change hubs



88% want recreation centers to provide relief and assistance during heat waves, smoke days, floods, fires, earthquakes

Main Findings

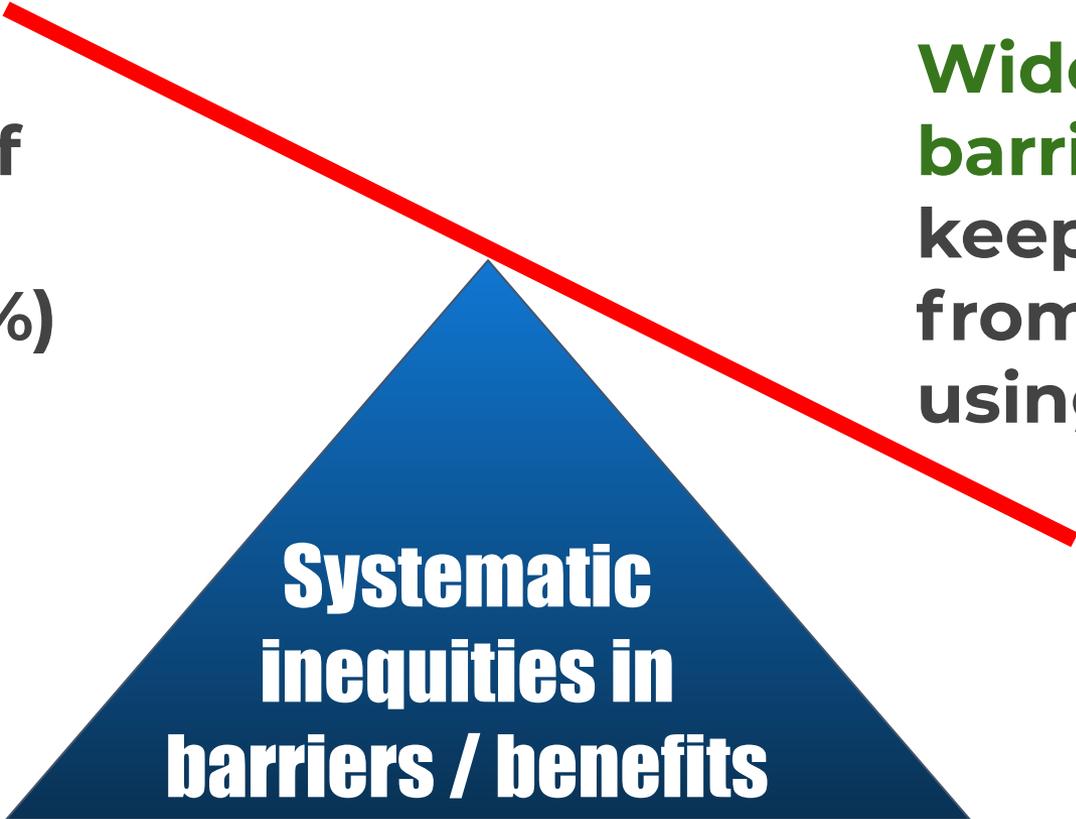
A promise unfulfilled



Even though Oaklanders have

Unity in
support of
activated
parks (95%)

**Widespread
barriers**
keep 95%
from fully
using parks

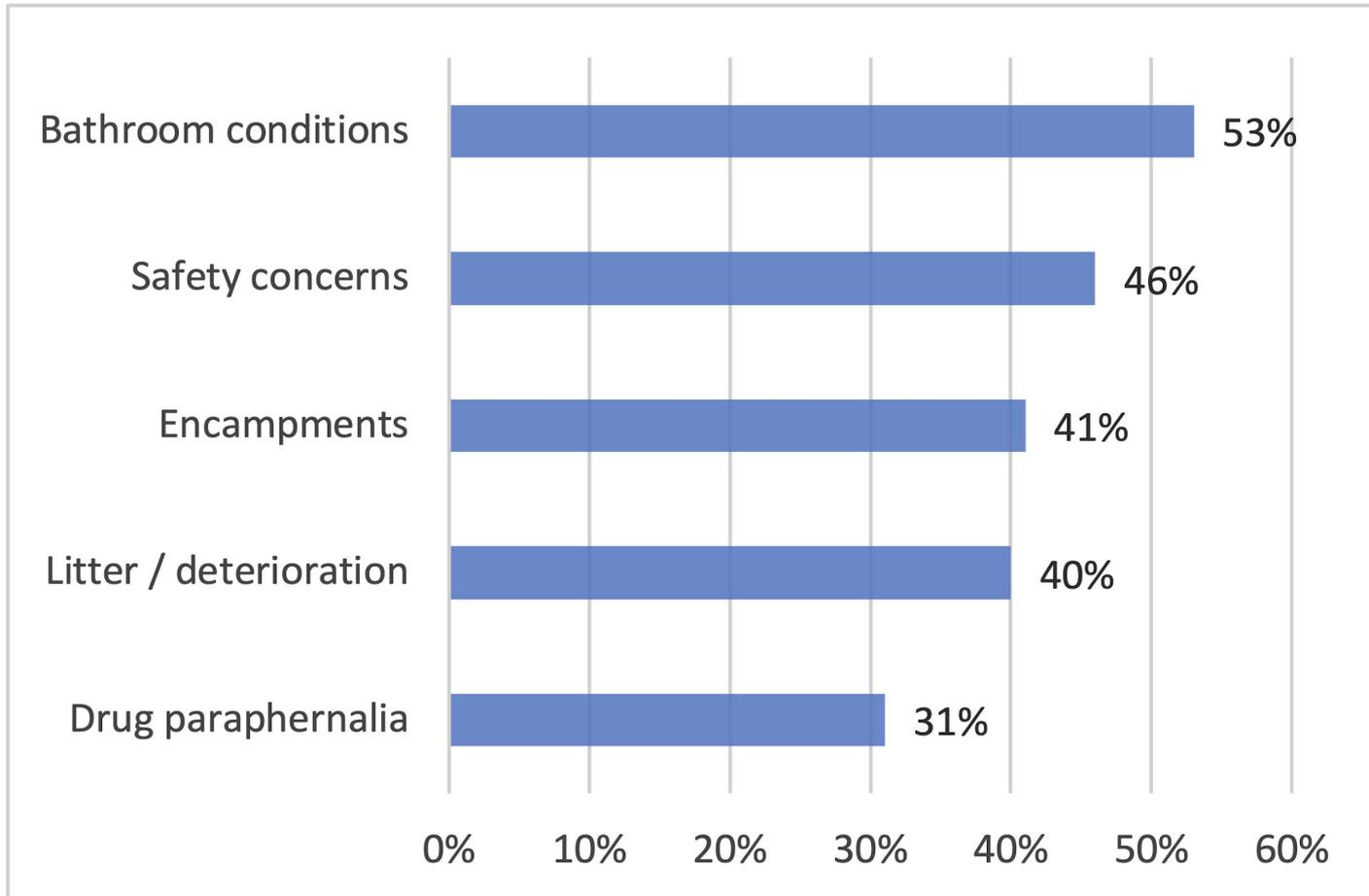


**Systematic
inequities in
barriers / benefits**

Barriers to park access



95% report barriers to visiting or fully using parks

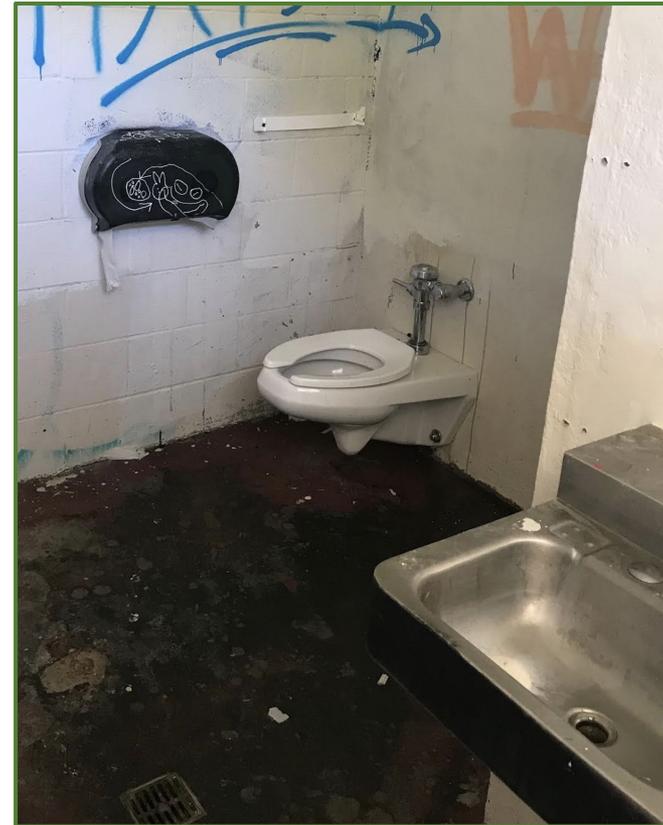


Barriers to park access

Bathrooms

53% experience bathroom barriers to parks

- Clean, open, safe bathrooms score 4.7 of 5 for importance
- Bathrooms the #1 feature to maintain, improve, or add to neighborhood parks (51%)



“The bathrooms were full of graffiti and filthy...”

Barriers to park access

Maintenance: litter, drug paraphernalia



- 55% Maintenance
- 40% Litter/dilapidation
- 31% Drug paraphernalia

“Clean up our parks. We don’t feel safe!”

Barriers to park access

Safety



- **46% report safety barriers**
 - 10 points higher for women, BILAM*, people with children
- **53% report neighborhood park has poor security**
- **The importance of park safety ranked 4.7 out of 5**



"... I've seen IV drug needles, folks have been shot... held-up...I'd love this park to be... a real beacon - a gathering place in the neighborhood."

Barriers to park access

Encampments



For 41%, encampments are a barrier to park use



“I love the parks. I'm sad they need to be used by the homeless, but I have no problem co-existing... if it's safe and sanitary”

“There are several parks where the homeless have essentially taken over the park and / or recreation areas”

Park inequity

Children



- **Bathrooms:** 70% vs 44%
- **Maintenance:** 64% vs 51%
- **Safety:** 52% vs 42%
- **Unsafe routes:** two-fold

“If a park isn't clean and safe enough for kids, it becomes off limits for families”

Park inequity

East Oakland



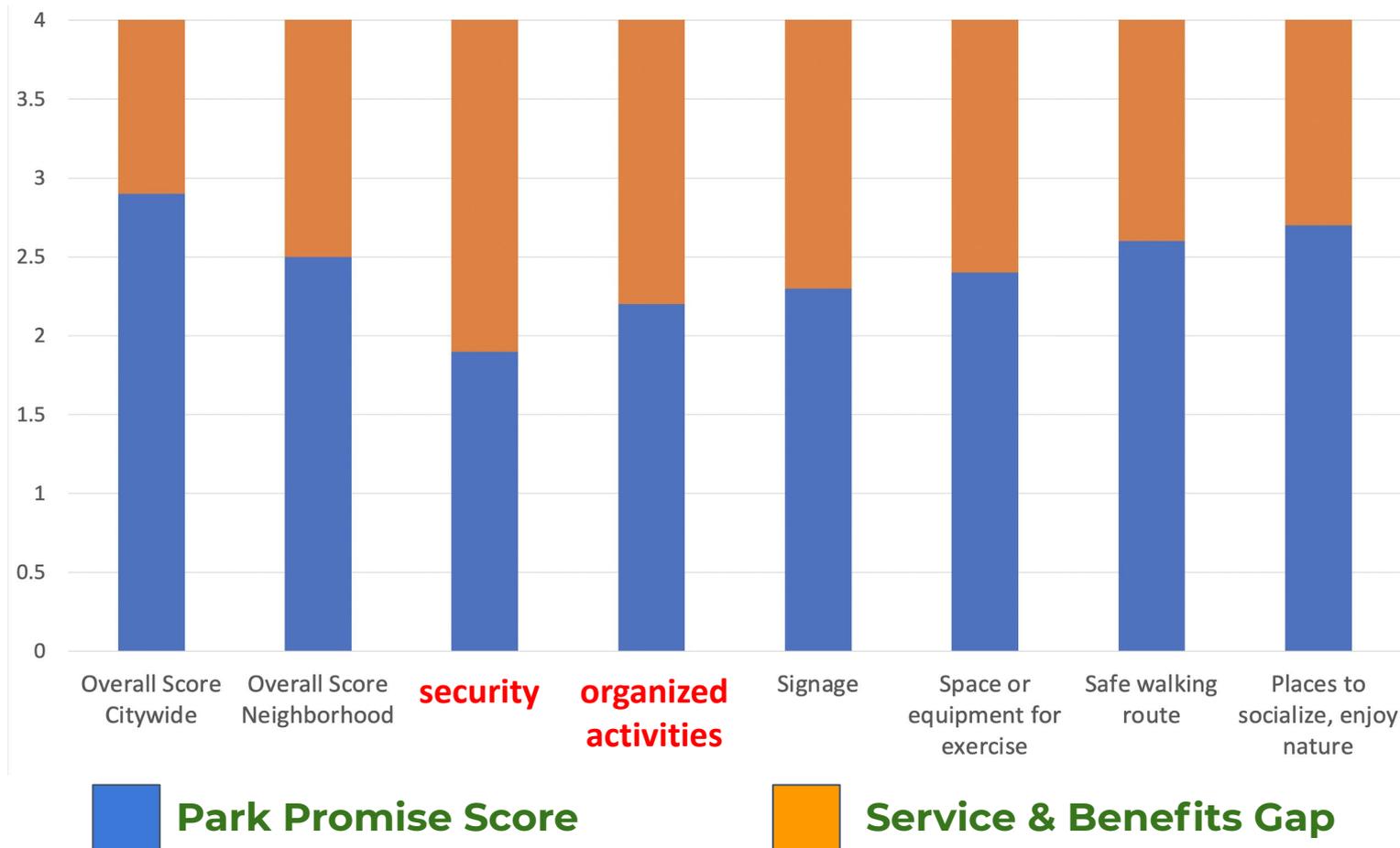
- More unsafe routes
- Farther distance to reach parks
- Less access to neighborhood parks
- Less walking

Park inequity

Neighborhood parks



Filling the promise of neighborhood parks needs improvement



Parks as a solution THROUGH STRATEGIC INVESTMENT



- **Keep parks and park facilities clean & house our unsheltered park residents via Measure Q**
 - **Fridays-Mondays: Daily Bathroom Cleanings & Trash Pickups**
 - **Shelter our park residents**
- **Reimagine public safety by reimagining Park Rangers**
- **Facilitate programming and capital investment in parks**

Closing the gaps

PROTECT PEOPLE & PARKS



- Elevate parks to resilience hubs in Equitable Climate Action Plan (ECAP)
 - Cooling & Fresh Air Centers via HVAC systems
- Prioritize parks in the Oakland General Plan update
- Adopt and implement PRAC's Park Ordinance / Rules & Regs

Closing the gaps

MAINTAIN AND INCREASE FUNDING



City of Oakland
Parks, Recreation
& Youth Development

IMAGINE. INSPIRE. INVEST.
Experience Oakland With Us!

Town Camp

An Oakland Youth
Summer Experience

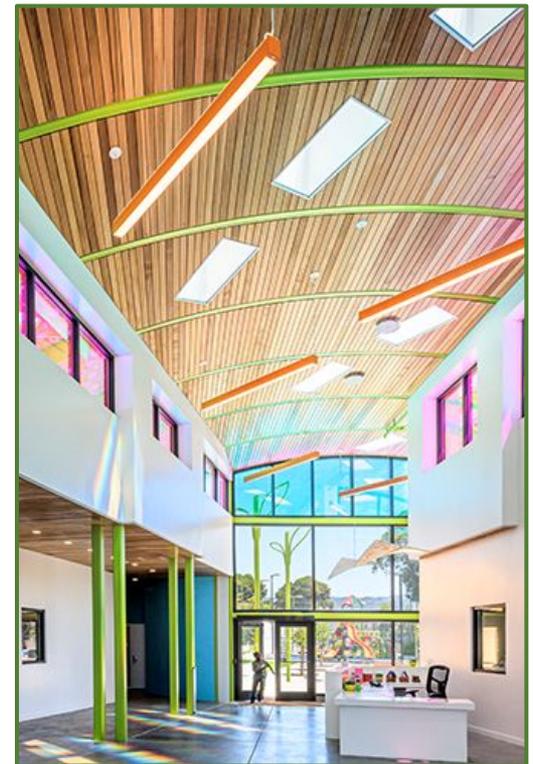
Presented By:
STEPHEN & AYESHA
CURRY FAMILY
FOUNDATION

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www.oaklandca.gov

The graphic is a circular collage with a light blue background. It features several images: a young girl in a yellow "TOWN CAMP" t-shirt, a young boy in a green "TOWN CAMP" t-shirt, a group of children at a beach, and a boy looking through a magnifying glass. The central text "Town Camp" is in a pink, cursive font, with "An Oakland Youth Summer Experience" below it. The top right text "City of Oakland Parks, Recreation & Youth Development" and "IMAGINE. INSPIRE. INVEST. Experience Oakland With Us!" is in a yellow circle. The bottom left text "Presented By: STEPHEN & AYESHA CURRY FAMILY FOUNDATION" is in a yellow circle. The bottom right text "(510) 238-PARK 250 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza Suite 3330, Oakland, CA 94612 www.oaklandca.gov" is in a yellow circle.

- Sustain and expand the capacity of OPRYD's Five Programs
- Increase hours of Recreation and Nature Centers & reopen shuttered facilities, 7 days/week
- Establish reliable funding to insulate OPRYD programs from year-to-year budget fluctuations

Impacts Lived Experiences



OPRF

Together we can build a stronger, more connected future for all Oaklanders



Policy & Report References



Parks and Equity: The Promise of Oakland’s Parks 2020

Full Report

<https://www.oaklandparks.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/OPRF-Parks-And-Equity-2021-01-12.pdf>

Executive Summary

<https://www.oaklandparks.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/OPRF-Parks-And-Equity-Executive-Summary-2021-01-12.pdf>

City of Oakland General Plan

<https://www.oaklandca.gov/topics/city-of-oakland-general-plan>

City of Oakland Open Space, Conservation and Recreation (OSCAR) Element

<https://www.oaklandca.gov/resources/download-the-open-space-conservation-and-recreation-oscar-element>

Measure Q “The 2020 Oakland Parks and Recreation Preservation, Litter Reduction, and Homelessness Support Act”

<https://cao-94612.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/Measure-Q-Parks-Ballot-Information-for-Website.pdf>

Oakland 2030 Equitable Climate Action Plan (ECAP)

<https://cao-94612.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/Oakland-ECAP-07-24.pdf>

Belonging in Oakland: A Cultural Development Plan

<https://cao-94612.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/Cultural-Plan-9.24-online.pdf>