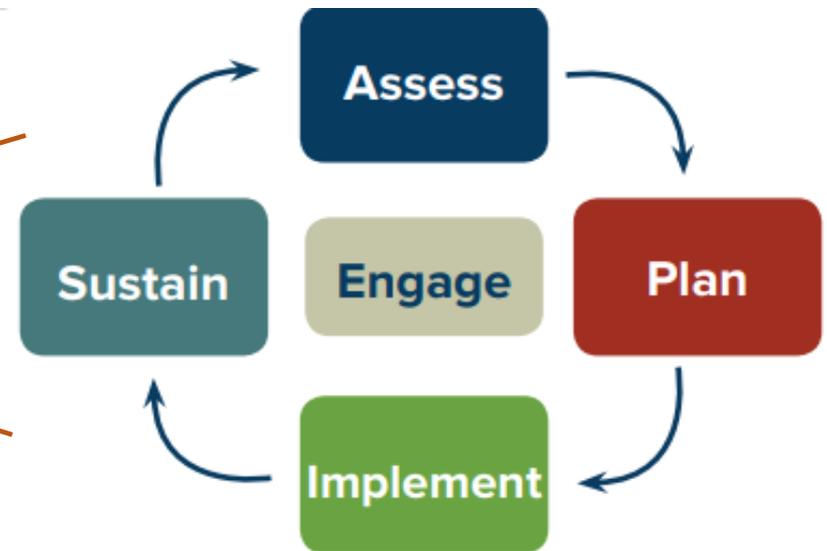
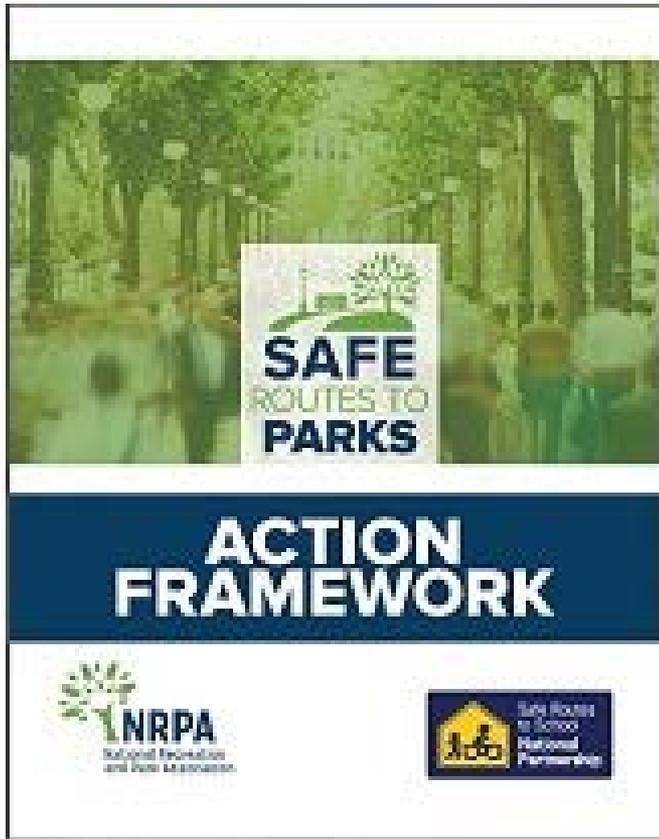




**SAFE**  
ROUTES TO  
**PARKS**  
ACTIVATING  
COMMUNITIES



# Safe Routes to Parks Action Framework



# Safe Routes to Parks Pilot Sites



## Safe Routes to Parks: Lessons Learned from the First Year of Implementation





**SAFE**  
ROUTES TO  
**PARKS**  
ACTIVATING  
COMMUNITIES

# Safe Routes to Parks Activating Communities Grantees 2018

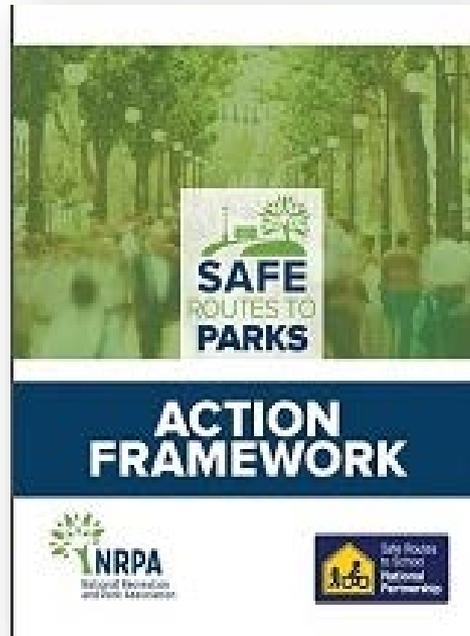
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Safe Routes to Parks provides an opportunity to engage new partners

# Resources



**SAFE ROUTES TO PARKS**

**ACTION FRAMEWORK**

**NRPA**  
National Recreation and Park Association

**Safe Routes to School National Partnership**



**SAFE ROUTES TO PARKS**

**ACTIVATING COMMUNITIES**

**Action Framework Training**  
April 26



**SAFE ROUTES TO PARKS**

**ACTIVATING COMMUNITIES**

**Equity Training**  
June 5



**Safe Routes to School National Partnership**

**Safe Routes to School Meets Safe Routes to Parks**

Children and adults in the United States are not getting enough physical activity, and our health is suffering as a result. But communities are working on many strategies to help – making it easier and safer to walk and bicycle, expanding access to parks, and more. One important place for collaboration and advocacy is around making sure that people can safely walk and bicycle to parks – an approach known as safe routes to parks.

**Why focus on safe routes to parks?**

Increasing physical activity is essential to improving Americans' health. For a healthy community, everyone needs access to places for physical activity. Parks can be a superior place for physical activity, but a common obstacle to park use involves barriers to getting there, especially when it comes to walking or biking to parks. When parks are difficult to access by foot or bicycle, it can harm health and well-being. For example, one effect is that community members who are reliant upon walking, bicycling, and transit may simply not visit or use the park.

In addition, the absence of safe routes to parks may also decrease the overall amount of walking in a community – community members will not include physical activity as a component of their trip to the park, and may walk less generally, because walking is highly dependent on the availability of attractive destinations such as parks. Finally, when there are not safe routes to parks, community members may walk anyway, but be subject to stress, injuries, or fatalities on the trip. These effects often have a disproportionate impact on low-income communities, tribal communities, and communities of color.

**How can Safe Routes to School practitioners address safe routes to parks in their work?**

Safe Routes to School practitioners are active in influencing program, infrastructure, policies and investments in their communities, with an eye toward children's health, safety, and activity levels. Incorporating considerations of safe routes to parks into these activities may be an easy way to expand effectiveness and reach. Specific approaches:

- In walkability assessments and walk audits, include parks as well as schools.
- Encourage collocation of parks and schools when school or park siting is underway.
- When parks and schools are co-located or adjacent, consider infrastructure improvements and encouragement activities that include the parks as well as the schools.
- Include Safe Routes to Parks on the agenda of existing Safe Routes to School conditions.
- When working to address Safe Routes to School through city or county policies and practices, include safe routes to parks too. Comprehensive planning, budgeted plans, zoning, city budget and infrastructure prioritization – all need to address both Safe Routes to School and safe routes to parks. Safe Routes to Parks thrives on emergency collaboration.

2024 | [www.safeschools.org](http://www.safeschools.org) | [Facebook.com/safeschools](https://www.facebook.com/safeschools) | [info@safebicycling.org](mailto:info@safebicycling.org)

## Safe Routes to Parks Information and Resources

