



2023 Safe Routes to Parks: Pennsylvania Activating Communities Program Application

The Safe Routes Partnership is a national nonprofit that works to advance safe walking and bicycling to and from schools, to improve the health and wellbeing of kids of all races, income levels, and abilities, and to foster the creation of healthy communities for everyone.

Review the information about the [Safe Routes to Parks: Pennsylvania Activating Communities program](#), eligibility criteria, expectations, and [frequently asked questions](#) on the website as you complete this application. Once begun, the application form cannot be saved and opened again. We encourage you to review this PDF version of the application form, compose your answers in a word processor, and input them [here](#) when you are ready to submit. If your organization would prefer to submit answers to the project questions in an alternative format such as audio or video, please contact parks@saferoutespartnership.org to discuss options.

Applications are due by 11:59 PM ET on December 2, 2022. If you have any questions during the application process, please contact parks@saferoutespartnership.org.

Please complete all questions on the form. If we have any follow-up questions, we will contact the person listed below.

If you need assistance or have questions about this application, contact parks@saferoutespartnership.org.

Section A: Organization and Contact Information

Organization/Agency Name	Website
Is your organization tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code? CHECK BOX: YES/NO? Note: <i>Only</i> non-profits that are tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code are eligible for the Safe Routes to Parks Pennsylvania Activating Communities Program.	
Mailing Address	City / State / Zip
Pennsylvania Grantee Community (City/Location/Jurisdiction)	

Name of Project/Initiative (if available)

Staff Contact Name

Staff Contact Email

Staff Contact Job Title

Staff Contact Number

Date Submitted

Our total organization/agency budget is:

- Under \$250,000
- \$250,000-\$500,000
- \$500,000-\$1 million
- Over \$1 million

Support of Local Government

Commitment from local agencies (e.g., parks, planning, and transportation decision-makers) to work together toward improving safe, equitable park access will be necessary in this work. Please identify your relationship with local officials and public agencies with jurisdiction over the focus of your project and describe their support for the project. A letter of support from your local parks and recreation or transportation agency or city manager/mayor is required. To submit the letter of support, please email it as an attachment to parks@saferoutespartnership.org.

Are any of the parks in your system co-located with a school?

We are interested in whether any of the parks in your system are located next to or near a school but are not awarding points based upon the responses.

- Yes
- No

Section B: Safe Routes to Parks Framework and Needs

We are looking for grantees with a range of familiarity with the Safe Routes to Parks concept and framework. The [Safe Routes to Parks Action Framework](#) is intended to provide nonprofits and local and tribal governments with practice-based guidance on strategies that promote equitable and safe access to and within local parks that are backed by research and supported by national organizations. The framework is intended to be used as a guide that will engage leaders and community members in an ongoing process to ensure that community policies and practices support safe and equitable access to parks.

1. Please select your familiarity with the [Safe Routes to Parks framework](#) and concept

- Been working with the framework or a similar process and have begun to implement
- Familiar with framework but have not begun to implement it
- New to the framework and the planning process

Section C: Project Questions

Please answer the following questions, providing as much detail as possible within the word limits.

All completed applications will be reviewed for how well your application shows: (1) a clear vision for the equity, health, and safety benefits that Safe Routes to Parks will bring your community; (2) that your project will engage and empower community members to address barriers to park access in their community, especially low-income community members, communities of color, refugee populations, people with disabilities, older adults, and so on; and (3) that you have a demonstrated readiness and commitment to effectively carry out your project in partnership with community members and local decision-makers.

Clear Vision for Safe Routes to Parks in Your Community

1. State the overall goal or goals of your Safe Routes to Parks project. (2,000-character maximum)
 - What change do you want to see?
 - What aspects of your park system and your community's access to parks have motivated you to implement Safe Routes to Parks?
 - Please provide sufficient background about your parks and access to parks to allow an understanding of the concerns and potential benefits.
 - If your project is already underway, what have you done already to achieve your goals?
2. How would this project benefit your community? (2,000-character maximum)

How Project Will Engage and Address Needs of Community Experiencing Disparities

3. Describe your community. (2,000-character maximum)
 - Is it rural, suburban, or urban?
 - What is the racial and income breakdown in your community?
 - What percent of the community is children and older adults?
 - What is unique, important, or challenging about your community?
 - What is the historical context surrounding social and structural injustices related to access to parks?
4. The uncertainties of the pandemic may require you to creatively and safely engage community members while abiding by local public health guidance. (4,000-character maximum)
 - Describe how your current initiatives engage low-income community members, communities of color, refugee populations, people with disabilities, and/or older adults **and** how you plan to engage these populations in the proposed initiative.
 - How will you engage community members in your project considering the coronavirus pandemic?

Demonstrated Readiness

5. How does working to advance safe, equitable park access in your community fit into your current organization's mission and goals? (2,000-character maximum)
 - How do you envision this work continuing after the grant period?
 - Describe the staff person who will lead this work, their background, connection to community, work on similar projects? Note: Due to the short grant period, we have found it to be helpful for the project to be consistently staffed by the same person.

6. Do you have a coalition or team that is currently working in support of any aspects of Safe Routes to Parks? (2,000-character maximum)
 - How will your coalition members enable you to achieve your Safe Routes to Parks goals?
 - What is your vision for how you would like to build a coalition or strengthen an existing coalition, and what could that achieve?
7. Please state possible barriers that might prevent your project from being successful and how these could be overcome. (2,000-character maximum)
 - How do you envision using coaching support offered through this program?
 - Specify any challenges or needs you would like us to help you with.

Please send any supporting documents or questions about this application to parks@saferoutespartnership.org.

Confirming understanding of program expectations

(Check to confirm understanding)

- ☒ This is a technical assistance award and grant program. If accepted to the program, selected organizations will meet monthly by phone with a coach from the Safe Routes Partnership from January to September 30, 2023.
- ☒ With coaching and support from Safe Routes Partnership, selected organizations will complete the following timeline of milestones:
 - Jan - Mar 2023 – Conduct community engagement activities which may include a walkability audit, survey dissemination, and community outreach.
 - April 2023 – Participate in a 2-day action plan workshop to identify community goals and priorities informed by engagement activities.
 - May-July 2023 – Plan and implement one early action.
 - Aug-Sept 2023 – Identify sustainable actions to maintain momentum.
- ☒ Selected organizations will receive \$10,000 to begin implementing the action plan.
- ☒ Selected organizations will be proactive about creatively and safely engaging community members while abiding by local public health guidance.
- ☒ Selected organizations can focus their work on one park but will be encouraged to think about how to apply Safe Routes to Parks to parks system-wide.