

CLIENT

City of Lancaster, PA

DATES

2023-2024

COLLABORATORS

Evolve Environmental Architecture

REFERENCE

Joanne Shelly

Senior Landscape Architect

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BUDGET

\$75,000

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The project's purpose was to develop a ten-year Comprehensive Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (CPROS) Plan for Lancaster City, addressing resident challenges and aging infrastructure while re-envisioning parks, public areas, and natural resources as an interconnected system to enhance accessibility and recreational amenities equitably. CtD co-lead the development of the Public Engagement Plan, organizing public meetings, neighborhood events, and the Engage Lancaster platform, while also supporting evolveEA in the development of a Citizen Survey to gather essential information. The final project outcome was a transformative CPROS Plan to revitalize the city's recreational spaces and strengthen residents' connections with nature.

SERVICES PERFORMED

Connect the Dots provided community members with an opportunity to provide input and share their experiences using Lancaster City parks to inform the final comprehensive recreation, parks, and open spaces plan. The team designed and implemented:

- Steering Committee to understand high priority audiences, identify desired community insights, and guide public engagement schedule and approach.
- Pop-ups (6) at local events across Lancaster City.
- Interviews (16) with key stakeholders.
- Focus Groups (3) with key stakeholders.
- Survey (2)
- In-person workshops (2) at Lancaster Science Factory and Lancaster Rec Center.
- Recorded webinar to share back the process and insights gathered from the community.

PROJECT OUTCOMES

1. Engagement Outcomes:

- Connect the Dots multi-layered approach to engagement reached almost 500 stakeholders and residents in Lancaster City.
- Pop-up events were intentionally scheduled at locations that historically have received less community engagement, such as the Conestoga River and specific neighborhood streets or alleys. These events focused on both current park users, while also prioritized potential users who lived primarily in the Southern parts of the City.

2. Insights and Implications:

- The engagement process gathered deep, detailed insights and feedback from community leaders and stakeholders on preliminary recommendations to enhance Lancaster City parks, recreation areas, and green spaces.
- The engagement strategy connected with Lancaster City residents and specific equity-based priority audiences to intentionally include their voices to help shape the future of the City's parks, public areas, and natural resources as one interconnected system.

