

THE TRUST *for* PUBLIC LAND

CONSERVING LAND FOR PEOPLE



CALIFORNIA NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS: *GIS Analysis*

In 2006, California voters approved new funding for parks in under-served communities as part of Proposition 84. The state had \$400 million for new and revitalized parks, but couldn't spend the money until a big decision was made: the ballot language required the state assembly to determine whether to allocate the funds to an existing program—one that focused on densely populated urban areas—or to create a new one to disburse funds to neighborhoods all across the state.

TPL's role

"Money was available, but it couldn't get to the local and regional parks and recreation projects for which it was intended. The legislature needed to pass a bill to establish the grant program," explains Rachel Dinno-Taylor, director of government relations for The Trust for Public Land. "Our challenge was to come up with an objective allocation system based on where parks are needed most

in order to guarantee that Proposition 84 provides the greatest possible public benefit."

Project highlights

TPL helped California legislative staff establish standards to distribute the funds to park-deficient neighborhoods. The TPL GIS team developed an easy-to-use, interactive spreadsheet integrated with mapping software so that California legislative staff could visualize the effects of various options on California communities. The tool allowed TPL to consider more than 35 population variables, quickly modeling different scenarios at the county, city, and zip code level. TPL then conducted an interactive session with California legislative staff.

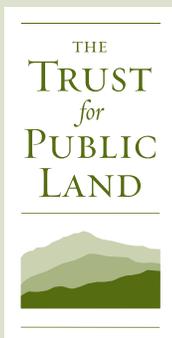
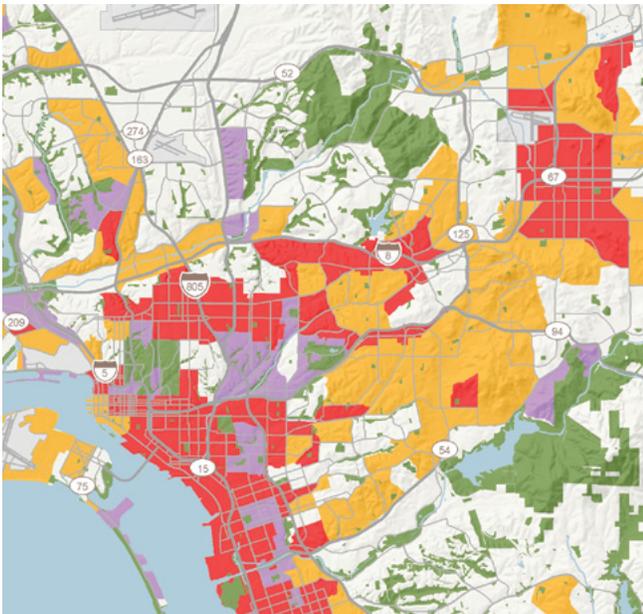
Results

After testing numerous possibilities, the coalition settled on an elegant but simple eligibility system. Communities

qualified for funding if they had less than three acres of parks per 1,000 residents or a median household income of less than 80 percent of the statewide average. Selection of projects is competitive—all government and quasi-government agencies and nonprofits are eligible to apply.

“It was amazing how the discussion shifted once we had the maps. If a picture is worth a thousand words, these maps were worth a thousand parks.”

—Rachel Dinno-Taylor,
The Trust for Public Land



The Trust for Public Land conserves land for people to enjoy as parks, gardens, and other natural places, ensuring livable communities for generations to come.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

GREEN LA COALITION
310.453.3611
GREENLAOCOALITION.ORG

ANDREA AMBRIZ
LEGISLATIVE AIDE,
OFFICE OF KEVIN DE LEON
(AD 45)
916.319.2045
ANDREA.AMBRIZ@ASM.CA.GOV

RACHEL DINNO-TAYLOR
DIRECTOR,
GOVERNMENT RELATIONS
THE TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND
415.495.4014
RACHEL.DINNO@TPL.ORG