Embedding Equity in Public Space: The Community First Toolkit Launch

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The **High Line Network** is a community of infrastructure reuse projects and the people helping them come to life.
There is a movement in cities across the world to reclaim underutilized infrastructure and reimagine it as public space.

Infrastructure reuse projects can bring tremendous social, economic, and environmental benefits to our cities.

We want these benefits to reach as many people as possible, especially longtime residents and businesses of neighboring communities.
Roots of Infrastructural Racism

COURTESY OF: BRETT MERRIAM, URBAN DESIGN AND THE COLOR LINE-EQUITABLE IMPACTS FRAMEWORK PILOT, HARVARD GRADUATE SCHOOL OF DESIGN

COURTESY OF: DON O'KEEFE, URBAN DESIGN AND THE COLOR LINE-EQUITABLE IMPACTS FRAMEWORK PILOT, HARVARD GRADUATE SCHOOL OF DESIGN
Roots of Infrastructural Racism

COLLAGE BY: LAURA GREENBERG AND VRINDA KANVINDE, URBAN DESIGN AND THE COLOR LINE-EQUITABLE IMPACTS FRAMEWORK PILOT, HARVARD GRADUATE SCHOOL OF DESIGN

COURTESY OF: MIGUEL PEREZ LUNA AND SHANNON SLADE, URBAN DESIGN AND THE COLOR LINE-EQUITABLE IMPACTS FRAMEWORK PILOT, HARVARD GRADUATE SCHOOL OF DESIGN
Origins of the Community First Toolkit

- **2016–2017**: Developed a **metrics guide** to equitable impacts.
- **2018**: Conducted a **research and coaching pilot** with Network members over two years.
- **2020**: Launch publication and website with final **tools and case studies**.

**Timeline**
- 2016–2017
- 2018
- 2020
- 2021
- 2022
Network Members Piloting the Toolkit by Scale

Rail Park
Philadelphia, PA
3 mi
3 acr

11th Street Bridge Park
Washington, DC
6.7 mi
6.7 acr

High Line
New York, NY
1.5 mi
100 acr

Waterloo Greenway
Austin, TX
100 acr

Crispy Fields & Presidio Tunnel Tops
San Francisco, CA
500 acr

Buffalo Bayou East
Houston, TX
510 acr

Atlanta BeltLine
Atlanta, GA
200 acr

Bayou Greenways 2020
Houston, TX
3000 acr

Harold Simmons Park
Dallas, TX
150 acr

BridgePark
Richmond, VA
2 mi

Town Branch Commons
Lexington, KY
9+ acr

Indianapolis Cultural Trail
Indianapolis, IN
120 acr

The Underline
Miami, FL
10 mi

Great River Passage
St. Paul, MN
10 mi

High Line Canal
Denver, CO
510 acr

Scale
Community First Toolkit Research Team

**General Project Management and Convener**
- Technical assistance provider
- Develop peer-to-peer learning opportunities and events
- Development of case studies

**Urban Design and the Color Line: Research & Context-Setting**
- Understanding project site & city context
- Audit of current practices, programs & partnerships
- Recommendations & case studies
Coaching and Technical Assistance

- Review of student work, tracing the geographies of racism
- Development of organizational theory of change
- Iterative drafting of working equity goals
- Strategizing around short- and long-term activities, resources, challenges, and desired outcomes
- Sharing of relevant case studies
- Development of trackable metrics
Overview of the Community First Toolkit

Embed Equity in All Phases of Park Planning

This toolkit is designed to help park organizations address inequities caused by infrastructural racism, and shape public spaces that bring social, environmental, and economic benefits to our communities.

Start Guide
Explore our toolkit sections

Our toolkit is comprised of 5 sections containing 18 tools. Each have detailed instructions, along with worksheets and templates to use online or offline.
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