2021 ParkScore® index: Access
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

The Access category of the ParkScore® index awards points based on the percentage of the population within a 10-minute walk of a public park. This analysis is provided via the ParkServe® mapping application, which identifies the population living within a 10-minute walk of a park by creating dynamic 1/2-mile service areas (10-minute walking distance) for all public parks. In this analysis, service areas use the street network to determine walkable distance (streets such as highways, freeways, and interstates are considered barriers).

In San Francisco, 100% of the population lives within a 10-minute walk of a park. Among the remaining 1,334 people without access to a nearby park, The Trust for Public Land suggests where to prioritize the development of new parks to reduce this gap. This prioritization is based on a comprehensive index of six equally-weighted demographic and environmental metrics:

- Population density*
- Density of low income households (households with income less than 75% of the urban area median income; less than $75,000 in San Francisco)*
- Density of people of color*
- Community health (a combined index based on the rate of poor mental health and low physical activity from the 2020 CDC PLACES census tract dataset)
- Urban heat islands (surface temperature at least 1.25 degrees greater than city mean surface temperature from The Trust for Public Land, based on Landsat 8 satellite imagery)
- Pollution burden (air toxics respiratory hazard index from 2020 EPA EJScreen)

*Based on 2020 Forecast block groups provided by ESRI

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The Equity category of the ParkScore® index awards points in part based on the difference in nearby park space between neighborhoods in a city:

- On a per person basis, ratio of nearby public park space between communities of color and white communities
- On a per person basis, ratio of nearby public park space between low-income communities and high-income communities

Nearby park space per person effectively measures the available park space within a 10-minute walk of a micro-neighborhood, identified as those with the highest concentrations (top 20% of all census block groups in a city) of people of color or white population and high-income or low-income households. Households with income less than 75% of city median income (less than $75,000 in San Francisco) are considered low-income; households with income greater than 125% of city median income (greater than $150,000 in San Francisco) are high-income.

In San Francisco, neighborhoods of color have 56% less park space than white neighborhoods, and low-income neighborhoods have 55% less than high-income neighborhoods.

The metrics for people of color reflect each of the Census-designated race/ethnicity groups: Black, Hispanic, and Indigenous and Native American, Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders, multiple races, and other communities of color.

Demographic profiles are based on 2020 Forecast block groups provided by Esri.

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San Francisco, CA

Each city can earn a maximum of 100 points. Points are awarded for 14 statistical measures across five categories: **acreage, investment, amenities, equity, and access.** The final scores in each category are then averaged to generate each city’s ParkScore.

**ACREAGE**

- 2021 rank: 54 out of 100 points
- Median park size: 7 out of 100 points
- Park land percent of city area: 1.3 acres 20.5%

**EQUITY**

- Total population (individuals): 881,539
- Age 19 and younger: 133,504
- 20-64 years old: 597,644
- Over 64 years old: 150,393
- White***: 349,286
- Black***: 42,820
- American Indian/Alaska Native***: 1,612
- Asian***: 313,130
- Pacific Islander***: 3,292
- Other race***: 2,577
- Two or more races***: 33,702
- Hispanic origin: 135,122

**AMENITIES**

- 10-minute walk access to park for people of color: 7 out of 100 points
- 10-minute walk access to park for low-income households: 100 out of 100 points
- Basketball hoops per 10,000 residents: 62 out of 100 points
- Dog parks per 100,000 residents: 100 out of 100 points
- Playgrounds per 10,000 residents: 46 out of 100 points
- Recreation/senior centers per 20,000 residents: 53 out of 100 points
- Restrooms per 10,000 residents: 86 out of 100 points
- Splashpads per 100,000 residents: 41 out of 100 points
- Spending per capita: $357.47

**INVESTMENT**

- Spending per capita: 100 out of 100 points

**ACCESS**

- Percent of population (individuals) within a 10-minute walk of a park with public access: 100%

*Inside a 10-minute walk service area of a park with public access. **Neighborhoods are defined as Census Blocks with the highest concentration (upper quintile) of a demographic within the city. ***Excludes those that report Hispanic origin (which is captured separately from race by the U.S. Census). Total population and households may vary from estimates published elsewhere due to differences between city boundaries and the boundaries of Census Block Groups used in this analysis, or due to methodology differences in third party data providers’ forecast demographics. Analysis based on 2020 Forecast Census Block Groups, provided by Esri.