

Cleveland Park Study Tour

Overview

Like many post-industrial cities, Cleveland has been revitalizing its downtown and neighborhoods by investing in parks and trails with a focus on access, equity and connectivity. After 50 years of investments in cleaning the Cuyahoga River and improving Lake Erie, Cleveland is now enjoying a revitalization of its waterfront and leveraging that access to connect communities, amenities and infrastructure.

The Cleveland Park Study Tour is a one-of-a-kind experience exploring Cleveland's innovative approaches to improving the park system and the health and quality of life of its residents. The tour maximizes opportunities to network with fellow park professionals during carefully designed and programmed itinerary featuring local and national experts.

Park Study Tours are offered every other year as part of City Parks Alliance's PARKXCHANGE member benefits. Additional benefits include City Workshops, Webinars, access to a searchable Resource Library of park-related MOUs, partner agreements, equity documents, park plans, and more, as well as discounted registration to Greater & Greener. Learn more about the full suite of membership resources at cityparksalliance.org/parkxchange.

Friday, September 7TH

The tour will kick off with highlights of how local stakeholders have connected Cleveland residents with nearby water bodies and related recreational opportunities via trails and new lakefront parks. During the afternoon, participants will hear about the partnerships behind activating park space that surrounds a local recreation center, as well as hyper-local pocket-park activation on Cleveland's West Side.

Saturday, September 8TH

Day two of the tour focuses largely on how parks function as green infrastructure, and how to develop partnerships for community-driven programming. We'll hear from a panel of local park partners in the morning about how they have activated parks in Cleveland's East Side, then explore area preserves, gardens, and greenways. Participants will get an exclusive look at park sites in development on Cleveland's East Side, as well as several successfully established parks unique to Cleveland, finishing the tour Downtown at Public Square.

Support for the Cleveland Park Study Tour is Provided by:



Learning Objectives

Through the successful cross sector management of public and private spaces available to the public, Cleveland park partners have greatly expanded the accessibility of public spaces that serve a park function, meeting residents where they are.

- Learn how Cleveland has leveraged cross agency and cross sector partnerships, particularly with urban infrastructure agencies, such as the Sewer District and Port Authority, to revitalize its waterfront, connect its neighborhoods and develop its parks as integral urban infrastructure.
- Learn about strategies for developing culturally-relevant, neighborhood-specific programming in collaboration with community development organizations, neighborhood nonprofits and residents, providing equitable access to safe, vibrant, and active neighborhood parks.
- Explore public space activation and programming that extends beyond traditional park boundaries and into places like vacant lots, publicly accessible private property, and public transit lines.

