



# Webinar

## ULI Kansas City: Equity in Parks

Date: July 23, 2020

00:01:59 --> 00:02:02: Good afternoon everybody and welcome back.  
00:02:02 --> 00:02:06: It's been a few weeks since we've had a chance  
00:02:06 --> 00:02:07: to be together.  
00:02:07 --> 00:02:12: Welcome to another episode of Uli District Conversations.  
00:02:12 --> 00:02:16: The Affordable City Series and this week we're talking about  
00:02:16 --> 00:02:17: equity in parks.  
00:02:17 --> 00:02:20: We're excited about this week's program for a whole host  
00:02:20 --> 00:02:21: of reasons.  
00:02:21 --> 00:02:23: The first one is the topic itself.  
00:02:23 --> 00:02:26: You know, the essential role our parks have in the  
00:02:26 --> 00:02:26: physical,  
00:02:26 --> 00:02:30: environmental, and economic health of people in our  
communities is  
00:02:30 --> 00:02:31: undeniable.  
00:02:31 --> 00:02:34: And we have an incredible system of parks and boulevards  
00:02:34 --> 00:02:35: in Kansas City.  
00:02:35 --> 00:02:38: The key question that we're asking is how can,  
00:02:38 --> 00:02:41: how can we create an equitable parts parks system that  
00:02:41 --> 00:02:44: works for the benefit of all residents,  
00:02:44 --> 00:02:46: not just the privileged few.  
00:02:46 --> 00:02:49: The second reason is the report that will be discussing  
00:02:49 --> 00:02:52: today was just released hot off the presses by ULI  
00:02:52 --> 00:02:55: as part of their advisory services program.  
00:02:55 --> 00:02:57: So we have an All Star lineup to share not  
00:02:57 --> 00:03:01: only the process but also the key findings and  
recommendations  
00:03:01 --> 00:03:02: in that report.  
00:03:02 --> 00:03:03: And As for that panel,  
00:03:03 --> 00:03:06: it's always great to have national experts,  
00:03:06 --> 00:03:08: so we have a host of people on our panel

00:03:08 --> 00:03:11: this week that are respected in their fields on a  
00:03:11 --> 00:03:14: national level to lend their talents and perspectives to help  
00:03:14 --> 00:03:16: make Kansas City a better place.  
00:03:16 --> 00:03:20: So I'm really looking forward to hearing from them today.  
00:03:20 --> 00:03:23: OK, a few quick housekeeping items first,  
00:03:23 --> 00:03:26: thank you to all of our ULI sponsors for making  
00:03:26 --> 00:03:28: this possible.  
00:03:28 --> 00:03:31: From a procedural perspective, remember chat is disabled,  
00:03:31 --> 00:03:32: but the Q&A is open,  
00:03:32 --> 00:03:33: so if you use the Q and a tab,  
00:03:33 --> 00:03:36: that Q&A function in your zoom application or a new  
00:03:36 --> 00:03:38: browser as we go through this process,  
00:03:38 --> 00:03:40: please put your questions in there,  
00:03:40 --> 00:03:43: because we're going to get to them at the second  
00:03:43 --> 00:03:44: half of this panel today.  
00:03:44 --> 00:03:46: Also remember if you don't have a question,  
00:03:46 --> 00:03:49: keep your eye on those questions because you have the  
00:03:49 --> 00:03:52: ability to crowd vote them up and so the questions  
00:03:52 --> 00:03:54: that you would most want to see answer.  
00:03:54 --> 00:03:56: Please get them up to the top of the list  
00:03:56 --> 00:03:57: and we hit.  
00:03:57 --> 00:03:59: Q&A will have the ability to get to.  
00:03:59 --> 00:04:02: The most important questions based on what you,  
00:04:02 --> 00:04:04: the the audience wants to hear from today,  
00:04:04 --> 00:04:07: so don't forget that Q&A function in that crowd voting  
00:04:07 --> 00:04:08: function.  
00:04:08 --> 00:04:10: So a quick reminder, since it's been a few weeks  
00:04:10 --> 00:04:13: since we've been together on how this works,  
00:04:13 --> 00:04:16: we basically have kind of three sections to this program.  
00:04:16 --> 00:04:19: The first one is we introduced the conversation with future  
00:04:19 --> 00:04:19: guests,  
00:04:19 --> 00:04:23: then will will expand the conversation with some additional  
perspectives  
00:04:23 --> 00:04:25: and we'll bring our panel on,  
00:04:25 --> 00:04:28: and then we have the opportunity to open the conversation  
00:04:28 --> 00:04:29: to the crowd.  
00:04:29 --> 00:04:32: Through that QA function and so those are the three  
00:04:32 --> 00:04:32: elements.  
00:04:32 --> 00:04:35: Overall, we do have kind of a four week roll.  
00:04:35 --> 00:04:37: We're going to take a week off next week,  
00:04:37 --> 00:04:40: but this week is really for us to introduce the  
00:04:40 --> 00:04:40: problem,

00:04:40 --> 00:04:43: introduced the topic and this is this equity in parks  
00:04:43 --> 00:04:45: report that was just released.  
00:04:45 --> 00:04:47: So we're really going to dive into that.  
00:04:47 --> 00:04:49: And then at the end of the show,  
00:04:49 --> 00:04:51: I'll tell you what we're going to talk about in  
00:04:51 --> 00:04:52: a couple of weeks,  
00:04:52 --> 00:04:53: so let's get to it.  
00:04:53 --> 00:04:56: This week, I'm joined in the conversation by Terry Renard.  
00:04:56 --> 00:05:00: Terry is the director of the Kansas City Parks Department.  
00:05:00 --> 00:05:03: And Terry has I can do with the parks for  
00:05:03 --> 00:05:03: a long time.  
00:05:03 --> 00:05:05: I don't want to overstate it.  
00:05:05 --> 00:05:08: I think it's 30 plus years that you've been actually  
00:05:08 --> 00:05:10: with the Parks Department,  
00:05:10 --> 00:05:14: but you actually became the director for Kansas City Parks  
00:05:14 --> 00:05:15: in January of 2019.  
00:05:15 --> 00:05:18: I believe that's correct.  
00:05:18 --> 00:05:21: So thank you very much for joining us here and  
00:05:21 --> 00:05:21: Terry,  
00:05:21 --> 00:05:25: I thought we can maybe start off the conversation this  
00:05:25 --> 00:05:27: week with maybe a quick rundown of how this came  
00:05:28 --> 00:05:28: about.  
00:05:28 --> 00:05:30: So what was the catalyst for you know,  
00:05:30 --> 00:05:35: this issue coming up and for getting this project started.  
00:05:35 --> 00:05:39: Thank you and thank you all for joining us today.  
00:05:39 --> 00:05:43: Really, in 2015 we started looking at our mission statement  
00:05:44 --> 00:05:47: and how well it was aligned with some of the  
00:05:47 --> 00:05:51: good advice we were getting at the national level and  
00:05:51 --> 00:05:54: and we adjusted it and went with the three Pillars  
00:05:54 --> 00:05:56: of conservation,  
00:05:56 --> 00:05:59: social equity and health and Wellness.  
00:05:59 --> 00:06:04: And then we started building our business plan around that  
00:06:04 --> 00:06:04: Ann,  
00:06:04 --> 00:06:07: looking deeply into how do we,  
00:06:07 --> 00:06:09: our Department, 128 years old.  
00:06:09 --> 00:06:11: So how do we take the rich,  
00:06:11 --> 00:06:15: rich history and tradition that we have?  
00:06:15 --> 00:06:20: And. Kind of adjusted to not only current times,  
00:06:20 --> 00:06:24: but also future. So that was the beginning and then  
00:06:24 --> 00:06:28: we had the opportunity to sign up for the 10  
00:06:28 --> 00:06:33: minute walk campaign and proximity wise we looked pretty  
good.

00:06:33 --> 00:06:38: But when we started diving deeper and looking at the  
00:06:38 --> 00:06:43: quality of those experiences in the quality of those parks,  
00:06:43 --> 00:06:47: we notice that when we compared parks to each other  
00:06:47 --> 00:06:51: that we have some equity concerns and and most of  
00:06:51 --> 00:06:52: our parks.  
00:06:52 --> 00:06:55: That are older armor in the urban core,  
00:06:55 --> 00:07:00: and of course, deferred maintenance is never attractive.  
00:07:00 --> 00:07:03: An always kind of takes a backseat.  
00:07:03 --> 00:07:06: So what we were finding is we had this kind  
00:07:06 --> 00:07:10: of tug and pull between a desire to make new  
00:07:10 --> 00:07:12: things and build new things.  
00:07:12 --> 00:07:16: An improved new areas of the city.  
00:07:16 --> 00:07:20: Versus deferred maintenance, and some of that in the older  
00:07:20 --> 00:07:21: part of our city.  
00:07:21 --> 00:07:25: So we started looking around and found found that equity  
00:07:25 --> 00:07:28: might be our best way to to do the things  
00:07:28 --> 00:07:30: we were wanting to do,  
00:07:30 --> 00:07:33: and so trying to put an equity lens on and  
00:07:33 --> 00:07:34: and here we are.  
00:07:34 --> 00:07:37: So 10 minute walk you referenced that?  
00:07:37 --> 00:07:40: Tell me a little bit about you know what is  
00:07:40 --> 00:07:43: the 10 minute walk program and an how did that  
00:07:43 --> 00:07:46: fit into what you're trying to do here?  
00:07:46 --> 00:07:48: I'm sure the idea is that.  
00:07:48 --> 00:07:51: Everyone should have a high quality park within a 10  
00:07:51 --> 00:07:55: minute walk of their house and that takes into consideration  
00:07:55 --> 00:07:58: like if you had to pass over a really busy  
00:07:58 --> 00:08:01: road and you know sometimes it's so.  
00:08:01 --> 00:08:04: It's not just. Yeah, we used to look at radius  
00:08:04 --> 00:08:07: and we would say if there's a block within,  
00:08:07 --> 00:08:10: if there's a park within a one mile radius and  
00:08:10 --> 00:08:12: then there were some barriers.  
00:08:12 --> 00:08:15: Whether that was a major roadway or some sort of  
00:08:15 --> 00:08:19: physical barrier fence or something that couldn't be.  
00:08:19 --> 00:08:23: Could be gotten too, so then it went to 10  
00:08:23 --> 00:08:27: minute walk and that took into account.  
00:08:27 --> 00:08:31: Does does. Radiuses and then we added the Peace Ann  
00:08:31 --> 00:08:35: and the 10 minute Walk campaign which is in RPA  
00:08:35 --> 00:08:39: or national Parks and Recreation Association.  
00:08:39 --> 00:08:42: The Trust for Public land ULI.  
00:08:42 --> 00:08:46: An 200 plus mayors around the city started looking at  
00:08:46 --> 00:08:48: the quality of those parks,

00:08:48 --> 00:08:50: and that's where we started noticing.

00:08:50 --> 00:08:53: Although our coverage was good proximity wise,

00:08:53 --> 00:08:56: our equity was not as strong as we feel it

00:08:56 --> 00:08:57: should be.

00:08:57 --> 00:09:00: If we're going to live our mission statement,

00:09:00 --> 00:09:02: so ULI advisory services.

00:09:02 --> 00:09:05: How did you make the connection with you?

00:09:05 --> 00:09:08: Lie Advisory services and tell us a little bit about

00:09:08 --> 00:09:09: that process.

00:09:09 --> 00:09:12: How was that to engage and and how did this?

00:09:12 --> 00:09:15: How did this proceed from there?

00:09:15 --> 00:09:21: And we learned we learned of it and started getting

00:09:21 --> 00:09:26: involved in ULI over the 10 minute walk campaign and

00:09:26 --> 00:09:32: started seeing some really connecting of what we were trying

00:09:32 --> 00:09:35: to do and what you all.

00:09:35 --> 00:09:40: I was leading the way on through the national sector.

00:09:40 --> 00:09:45: And so we found an opportunity to ask apply for

00:09:45 --> 00:09:46: a grant.

00:09:46 --> 00:09:53: Um for services panel? Our Advisory service panel and the

00:09:53 --> 00:09:55: idea was sometimes.

00:09:55 --> 00:09:58: When you're looking at your own backyard,

00:09:58 --> 00:10:02: it looks one way an when you get professionals from

00:10:02 --> 00:10:06: across the country to look at it through their lens.

00:10:06 --> 00:10:08: It presents very differently.

00:10:10 --> 00:10:14: You know, we knew we were asking some tough questions

00:10:15 --> 00:10:18: and an asking the advisory Service panel for a lot.

00:10:18 --> 00:10:22: And they delivered an I would say to anyone.

00:10:22 --> 00:10:26: Don't ask questions if you're not prepared for the answers.

00:10:26 --> 00:10:30: We ask that the panel be brutally honest and and

00:10:30 --> 00:10:33: I believe we got a very good product because we

00:10:34 --> 00:10:35: were willing to do that.

00:10:35 --> 00:10:40: I know when we were talking about that before that

00:10:40 --> 00:10:40: idea of.

00:10:40 --> 00:10:43: Don't ask questions if you don't want the real answers

00:10:43 --> 00:10:44: right.

00:10:44 --> 00:10:46: It made me think of a quote that I've always

00:10:46 --> 00:10:47: heard about.

00:10:47 --> 00:10:50: Great leaders always have an understanding and respect for

00:10:51 --> 00:10:51: history

00:10:51 --> 00:10:51: and culture,

00:10:51 --> 00:10:53: but aren't afraid to write new chapters.

00:10:53 --> 00:10:56: So it feels like that's a little bit of what

00:10:56 --> 00:10:59: this could probably lead to is the opportunity to take  
00:10:59 --> 00:11:03: those things into consideration through these this national  
lens while  
00:11:03 --> 00:11:05: you're moving forward with these recommendations.  
00:11:05 --> 00:11:07: So what was the process like?  
00:11:07 --> 00:11:10: So the panel you know?  
00:11:10 --> 00:11:12: How did they get involved in the project?  
00:11:12 --> 00:11:14: What was the process that they went through before they  
00:11:14 --> 00:11:15: made these recommendations,  
00:11:15 --> 00:11:18: and how did that work?  
00:11:18 --> 00:11:22: Yeah, we we challenge them with some questions and some  
00:11:22 --> 00:11:24: of those were focused on equity.  
00:11:24 --> 00:11:27: Some of those were focused on partnerships,  
00:11:27 --> 00:11:31: community engagement. Some of the things we knew and  
some  
00:11:31 --> 00:11:33: things quite honestly,  
00:11:33 --> 00:11:35: we just wanted to know more about.  
00:11:35 --> 00:11:38: So they came to town and are really cold week  
00:11:38 --> 00:11:39: in December.  
00:11:39 --> 00:11:42: And that's not our prettiest time of year for our  
00:11:42 --> 00:11:44: parks in Kansas City,  
00:11:44 --> 00:11:46: but they they stuck it out.  
00:11:46 --> 00:11:48: So they spend time we toured.  
00:11:48 --> 00:11:51: We talked to professionals. We talked.  
00:11:51 --> 00:11:53: To staff, we talked to the community,  
00:11:53 --> 00:11:55: they did.  
00:11:55 --> 00:11:58: Paul is going to have to create me.  
00:11:58 --> 00:12:03: 80 Some interviews with individuals in the community and  
that  
00:12:03 --> 00:12:06: was across a broad spectrum of professions.  
00:12:06 --> 00:12:10: And then we had a couple open sessions.  
00:12:10 --> 00:12:14: And then an opportunity to have kind of a.  
00:12:14 --> 00:12:18: First look roll out at the end of the week  
00:12:18 --> 00:12:23: and then all the work started and miraculously this big  
00:12:23 --> 00:12:27: report came to us and has a lot of detail.  
00:12:27 --> 00:12:30: But but to your point Kevin,  
00:12:30 --> 00:12:36: it really is about. Balancing tradition with future direction,  
00:12:36 --> 00:12:41: it's about balancing new and deferred maintenance and it's  
about  
00:12:42 --> 00:12:46: doing so in a way that's equitable and not necessarily  
00:12:46 --> 00:12:47: only equal.  
00:12:47 --> 00:12:49: And that was a that's a.  
00:12:49 --> 00:12:52: That's a new concept for us in the last few

00:12:52 --> 00:12:53: years.

00:12:53 --> 00:12:57: We've always done a really good job of making sure

00:12:58 --> 00:13:01: we spend exactly the same money and.

00:13:01 --> 00:13:04: Every every part of the city,

00:13:04 --> 00:13:10: every Council district, and that doesn't fit fit the need.

00:13:10 --> 00:13:16: An the squeaky wheel got us in some trouble.

00:13:16 --> 00:13:18: Because we've always been very responsive,

00:13:18 --> 00:13:20: so this is this is a new approach for us,

00:13:20 --> 00:13:22: but but one that we're very excited about.

00:13:22 --> 00:13:25: Well, thank you for sharing it with us and thank

00:13:25 --> 00:13:27: you for giving us the opportunity to do this so

00:13:27 --> 00:13:29: and for giving us that background.

00:13:29 --> 00:13:31: So let's bring the rest of the panel on and

00:13:31 --> 00:13:34: dive into some of the content in the report here.

00:13:34 --> 00:13:36: And don't forget for those of you online,

00:13:36 --> 00:13:38: please look at the Q&A function.

00:13:38 --> 00:13:39: If you've got a question,

00:13:39 --> 00:13:41: go ahead and get it in there when you think

00:13:41 --> 00:13:42: of it,

00:13:42 --> 00:13:44: especially as we start to go through some of the

00:13:44 --> 00:13:47: data conversation here with the panel and also don't forget

00:13:47 --> 00:13:48: to crowd vote up.

00:13:48 --> 00:13:51: You know with the little thumbs up option to vote

00:13:51 --> 00:13:54: up the ones that you really want to see come

00:13:54 --> 00:13:55: up to the top there.

00:13:55 --> 00:13:57: So excited to introduce this panel.

00:13:57 --> 00:14:00: Like I said, we've got a national panel of experts

00:14:00 --> 00:14:02: that we want to bring on,

00:14:02 --> 00:14:04: so I want to go ahead and bring them on

00:14:04 --> 00:14:04: now first,

00:14:04 --> 00:14:09: Carlton Brown, Carlton principle it direct investment

00:14:09 --> 00:14:09: development in New

00:14:09 --> 00:14:09: York City,

00:14:09 --> 00:14:12: specifically Brooklyn. Shout out to Brooklyn.

00:14:12 --> 00:14:14: So also want to bring an ash.

00:14:14 --> 00:14:17: Alison schapker. She's a senior director for the Fairmount

00:14:18 --> 00:14:19: Park

00:14:18 --> 00:14:19: Conservancy in Philadelphia.

00:14:19 --> 00:14:22: City of Brotherly love. And Emeka Moneme, the SDP and

00:14:23 --> 00:14:26: managing director for Mickey Group in Washington DC.

00:14:26 --> 00:14:28: So we've got a great national group here.

00:14:28 --> 00:14:30: Thank you all for joining us.

00:14:30 --> 00:14:32: I really appreciate it. Carlton,  
00:14:32 --> 00:14:33: I want to start with you.  
00:14:33 --> 00:14:36: You have a couple of quotes in the press release  
00:14:36 --> 00:14:39: that really kind of struck me when we were going  
00:14:39 --> 00:14:40: through this.  
00:14:40 --> 00:14:43: So the first one you have a quote in the  
00:14:43 --> 00:14:46: press release that's cool as Kansas City in the entire  
00:14:46 --> 00:14:50: country have been awakened to the challenges of structural  
racism.  
00:14:50 --> 00:14:53: And how policies have created an essence two Americas,  
00:14:53 --> 00:14:55: one black and one white.  
00:14:55 --> 00:14:58: You well, I was already at work in Kansas City,  
00:14:58 --> 00:15:00: so I guess my question is I we understand how  
00:15:00 --> 00:15:03: a lot of the issues and we're listening to a  
00:15:03 --> 00:15:06: lot of the conversation about structural,  
00:15:06 --> 00:15:09: racial racism, systemic racism, why parks like what the public  
00:15:09 --> 00:15:10: Commons like?  
00:15:10 --> 00:15:13: Help me understand that the relationship here?  
00:15:13 --> 00:15:16: Well, there are a couple of things to think about.  
00:15:16 --> 00:15:19: You know, when we think about the public Commons,  
00:15:19 --> 00:15:23: that's the public ground. Where when it's done well,  
00:15:23 --> 00:15:26: is the intersection of people from various classes,  
00:15:26 --> 00:15:30: various races, and it's a neutral ground where people can  
00:15:30 --> 00:15:33: exchange ideas and come to understand each other,  
00:15:33 --> 00:15:37: and that's what the public comments when it's working.  
00:15:37 --> 00:15:39: Well, yes. Right in Kansas City,  
00:15:39 --> 00:15:44: Public Commons was designed specifically to separate and  
isolate people,  
00:15:44 --> 00:15:48: and so when you think about where the boulevards are  
00:15:48 --> 00:15:48: plays,  
00:15:48 --> 00:15:51: you know so that maybe you're isolated truth.  
00:15:51 --> 00:15:54: So you isolated. Things below the River right?  
00:15:54 --> 00:15:57: And the quality and the fabric changed North of the  
00:15:57 --> 00:15:58: River and South,  
00:15:58 --> 00:16:00: and then through those annexations.  
00:16:00 --> 00:16:02: But from the very beginning,  
00:16:02 --> 00:16:05: and then even right down to the way the Interstate  
00:16:05 --> 00:16:06: system was designed.  
00:16:06 --> 00:16:10: This separated people, and that was never the intent than  
00:16:10 --> 00:16:13: any planner that wanted to do something that avoided race  
00:16:14 --> 00:16:15: based planning would do.  
00:16:15 --> 00:16:18: You would try to design the public comments,



00:16:18 --> 00:16:21: told people together, and so part of our challenge there  
00:16:21 --> 00:16:23: was thinking about how can we?  
00:16:23 --> 00:16:27: Re imagine the public comments in Kansas City,  
00:16:27 --> 00:16:30: so it pulls people together right now.  
00:16:30 --> 00:16:33: Trust me. Kansas City is not the only place in  
00:16:33 --> 00:16:35: America that has that challenge,  
00:16:35 --> 00:16:38: right? But I think that in Kansas City,  
00:16:38 --> 00:16:42: because it's so historically is so historical.  
00:16:42 --> 00:16:46: We connect it to other things that Nichols there in  
00:16:47 --> 00:16:50: terms of restrictive racial covenants,  
00:16:50 --> 00:16:52: right? So it is very core.  
00:16:52 --> 00:16:57: Some of the fundamental thinking that has driven this.  
00:16:57 --> 00:17:00: By Cardo America, right, you can trace it to some  
00:17:00 --> 00:17:03: of the ideas from Kansas City so we can start  
00:17:03 --> 00:17:05: to think about solving this in Kansas City.  
00:17:05 --> 00:17:09: I think we can start to think about solving it  
00:17:09 --> 00:17:09: all over.  
00:17:09 --> 00:17:12: Thank you, um, so Allison.  
00:17:12 --> 00:17:18: One of the things that was highlighted in the in  
00:17:18 --> 00:17:19: the report was.  
00:17:19 --> 00:17:22: This recommendation, you know there's a robot.  
00:17:22 --> 00:17:25: I think it was quoted as there's a robust network  
00:17:25 --> 00:17:28: of partners who appear to be able to provide programs  
00:17:28 --> 00:17:30: and services as part of their core mission.  
00:17:30 --> 00:17:32: This goes to the programming of these parks,  
00:17:32 --> 00:17:34: but who are these groups like?  
00:17:34 --> 00:17:37: Would give us some examples of when we talk about  
00:17:37 --> 00:17:40: programming parts when we talk about the groups that might  
00:17:40 --> 00:17:43: be connected to solving some of the problem about the  
00:17:43 --> 00:17:47: vibrancy and vitality? Help us understand that that a little  
00:17:47 --> 00:17:47: bit.  
00:17:47 --> 00:17:51: Sure, I think every city is different in every neighborhood  
00:17:51 --> 00:17:56: is different in terms of the interested parties that organically  
00:17:56 --> 00:17:59: emerge out of the neighborhood and take some ownership or  
00:17:59 --> 00:18:02: some stakeholder interests in the parks.  
00:18:02 --> 00:18:06: We saw really strong trails organizations in Kansas City.  
00:18:06 --> 00:18:10: We know that there are organizations around the.  
00:18:10 --> 00:18:15: Cultural organizations we know that there are organizations  
investing in  
00:18:15 --> 00:18:16: events,  
00:18:16 --> 00:18:19: sports, athletics are always really common in parks,  
00:18:19 --> 00:18:23: but I think. The piece that we felt was missing

00:18:23 --> 00:18:28: is some capacity building and support around the near neighbors

00:18:28 --> 00:18:31: and the friends of these parks in order to give

00:18:31 --> 00:18:36: them the platform to influence the programming and the improvements

00:18:36 --> 00:18:38: that happen in the parks.

00:18:38 --> 00:18:40: So in Philadelphia for us,

00:18:40 --> 00:18:45: that's a neighborhood network of 144 park friends groups which

00:18:45 --> 00:18:49: are neighbors who have self selected an invest their time,

00:18:49 --> 00:18:52: talent, treasure in these parks.

00:18:52 --> 00:18:56: And it's not just our wealthy well resourced neighbors,

00:18:56 --> 00:18:59: it's in some of the neighborhoods that are facing the

00:18:59 --> 00:19:00: biggest challenge.

00:19:00 --> 00:19:03: But our work has been to support those neighbors and

00:19:03 --> 00:19:06: to support the structures around those friends groups so they

00:19:06 --> 00:19:10: are able to broker effective relationships with partners that want

00:19:10 --> 00:19:13: to come in and do things in the park that's

00:19:13 --> 00:19:15: in their backyard.

00:19:15 --> 00:19:18: And so one of the key recommendations was around that

00:19:18 --> 00:19:22: structure to allow greater participation of those friends of the

00:19:22 --> 00:19:24: park in those surrounding pieces.

00:19:24 --> 00:19:26: Can you talk to us a little bit about the

00:19:27 --> 00:19:30: this idea of a Conservancy or of a foundation that

00:19:30 --> 00:19:33: helps kind of bring those things together?

00:19:33 --> 00:19:36: Yeah, I think you know you can call it a

00:19:36 --> 00:19:38: number of different things.

00:19:38 --> 00:19:40: It can be a Conservancy,

00:19:40 --> 00:19:41: it can be a foundation.

00:19:41 --> 00:19:46: There's a number of examples around the country that don't

00:19:46 --> 00:19:48: use either of those words,

00:19:48 --> 00:19:51: but it's the idea of an entity and aboard Anna

00:19:51 --> 00:19:55: staff that is working for the greater good of the

00:19:55 --> 00:19:59: parks outside the window of each political term.

00:19:59 --> 00:20:02: So the role of the Conservancy is to act as

00:20:02 --> 00:20:03: both a broker.

00:20:03 --> 00:20:08: Between errors in the cities and from potential sources of

00:20:09 --> 00:20:11: revenue and capital in the state.

00:20:11 --> 00:20:18: But also ask convener together multiple departments and plan together

00:20:18 --> 00:20:21: neighbors to have a common conversation.

00:20:21 --> 00:20:23: So not really replacing something.

00:20:23 --> 00:20:27: This is more of an additive function that really helps  
00:20:27 --> 00:20:29: bring these things together then.  
00:20:29 --> 00:20:32: Yeah.  
00:20:32 --> 00:20:33: Emeka, I've got a question for you,  
00:20:33 --> 00:20:35: so going back to what you know,  
00:20:35 --> 00:20:38: what we're talking to Carlton about with this issue of  
00:20:38 --> 00:20:39: two Kansas cities and so on.  
00:20:39 --> 00:20:42: You know the panel was asked to look at the  
00:20:42 --> 00:20:44: role that the parks and boulevards system has played in  
00:20:45 --> 00:20:46: creating 2 Kansas cities,  
00:20:46 --> 00:20:48: and so as redo the report and I was thinking  
00:20:48 --> 00:20:48: about,  
00:20:48 --> 00:20:51: you know, some of the things that we talked about.  
00:20:51 --> 00:20:54: There was this I this Association between causation,  
00:20:54 --> 00:20:55: correlation and maybe you know,  
00:20:55 --> 00:20:58: what were your observations as it relates to what role  
00:20:58 --> 00:21:00: the parks might have had in creating this.  
00:21:00 --> 00:21:03: But then also what role do they have in sustaining  
00:21:03 --> 00:21:05: the inequities that we see in Kansas City?  
00:21:05 --> 00:21:11: Yeah, that's right. The history is Carlton mentioned.  
00:21:11 --> 00:21:13: In Kansas City, as well as other cities,  
00:21:13 --> 00:21:16: is long in terms of the way that we organize  
00:21:16 --> 00:21:19: our communities to separate and we use parks,  
00:21:19 --> 00:21:23: we use roadways as ways to do that.  
00:21:23 --> 00:21:26: And those were basically expressions of the values of that  
00:21:26 --> 00:21:27: time,  
00:21:27 --> 00:21:29: right? And so it created challenges.  
00:21:29 --> 00:21:33: It created gaps in opportunity for people in different  
neighborhoods  
00:21:33 --> 00:21:36: that may have had a impact at that time.  
00:21:36 --> 00:21:39: And those things continue on and you don't.  
00:21:39 --> 00:21:41: You don't turn a ship like that.  
00:21:41 --> 00:21:45: Investments or lack of investments in infrastructures like  
schools,  
00:21:45 --> 00:21:49: public spaces, neighborhoods. It takes time to turn that,  
00:21:49 --> 00:21:51: and so many of the things that we see.  
00:21:51 --> 00:21:54: Many of the inequality we see today are function.  
00:21:54 --> 00:21:57: Of those decisions. And then I think,  
00:21:57 --> 00:22:01: well, Terry made a really good comment about equality of  
00:22:01 --> 00:22:05: of resource equality doesn't always mean equal dollars  
doesn't mean  
00:22:05 --> 00:22:09: equal investment is the gap that people are starting the  
00:22:09 --> 00:22:13: race with is different. Somebody starting 50 yards ahead

where  
00:22:13 --> 00:22:16: somebody is still at the at the starting line.  
00:22:16 --> 00:22:20: So I think there's a little interesting interplay is you  
00:22:20 --> 00:22:22: talked about causation versus an impact,  
00:22:22 --> 00:22:25: and I think that you know we have a history  
00:22:25 --> 00:22:28: that we have to recognize and.  
00:22:28 --> 00:22:29: See it for what it is,  
00:22:29 --> 00:22:32: and then we can make decisions going forward that will  
00:22:32 --> 00:22:32: create,  
00:22:32 --> 00:22:35: you know, create a change in the dynamic of those  
00:22:35 --> 00:22:39: neighborhoods and allow those neighborhoods to evolve  
forward in a  
00:22:39 --> 00:22:41: way that we want them to today.  
00:22:41 --> 00:22:43: So diving into the recommendation,  
00:22:43 --> 00:22:47: we got this idea of an independent broker for programming  
00:22:47 --> 00:22:49: and for friends of the park and those types of  
00:22:49 --> 00:22:50: things,  
00:22:50 --> 00:22:53: and the opportunity to create a more equitable approach to  
00:22:53 --> 00:22:54: programming maintenance,  
00:22:54 --> 00:22:57: development. Those types of issues Carson want to ask you  
00:22:58 --> 00:23:00: about another one that was in there,  
00:23:00 --> 00:23:03: and so let's talk about specifically this issue around  
resources,  
00:23:03 --> 00:23:07: municipal budget alignment, some of the things that were in  
00:23:07 --> 00:23:07: there.  
00:23:07 --> 00:23:09: It seems like there's two threads here.  
00:23:09 --> 00:23:11: One is the alignment of resources.  
00:23:11 --> 00:23:14: And how did you, what was the observation that the  
00:23:14 --> 00:23:15: panel made in terms of.  
00:23:15 --> 00:23:20: How they're aligned today, and what were the teams  
recommendations  
00:23:20 --> 00:23:20: there?  
00:23:20 --> 00:23:25: Well, I'm going to tell you right whatever we say  
00:23:25 --> 00:23:29: it in December is amplified by a factor of 1000  
00:23:29 --> 00:23:30: now.  
00:23:30 --> 00:23:34: In December, we didn't know the national and regional  
economies  
00:23:34 --> 00:23:36: were going for,  
00:23:36 --> 00:23:39: you know, right off the Cliff and what the Parks  
00:23:39 --> 00:23:41: and Recreation budget is.  
00:23:41 --> 00:23:45: Largely driven by the half cent sales tax.  
00:23:45 --> 00:23:47: Well, I imagine that Kansas City,  
00:23:47 --> 00:23:50: like every other cities, revenues himself.

00:23:50 --> 00:23:58: Tax plummeted. The challenge that Kansas City has even before.

00:23:58 --> 00:24:02: This pandemic is that the parks and recreations that were

00:24:02 --> 00:24:06: were funded through this asset sales tax and the other

00:24:06 --> 00:24:09: thing was the preact budgeting process right,

00:24:09 --> 00:24:12: and So what happens is when we look at how

00:24:12 --> 00:24:14: those resources allocated,

00:24:14 --> 00:24:20: however limited, however abundant, they maybe they weren't really allocated

00:24:20 --> 00:24:25: in a way that made sense from an organizational standpoint

00:24:25 --> 00:24:25: and so.

00:24:25 --> 00:24:30: Operational responsibilities sort of drifted down to Parks and Recreation

00:24:30 --> 00:24:32: when no one else wanted right?

00:24:32 --> 00:24:35: And so it doesn't make for an efficient operation.

00:24:35 --> 00:24:38: And I think doing our visit there we will all

00:24:38 --> 00:24:42: surprise that we got to an intersection along one of

00:24:42 --> 00:24:42: the parkways,

00:24:42 --> 00:24:44: and someone told us, well,

00:24:44 --> 00:24:47: starting at this point, the city doesn't maintain.

00:24:47 --> 00:24:49: They don't clean the streets,

00:24:49 --> 00:24:51: they don't cut the grass,

00:24:51 --> 00:24:53: they don't do any of that.

00:24:53 --> 00:24:55: Parks and Recreation does that,

00:24:55 --> 00:24:58: and Parks and Recreation. Probably did,

00:24:58 --> 00:25:02: like was responsible for. Only a few percent,

00:25:02 --> 00:25:05: a small percentage of the total streets,

00:25:05 --> 00:25:08: right? But what that meant is they had to have

00:25:08 --> 00:25:09: an operation to do that.

00:25:09 --> 00:25:14: We visited the World War World War One museum.

00:25:14 --> 00:25:16: And it's a beautiful facility,

00:25:16 --> 00:25:19: talifero the roof leaks and all sorts of things.

00:25:19 --> 00:25:21: And there was an assessment.

00:25:21 --> 00:25:26: That said, there's probably about \$20,000,000 of work that has

00:25:26 --> 00:25:27: to be done here.

00:25:27 --> 00:25:31: Parks and Recreation is responsible for that work.

00:25:31 --> 00:25:34: City Parks and Recreation be running a museum said they'd

00:25:34 --> 00:25:38: be running all these other things that they be cleaning

00:25:38 --> 00:25:38: the streets.

00:25:38 --> 00:25:42: They don't have the resources either.

00:25:42 --> 00:25:46: Human resources not or the financial resources so you end

00:25:46 --> 00:25:50: up with all these off balance sheet sort of costs

00:25:50 --> 00:25:54: that are gonna fall on parks and recreations at some  
00:25:54 --> 00:25:56: point. It's a bomb. It is a bomb.  
00:25:56 --> 00:26:00: The weight that is waiting to explode right and in  
00:26:00 --> 00:26:03: the face of this drop in revenues right?  
00:26:03 --> 00:26:06: That bomb is even more powerful so some of the  
00:26:07 --> 00:26:11: things we think that starts to prepare you for managing  
00:26:11 --> 00:26:12: more efficiently is.  
00:26:12 --> 00:26:18: Putting responsibility for that responsibility should be  
organizational and financially  
00:26:18 --> 00:26:22: because it will work more efficiently with the dollars that  
00:26:22 --> 00:26:27: you have as opposed to having redundant organizations  
doing small  
00:26:27 --> 00:26:29: pieces of a large deal.  
00:26:29 --> 00:26:31: Gotcha the other thread there.  
00:26:31 --> 00:26:33: Aside from the Alignment piece and you and I talked  
00:26:33 --> 00:26:36: about this a little bit and you referenced at the  
00:26:36 --> 00:26:38: beginning of your answer here,  
00:26:38 --> 00:26:41: which is the times were in from a budget perspective,  
00:26:41 --> 00:26:43: you made a comment to me about this is the  
00:26:43 --> 00:26:45: right time to be thinking about that,  
00:26:45 --> 00:26:48: though this is the right time to be thinking about  
00:26:48 --> 00:26:51: those resource alignments versus when you have this Sir.  
00:26:51 --> 00:26:54: Plus, tell me a little bit about your thoughts there.  
00:26:54 --> 00:26:56: Well I think from a business standpoint,  
00:26:56 --> 00:26:59: just my personal business that we've run right what I  
00:26:59 --> 00:26:59: know.  
00:26:59 --> 00:27:03: Is that when resources are or most challenge that is  
00:27:03 --> 00:27:06: the best time to really start to think about how  
00:27:06 --> 00:27:08: to plan for abundance,  
00:27:08 --> 00:27:12: right? Because if you can plan and make good processes  
00:27:12 --> 00:27:16: for a time when resources are challenged when resources  
become  
00:27:16 --> 00:27:17: abundant,  
00:27:17 --> 00:27:19: you will be that much more efficient,  
00:27:19 --> 00:27:22: right? So in some ways you should think as an  
00:27:22 --> 00:27:26: organization that you're always challenged for resources,  
00:27:26 --> 00:27:30: right? And she should drive for developing structures.  
00:27:30 --> 00:27:34: And operational procedures that always stretch every dollar  
that you  
00:27:34 --> 00:27:35: get right.  
00:27:35 --> 00:27:39: So every dollar is just meant to have several functions.  
00:27:39 --> 00:27:42: Use it. Just meant that once you should spend it  
00:27:42 --> 00:27:44: once and accomplished several things.

00:27:44 --> 00:27:47: So if you think about that with limited dollars,  
00:27:47 --> 00:27:50: that means what you have to do have a more  
00:27:50 --> 00:27:51: effective resource.  
00:27:51 --> 00:27:54: So now is a more effective organization.  
00:27:54 --> 00:27:57: So now is the time to really think about how  
00:27:57 --> 00:27:58: I organized,  
00:27:58 --> 00:28:02: right? So I can imagine manage my meager resources well.  
00:28:02 --> 00:28:05: Because when we get more resources would be even better,  
00:28:05 --> 00:28:08: so that's what I think this is.  
00:28:08 --> 00:28:11: Strangely enough, a great time for rethinking.  
00:28:11 --> 00:28:13: Sure, yeah.  
00:28:13 --> 00:28:17: Terry, I know I'm not crazy.  
00:28:17 --> 00:28:18: You're looking at me, Oh my God.  
00:28:21 --> 00:28:23: So you know, we talk about the municipal piece.  
00:28:23 --> 00:28:26: We talked about the introduction of this independent third  
00:28:26 --> 00:28:27: party  
00:28:26 --> 00:28:27: kind of element to it.  
00:28:27 --> 00:28:29: I'm going to come back to you,  
00:28:29 --> 00:28:31: Allison. One of the recommendations in there.  
00:28:31 --> 00:28:33: One of the pieces was around.  
00:28:33 --> 00:28:35: Community engagement was really about.  
00:28:35 --> 00:28:37: How do you hear the voices of the community around  
00:28:37 --> 00:28:39: things like design and so on?  
00:28:39 --> 00:28:40: Can you talk to a little?  
00:28:40 --> 00:28:43: Talk to us a little bit about the recommendations that  
00:28:43 --> 00:28:46: the panel had put in relative to those elements?  
00:28:46 --> 00:28:50: Yeah, I think it goes back to building capacity and  
00:28:50 --> 00:28:55: supporting the people that are already trying to become  
00:28:55 --> 00:28:58: engaged  
00:28:55 --> 00:28:58: with their neighborhood parks so.  
00:28:58 --> 00:29:02: Whether it is through a Conservancy that is leading and  
00:29:02 --> 00:29:03: managing capital projects,  
00:29:03 --> 00:29:06: or whether it's happening through the city,  
00:29:06 --> 00:29:10: I think there has to be a strong correlation on  
00:29:10 --> 00:29:13: every one of those projects and a feedback loop to  
00:29:13 --> 00:29:17: bring in that Community voice so that can be that  
00:29:17 --> 00:29:20: can be things like formalizing a park friends group that  
00:29:21 --> 00:29:24: is made of individual citizens that we are not looking  
00:29:24 --> 00:29:27: at for their fund raising capacity,  
00:29:27 --> 00:29:29: but we're looking at them for their.  
00:29:29 --> 00:29:33: Local knowledge and there.  
00:29:33 --> 00:29:37: Expertise on their own communities in their own stature in  
00:29:37 --> 00:29:39: their communities,

00:29:39 --> 00:29:43: so building those advisory groups around each of those parks

00:29:43 --> 00:29:46: and making sure that they are at the table when

00:29:46 --> 00:29:50: projects and planning is being is starting any can see

00:29:50 --> 00:29:53: alot of time, lot of things we see is there's

00:29:53 --> 00:29:58: not necessarily a rejection from communities on project is itself.

00:29:58 --> 00:30:02: There's a rejection in terms of the prioritization.

00:30:02 --> 00:30:05: So the city is getting the order wrong and it's

00:30:05 --> 00:30:08: not reflecting where the communities need.

00:30:08 --> 00:30:10: It is in that given moment,

00:30:10 --> 00:30:12: so I think that can help a lot.

00:30:12 --> 00:30:17: And I also think developing some internal matrices around project

00:30:17 --> 00:30:22: decision making that includes capturing and recording community preferences as

00:30:22 --> 00:30:26: a formal part of the capital process is really important.

00:30:26 --> 00:30:28: Gotcha.

00:30:28 --> 00:30:31: The your role in housing and development right?

00:30:31 --> 00:30:33: So the issues related to you know as you start

00:30:33 --> 00:30:36: to improve some of the things that we're talking about.

00:30:36 --> 00:30:39: You bring on additional resources to help stand up some

00:30:39 --> 00:30:43: of the maintenance and development through a Conservancy or foundation

00:30:43 --> 00:30:45: or something like that.

00:30:45 --> 00:30:47: What is the role of kind of the mixed use

00:30:47 --> 00:30:50: environment and the residential environment around parking?

00:30:50 --> 00:30:53: What risk do you see as this starts to progress

00:30:53 --> 00:30:54: and how do you prevent that?

00:30:54 --> 00:30:56: Yeah, so before I respond to that,

00:30:56 --> 00:30:59: I do want to just touch back on the really

00:30:59 --> 00:31:01: good conversation that both Carlton analysis made.

00:31:01 --> 00:31:03: I want to make a comment about.

00:31:03 --> 00:31:06: Resources.

00:31:06 --> 00:31:09: Budgets and resources. Our budget is an expression of the

00:31:09 --> 00:31:10: communities values.

00:31:10 --> 00:31:13: That's something that I believe pretty deeply,

00:31:13 --> 00:31:16: and I think that this opportunity Carlton's talking about is

00:31:16 --> 00:31:19: an opportunity to go back and reaffirm the values of

00:31:19 --> 00:31:21: this community and invest first.

00:31:21 --> 00:31:24: What is most important in the second piece of Allison

00:31:24 --> 00:31:26: said is it is not just the voices of folks



00:31:26 --> 00:31:27: in City Hall.

00:31:27 --> 00:31:30: It's not just the voices of people with connections to

00:31:30 --> 00:31:30: donators,

00:31:30 --> 00:31:34: it's getting the community involved in that that decision,

00:31:34 --> 00:31:36: that allocation process, that expression of values.

00:31:36 --> 00:31:39: In the budget, and I think that's really the great

00:31:39 --> 00:31:41: opportunity costs and you're talking about.

00:31:41 --> 00:31:44: Let's change that part of it so that becomes our

00:31:44 --> 00:31:47: budget and not just the parks budget over there.

00:31:47 --> 00:31:49: So I will come down off my soapbox and try

00:31:49 --> 00:31:52: to speak to your your question about about housing.

00:31:52 --> 00:31:54: But yeah, I think there's a great opportunity.

00:31:54 --> 00:31:56: You have all these these beautiful,

00:31:56 --> 00:31:59: potentially beautiful spaces around the city that have just  
been

00:31:59 --> 00:32:02: neglected in terms of the care of the weather.

00:32:02 --> 00:32:05: It's the pocket parks or some of the communities with

00:32:05 --> 00:32:05: squares,

00:32:05 --> 00:32:07: large squares in front of them,

00:32:07 --> 00:32:10: with housing nearby. It's a real opportunity to kind of

00:32:10 --> 00:32:14: take advantage of that green space that that space of

00:32:14 --> 00:32:18: respite that space of recreation and build community around.

00:32:18 --> 00:32:22: That really targeting clustering of mixed housing as well as

00:32:22 --> 00:32:25: other retail activity to create a neighborhood.

00:32:25 --> 00:32:28: And that's really one of the best values you can

00:32:28 --> 00:32:30: see that apart can generate.

00:32:30 --> 00:32:33: I'm thinking about a project that I've.

00:32:33 --> 00:32:35: Had a chance to take a look at in San

00:32:35 --> 00:32:39: Francisco where the finance ear of the projects actually  
enhance

00:32:39 --> 00:32:42: the amount of money they were able to raise for

00:32:42 --> 00:32:45: that development. Because they monetized the parks,

00:32:45 --> 00:32:48: they said the parks increase the property values of  
everything

00:32:48 --> 00:32:51: adjacent to it within a quarter mile by some,

00:32:51 --> 00:32:54: some increment, and so that's really the opportunity.

00:32:54 --> 00:32:57: I think what you mentioned is that the risk with

00:32:57 --> 00:33:00: the downside is that then you have the challenge of

00:33:00 --> 00:33:04: the potential of gentrification or exclusionary development  
that starts to

00:33:04 --> 00:33:06: push people out because. Yes,

00:33:06 --> 00:33:07: the property is more valuable.

00:33:07 --> 00:33:09: Yes, I can charge more for it.

00:33:09 --> 00:33:12: Who does that mean? Can either stay there or move  
00:33:12 --> 00:33:13: into that community.  
00:33:13 --> 00:33:16: So I think you have to be very intentional about  
00:33:16 --> 00:33:18: what you're trying to create in that Community,  
00:33:18 --> 00:33:21: so take advantage of the city owned land there to  
00:33:21 --> 00:33:22: generate place,  
00:33:22 --> 00:33:25: but then work closely with your development community to  
craft  
00:33:25 --> 00:33:26: a neighborhood.  
00:33:26 --> 00:33:29: Again, it aligns with the values of that community,  
00:33:29 --> 00:33:33: which sounds like it wants to be inclusive.  
00:33:33 --> 00:33:37: I think that's really interesting because the other side of  
00:33:37 --> 00:33:40: that decision making around investing in a park and taking  
00:33:40 --> 00:33:43: care of a park in order to see economic development  
00:33:43 --> 00:33:47: is the reverse. The decision not to invest and maintain  
00:33:47 --> 00:33:48: and care for park,  
00:33:48 --> 00:33:51: and we see the opposite cycle in in terms of  
00:33:51 --> 00:33:52: economic development.  
00:33:52 --> 00:33:55: And we see these public spaces become a drag on  
00:33:55 --> 00:33:57: the communities that live around them.  
00:33:57 --> 00:34:01: And so I think it's always important to remember that  
00:34:01 --> 00:34:03: just as much as the positive is a decision.  
00:34:03 --> 00:34:06: The decision not to invest.  
00:34:06 --> 00:34:10: Also impacts the communities in the same in the in  
00:34:10 --> 00:34:11: the opposite direction.  
00:34:11 --> 00:34:14: And the thing I want to add to that is  
00:34:14 --> 00:34:17: that if we think about some of the great parts  
00:34:17 --> 00:34:18: around the world right,  
00:34:18 --> 00:34:21: most of them are activated by higher density living on  
00:34:21 --> 00:34:24: all the edges of the parking right,  
00:34:24 --> 00:34:26: right? It's higher density living,  
00:34:26 --> 00:34:30: there's retail. If you think about downtown Chicago and Grant  
00:34:30 --> 00:34:30: Park,  
00:34:30 --> 00:34:33: and everything just went ahead to Grant Park,  
00:34:33 --> 00:34:36: I can go through parks across the world and you  
00:34:36 --> 00:34:38: think about those great parks,  
00:34:38 --> 00:34:40: right? There's always this robust community,  
00:34:40 --> 00:34:43: right? Some of it just sort of evolved,  
00:34:43 --> 00:34:46: but in many cases, like in Kansas City.  
00:34:46 --> 00:34:49: You have a unique opportunity to plan.  
00:34:49 --> 00:34:51: You know you can plan it by the way,  
00:34:51 --> 00:34:55: and this is a case where land use and planning

00:34:55 --> 00:34:59: can create more equitable communities because you can change zoning

00:35:00 --> 00:35:00: density,

00:35:00 --> 00:35:04: you can make requirements for affordability and you lose and

00:35:05 --> 00:35:08: you can do all of these sort of things that

00:35:08 --> 00:35:11: create a sort of fabric around those parts that the

00:35:11 --> 00:35:15: Boulevard system deliberately trying to destroy.

00:35:15 --> 00:35:18: So this is the sort of opportunity with really.

00:35:18 --> 00:35:22: Good planning when you're thinking equity and planning that you

00:35:22 --> 00:35:25: can do that is well within the realm of possibility.

00:35:25 --> 00:35:27: I think when we were riding around,

00:35:27 --> 00:35:28: we started talking about, oh,

00:35:28 --> 00:35:30: that would be a good site.

00:35:30 --> 00:35:32: Oh, that would be a great part to do that

00:35:32 --> 00:35:34: and we just talked about a hierarchy,

00:35:34 --> 00:35:38: a different locations where we thought there were these huge

00:35:38 --> 00:35:40: opportunities for the City of Kansas City.

00:35:40 --> 00:35:42: I think this specific piece was,

00:35:42 --> 00:35:45: you know, as we're going is the city's going through

00:35:45 --> 00:35:47: this new comprehensive plan.

00:35:47 --> 00:35:49: Make sure that this is part of that conversation and

00:35:50 --> 00:35:50: that was,

00:35:50 --> 00:35:54: I think, a key recommendation that came out of this.

00:35:54 --> 00:35:58: Um? Yeah I wanted.

00:35:58 --> 00:36:00: Trying to get to a lot in a short amount

00:36:00 --> 00:36:00: of time.

00:36:00 --> 00:36:03: I know we spend a few minutes talking about each

00:36:03 --> 00:36:04: one of these.

00:36:04 --> 00:36:07: There was a conversation or there was an element in

00:36:07 --> 00:36:10: this report that talks a little bit about the reallocation

00:36:10 --> 00:36:11: of some space today.

00:36:11 --> 00:36:12: That might be, you know,

00:36:12 --> 00:36:15: that could be used differently and so on,

00:36:15 --> 00:36:17: so I don't know which one of you my my.

00:36:17 --> 00:36:19: My guess is all three of you have a take

00:36:19 --> 00:36:21: on some of the projects or some of the parks

00:36:21 --> 00:36:24: or some of the land that you saw that might

00:36:24 --> 00:36:27: have different uses or or can be reimaged if you

00:36:27 --> 00:36:27: will.

00:36:27 --> 00:36:30: Well, I'll start 1st and I think one of my

00:36:30 --> 00:36:33: one of the biggest takeaway 'cause I think this was

00:36:33 --> 00:36:36: probably my second trip to Kansas City in my life  
00:36:36 --> 00:36:40: even from the Midwest. But just the vastness of the  
00:36:40 --> 00:36:40: city,  
00:36:40 --> 00:36:43: right? It is a it's a very very big space.  
00:36:43 --> 00:36:45: A lot of space and so there was a lot  
00:36:45 --> 00:36:47: of both potential there,  
00:36:47 --> 00:36:50: but the patterns as a city growth grew through the  
00:36:50 --> 00:36:53: 60s and 70s was more suburban 'cause that's kind of  
00:36:53 --> 00:36:56: where our country was and I think that one of  
00:36:56 --> 00:36:59: the things we saw that the dispersion of the.  
00:36:59 --> 00:37:03: Distance between many of the amenities and the anchor  
amenities  
00:37:03 --> 00:37:04: throughout the city.  
00:37:04 --> 00:37:06: Probably made May Terry's job,  
00:37:06 --> 00:37:08: frankly just more difficult, right?  
00:37:08 --> 00:37:10: You're? You're carrying these assets.  
00:37:10 --> 00:37:14: These facilities that are expensive and there may be  
competition  
00:37:14 --> 00:37:16: in the market like we talked.  
00:37:16 --> 00:37:18: I'll just be fairly direct.  
00:37:18 --> 00:37:21: We talked a lot about the different golf courses that  
00:37:21 --> 00:37:23: the city is responsible for,  
00:37:23 --> 00:37:26: and whether as lots of other cities are doing it.  
00:37:26 --> 00:37:29: Looking at public Private partnership models.  
00:37:29 --> 00:37:32: So basically unload some of the the one distraction from  
00:37:32 --> 00:37:32: mission,  
00:37:32 --> 00:37:36: 'cause you could argue that's a distraction from the core  
00:37:36 --> 00:37:36: mission.  
00:37:36 --> 00:37:39: The financial risk associated with that operation,  
00:37:39 --> 00:37:41: and then there is a little bit of a equity  
00:37:41 --> 00:37:44: theme in there as well as kind of where are  
00:37:44 --> 00:37:47: you spending your first dollar and how are you focusing  
00:37:47 --> 00:37:49: on making sure that the values again,  
00:37:49 --> 00:37:50: I'll go back to the values,  
00:37:50 --> 00:37:54: the values of the community are being represented and  
amplified  
00:37:54 --> 00:37:56: by that program so.  
00:37:56 --> 00:37:59: I think that was definitely one of the spaces.  
00:37:59 --> 00:38:02: Was the notion of the golf courses and kind of  
00:38:02 --> 00:38:06: rethinking where and how the Park City parks invests its  
00:38:06 --> 00:38:09: resources to kind of create the best benefit across the  
00:38:09 --> 00:38:11: entire portfolio of assets.  
00:38:15 --> 00:38:17: Anybody else have anything to add?

00:38:17 --> 00:38:20: We've got some questions that are piling up over here  
00:38:20 --> 00:38:22: so would love to get to Q&A.  
00:38:22 --> 00:38:24: Let me go ahead and tackle the first one here  
00:38:24 --> 00:38:26: and I'll just throw this out to the Group A  
00:38:26 --> 00:38:29: couple of you want to take a run at these  
00:38:29 --> 00:38:32: with walking slash running tracks being a huge draw for  
00:38:32 --> 00:38:33: parks like Loose Park.  
00:38:33 --> 00:38:36: Are there plans being considered in other parks that are  
00:38:36 --> 00:38:38: basically UN walkable today?  
00:38:38 --> 00:38:39: I eat Blue Valley park,  
00:38:39 --> 00:38:41: etc.  
00:38:41 --> 00:38:43: Um, I'll take a first stab at that.  
00:38:43 --> 00:38:48: Yes, there are plans, and you know we've been hooked  
00:38:48 --> 00:38:52: into this kind of citywide trail system.  
00:38:52 --> 00:38:56: Of connecting basically the whole city,  
00:38:56 --> 00:39:00: so think of it as the Interstate system through a  
00:39:00 --> 00:39:01: trail system,  
00:39:01 --> 00:39:05: and that's a regional plan and that doesn't really good  
00:39:05 --> 00:39:08: job of connectivity and provides.  
00:39:08 --> 00:39:13: Transportation alternatives, it connects different  
neighborhoods.  
00:39:13 --> 00:39:18: What we're finding, and this is a great example of  
00:39:18 --> 00:39:19: it is.  
00:39:19 --> 00:39:23: Sometimes people don't necessarily want to get from point A  
00:39:23 --> 00:39:23: to point B,  
00:39:23 --> 00:39:26: but they want to get to point A and have  
00:39:26 --> 00:39:28: a very good experience.  
00:39:28 --> 00:39:30: So when the pandemic first started,  
00:39:30 --> 00:39:33: we actually closed off some park roads.  
00:39:33 --> 00:39:36: We have an awful lot of asphalt in our parks,  
00:39:36 --> 00:39:39: park rides, and we closed off some of those in  
00:39:39 --> 00:39:43: hopes that they would become more attractive for spaces  
together.  
00:39:43 --> 00:39:46: Spaces to exercise cause quite honestly,  
00:39:46 --> 00:39:48: our trails were almost overflowing well.  
00:39:48 --> 00:39:52: Were overflying Ann and that worked really well.  
00:39:52 --> 00:39:56: Blue Valley was one of those but I think what  
00:39:56 --> 00:40:00: it told us is we can't have enough opportunity for  
00:40:00 --> 00:40:04: people to get out and use that as their social  
00:40:04 --> 00:40:08: space to to connect and meet their neighbors.  
00:40:08 --> 00:40:12: We still have a ton of communities in Kansas City  
00:40:12 --> 00:40:17: that don't have sidewalks and some communities that have  
sidewalks

00:40:17 --> 00:40:19: that aren't walkable.

00:40:19 --> 00:40:22: Um, so we have kind of shifted to make sure

00:40:23 --> 00:40:26: even if the trail is only a half a mile

00:40:26 --> 00:40:26: long,

00:40:26 --> 00:40:30: it it serves the purpose of a program that everyone

00:40:30 --> 00:40:34: can participate in and we seem to be getting a

00:40:34 --> 00:40:38: very high bang for our Buck where we have done

00:40:38 --> 00:40:43: that. You know what wonder observations we made there is

00:40:43 --> 00:40:47: that a lot of Kansas City's parks were sort of.

00:40:47 --> 00:40:53: Early 20th century thinking about parks is quiet meditative spaces

00:40:53 --> 00:40:57: that didn't really include a whole lot of active.

00:40:57 --> 00:41:02: You know activities right. And then suddenly we have a

00:41:02 --> 00:41:04: planet for young people.

00:41:04 --> 00:41:07: And that's young adults, young people,

00:41:07 --> 00:41:08: etc. Want to be very active.

00:41:08 --> 00:41:11: They want to be physically active,

00:41:11 --> 00:41:14: right? And in some of the parts parks it's illegal

00:41:14 --> 00:41:16: to be active in the parts,

00:41:16 --> 00:41:19: right? And so if you want to really think about

00:41:19 --> 00:41:22: as you start to rethink how a parks use,

00:41:22 --> 00:41:25: I think you really have to think about how to

00:41:25 --> 00:41:29: parks and work today for the population in Kansas City,

00:41:29 --> 00:41:33: that's there now. And the notion that Kansas City wants

00:41:33 --> 00:41:35: to attract more people.

00:41:35 --> 00:41:39: And grow up. That you really have to think about

00:41:39 --> 00:41:44: the parks is something that really would be very attractive

00:41:44 --> 00:41:46: for some people.

00:41:46 --> 00:41:47: A lot of young people,

00:41:47 --> 00:41:51: right? If they were parks and rec activated in the

00:41:51 --> 00:41:53: ways that people live now right?

00:41:53 --> 00:41:56: And so again, that's a huge opportunity,

00:41:56 --> 00:41:59: right? And it implies a different cost,

00:41:59 --> 00:42:05: probably less for infrastructure costs then maintaining big passive method

00:42:05 --> 00:42:06: of parks,

00:42:06 --> 00:42:09: right? And so again, it gets back to that.

00:42:09 --> 00:42:12: Point that doing this law is an opportunity to rethink

00:42:12 --> 00:42:13: it right?

00:42:13 --> 00:42:16: And I think what Terry spoke of is one of

00:42:16 --> 00:42:20: the things that cities all over during this pandemic have

00:42:20 --> 00:42:23: discovered when they close streets right?

00:42:23 --> 00:42:27: The street certainly again turned into the public comments,  
00:42:27 --> 00:42:30: right? Because you were not in danger of being run  
00:42:30 --> 00:42:32: over by a delivery truck,  
00:42:32 --> 00:42:35: right? And so when these streets will close off,  
00:42:35 --> 00:42:39: it gives you an indication about what people long for,  
00:42:39 --> 00:42:42: right? They long for that public comments where they can  
00:42:43 --> 00:42:46: meet their neighbors and where they can also be active,  
00:42:46 --> 00:42:49: so it's a chance right now to really start to  
00:42:49 --> 00:42:53: rethink about what does that mean for Kansas City and  
00:42:53 --> 00:42:55: the way you manage your parks,  
00:42:55 --> 00:42:59: I think there's another piece to trails that gets in  
00:42:59 --> 00:43:02: recreation that gets right at the heart of equity.  
00:43:02 --> 00:43:04: Is the issue of health,  
00:43:04 --> 00:43:07: so we saw during the pandemic gyms are closed and  
00:43:07 --> 00:43:10: now the entire city is forced to use the public  
00:43:10 --> 00:43:11: space.  
00:43:11 --> 00:43:14: For the first time, in order to stay healthy and  
00:43:14 --> 00:43:18: suddenly the same folks who are able to spend three  
00:43:18 --> 00:43:22: \$400 a month on private trainers are appreciating what's  
00:43:22 --> 00:43:25: been  
00:43:25 --> 00:43:28: out in their front door the whole time.  
00:43:28 --> 00:43:32: And you know, in this environment of fiscal scarcity,  
00:43:32 --> 00:43:33: it's important to realize that parks are piece of health  
00:43:33 --> 00:43:37: infrastructure,  
00:43:37 --> 00:43:42: just away that Kansas City is focused on how forward  
00:43:42 --> 00:43:43: those investments in the park should be considered an  
00:43:43 --> 00:43:46: investment  
00:43:46 --> 00:43:50: in health infrastructure.  
00:43:50 --> 00:43:52: A few years ago, the NIH came out with a  
00:43:52 --> 00:43:55: study and it said for every \$100 per capita,  
00:43:55 --> 00:43:58: a city invests in a park,  
00:43:58 --> 00:44:00: they see a decrease in mortality.  
00:44:00 --> 00:44:03: A three to four humans per 100,000.  
00:44:03 --> 00:44:07: So think about Kansas City.  
00:44:07 --> 00:44:08: Think about the health care costs that are a burden  
00:44:08 --> 00:44:11: on the entire city on its productivity on its community  
00:44:11 --> 00:44:14: life.  
00:44:14 --> 00:44:18: An imagine the way that parks can be seen as  
00:44:18 --> 00:44:21: public health infrastructure that everyone can access,  
00:44:21 --> 00:44:25: and I think that's really one of the important things  
00:44:25 --> 00:44:28: that we learned during the pandemic,  
00:44:28 --> 00:44:29: and that we cannot afford to forget.  
00:44:29 --> 00:44:30: Yeah, I might add in Kansas City and I don't

00:44:28 --> 00:44:31: think we're unique to other large cities.

00:44:31 --> 00:44:35: We have a life expectancy difference of about 15 years

00:44:35 --> 00:44:39: between some of our lowest life expectancy areas and our

00:44:39 --> 00:44:40: highest.

00:44:40 --> 00:44:43: And we set out a couple of years ago to

00:44:43 --> 00:44:46: focus on those areas and we consider it the life

00:44:46 --> 00:44:51: X area and so working with the Community getting engaged

00:44:51 --> 00:44:53: on how we can use these spaces.

00:44:53 --> 00:44:56: You know, at first we were just like.

00:44:56 --> 00:45:00: Everyone should get a free Community Center pass and then

00:45:00 --> 00:45:03: we found out it was way way deeper than that.

00:45:03 --> 00:45:06: So when we start looking at the quality of the

00:45:06 --> 00:45:08: parks in the life exit codes,

00:45:08 --> 00:45:12: that definitely provides us a road map for where some

00:45:12 --> 00:45:15: of those trails can be added where some of the

00:45:16 --> 00:45:18: equipment needs to be updated.

00:45:18 --> 00:45:22: And particularly where we need to identify some partners

00:45:22 --> 00:45:24: around

00:45:24 --> 00:45:28: programming and helping us.

00:45:28 --> 00:45:31: Whether that's a farmers market or whether that is.

00:45:31 --> 00:45:36: An opportunity for arts and culture.

00:45:36 --> 00:45:38: In some of these spaces where we know life expectancy

00:45:38 --> 00:45:41: is so much so much shorter.

00:45:41 --> 00:45:44: So we talk about closing off streets.

00:45:44 --> 00:45:44: We talk about the idea of having you know healthy

00:45:44 --> 00:45:48: spaces.

00:45:48 --> 00:45:48: Did the boulevards play into any other recommendations in

00:45:48 --> 00:45:51: your

00:45:48 --> 00:45:51: reports,

00:45:51 --> 00:45:52: or was the focus really on the part part of

00:45:57 --> 00:45:58: this piece?

00:46:03 --> 00:46:05: Continue on mute.

00:46:05 --> 00:46:09: Probably give me a little better now.

00:46:09 --> 00:46:10: There you go. I'm sure whatever you were saying was

00:46:10 --> 00:46:11: brilliant,

00:46:11 --> 00:46:15: right? So let me tell you,

00:46:15 --> 00:46:19: yeah, we did talk about the boulevards and we we

00:46:19 --> 00:46:22: talked about the boulevards as one of the sort of

00:46:22 --> 00:46:27: few places where you did have sidewalks and a lot

00:46:27 --> 00:46:32: of Kansas City, right? And then we thought that if

00:46:32 --> 00:46:36: they were more fully activated with the sidewalks and

00:46:32 --> 00:46:36: bicycles.

00:46:32 --> 00:46:36: Why is and it was really worked at to make



00:46:36 --> 00:46:40: them connect to parks in the communities that were vibrant  
00:46:40 --> 00:46:44: so that there was a reason for people to transverse  
00:46:44 --> 00:46:49: these spaces, right? Right now one of the challenges with  
00:46:49 --> 00:46:53: the boulevards is they're demarcations where it says you are  
00:46:54 --> 00:46:55: welcome and you're not.  
00:46:55 --> 00:46:58: I I grew up in the South,  
00:46:58 --> 00:47:02: right Ann? There were the railroad tracks that said that  
00:47:02 --> 00:47:05: you know this side of the tracks.  
00:47:05 --> 00:47:07: You're welcome. That side of the track.  
00:47:07 --> 00:47:11: You are right. Well, the boulevards do that same thing,  
00:47:11 --> 00:47:14: right? And so to change that is going to take  
00:47:14 --> 00:47:16: some intentional programming right?  
00:47:16 --> 00:47:20: Given reeplee reasons to go ride their bike down that  
00:47:20 --> 00:47:22: Blvd to another part of town,  
00:47:22 --> 00:47:26: or walk or whatever you have the physical infrastructure,  
00:47:26 --> 00:47:29: right? But there is not been an investment in the  
00:47:29 --> 00:47:30: social capital.  
00:47:30 --> 00:47:34: To create value so it's gotta be investment in social  
00:47:34 --> 00:47:36: capital and that can be pop up.  
00:47:36 --> 00:47:40: Events that can be any number of things right?  
00:47:40 --> 00:47:43: But pop up events that make people that might not  
00:47:43 --> 00:47:47: be from that particular community want to use that Blvd  
00:47:47 --> 00:47:50: by foot by bicycle by whatever to get there.  
00:47:50 --> 00:47:54: And that's how you start changing the sort of social  
00:47:54 --> 00:47:58: understanding about the capacity of the Boulevard so that as  
00:47:58 --> 00:47:59: opposed to walls,  
00:47:59 --> 00:48:03: their connectors. Yeah, Carlton, I just.  
00:48:03 --> 00:48:05: I mean, I'm thinking in my head it's you want  
00:48:05 --> 00:48:07: to make it a place people want to be rather  
00:48:08 --> 00:48:10: than go through right there right now.  
00:48:10 --> 00:48:12: It's just a place you go through on your way  
00:48:12 --> 00:48:13: where we go right?  
00:48:13 --> 00:48:15: You need to create reason to be.  
00:48:15 --> 00:48:18: Yeah if it's there so whatever you know.  
00:48:18 --> 00:48:23: Bar traffic there for awhile and have special events there.  
00:48:23 --> 00:48:26: You know that attract everyone is.  
00:48:26 --> 00:48:29: Is and I think back to one of the things  
00:48:29 --> 00:48:33: that that Allison talked about the power of conservancies,  
00:48:33 --> 00:48:37: right? The power of conservancies is that they can create  
00:48:37 --> 00:48:38: those events,  
00:48:38 --> 00:48:42: right? They can develop the capacity to do that.  
00:48:42 --> 00:48:46: They can bring in partners to do that.

00:48:46 --> 00:48:49: And so. It it there all these little pieces of  
00:48:49 --> 00:48:53: the puzzle that are not unconnected right?  
00:48:53 --> 00:48:55: And connecting them you finally,  
00:48:55 --> 00:48:58: I think, get to the sort of answers that Terry  
00:48:58 --> 00:48:59: and not just Terry,  
00:48:59 --> 00:49:03: but the city of Kansas City is looking for to  
00:49:03 --> 00:49:05: make this work better.  
00:49:05 --> 00:49:07: So I want to go to another question on here.  
00:49:07 --> 00:49:09: This is a great conversation,  
00:49:09 --> 00:49:12: but there's one here. The questions I'd like to hear  
00:49:12 --> 00:49:15: the panel address the intersection of managing natural  
resources and  
00:49:15 --> 00:49:16: equity.  
00:49:16 --> 00:49:20: Many Disinvested communities Baron, unbalanced amount of  
environmental challenges like  
00:49:20 --> 00:49:21: flooding,  
00:49:21 --> 00:49:24: heat islands, pollution parks, owns a majority of land.  
00:49:24 --> 00:49:27: How are they addressing social justice to the and protecting  
00:49:27 --> 00:49:29: nature and making nature accessible?  
00:49:29 --> 00:49:33: Did the panel see this relationship and where their  
conversations  
00:49:33 --> 00:49:35: related to this issue?  
00:49:35 --> 00:49:37: I'm happy to talk about.  
00:49:37 --> 00:49:41: I don't think we particularly solve that issue.  
00:49:41 --> 00:49:44: Rise to the top of our conversation.  
00:49:44 --> 00:49:48: Some of the natural lands and ecosystem services,  
00:49:48 --> 00:49:52: but the questioner brings up an issue that is at  
00:49:52 --> 00:49:57: the forefront of managing large urban park systems all over  
00:49:57 --> 00:49:58: the country.  
00:49:58 --> 00:50:04: And quite honestly, what the entire conservation movement  
is working  
00:50:04 --> 00:50:06: through right now.  
00:50:06 --> 00:50:08: Is the history of.  
00:50:10 --> 00:50:16: Natural, an open spaces being unwelcome to individuals and  
people  
00:50:16 --> 00:50:17: of color,  
00:50:17 --> 00:50:20: and that's just the history in the parks.  
00:50:20 --> 00:50:24: It's also the history.  
00:50:24 --> 00:50:27: In big, wide open spaces that we think of in  
00:50:27 --> 00:50:29: our National Park system.  
00:50:29 --> 00:50:33: One of the challenges that we have been managing through  
and Philadelphia and have been learning from our  
00:50:33 --> 00:50:37: community members

00:50:37 --> 00:50:41: who are out there fishing out there birding is inviting  
00:50:41 --> 00:50:45: them as experts in their own natural spaces in their  
00:50:45 --> 00:50:49: own communities to become program leaders and to bring  
their  
00:50:49 --> 00:50:53: neighbors to formally bring their neighbors into these spaces.  
00:50:53 --> 00:50:57: How do we provide that guy who already knows every  
00:50:57 --> 00:51:00: bird in the vacant lot behind his house?  
00:51:00 --> 00:51:03: How do we provide him with the resources?  
00:51:03 --> 00:51:06: And connect him with other neighbors in order to do  
00:51:06 --> 00:51:09: what he loves to do and does best so.  
00:51:09 --> 00:51:12: We're trying to be very careful in taking a top  
00:51:12 --> 00:51:14: down approach to this,  
00:51:14 --> 00:51:18: but finding ways that we can lift up individuals that  
00:51:18 --> 00:51:22: are that are already doing this work in their communities  
00:51:22 --> 00:51:24: and then also as an organization,  
00:51:24 --> 00:51:28: you cannot estimate the value of data.  
00:51:28 --> 00:51:31: In understanding where to place your investments,  
00:51:31 --> 00:51:35: so I talked before a little bit about decision making  
00:51:35 --> 00:51:39: and prioritization and having a matrix and making sure that  
00:51:39 --> 00:51:43: capturing community preferences in that it's equally as  
important to  
00:51:43 --> 00:51:47: understand things like the urban heat island understand  
flooding,  
00:51:47 --> 00:51:52: understand where the habitat, habitat corridors are and  
making sure  
00:51:52 --> 00:51:56: that the full value of the natural systems are captured  
00:51:56 --> 00:51:58: in the decision-making about projects.  
00:51:58 --> 00:52:02: But to Carlton's point earlier about inviting people into the  
00:52:02 --> 00:52:03: space.  
00:52:03 --> 00:52:08: It will take a community LED effort to invite folks  
00:52:08 --> 00:52:14: into these natural spaces that have traditionally been  
unmaintained,  
00:52:14 --> 00:52:18: unmanaged, and perceived as.  
00:52:18 --> 00:52:23: Light by by their neighbors you know overgrown lot of  
00:52:23 --> 00:52:26: big messy looking Woodland,  
00:52:26 --> 00:52:31: Meadow that isn't managed to maintain those sites.  
00:52:31 --> 00:52:33: Represent the light to a lot of people or they  
00:52:33 --> 00:52:34: represent danger,  
00:52:34 --> 00:52:36: and so maintaining and managing,  
00:52:36 --> 00:52:39: signing, and programming those spaces is going to be really,  
00:52:39 --> 00:52:41: really important.  
00:52:41 --> 00:52:46: To start to reconcile the gap between environmental justice  
and

00:52:46 --> 00:52:47: social justice.

00:52:47 --> 00:52:50: Kevin thing that we notice that was kinda sorta related

00:52:51 --> 00:52:52: to your question.

00:52:52 --> 00:52:55: It was one of the golf courses that was perceived

00:52:55 --> 00:52:58: to be the African American Golf Course.

00:52:58 --> 00:53:02: That was flooded a third of the year because it's

00:53:02 --> 00:53:06: basically almost naturally occur in floodplain.

00:53:06 --> 00:53:10: To pick the override overflow from an whoever we talked

00:53:10 --> 00:53:14: to them responsible for maintaining golf course.

00:53:14 --> 00:53:17: It says, yeah, we spent a lot of money on

00:53:17 --> 00:53:19: maintaining this golf course,

00:53:19 --> 00:53:21: right? And it's out of service.

00:53:21 --> 00:53:25: Part of the year. And so the question that sort

00:53:25 --> 00:53:28: of distros to our minds there is like.

00:53:28 --> 00:53:32: Really, how many rounds of golf a plate in Kansas

00:53:32 --> 00:53:32: City,

00:53:32 --> 00:53:36: right? And do you need all of those golf courses

00:53:36 --> 00:53:39: for the number of rounds that are played right?

00:53:39 --> 00:53:40: And so if you don't,

00:53:40 --> 00:53:44: it's an opportunity to think about how else make that

00:53:44 --> 00:53:45: space be,

00:53:45 --> 00:53:48: right? Maybe some of it is re planning and then

00:53:48 --> 00:53:52: using it as a naturally occurring wetland right?

00:53:52 --> 00:53:54: And use it as an education sort of thing,

00:53:54 --> 00:53:57: right? And so I think about Little Rock AR,

00:53:57 --> 00:54:00: right? And just downtown Little Rock.

00:54:00 --> 00:54:04: There's this amazing swamp wetland right that is the favorite

00:54:05 --> 00:54:08: place for people downtown to go walking in,

00:54:08 --> 00:54:10: because what they did is they took it.

00:54:10 --> 00:54:14: They restored it with all native and or adaptive plants

00:54:14 --> 00:54:15: right?

00:54:15 --> 00:54:18: And so now is a wonderful space and it's and

00:54:18 --> 00:54:21: it was a place that flooded right,

00:54:21 --> 00:54:24: but what they did is they rethought that as this

00:54:24 --> 00:54:28: place that Fles why not making an amenity to the

00:54:28 --> 00:54:29: community right?

00:54:29 --> 00:54:31: And so starting to thinking.

00:54:31 --> 00:54:34: Creatively, how one can work with nature.

00:54:34 --> 00:54:37: You know to create things that attracted to people right?

00:54:37 --> 00:54:41: As opposed to a golf course because more to maintain

00:54:41 --> 00:54:43: because it's flooded frequently.

00:54:43 --> 00:54:46: So just thinking a little bit out of the box

00:54:46 --> 00:54:49: we think were things I don't know if it really  
00:54:49 --> 00:54:51: showed up in the report.  
00:54:51 --> 00:54:54: I'm not, but I do remember we talked about that  
00:54:54 --> 00:54:56: thinking makeovers.  
00:54:56 --> 00:54:59: The one I'm echo wasn't wonder really pointed it out  
00:54:59 --> 00:55:00: on my go,  
00:55:00 --> 00:55:02: alright?  
00:55:02 --> 00:55:03: And there was like, if I recall,  
00:55:03 --> 00:55:07: there was like hundreds of millions of dollars allocated to  
00:55:07 --> 00:55:09: a combined sewer overflow project,  
00:55:09 --> 00:55:12: which if you just take decimal points off of that  
00:55:12 --> 00:55:13: project percentage,  
00:55:13 --> 00:55:16: you could redirect your so small portion of that budget  
00:55:16 --> 00:55:21: to start building and maintaining amenities that people will  
actually  
00:55:21 --> 00:55:23: use and not just Gray infrastructure.  
00:55:23 --> 00:55:26: Huge opportunity and the resources party in the party in  
00:55:26 --> 00:55:27: the budget right?  
00:55:27 --> 00:55:30: Yeah, just maybe record with the little bit that didn't  
00:55:30 --> 00:55:33: show up in the report because I know we talked  
00:55:33 --> 00:55:33: about that.  
00:55:33 --> 00:55:36: I will say there are a lot of recommendations in  
00:55:36 --> 00:55:38: the report and it's good work.  
00:55:38 --> 00:55:40: And I know we've got a few minutes left and  
00:55:40 --> 00:55:41: so there's two things,  
00:55:41 --> 00:55:43: one.  
00:55:43 --> 00:55:46: The reimagining of the space is the reuse.  
00:55:46 --> 00:55:51: I think, the reallocation of maintenance to the maybe right  
00:55:51 --> 00:55:56: buckets will call it the addition of a Conservancy or  
00:55:56 --> 00:55:56: another.  
00:55:56 --> 00:55:59: Fund raising and organizational arm.  
00:55:59 --> 00:56:03: I think those are all recommendations around this.  
00:56:03 --> 00:56:07: Larger. How do we create a sustainable economic model  
around  
00:56:07 --> 00:56:08: the parks?  
00:56:08 --> 00:56:11: Sales tax is a big percentage of kind of the  
00:56:11 --> 00:56:15: revenue related to parks and maintenance I believe and so  
00:56:15 --> 00:56:15: on.  
00:56:15 --> 00:56:19: So what are other revenue streams that were even  
contemplated?  
00:56:19 --> 00:56:22: Recommended? How do you think about?  
00:56:22 --> 00:56:25: You know there was a recommendation of additional  
resources.

00:56:25 --> 00:56:27: That's a hot topic, you know?

00:56:27 --> 00:56:30: I mean, additional resources. Everybody wants additional resources.

00:56:30 --> 00:56:32: Seems we solve every problem we have.

00:56:32 --> 00:56:36: What are other ways that the panel recommended we could

00:56:36 --> 00:56:39: address kind of sustainability from an economically said,

00:56:39 --> 00:56:41: you have to grow the pie.

00:56:41 --> 00:56:43: Emeka just gave a great option.

00:56:43 --> 00:56:47: Move some of the allocation of Gray hard infrastructure towards

00:56:47 --> 00:56:49: green infrastructure.

00:56:49 --> 00:56:52: We see this happening all over the country because the

00:56:52 --> 00:56:56: Co benefits of green infrastructure and the long term maintenance

00:56:56 --> 00:57:00: of green infrastructure is so much so much better than

00:57:00 --> 00:57:02: a pipe and a tank hidden underground so.

00:57:02 --> 00:57:05: And a lot of lot of times the money is

00:57:05 --> 00:57:06: already there,

00:57:06 --> 00:57:09: but I think the role of a Conservancy or foundation

00:57:10 --> 00:57:12: is to begin to figure out how do you grow

00:57:12 --> 00:57:13: the pie?

00:57:13 --> 00:57:16: How do you begin to tap into corporate dollars?

00:57:16 --> 00:57:19: How do you begin to tap into high net worth

00:57:19 --> 00:57:20: individuals?

00:57:20 --> 00:57:23: How do you begin to tap into the work that

00:57:23 --> 00:57:26: foundations are already doing in your city,

00:57:26 --> 00:57:30: but that fund raising that development program takes a theory

00:57:30 --> 00:57:33: of change and a strategy of change.

00:57:33 --> 00:57:37: That has to come on a multi decade horizon that

00:57:37 --> 00:57:39: sits outside the election cycle.

00:57:39 --> 00:57:44: So This is why you need an organization with their

00:57:44 --> 00:57:47: eye and their staff on that 10, 15, 20 year

00:57:47 --> 00:57:48: vision.

00:57:48 --> 00:57:53: And that's able to advocate for that vision and develop.

00:57:53 --> 00:57:57: Trust and reputation is an honest broker because,

00:57:57 --> 00:58:00: like Kansas City, is not unique but no one wants

00:58:00 --> 00:58:04: to give their hard earned dollars to the General Fund.

00:58:04 --> 00:58:07: It's just a fact, no matter how well managed.

00:58:07 --> 00:58:10: So that's that's one of the ways I think you

00:58:10 --> 00:58:12: can grow the pie.

00:58:12 --> 00:58:15: Great, I think that when we talked about growing the

00:58:15 --> 00:58:16: pie as I recall,

00:58:16 --> 00:58:20: it was kind of like a three legged stool approach  
00:58:20 --> 00:58:22: and I think what Allison does.  
00:58:22 --> 00:58:26: Allison just spoke out with one of those things Conservancy.  
00:58:26 --> 00:58:29: Coml think in Emeka just spoke of another one.  
00:58:29 --> 00:58:33: This re allocating resources that are already there so that  
00:58:33 --> 00:58:38: they are managed more efficiently which essentially creates  
more resources  
00:58:38 --> 00:58:41: and the third one was looking at at zoning density  
00:58:41 --> 00:58:46: around the parks and. Thinking about actually selling  
privatizing some  
00:58:46 --> 00:58:48: of the parts right?  
00:58:48 --> 00:58:52: Some portions of the parts thinking about changing the  
zoning  
00:58:52 --> 00:58:56: decety rate and let developers essentially pay you fees to  
00:58:56 --> 00:58:57: develop around the park,  
00:58:57 --> 00:59:01: right? And so you, you do these things overtime.  
00:59:01 --> 00:59:04: You have to have a sort of master strategy to  
00:59:04 --> 00:59:05: do them right?  
00:59:05 --> 00:59:08: But as you take this three legged stool,  
00:59:08 --> 00:59:10: different ways of getting resources,  
00:59:10 --> 00:59:14: right? You're doing it without raising the tax base.  
00:59:14 --> 00:59:17: Yeah, yeah, because when you say we're going to raise  
00:59:18 --> 00:59:19: taxes to do this.  
00:59:19 --> 00:59:22: In less Kansas City is different from every other city  
00:59:22 --> 00:59:25: on the planet you're going to get run out of  
00:59:25 --> 00:59:26: town on a rail,  
00:59:26 --> 00:59:28: so.  
00:59:28 --> 00:59:31: Well, yeah no. I appreciate that's gonna have to be  
00:59:31 --> 00:59:32: a wrap on this conversation.  
00:59:32 --> 00:59:35: We didn't do the 45 minutes we went to an  
00:59:35 --> 00:59:38: hour and I knew that I wouldn't be enough time  
00:59:38 --> 00:59:39: for this conversation.  
00:59:39 --> 00:59:42: So for the audience, thank you for attending.  
00:59:42 --> 00:59:45: Don't forget these conversations are recorded.  
00:59:45 --> 00:59:47: You can go to [kansascity.uli.org](http://kansascity.uli.org).  
00:59:47 --> 00:59:50: You can go to the National ULI website under their  
00:59:50 --> 00:59:53: knowledge Finder you can go to the Kansas City Parks  
00:59:53 --> 00:59:55: and org Casey parks.org website.  
00:59:55 --> 00:59:57: You can find this report and get a view of  
00:59:57 --> 00:59:58: it as well.  
00:59:58 --> 01:00:01: These sessions are recorded. Be on the lookout for a  
01:00:01 --> 01:00:02: follow up email.  
01:00:02 --> 01:00:04: We have a lot of questions we didn't get too,

01:00:04 --> 01:00:06: but we're going to be able to follow up for  
01:00:06 --> 01:00:07: a couple weeks on this conversation.  
01:00:07 --> 01:00:09: There's a lot of areas that we can go deep  
01:00:09 --> 01:00:10: on,  
01:00:10 --> 01:00:12: which is a quick reminder that on August 6 we're  
01:00:12 --> 01:00:13: actually going to talk about,  
01:00:13 --> 01:00:15: you know what does equity in parks mean?  
01:00:15 --> 01:00:17: We're going to go little deeper in terms of what  
01:00:17 --> 01:00:19: does equity in park stand for?  
01:00:19 --> 01:00:20: What does it mean to the community?  
01:00:20 --> 01:00:22: So come back and share your lunch with this on  
01:00:22 --> 01:00:23: Thursday,  
01:00:23 --> 01:00:24: August 6 and will be doing that.  
01:00:24 --> 01:00:27: Also, don't forget quick reminder to join us for Coffee  
01:00:27 --> 01:00:28: Connect tomorrow at 8:30.  
01:00:28 --> 01:00:31: We're going to hear from Catherine Carter from KCK Waco.  
01:00:31 --> 01:00:34: Radio from Tim McKeon in Olathe and we're going from  
01:00:34 --> 01:00:37: McDowell at least summit and hear their respective cities  
priorities,  
01:00:37 --> 01:00:39: so join us for coffee connect tomorrow.  
01:00:39 --> 01:00:42: There's information on the ULI website and hey.  
01:00:42 --> 01:00:44: Thank you Terry. Thank you for your leadership.  
01:00:44 --> 01:00:47: Thank you for doing this into our our panelists this  
01:00:47 --> 01:00:47: week.  
01:00:47 --> 01:00:50: Carlton Allison and Mika. Thank you not only for coming  
01:00:50 --> 01:00:53: to Kansas City sharing your perspectives with us.  
01:00:53 --> 01:00:55: We really appreciate that so thank you.  
01:00:55 --> 01:00:57: All for your time and most of all.  
01:00:57 --> 01:01:00: Thank you for all of you who joined us this  
01:01:00 --> 01:01:02: weekend will see you all next time.  
01:01:02 --> 01:01:04: Thank you very much.

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