# Health Equity in the Built Environment: Charles Brown

## The Health Equity and Community Design Technical Assistance Pilot

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NNPHI Session I Thursday, April 11, 2024

1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. eastern time

## Background and Purpose

Address COVID-19 health disparities among populations that are at high-risk and underserved, including racial and ethnic minority populations and rural communities

Equitable Cities LLC partnered with Vermont Departments of Health and Housing and Community Development to pilot a Health Equity and Community Design Technical Assistance Pilot

## Targets

* Technical Assistance
  + 20 to 35 Vermont communities, towns, villages
  + No direct funding attached
  + Up to 80 hours in support from national and international subject matter experts (eg., community designers, landscape architects, housing & economic development, marketing & communication, language translators)
* Health Equity Ambassadors
  + Up to 35 ambassadors
  + Rate of $25/hour (up to 60 hours)
  + Professional development and support

## TA Pilot at a Glance

* Received nearly 50 requests for TA
  + Provided direct TA to 20 communities
  + Conducted 20 Organizational Assessments
  + Conducted 11 Community Health Equity Assessments
* Received 28 Ambassador applications
  + Provided training for 12 Health Equity Ambassadors
  + Provided 5 professional development sessions Connected 12 Ambassadors to
  + Communities to boots-on-the-ground support

## What We’ve Achieved

* Website
* Partner Engagement
* Podcast
* Resource Toolkit

## Technical Assistance Communities

* Healthcare Health Equity
* Transportation
* Food Access
* Outdoor Recreation
* Walkability
* Bikeability
* Renewal Energy
* Community Connectedness

## Health Equity in the Built Environment

It refers to the design, construction, and maintenance of physical spaces that promote health and wellness for all members of a community.

Recognizes that the design of the built environment can have a significant impact on people's health, particularly for marginalized and underserved communities.

## Redesigning with Justice: Building Equitable Communities for All

Universal Design Principles:

* Apply universal design principles in public spaces and buildings to ensure accessibility for people with disabilities.
* This goes beyond minimum legal requirements to create spaces that are genuinely usable and welcoming for everyone.

## Porter Knight Bristol, VT

Project Title: Increasing access to recreation spaces on town parks

Goal: Increase equitable access to recreational trails on five town parks

TA and Resources Provided:

* Podcast feature
* Wayfinding and signage guidance
* Selectboard meeting preparation
* Park renderings

[image: aerial view of Eagle Park provided by Street Plans 8/4/0223]

[image: aerial view of Eagle Park showing accessible trail provided by StreetPlans 8/4/2023]

[image: Eagle Park perspective from parking looking south provided by StreetPlans 8/4/23]

[image: Eagle Park perspective from new fishing dock looking west provided by StreetPlans 8/4/23]

[image: Eagle Park perspective showing trail and amenities provided by StreetPlans 8/4/23]

## Middlebury Skatepark Project Town of Middlebury, VT (part 1)

Project Title: Increasing access to recreation spaces on town parks

Goal: Increase equitable access to recreational trails on five town parks

TA and Resources Provided:

* Podcast feature
* Wayfinding and signage guidance
* Selectboard meeting preparation
* Park renderings

[image: Town of Middlebury, VT]

[image: skate park]

[image: A group of people walking on a bench with comment notes about increasing accessibility]

[image: skate park]

## Middlebury Skatepark Project Town of Middlebury, VT (part 2)

Project Title: Middlebury Skatepark Project

Goal: Create an age-friendly, contemporary, accessible skatepark open to all regardless of the level of ability including various wheeled disciplines.

TA and Resources Provided:

* Data Collection and Analysis
* Outreach and Engagement
* Streetscape Design Support
* Planning and Programming Resources
* Marketing and Communications Resources
* Fundraising and Grant Resources

## THANK YOU

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