



Environmental Justice: Allentown

Accessibility to Parks and Greenspaces

Abigail Erickson - Muhlenberg College

Karen El-Chaar – Director, Allentown Department of Parks and Recreation

September 15, 2021



Outline

- Introduction of the 10-minute walk policy
- Greenspaces and their benefits
- List of Allentown schools
- List of Allentown Parks
- Map displaying locations of schools and parks in Allentown
- Maps and demographics for each school displaying a 10-minute walking radius and the parks included within that radius.

The 10-Minute Walk

The National Recreation and Park Association, Trust for Public Land, The Urban Land Institute and mayors from 268 cities have created a “10-minute walk” effort, seeking to help all people live within a half-mile of a high-quality park or green space.



Benefits of Green Spaces

- Urban green spaces fulfill a wide range of diverse roles since the intended purpose differs with each user.
- Greenspaces and Parks have numerous benefits and impacts:
 - Physical health benefits
 - Mental health benefits
 - Environmental benefits
 - Improved social connections
 - Violence and crime reduction

Allentown School District

Elementary Schools

- Brigadier General Anna Mae Hays Elementary School
- Central Elementary
- Hiram W. Dodd Elementary
- Jackson Early Childhood Center
- Jefferson Elementary
- Lehigh Parkway Elementary
- Mosser Elementary
- Muhlenberg Elementary
- Newcomer Academy
- Ramos Elementary
- Ritter Elementary
- Roosevelt Elementary
- Sheridan Elementary
- Union Terrace Elementary
- Washington Elementary

Middle Schools

- Harrison-Morton Middle School
- Raub Middle School
- South Mountain Middle School
- Trexler Middle School

High Schools

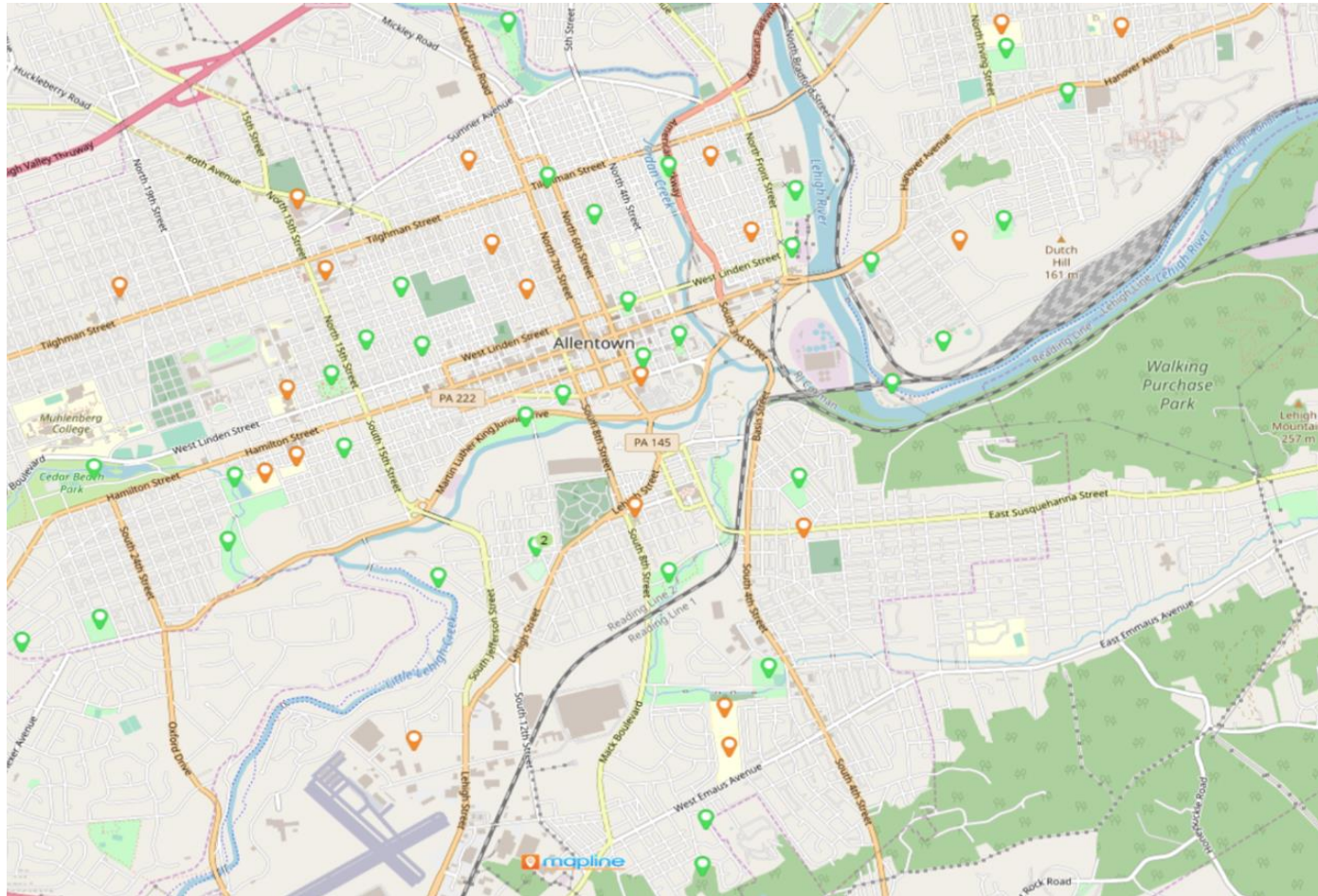
- Building 21
- Dieruff High School
- William Allen High School



Allentown Parks and Greenspaces

- 5th Street Playground
- Alton Park
- Andre Reed Park
- Arts Park
- Bicentennial Park
- Bucky Boyle Park
- Canal Park
- Cedar Creek Parkway
- Joseph S. Daddona Lake & Terrace
- Dixon Street Dog Park
- East Side Reservoir
- East Side Trail
- Fountain Park
- Franklin Park
- Ithaca Park
- Jackson St. Park
- Jordan Meadows
- Jordan Park
- Keck Park
- Keck Triangle
- Kimmet's Lock
- La Placita
- Lil'-Le-Hi Trout Nursery
- Little Lehigh Parkway
- Lumber & Benton Playlot
- Percy Ruhe Park
- Roosevelt Park
- South Mountain Reservoir
- South St. Park
- Stevens Park
- Trexler Memorial Park
- Trout Creek Parkway
- Valania Park
- Walden Terrace Park
- Walking Purchase Park
- West Park

Map of School and Park Locations



Green Pins: Parks
Orange Pins: Schools

Allentown Parks Within a Ten-Minute Walking Distance of Each School



Elementary Schools

- Brigadier General Anna Mae Hays Elementary School: Franklin Park
- Hiram Dodd Elementary: Trout Creek Parkway
- Jackson Early Childhood Center
- Jefferson Elementary: Trout Creek Parkway
- Lehigh Parkway Elementary: Little Lehigh Parkway
- Mosser Elementary: Keck Park, East Side Reservoir
- Muhlenberg Elementary (school greenspace)
- Newcomer Academy (school greenspace)
- Ramos Elementary: Franklin Park
- Ritter Elementary: Andre Reed Park
- Roosevelt Elementary: Roosevelt Park, Trout Creek Parkway
- Sheridan Elementary: Bucky Boyle Park, Jordan Meadows
- Union Terrace Elementary: Cedar Creek Parkway, Joseph S. Daddona Lake and Terrace, Little Lehigh Parkway
- Washington Elementary: Jordan Park, Stevens Park

Middle Schools

- Harrison-Morton Middle School: Jordan Meadows, Bucky Boyle Park
- Raub Middle School: Cedar Creek Parkway, Joseph S. Daddona Lake and Terrace, Little Lehigh Parkway, West Park
- South Mountain Middle School: Trout Creek Park, Lumber and Benton Playlot
- Trexler Middle School (school greenspace)

High Schools

- Building 21: Arts Park, Valania Park, Jackson St Park, and Fountain Park.
- Louis E. Dieruff High School: Andre Reed Park
- William Allen High School: West Park, Cedar Creek Parkway

Exception:

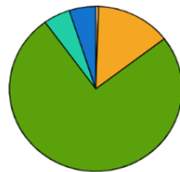
- Central Elementary – no park. no greenspace

- Central Elementary School



There are **no** parks or greenspaces within a 10-minute walking distance of Central Elementary.

Percent Enrollment by Race/Ethnicity



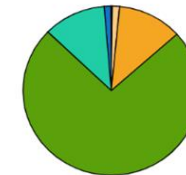
American Indian/Alaskan Native	0.0%
Asian	0.5%
Black	14.1%
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	0.0%
Hispanic	75.4%
White	5.0%
2 or More Races	5.0%

- Dieruff High School



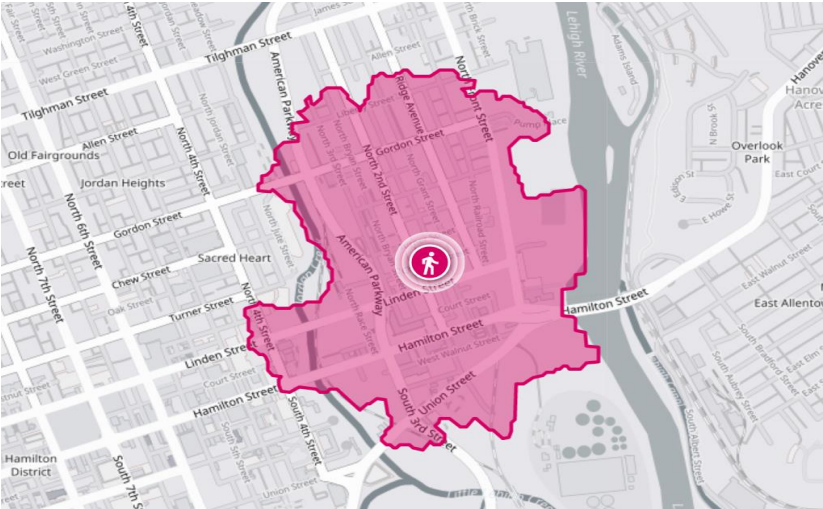
There is one park within a 10-minute walking distance of Dieruff High School: Andre Reed Park

Percent Enrollment by Race/Ethnicity

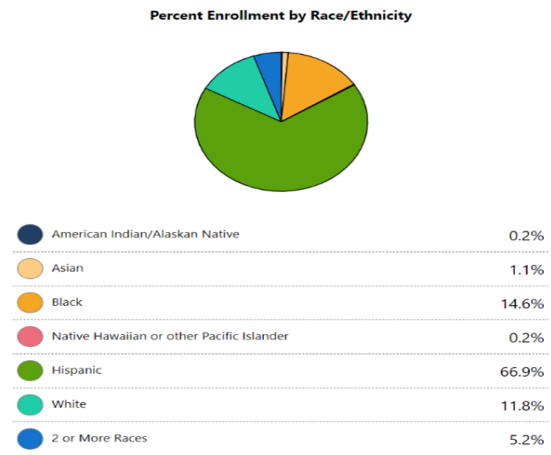


American Indian/Alaskan Native	0.2%
Asian	1.3%
Black	11.9%
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	0.1%
Hispanic	74.0%
White	11.5%
2 or More Races	1.2%

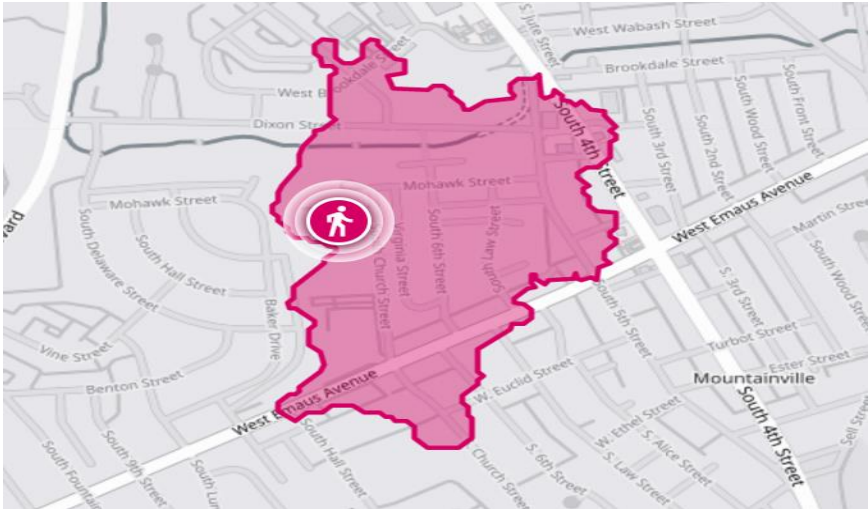
- Harrison-Morton Middle School



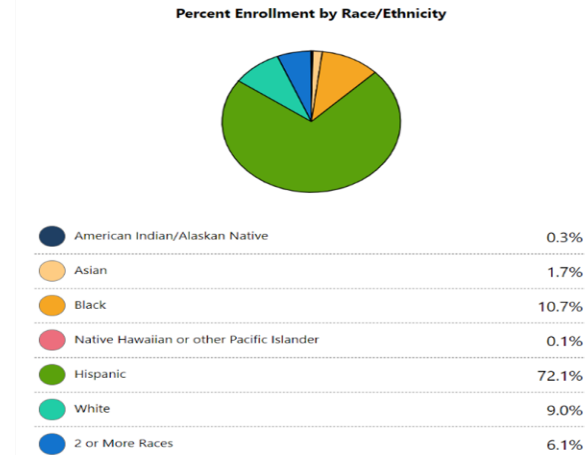
There are two parks within a 10-minute walking distance: Jordan Meadows, Bucky Boyle Park



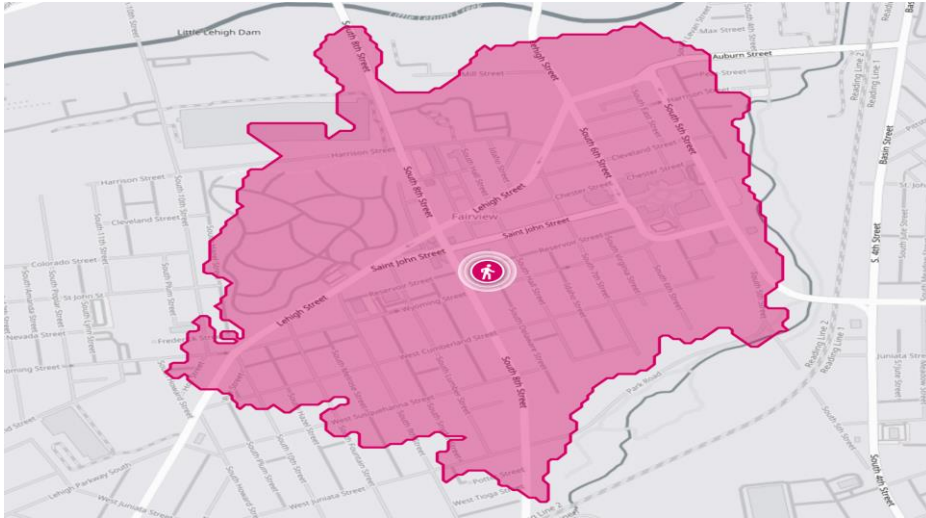
- Hiram W. Dodd Elementary School



There is one park within a 10-minute walking distance of Hiram Dodd Elementary School: Trout Creek Parkway

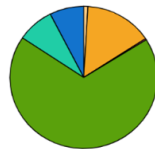


- Jefferson Elementary School



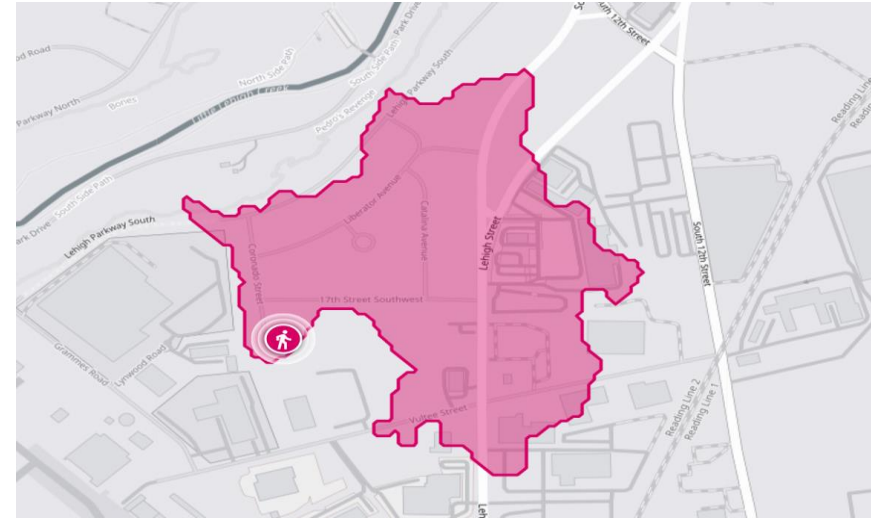
There is one park within a 10-minute walking distance of Jefferson Elementary School: Trout Creek Parkway

Percent Enrollment by Race/Ethnicity



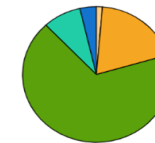
American Indian/Alaskan Native	0.0%
Asian	0.9%
Black	14.9%
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	0.3%
Hispanic	68.3%
White	8.1%
2 or More Races	7.5%

- Lehigh Parkway Elementary School



There is one park within a 10-minute walking distance of Lehigh Parkway Elementary School: Little Lehigh Parkway

Percent Enrollment by Race/Ethnicity

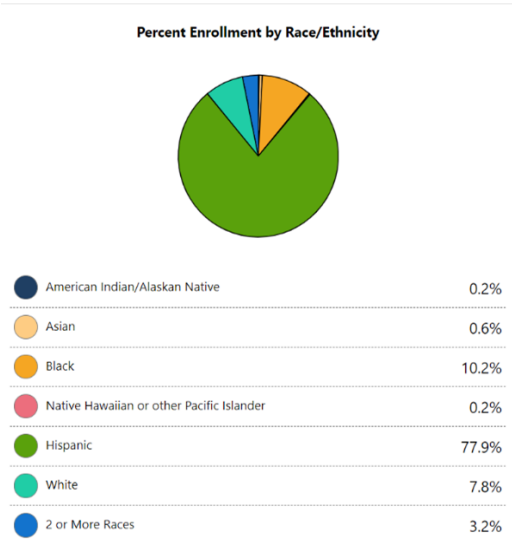


American Indian/Alaskan Native	0.0%
Asian	1.3%
Black	19.1%
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	0.0%
Hispanic	67.6%
White	8.4%
2 or More Races	3.6%

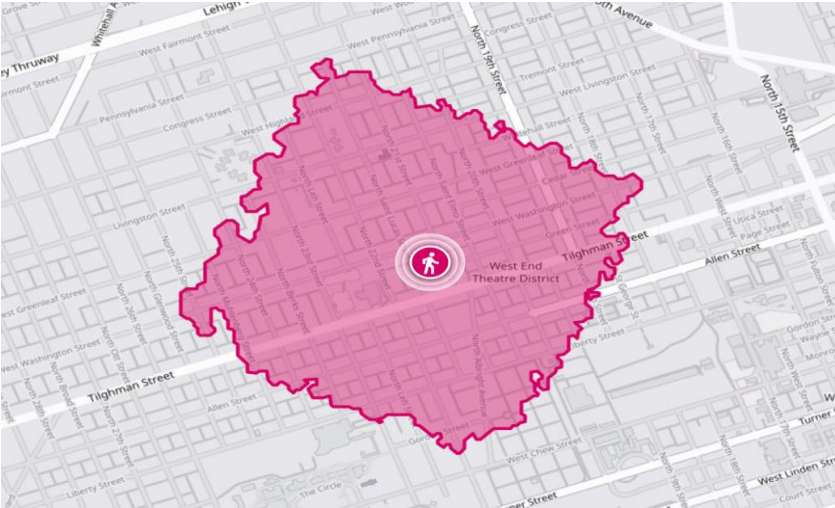
- Mosser Elementary School



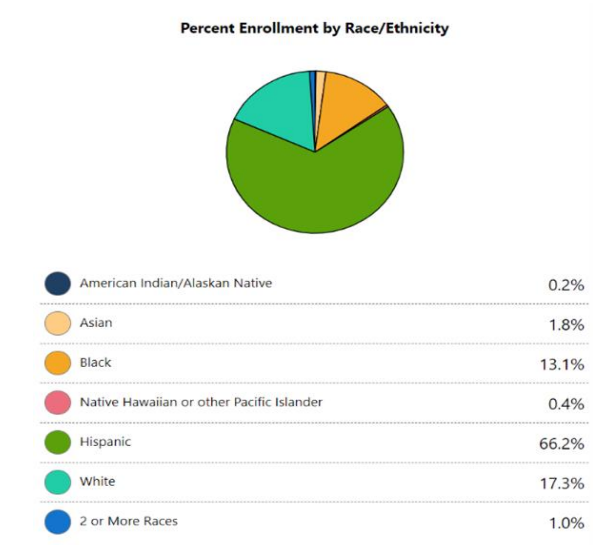
There are two parks within a 10-minute walking distance: Keck Park, East Side Reservoir (greenspace on site)



- Muhlenberg Elementary School



There are no parks within a 10-minute walking distance of Muhlenberg Elementary School (greenspace on site)



- Newcomer Academy

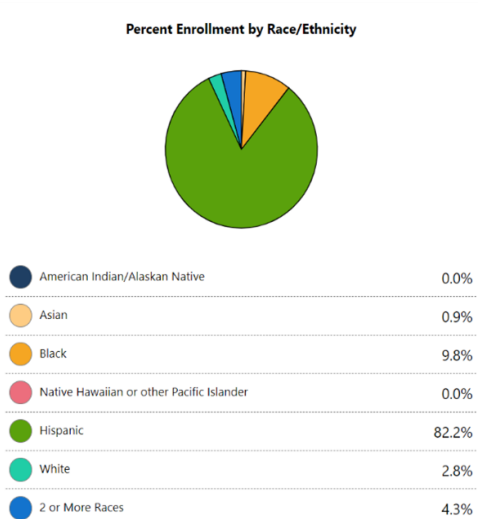


There are no parks within a 10-minute walking distance of Newcomer Academy (greenspace on site)

- Ramos Elementary School/Jackson Early Childhood Center



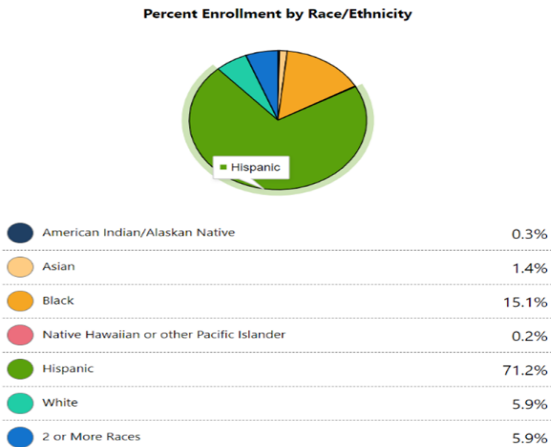
There is one park within a 10-minute walking distance of Ramos Elementary School: Franklin Park (greenspace on site)



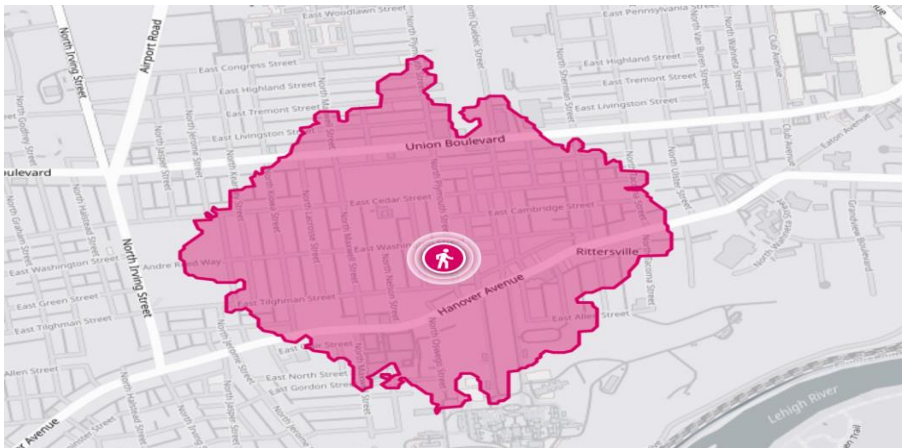
- Raub Middle School



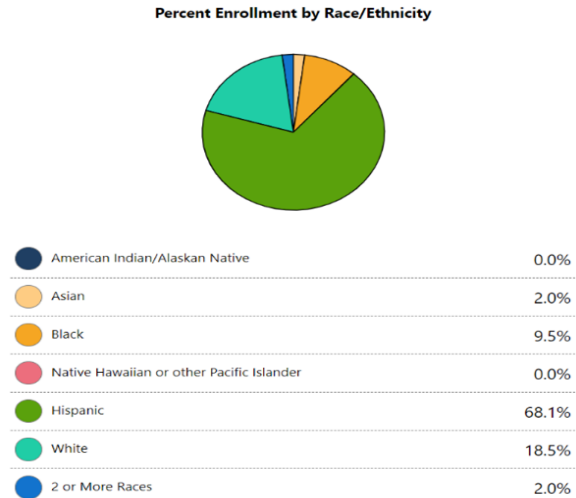
There are four parks within a 10-minute walking distance: Cedar Creek Parkway, Joseph S. Daddona Lake and Terrace, Little Lehigh Parkway, West Park.

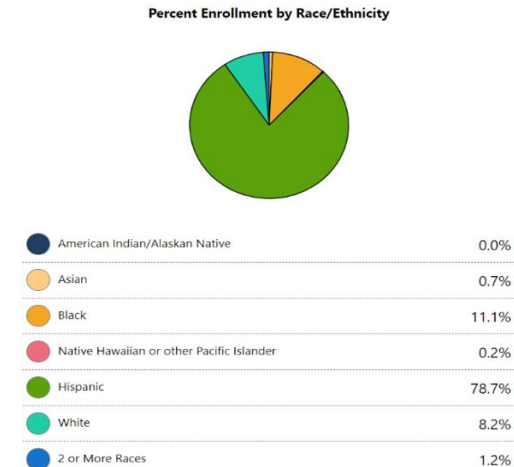
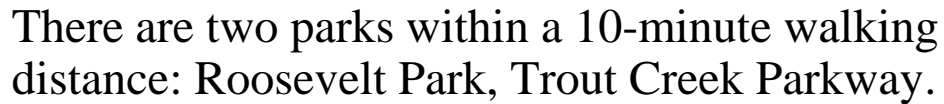


- Ritter Elementary School



There is one park within a 10-minute walking distance of Ritter Elementary School: Andre Reed Park.



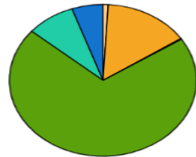


- South Mountain Middle School



There are two parks within a 10-minute walking distance: Trout Creek Park, Lumber and Benton Playlot.

Percent Enrollment by Race/Ethnicity



American Indian/Alaskan Native	0.0%
Asian	0.9%
Black	14.8%
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	0.2%
Hispanic	70.4%
White	8.4%
2 or More Races	5.4%

- Trexler Middle School



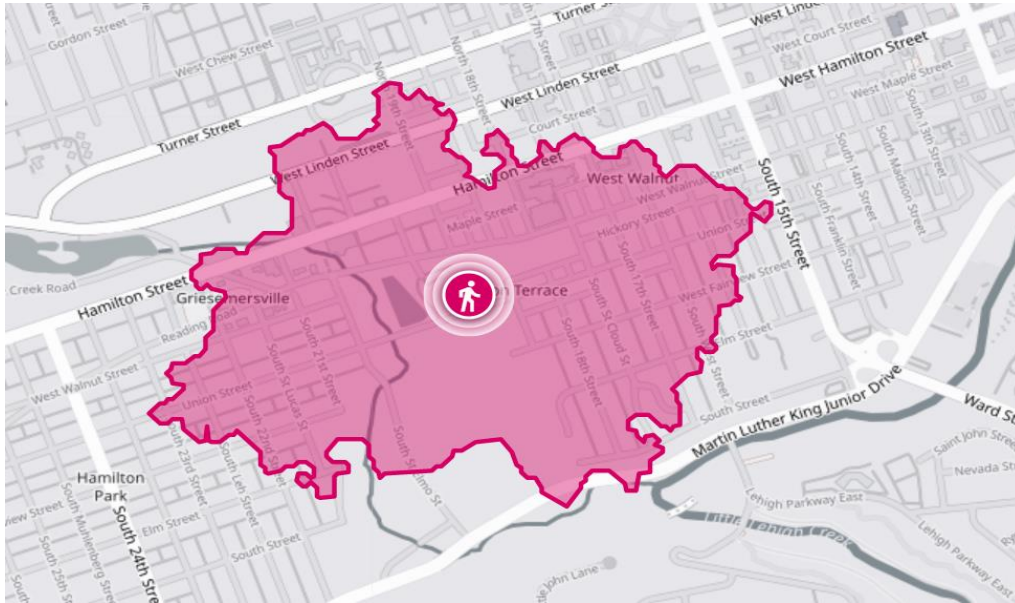
There are no parks within a 10-minute walking distance of Trexler Middle School (greenspace on site)

Percent Enrollment by Race/Ethnicity



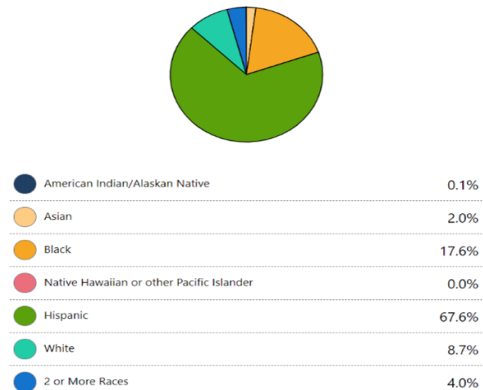
American Indian/Alaskan Native	0.1%
Asian	0.7%
Black	12.4%
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	0.2%
Hispanic	74.2%
White	6.6%
2 or More Races	5.8%

- Union Terrace Elementary School

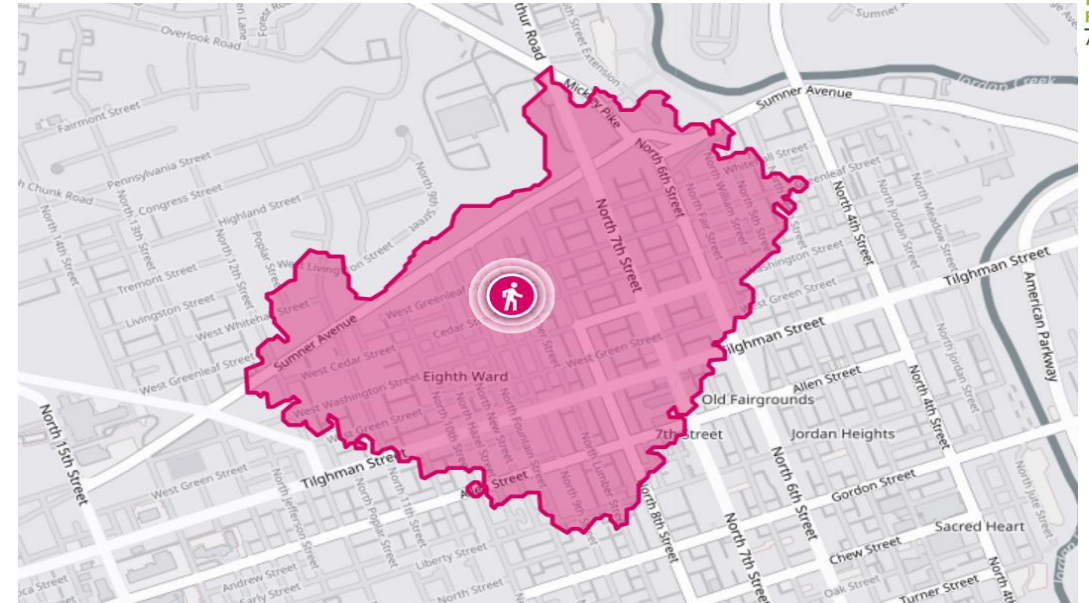


There are three parks within a 10-minute walking distance: Cedar Creek Parkway, Joseph S. Daddona Lake and Terrace, Little Lehigh Parkway.

Percent Enrollment by Race/Ethnicity

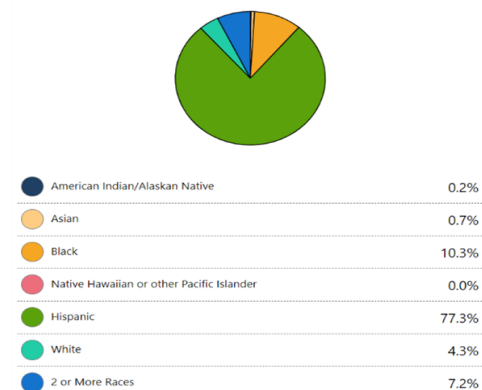


- Washington Elementary School

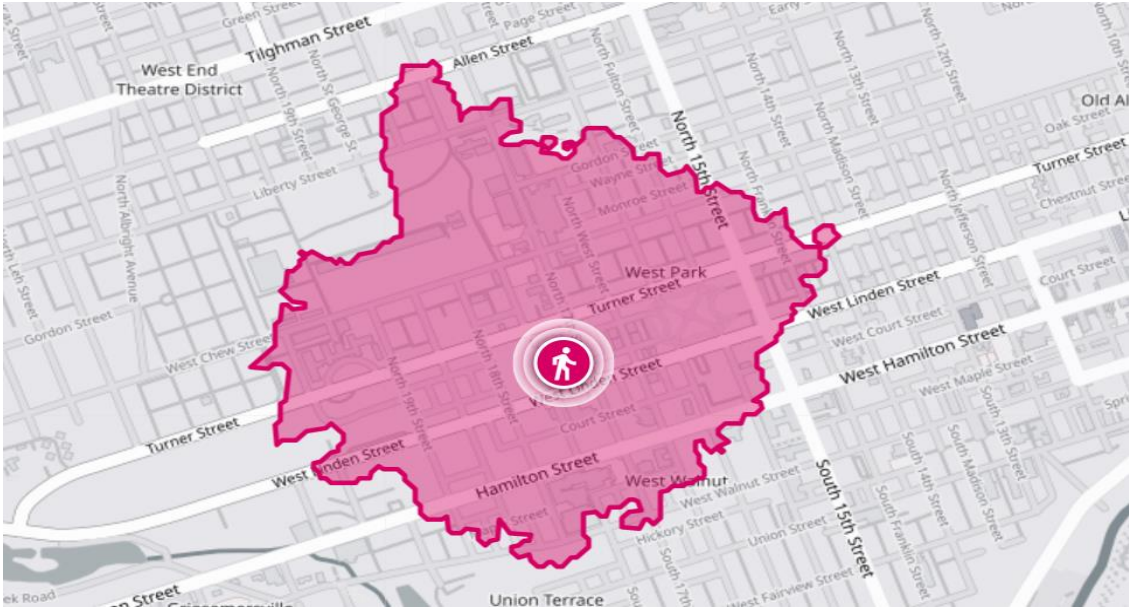


There are two parks within a 10-minute walking distance of Washington Elementary School: Jordan Park, Stevens Park.

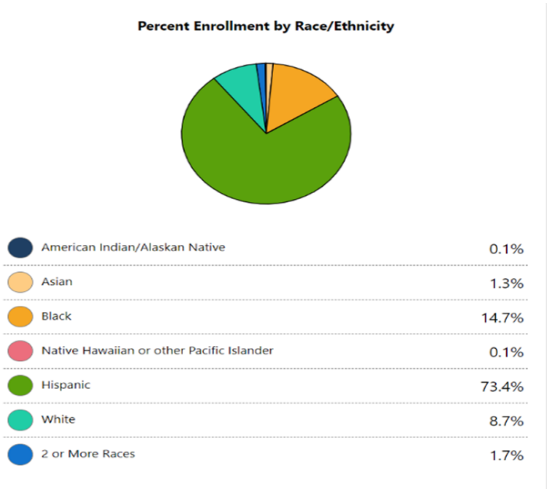
Percent Enrollment by Race/Ethnicity



- William Allen High School



There are two parks within a 10-minute walk of William Allen High School: West Park, Cedar Creek Parkway.



Environmental Justice Analysis of Maps

- Each school within Allentown has at least one park within a 10-minute walking distance with exception of Central Elementary School, Muhlenberg Elementary School, Newcomer Academy, and Trexler Middle School.
- Muhlenberg Elementary School, Newcomer Academy, and Trexler Middle School all have greenspaces on site.
- The only school without a park or greenspace within a 10-minute walking distance is Central Elementary School, which has a 75% Hispanic enrollment rate.

References

- Amano, T., Butt, I., & Peh, K. S.-H. (2018). The importance of green spaces to public health: A multi-continental analysis. *Ecological Applications*, 28(6), 1473–1480. <https://doi.org/10.1002/eap.1748>
- Barton, S. (2009, January 31). *Human benefits of GREEN SPACES: Cooperative EXTENSION: University of Delaware*. Human Benefits of Green Spaces | Cooperative Extension | University of Delaware. Retrieved September 13, 2021, from <https://www.udel.edu/academics/colleges/canr/cooperative-extension/fact-sheets/human-benefits-of-green-spaces/>.
- Chee Keng Lee, A., Jordan, H. C., & Horsley, J. (2015, August 27). *Value of urban green spaces in promoting healthy living and wellbeing: Prospects for planning*. Risk management and healthcare policy. Retrieved September 13, 2021, from <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/26347082/>.
- Dinnie, E., Brown, K. M., & Morris, S. (2013). Community, cooperation and conflict: Negotiating the social well-being benefits of urban greenspace experiences. *Landscape and Urban Planning*, 112, 1–9. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.landurbplan.2012.12.012>
- Haq, S. M. (2011). Urban green spaces and an integrative approach to sustainable environment. *Journal of Environmental Protection*, 02(05), 601–608. <https://doi.org/10.4236/jep.2011.25069>
- Lee, A. C., & Maheswaran, R. (2010). The health benefits of urban green spaces: A review of the evidence. *Journal of Public Health*, 33(2), 212–222. <https://doi.org/10.1093/pubmed/fdq068>
- Moeller, J. (1965). *Standards for outdoor recreational areas*. American Planning Association. Retrieved September 13, 2021, from <https://www.planning.org/pas/reports/report194.htm>.
- National Recreation and Park Association. (n.d.). *10 minute walk*. 10 Minute Walk. Retrieved September 13, 2021, from <https://10minutewalk.org/>.
- Nutsford, D., Pearson, A. L., & Kingham, S. (2013). An ecological study investigating the association between access to urban green space and mental health. *Public Health*, 127(11), 1005–1011. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.puhe.2013.08.016>
- *Our initiatives*. The Trust for Public Land. (2018). Retrieved September 13, 2021, from <https://www.tpl.org/our-initiatives#parks>.
- Pataki, D. E., Carreiro, M. M., Cherrier, J., Grulke, N. E., Jennings, V., Pincetl, S., Pouyat, R. V., Whitlow, T. H., & Zipperer, W. C. (2011). Coupling biogeochemical cycles in urban environments: Ecosystem services, green solutions, and misconceptions. *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment*, 9(1), 27–36. <https://doi.org/10.1890/090220>
- Schlosberg, D. (2007). *Defining environmental justice*. Google Books. Retrieved September 13, 2021, from <https://books.google.com/books?id=SBkUDAAQBAJ&lpg=PR13&ots=iCPPzegq3T&dq=environmental+justice&lr&pg=PR4#v=onepage&q=environmental%20justice&f=false>.
- Shepley, M., Sachs, N., Sadatsafavi, H., Fournier, C., & Peditto, K. (2019). The impact of green space on violent crime in Urban ENVIRONMENTS: An evidence Synthesis. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 16(24), 5119. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph16245119>
- *Site map*. Go to Allentown School District. (n.d.). Retrieved September 13, 2021, from http://allentownsd.ss14.sharpschool.com/site_map.
- *TravelTime maps*. Travel Time Map | Drive Time Radius & Other Modes. (n.d.). Retrieved September 13, 2021, from <https://app.traveltime.com/>.
- van den Berg, A. E., Maas, J., Verheij, R. A., & Groenewegen, P. P. (2010). Green space as a buffer between stressful life events and health. *Social Science & Medicine*, 70(8), 1203–1210. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2010.01.002>