The Equitable Allocation of Community Park & Recreation Resources

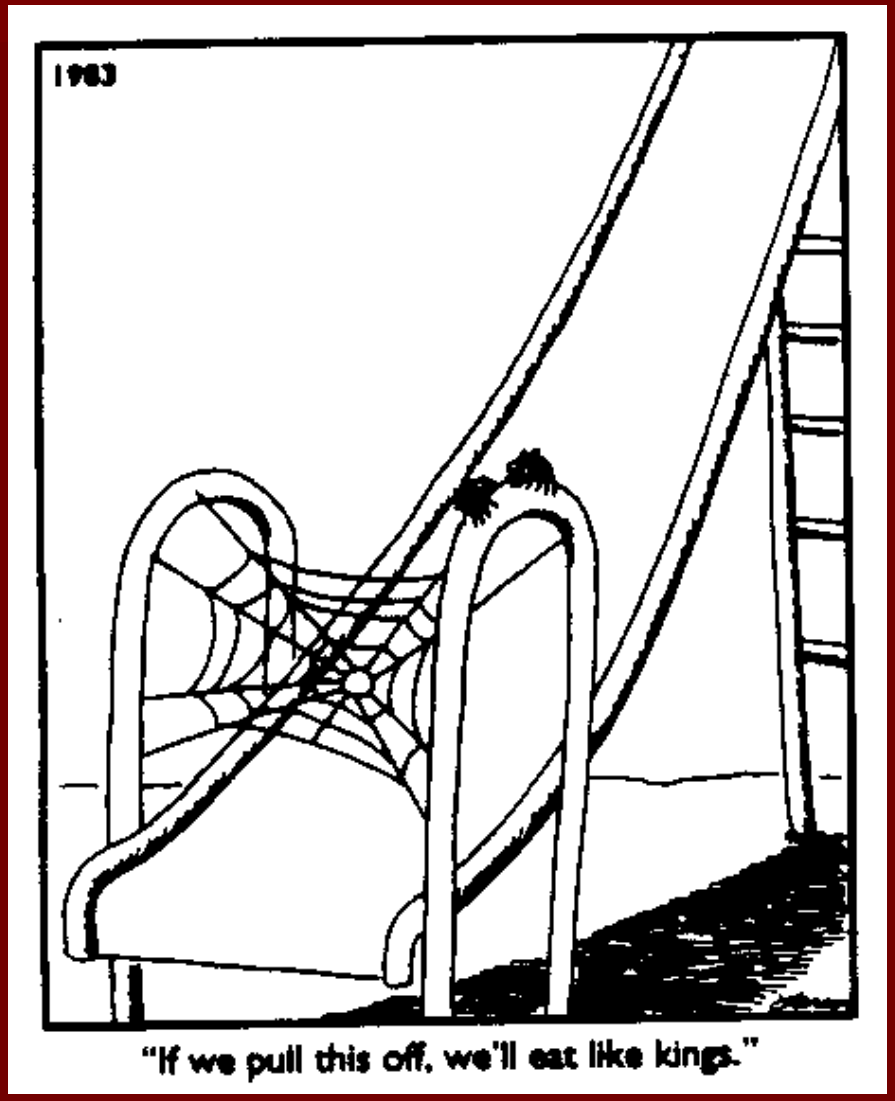
City of Asheville
Asheville Parks and Recreation Department

Outline

- The Impact of Allocation Decisions
- Understanding Equity
- Methods of Allocation
- Determining Which Method to Use

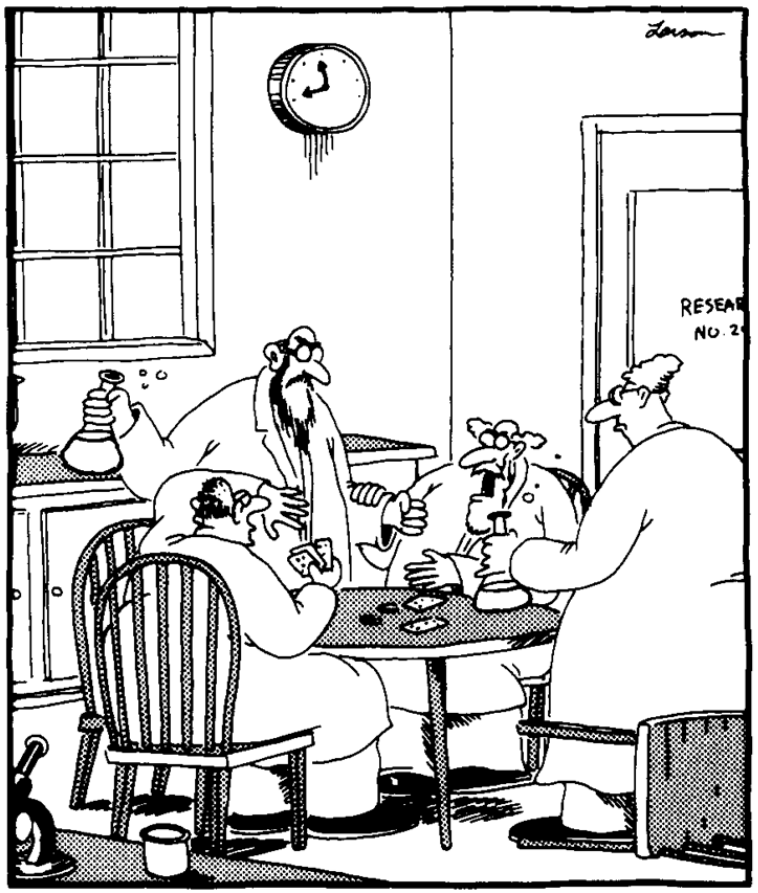
The Impact of Allocation Decisions

- Why is the allocation and distribution of public services important?
  - Delivery differences →Outline provision of services.
  - Resource allocations result in some residents becoming winners and others becoming losers.



Understanding Equity

- Equity: a means of addressing potential distributional differences.
- "Who ought to receive what?" often leads to disagreements.



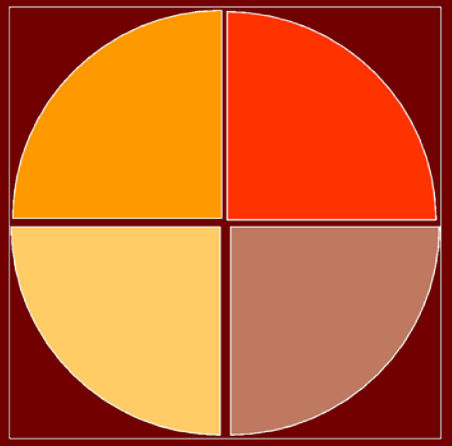
"Whoa! Whoa! C'mon, you guys! This is just a friendly game of cards — ease up on those acid-filled beakers."

Allocation Methods

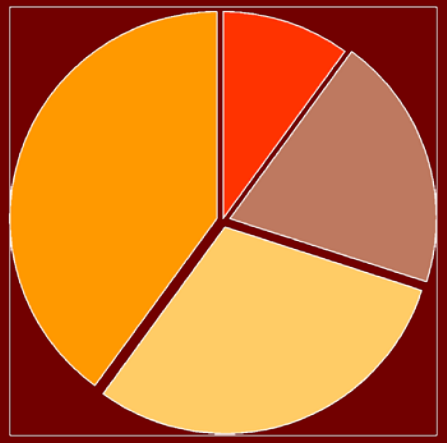
- Resident Based Allocation Method
  - Compensatory, Equality, Market
- Productivity Based Allocation Methods
  - Efficiency, Effectiveness, Demonstrated Use
- Opinion Based Allocation Methods
  - Demonstrated Interest, Advocacy, Professional Judgment

Equity vs. Equality

- Equality:
  - "sameness"
  - all people should receive the same return; Quality of being fair

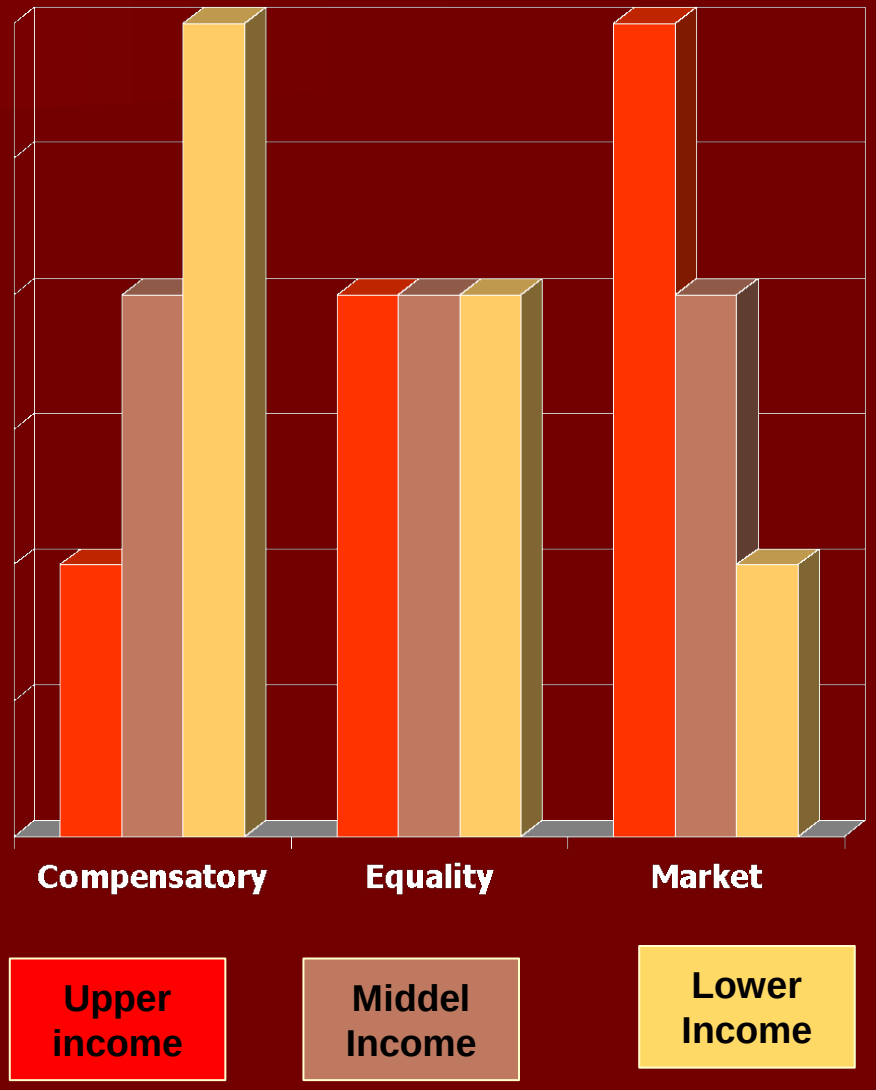


- Equity:
  - fairness, justice
  - value people perceive should be received appropriate to a given situation
  - Context-dependent in removing unnecessary barrier



Resident Based Allocation Methods

- Compensatory: according to need
  - Economically disadvantaged
- Equality: evenly or so as to achieve an even result
  - Inputs or opportunity
- Market: in proportion to ability to pay
  - Taxes paid, Price paid



Productivity Based Allocation Methods

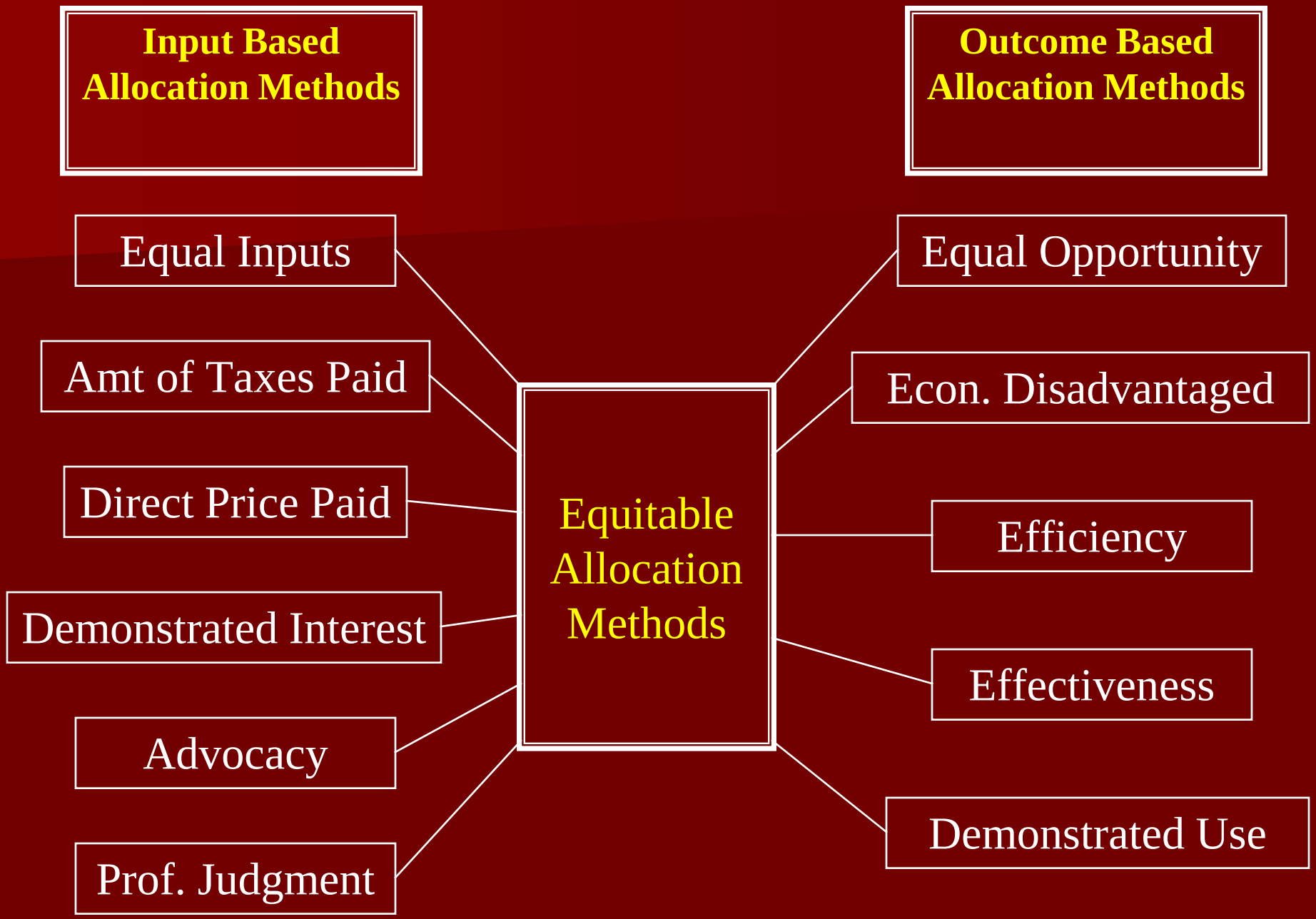
- Efficiency: So the greatest amount of overall service emerges from a given level of input.
- Effectiveness: On the ability to meet established goals or achieve desired benefits.
- Demonstrated Use: On use/participation levels or long waiting lists.

Opinion Based Allocation Methods

- Demonstrated Interest: According to input (surveys, town halls...).
- Advocacy: According to requests/complaints.
- Professional Judgment: According to the professional judgment of experienced park and recreation staff.

Slug vacation disasters

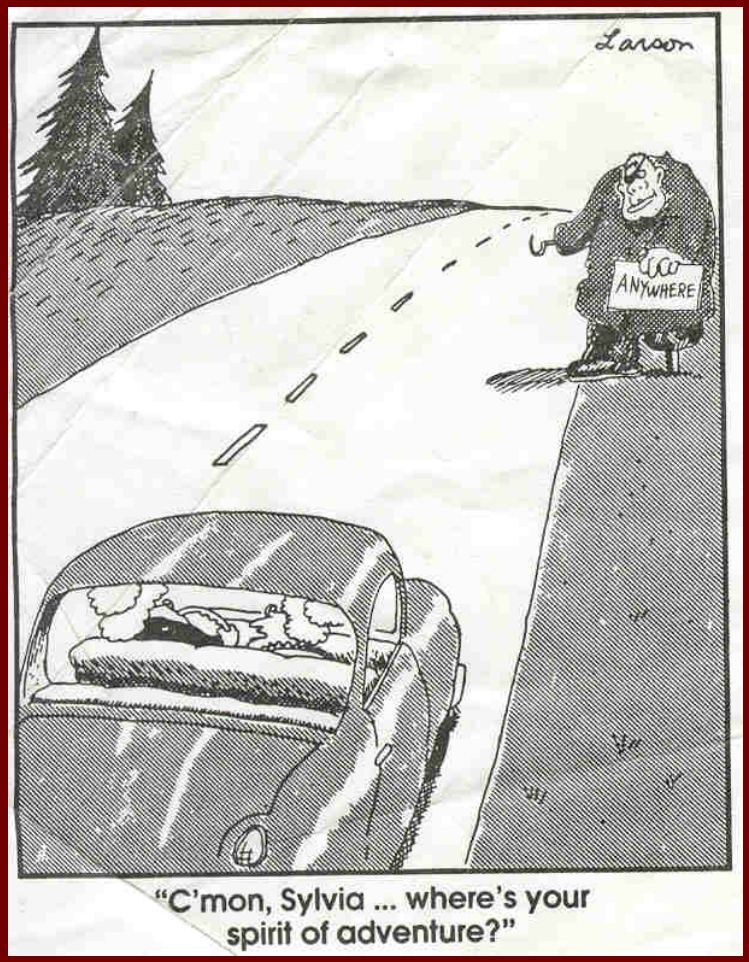
Some feel that professionals should make the decisions b/c they have more knowledge of the facts.


Input Based Allocation Methods
Outcome Based Allocation Methods
Equal Inputs
Amt of Taxes Paid
Direct Price Paid
Demonstrated Interest
Advocacy
Prof. Judgment
Equitable Allocation Methods
Equal Opportunity
Econ. Disadvantaged
Efficiency
Effectiveness
Demonstrated Use

Which Allocation Method is Best?

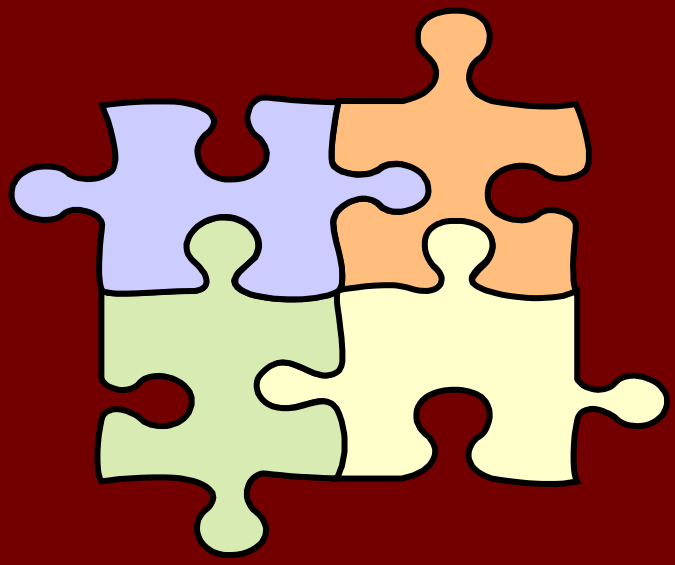
- No one correct answer.
- Instead, there's a process for determining what method(s) would be best for YOUR community
- Policy on equality and diversity in service provision outlines how we will ensure that our services are relevant, responsive and sensitive to the needs of our existing and future customers and that all sections of the community in which we work have equal access to those services

Sometimes it's hard to know what the best thing to do is…



Step 1: Assess Residents

- "Who ought to receive what?"
- Primary Purpose: Identify allocation preferences of residents.
- Secondary Purpose: Identify residents' opinions of present allocation methods.
- Methods: Surveys, Focus Groups, Town Halls



Residents: An important piece of the equity puzzle.

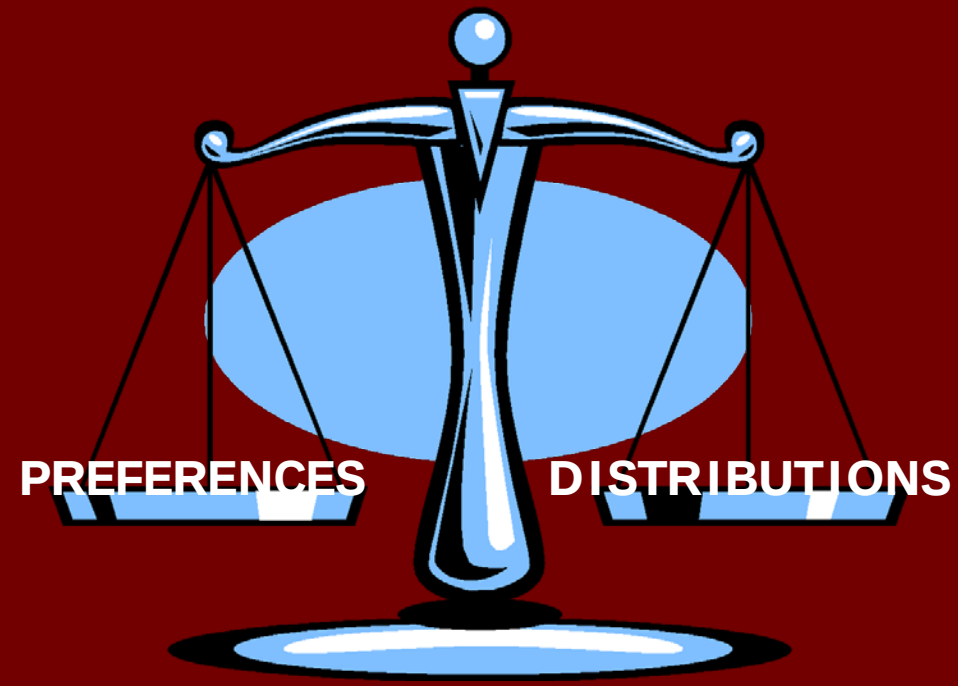
Step 2: Document Distribution Patterns

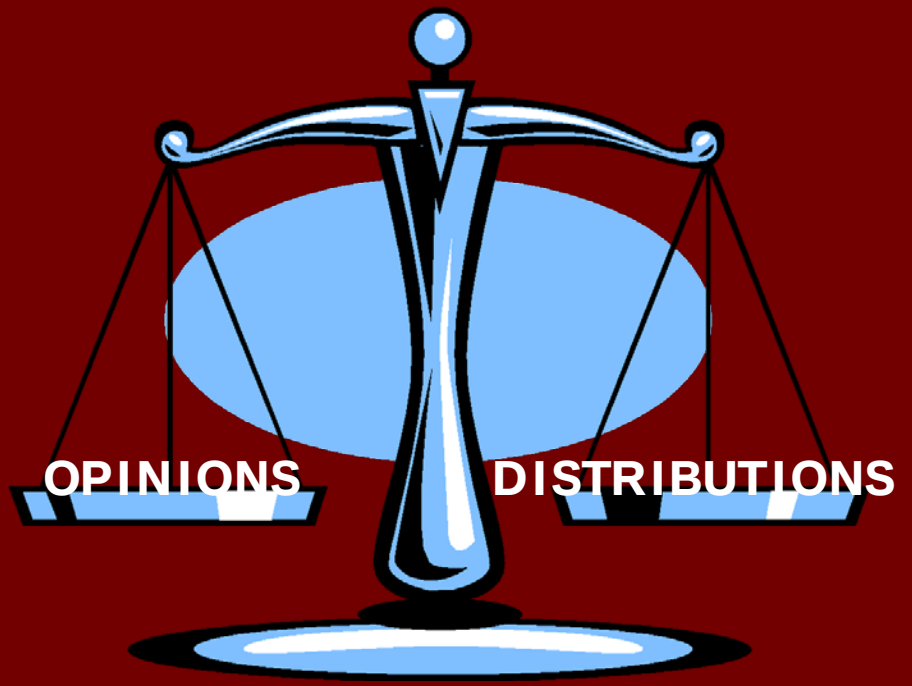
- "Who is getting what?"
- Purpose: To determine current distribution patterns in the community.

- Methods: GIS

Step 3: Compare Results (Steps 1 & 2)

- Primary Purpose: To evaluate the extent to which equity preferences, and opinions, coincide with existing distribution patterns.





Step 4: Respond to Differences

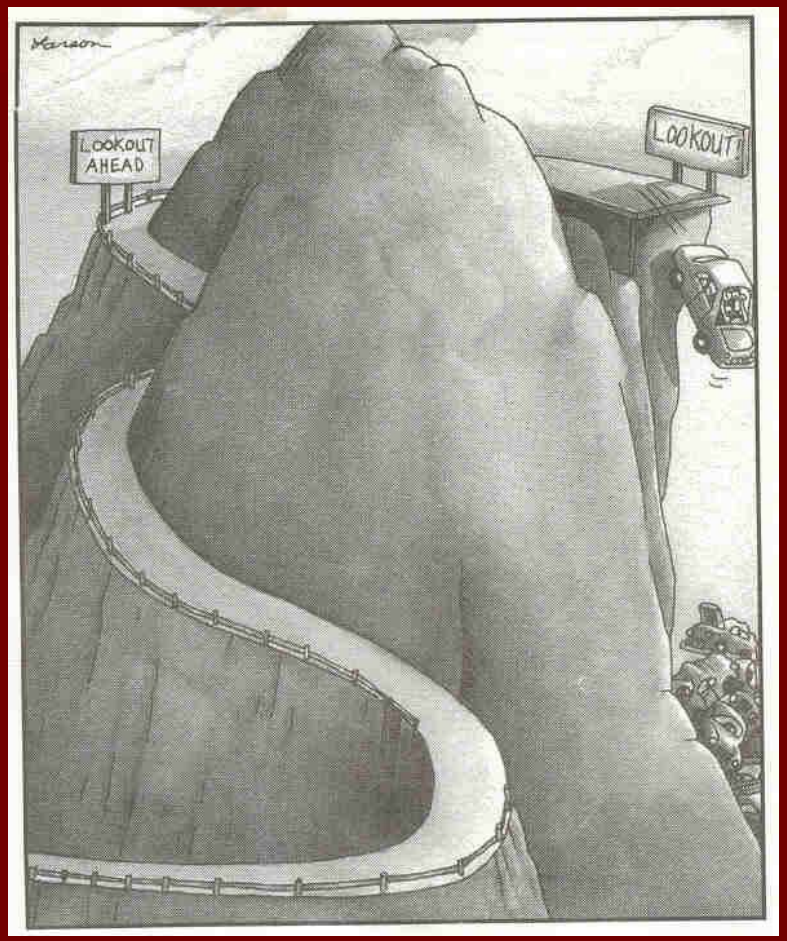
- Primary Purpose: Develop efforts to address problem areas (recognized differences).

- Methods:
  - Implement policies to reconcile actual differences, or
  - Implement marketing efforts to better inform residents of the absence of differences.

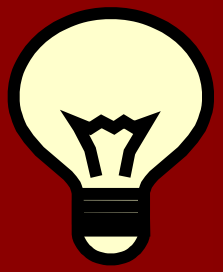
The "policy" to reconcile this parent's "problem" might be to prohibit the use of pens or markers.

Step 5: Evaluate Effects of New Efforts

- Primary Purpose: To ensure the success of efforts undertaken to address actual or perceived differences.
- Methods: Repeat Steps 1-3. If necessary, repeat Step 4 and respond again to differences found. Continue this process.



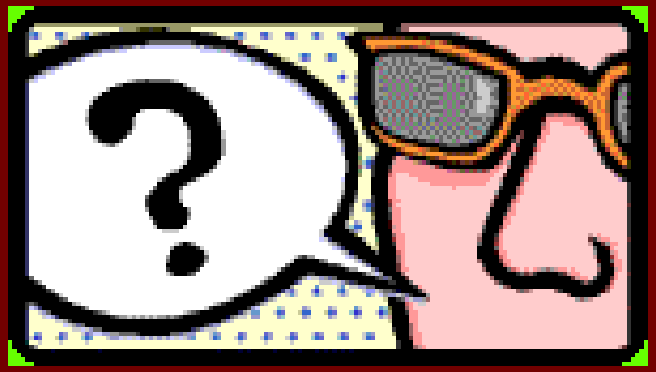
It is impt to reevaluate: Installing this sign probably seemed like a good idea at the time!



Conclusions

- The importance of equitable allocation decisions.
- The need for resident input.
- Equitable allocation requires a comparison of residents' preferences and opinions with actual distribution patterns.

Desired End Result

A more equitable allocation and distribution of public park and recreation resources.

Any questions?