Introduction and Problem Statement.

As Covid-19 stay-at-home orders persist in Seattle(1), families are getting more than a little antsy cooped up inside—which makes outdoor activities a great way to get a change of scenery. Moreover, if you choose your destination wisely, it can seriously de-stress you. In a 2020 study published in *Environment and Behavior,* people experiencing chronic life stress who spent 40 minutes walking outside in nature experienced greater decreases in the stress hormone cortisol than those who walked either indoors on a treadmill or who watched nature programming on TV for the same amount of time(2).

As the restrictions include a ban on non-essential travel, neighborhood parks provide a way to get outside, without travelling too far from home. The ideal parks should have a range of activities for the family, and be close to restaurants for getting take-out.

This project will provide an analysis of Seattle parks based on their available amenities and nearby restaurants. The nearby restaurants will further be profiled based on the number and types of restaurants present in an area around the parks.

1. Official Governor Inslee Stay at home order:
   (https://www.governor.wa.gov/sites/default/files/SafeStartWA_4May20_1 pm.pdf)

2. Olafsdottir, G., Cloke, P., Schulz, A., van Dyck, Z., Eysteinsson, T., Thorleifsdottir, B., & Vögele, C. (2020). Health Benefits of Walking in Nature: A Randomized Controlled Study Under Conditions of Real-Life Stress. Environment and Behavior, 52(3), 248–274. https://doi.org/10.1177/0013916518800798

Data Sources.

To identify suitable candidate park locations, we use two data sources: Data.gov and Foursquare, listed below. The Data.gov obtained dataset includes a listing of Seattle parks within city limits, including their

individual amenities(eg: boat ramps, play structures, soccer fields...). This will be used to both geolocate the parks, and identify the parks with the largest variety of different amenities. We will then access Foursquare to find nearby restaurants and their cuisine to help families select their park destination.

1. Data.gov (https://catalog.data.gov/dataset/seattle-parks-and-recreation-parks-features)
2. Foursquare developer places database which enables searches of restaurants within walking distance of a park, and classification of types of food (https://developer.foursquare.com/places)