CITY PARKS ARE A **SMART INVESTMENT** FOR AMERICA'S **HEALTH, ECONOMY, & ENVIRONMENT**

CITY PARKS ALLIANCE

cityparksalliance.org

City parks play a vital role in the social, economic, and physical well-being of America's cities and their residents. As cities become more densely populated and the impacts of climate change increase, planners, elected officials, and community advocates are using parks to help address critical urban infrastructure and public health issues. City parks provide access to recreational opportunities, increase property values, spur local economies, combat crime, and protect cities from environmental impacts. **Parks are now recognized as powerful tools for urban communities and local economies.**

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City Parks Improve Health and Reduce Costs

PHYSICAL BENEFITS

Over **HALF** of US adults have **chronic health conditions,** such as heart disease, diabetes, and obesity.[1]

About **1 in 3** children in the U.S. is either **obese or overweight.**[2]

People with access to safe **PARKS** and trails **EXERCISE MORE** and have lower rates of obesity,[3] heart disease,[4,5] and diabetes.[6]

MENTAL BENEFITS

40% of Americans suffer from anxiety or depression.[7]

People who live near parks and green spaces are **44% LESS LIKELY** to have a **diagnosed anxiety disorder.**[8]

20 MINUTES in a park **improved the concentration of children** with **attention deficits** to a level comparable to those without attention deficits.[9]

COMMUNITY BENEFITS

Greening of vacant urban land has been shown to decrease crime.[10]

COST SAVINGS

The **high costs** of chronic diseases each year in the U.S. include:

OBESITY
$260 BILLION[11]

DIABETES
$237 BILLION[12]

HEART DISEASE
$216 BILLION[13]

PARKS HELP TO REDUCE THE COSTS OF HEALTHCARE.

Maintaining a healthy weight **SAVES $1,861** **per person per year in healthcare costs.**[14]

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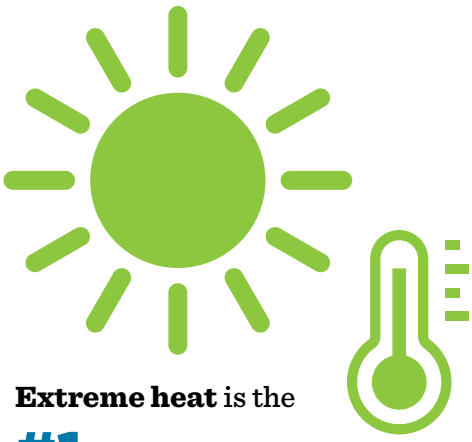
Provide Environmental Benefits

PARKS KEEP CITIES COOLER



Extreme heat is the

#1
WEATHER-RELATED
KILLER

in the U.S.[15] and deadlier than all other weather-related causes combined.[16]

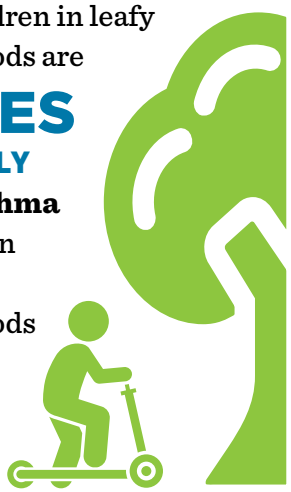
Trees reduce heat 6–10 degrees,[17] and large, shady **PARKS REDUCE HEAT 10–20 DEGREES**.[18]

PARKS CLEAN THE AIR

Tree cover **reduces asthma rates**. Children in leafy neighborhoods are

3 TIMES
LESS LIKELY
to have asthma

than children who live in neighborhoods with few trees.[19]



Urban trees in the U.S. **remove**

711,000 TONS
OF AIR POLLUTION

annually, at **a value of**

$3.8 BILLION,

saving money and improving health.[20]

PARKS CLEAN THE WATER

Stormwater and flooding threaten human lives and health by washing sewage, chemicals, and other contaminants into waterways and drinking water sources.[21]

Parks and green infrastructure slow stormwater and allow it to be absorbed into the soil,

CLEANING

the water as it infiltrates and reducing the risk of flooding.[22]

PARKS MAKE CITIES MORE RESILIENT

Extreme weather from climate change, such as heat waves, floods, and wildfires, **in 2020 cost U.S. taxpayers**

$99 BILLION.[23]

The estimated value of **stormwater management** by urban parks in the 100 largest cities is

$989 MILLION

per year.[24]

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City Parks Provide Economic Benefits

PARKS ATTRACT RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES

Nashville's investment in downtown parks has contributed to a **50% increase** in the number of 25- to 34-year-olds with college degrees **moving to the city** over the last decade.[25]

Since 2000 the number of **young adults** moving to livable, walkable urban neighborhoods has increased **37%**.[26]

More than **80%** of corporate executives rated **quality of life** features as an important factor when choosing headquarters or facility locations.[27]

PARKS INCREASE PROPERTY VALUES AND PROPERTY TAX REVENUE

Houses near parks or trails have **8–10 percent higher property values** than those in the surrounding community, resulting in **increased property tax revenue** for cities.[28]

PARKS CREATE JOBS

In one year, local parks supported more than

1.1 MILLION JOBS.[29]

PARKS GENERATE ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

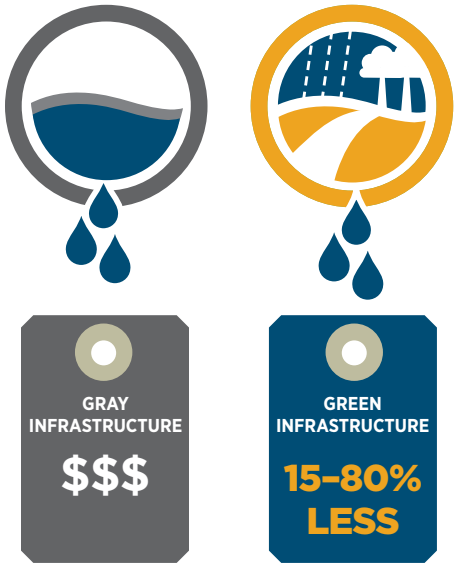
In one year, local parks generated

$166 BILLION

IN ECONOMIC ACTIVITY.[30]

PARKS LOWER INFRASTRUCTURE COSTS FOR CITIES

Investing in parks and green infrastructure to manage stormwater is **15 –80 percent less costly** than investing in grey infrastructure, such as pipes and tunnels.[31, 32]



Green infrastructure at Historic Fourth Ward Park **saved the City of Atlanta**

$16 MILLION

by managing stormwater and preventing flooding.[33]

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