

3 Amazing Benefits of Parks and Recreation for the Community

From the environment to the economy, parks and recreation offer positive services to communities.





Parks and Recreation Bring Value to Communities

Through amazing services, programs and events, parks and recreation add value to communities around the world.

In a 2018 study by the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA), nine in 10 surveyed agreed that their communities benefit from everything their local parks and recreation agencies offer. In fact, seven in 10 visit their local parks and recreation facilities often.

The benefits of parks and recreation go beyond aesthetics and curb appeal because they provide an immense value to the community for years, if not decades, to come. Read on to learn how parks and recreation offer benefits to communities environmentally, economically and individually through health and wellness.

1

Environmental Benefits

As towns and cities continue to grow, the biggest consequence of growth is negative effects to the environment. However, parks help conserve and preserve natural resources like water, trees, land and plants within communities while also reducing congestion due to the traffic that increases air pollution and reduces air quality. Through conservation efforts that parks and recreation create and maintain with programs and education, wildlife is also protected by preserving the natural environment in which plants, animals and creatures thrive. Through these protections, water quality is improved as well.

2

Personal Health & Wellness Benefits

Communities that have access to parks and recreation tend to have members that exercise more. Members also connect with nature more frequently, which in turn reduces stress. Parks and recreation is an affordable and accessible option that benefits everyone in the community, as it is made available to all members regardless of income, age, race and physical/mental ability.

Parks and recreation facilities are where the community comes together. Whether it's exercising, participating in programs and classes or attending a community or volunteer event, members are able to build and grow their socialization skills, deepen friendships and make their town a better place. Overall, parks and recreation improve quality of life exponentially for everyone.





3

Economic Benefits

According to a study by NRPA on the economic impact of parks and recreation in the United States, the U.S. Census Bureau reported that the combined impact of operations and capital spending finds the nation’s local parks and recreation agencies generated \$154.4 billion in economic activity, nearly \$81.1 billion in value added and more than 1.1 million jobs that boosted labor income by \$55.1 billion. That was just in 2015—it’s extremely likely that those numbers have increased significantly over the last six years.

Parks and recreation is a boon for communities and provides immense economic benefits. Through parks and recreation, property values can grow, thus attracting and attaining more community members and businesses that can continue to benefit from all the amazing things parks and recreation provide. In fact, many community members agree that parks and recreation is an excellent use of tax dollars.

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