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# The Excellent City Park System

*What Makes it Great and  
How Much Value Does it Bring?*



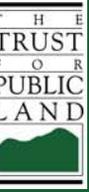
# *Part I*

## What Makes an Excellent City Park System?



# 1

## A Clear Expression of Purpose



# 2

## An Ongoing Planning and Community Involvement Process



# 3

**Sufficient Assets in Land,  
Funding, Staffing and  
Equipment to Meet the  
System's Goals**

	Population	Park Acres	Acres per 1000
Miami	362,000	1,138	3.1
Chicago	2,896,000	11,676	4.0
Denver	555,000	6,251	11.3
Austin	657,000	21,938	33.4
El Paso	564,000	26,372	46.8
Jacksonville	736,000	49,785	67.6

	Total Acres	Percent <i>Natural</i>	Percent <i>Designed</i>
Cleveland Dept of Parks, Recreation & Property	1,391	0%	100%
Los Angeles Department of Recreation & Parks	15,518	45%	54%
Colorado Springs Parks & Recreation Department	8,950	80%	18%

# Spending per Resident, 2002

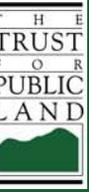
Seattle	\$214	Memphis	\$42
San Jose	\$185	Toledo	\$34
Minneapolis	\$164	Houston	\$33
Washington, D.C.	\$155	Indianapolis	\$32
Chicago	\$144		

**Average: \$80**



# 4

# Equitable Access



# 5

# User Satisfaction



# 6

## Safety from Physical Hazards and Crime



# 7

## Benefits for the City Beyond the Park Boundaries



# *Part II*

*How Much Value Does a  
City Receive from its Park  
System?*



# 1. Environmental Value through Cleaner Air

❖ Number of Trees

❖ Percent of Tree Canopy



## 2. Environmental Value through Cleaner Water

- ❖ Number of Trees
- ❖ Percent of Tree Canopy
- ❖ Type of Soil
- ❖ City Cost for Stormwater Management



# 3. Resident Value through Direct Use

❖ Number of Users

❖ Types of Uses

❖ Value of Each Use on the Open Market



## 4. Resident Value through Improved Health

- ❖ Amount of Active Recreation
- ❖ Age Distribution of Park Users



## 5. Overall City Economic Value through Tourism

- ❖ Number of Tourists Attracted by Park Events
- ❖ Distance Traveled and Days Spent



## 6. Overall City Economic Appreciation through Hedonic (Property) Value

- ❖ Number of Homes Located within 500 Feet of Parkland
- ❖ Quality of Parks



# 7. Overall City Value Appreciation through Gain in Social Capital

- ❖ Donations to Park Charities
- ❖ Donations of Time and Volunteer Labor



**For More Information:**

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