

# The Excellent City Park System

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





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



An aerial photograph of a coastal city. In the foreground, there is a large, lush green park area with several open fields and dense tree cover. A multi-lane highway runs horizontally across the lower right portion of the image, with a sandy beach visible just below it. To the left of the park, there is a residential area with houses and a few commercial buildings. In the background, a dense urban area stretches towards a range of mountains under a hazy sky. The text "1. Environmental Value through Cleaner Air" is overlaid in red on the park area.

# **1. Environmental Value through Cleaner Air**



A photograph of a city skyline, likely New York City, seen through the bare, dark branches of trees in the foreground. The sky is overcast and grey. The text "2. Environmental Value through Cleaner Water" is overlaid in a red, serif font with a white outline.

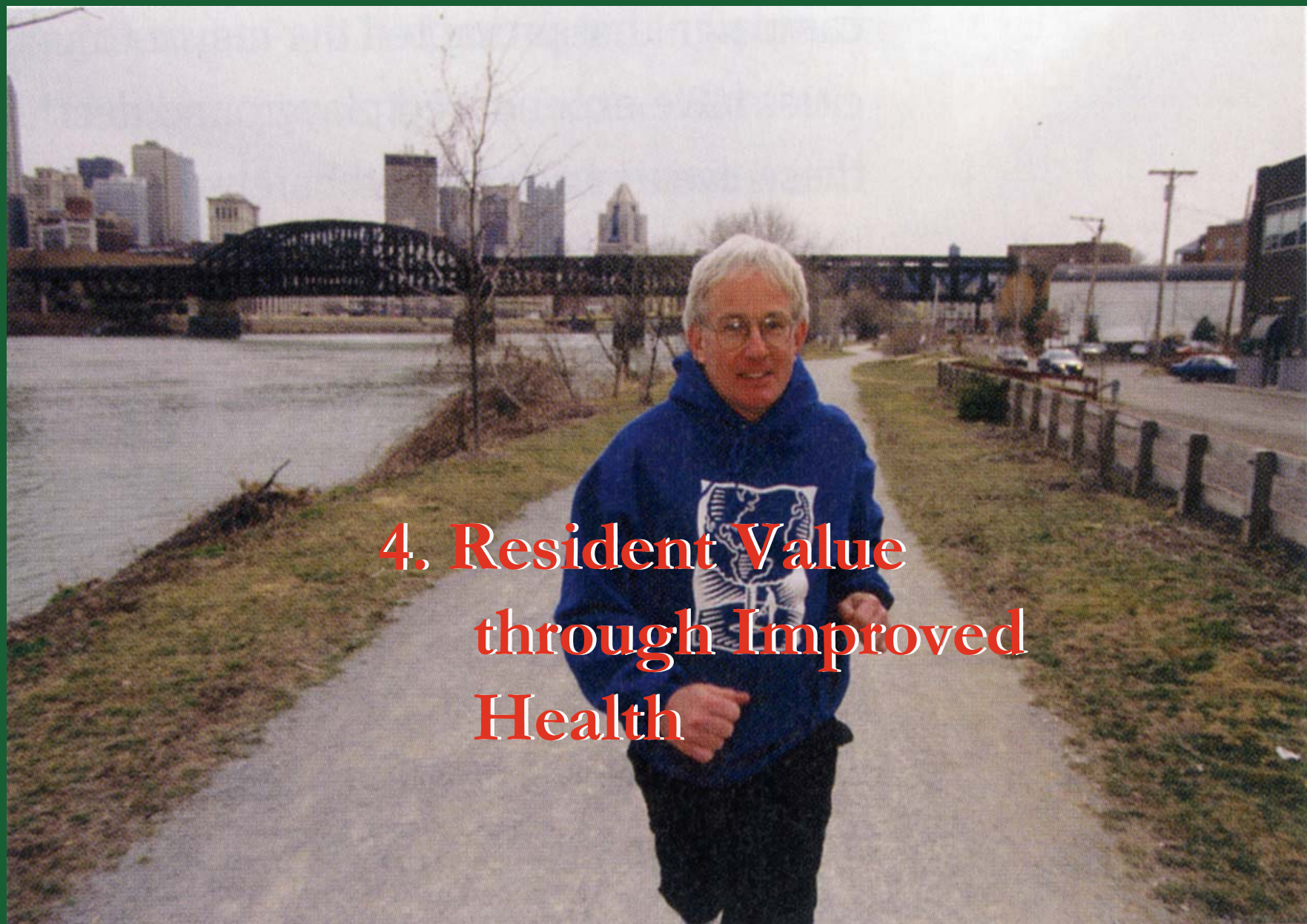
## 2. Environmental Value through Cleaner Water



A group of people, including several older adults and a few younger individuals, are performing yoga or stretching exercises on a grassy lawn. In the foreground, an older woman in a yellow shirt and blue pants is in a side stretch, with one arm raised and the other bent. Behind her, another older woman in a dark patterned top is also stretching. To the right, a younger person in a white top and light pants is in a similar pose. Further right, an older woman in a patterned top and red pants is in a side stretch. On the far right, a younger person in a yellow shirt and red shorts is standing with one arm raised. The background features large trees, including a prominent one with reddish-brown leaves, and a house with a chimney. The scene is bright and sunny.

### 3. Resident Value through Direct Use





#### 4. Resident Value through Improved Health

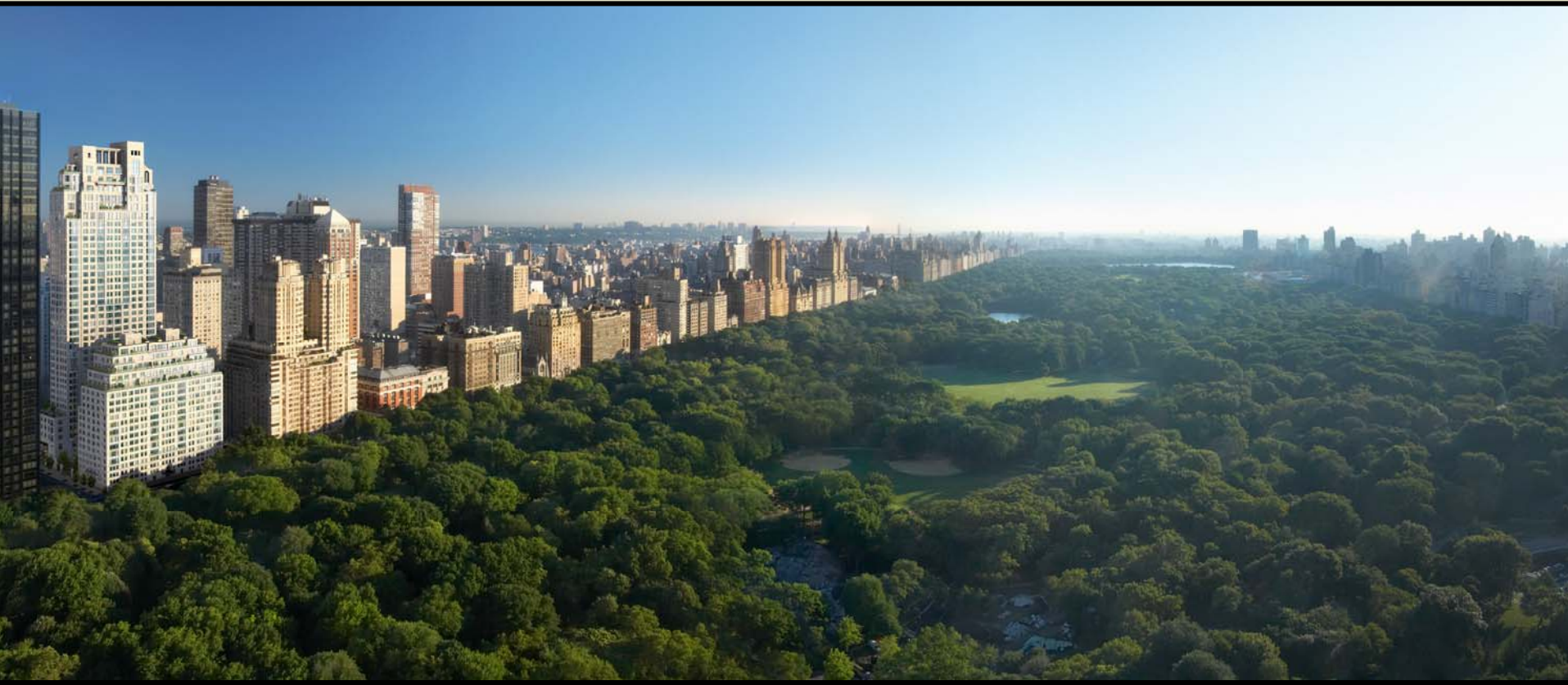




## 5. Overall City Economic Value through Tourism



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





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







# 1. Environmental Value through Cleaner Air

❖ Number of Trees

❖ Percent of Tree Canopy



## 2. Environmental Value through Cleaner Water

❖ 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



- \* Visiting a playground or tot lot
  - \* Playing tennis
    - \* Swimming
      - \* Running
        - \* Bicycling
          - \* Boating
            - \* Fishing
              - \* Golfing

\* Playing team sports such as basketball, football, baseball, roller hockey, soccer, lacrosse, ultimate, disc golf and others



- \*Sledding or tobogganing
  - \*Ice skating/Rollerblading
    - \*Skateboarding
      - \*Horseback riding
- \*Attending festivals/cultural performances
  - \*Community gardening
    - \*Visiting a flower garden
      - \*Visiting a historic site
- \*Picnicking/bench-sitting
  - \*Birdwatching or enjoying nature
    - \*Walking the dog
      - \*Walking





## 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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