Shaping Space for Civic Life
Mental and Social Benefits of Walkable Communities

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Translating research into practice
Addressing interconnected health outcomes

“Health is a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.”
- WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

Public space as a tool for fostering equity
Why Civic Life Matters

Assembly Research Process

+4 Years of Research

+200 Studies
- Original Research
- Field Research

+50 Cities Surveyed + Featured Projects

+70 Expert Advisors
Defining Civic Life

- Civic trust and appreciation
- Participation in public life
- Stewardship of the public realm
- Informed local voting

Guidelines

1. Enhance Community Connections
2. Prioritize Maintenance
3. Incorporate Nature
4. Celebrate Community Identity
5. Make Public Spaces Welcoming
6. Make Public Spaces Comfortable
7. Make Space for Activity
8. Foster Local Democracy
Enhance Community Connections

Walkability is connected to civic life

Compared to those who rarely walk, people who walk frequently report:

+4% higher civic trust
+6% greater participation in public life
Public seating and civic trust

SATISFACTION WITH PARKS AND REC DEPARTMENT
+10%

SATISFACTION WITH POLICE
+9%

TRUST LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO MAINTAIN PUBLIC SPACE
+5%

COMMUNITY PRIDE
+5%

Dequindre Cut
DETROIT, MI

Photo Courtesy of Detroit RiverFront Conservancy
Greenbridge
King County, WA

Photo courtesy of GGLO Design

Prioritize Maintenance

Love your Park Week: Philadelphia, PA. Courtesy of Fairmount Conservancy
Litter and depleted civic trust

-10% COMMUNITY PRIDE
-5% TRUST LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO MAINTAIN PUBLIC SPACES
-4% BELIEF THAT COMMUNITY MEMBERS CARE ABOUT ONE ANOTHER

~5% TRUST POLICE TO DO WHAT’S RIGHT

Maintenance of public greenery is essential

-11% NOT WELL MAINTAINED
+8% VERY WELL MAINTAINED

BASELINE: NO GREENERY
SOMETIMES MAINTAINED

CIVIC TRUST
Mayor’s Fix-It Team

SAN FRANCISCO, CA

Photo Courtesy of Fix-It Team; © Tim Ho

Love Your Park

PHILADELPHIA, PA

Photo Courtesy of Fairmount Park Conservancy
Download today!
centerforactivedesign.org/assembly

- Optimizes community-scale impacts of the design and operations of the public realm
- Currently in pilot phase with 9 communities across North America
- Will be available for public use in 2020!
- Visit fitwel.org for more details