

## CATEGORY: LANDSCAPES FOR HEALTH: DESIGNED LANDSCAPES

### Urban Green Spaces

Urban green space (UGS) is often, but not always, comprised of plants and other natural elements in a human-dominated area. Other terms used interchangeably can include green infrastructure, urban vegetation, streetscapes, remnant patches, and urban parks. Despite there not being a formal operational definition for urban green space, there has been growing interest in greenspace research as evidence that nature positively impacts human wellbeing grows. Urban green space can encourage increased physical activity, increase social and community connection, and enhance nature connectedness.

**Related topics have been included in category Landscapes for Health subset designed landscape elements.**

#### Key Organizations

[The Conservation Fund](#)

[Urban Greenspaces Institute](#)

#### Books, journals & epublications on urban green spaces

World Health Organization. Regional Office for Europe. (2016). Urban green spaces and health.

Jennings, V., Browning, M.H.E.M., & Rigolon, A. (2019). *Urban green spaces: Public health and sustainability in the United States*. Springer International Publishing.

Marsh, P., & Williams, A. (Eds.). (2023). *Cultivated therapeutic landscapes*. Routledge.

#### Research & articles on urban green spaces

Recently published selected research & articles:

A Trust for Public Land. (2023). *The Power of Parks to Promote Health: A Special Report*.

<https://www.tpl.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/The-Power-of-Parks-to-Promote-Health-A-Trust-for-Public-Land-Special-Report.pdf>

Akpınar, A., Barbosa-Leiker, C. & Brooks, K. R. (2016). Does green space matter? Exploring relationships between green space type and health indicators. *Urban Forestry & Urban Greening*, 20, 407–418.

Battisti, L., Pille, L., Larcher, F. et al. (2020). Managing urban greening for improving well-being in European cities. *ISHS Acta Horticulturae 1279: XXX International Horticultural Congress IHC2018: VII Conference on Landscape and Urban Horticulture, IV Conference on Turfgrass Management and Science for Sports Fields and II Symposium on Mechanization, Precision Horticulture, and Robotics*.

Barron, S., Lee, K., Miller, M., & Rugel, E. (2023). Tending more than gardens: Engaging residents in public landscapes to cultivate urban nature. In Marsh & Williams (Eds.), *Cultivated therapeutic landscapes*. Routledge.

Barton, J., & Rogerson, M. (2017). The importance of greenspace for mental health. *BJPsych. International* 14(4):79-81.

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- Edwards, J.R. et al. (2023). Associations of greenspace use and proximity with self-reported physical and mental health outcomes during the COVID-19 pandemic. *PLOS ONE*, 18(3).
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### Examples of urban green spaces

*Atlanta Beltline* inhabits an old railroad corridor encircling the city's downtown connecting 45 neighborhoods & parks.

<https://beltline.org/>

Brooklyn Bridge Park has 85 acres of waterfront property with active & passive opportunities for the public + an Environmental Education Center that 10,000 students visit each year.

<https://brooklynbridgepark.org/>

Railroad Park in Birmingham, Alabama has integrated the industrial sites of the city into green space using bio-filtration wetlands, Birmingham History Wall and more.

<https://www.railroadpark.org/>

Klyde Warren Park with its 5 acres over an eight-lane highway in Dallas Tx supports movement of pedestrians & cyclists between parts of the city.

<https://www.klydewarrenpark.org/>

Lowline development of former Williamsburg Bridge Trolley Terminal will use cutting edge solar technology to create an underground green space. On pause now but watch for more upcoming.  
<http://thelowline.org/>

Millennium Park and its bean shiny sculpture in Chicago was designed by Frank Gehry from an industrial wasteland, now a 5 acre perennial garden, world's largest green roof and concert venue.

[https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/depts/dca/supp\\_info/millennium\\_park.html](https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/depts/dca/supp_info/millennium_park.html)

The High Line in NTC designed by Piet Oudolf utilizes a former railroad line, now with a native and low maintenance pathway & garden right downtown with a focus on sustainability & stormwater attributes.

<https://www.thehighline.org/>

### **Videos, webinars & websites on urban green spaces**

6 Examples of Green Spaces in Cities article by ACD Consulting Services identifies urban parks, green roofs, landscaping around buildings, community woodlands & wetlands as impactful.

<https://www.acbconsultingservices.com/sustainable-construction-project-management/6-examples-of-green-spaces-in-cities/>

Green City Times online magazine focuses on green spaces, renewable energy, and ways the human interaction with environments can offer mutually beneficial living space. Article 10 Ways to Create Green Spaces for Urban Environments makes practical suggestions.

<https://www.greencitytimes.com/10-ways-to-create-green-spaces/>

THRIVE website discusses urban green spaces in terms of smaller green spaces, private green spaces, larger green spaces, sustainable development and why these are important in cities.

<https://blog.strive2thrive.earth/urban-green-spaces-not-just-a-walk-in-the-park/>

UNICEF for every child website demonstrates the necessity of urban green space for children's optimal development touching on all health domains.

<https://www.unicef.org/armenia/en/stories/necessity-urban-green-space-childrens-optimal-development>

Urban Green Space: Combining Goals for Sustainability and Placemaking research on Europe Now website discusses current approaches to this topic.

<https://www.europenowjournal.org/2021/05/10/urban-green-spaces-combining-goals-for-sustainability-and-placemaking/>

**Related organizations**

[\*Discovery Green Conservancy\*](#), Houston TX

[\*LAND studio\*](#), Cleveland OH

[\*Project for Public Space\*](#) NY, NY

[\*United Nations Development Programme\*](#)

[\*United States Environmental Protection Agency: Green Streets & Community Open Space\*](#)

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