Placement: Health and Quality of Life | Garden and Green Spaces

PARKS: THE COMMUNITY GYM

Community parks and green spaces contribute to the health of residents by providing them with great places to exercise, without the cost of gym memberships and fees. There is a positive correlation between the proximity of a neighbourhood park and the fitness levels of people in the community. They are more likely to workout when there is a free, safe and aesthetically pleasing green space close by for their jogging, aerobics, yoga, dance, callisthenics or walking exercise.

Increased exercise levels make people happier, and less susceptible to stress, lowers their heart rate and chances of disease such as obesity and diabetes, and helps them be more resilient to minor illnesses. As a result, these residents require less medical attention, resulting in a lower demand for publicly funded medical services.

Plants Love You™ and show it by creating pleasant urban green spaces conducive to beneficial, healthy activities.

Resources:

2008. Ecosystems and human well-being: Biodiversity synthesis. *In*: Bledzki, L. (ed.), Encyclopedia of Earth. World Resources Institute. http://www.eoearth.org/article/Ecosystems and Human Well-being: Biodiversity Synthesis full report. Accessed December 15, 2010.

Collins, C.C. and A.M. O'Callaghan. 2008. The impact of horticultural responsibility on health indicators and quality of life in assisted living. HortTechnology 18:611-618.

Criley, R.A. 2008. Ornamentals – more than just beautiful. Proceedings of the International Workshop on Ornamental Plants 788:23-28.

Elings, M. 2006. People-plant interaction – the physiological, psychological and sociological effects of plants on people. Farming for Health: Green-Care Farming Across Europe and the United States of America 13:43-55.

Fjeld, T. 2000. The effect of interior planting on health and discomfort among workers and school children. HortTechnology 10:46-52.

Frumkin, H. and M.E. Eysenbach. 2003. How cities use parks to improve public health. American Planning Association.

Grinde, B. and G.G. Patil. 2009. Biophilia: Does visual contact with nature impact on health and well-being? Internat. J. Env. Res. Pub. He. 6:2332-2343.

Hull, R.B. and R.S. Ulrich. 1992. Health benefits and costs of urban trees. Proceedings of the Fifth National Urban Forest Conference, p. 69-72.

Kohlleppel, T., J.C. Bradley, and S. Jacob. 2002. A walk through the garden: Can a visit to a botanic garden reduce stress? HortTechnology 12:489-492.

Kuo, F.E. 2003. The role of arboriculutre in a healthy social ecology. J. Aboriculture 29:148-155.

Kuo, F.E. 2004. Horticulture, well-being, and mental health: From intuitions to evidence. Expanding Roles for Horticulture in Improving Human Well-Being and Life Quality, p. 27-34.

Kuo, F.E. and A.F. Taylor. 2004. A potential natural treatment for attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder: Evidence from a national study. Am. J. Public Health 94:1580-1586.

Kuo, F.E. and A.F. Taylor. 2005. Mother nature as treatment for adhd: Overstating the benefits of green-response. Am. J. Public Health 95:371-372.

McPherson, E.G. 1993. Monitoring urban forest health. Environ. Monit. Assess. 26:165-174.

Park, S. and R.H. Mattson. 2009. Ornamental indoor plants in hospital rooms enhanced health outcomes of patients recovering from surgery. J. Alternative & Complementary Medicine 15:975-980.

Sallis, J.F., P.R. Nader, S.L. Broyles, C.C. Berry, J.P. Elder, T.L. McKenzie, and J.A. Nelson. 1993. Correlates of physical-activity at home in Mexican-American and Anglo-American preschool-children. Health Psychol. 12:390-398.

Sherman, S.A., J.W. Varni, R.S. Ulrich, and V.L. Malcarne. 2005. Post-occupancy evaluation of healing gardens in a pediatric cancer center. Landscape and Urban Planning 73:167-183.

Ulrich, R.S. 1986. Human responses to vegetation and landscapes. Landscape and Urban Planning 13:29-44.

Ulrich, R.S. 1990. The role of trees in human well-being and health. Proceedings of the Fourth Urban Forestry Conference, p. 25-30.

Charles R. Hall, Madeline W. Dickson. 2011. Economic, Environmental, and Health/Well-Being Benefits Associated with Green Industry Products and Services: A Review.