

Why Parks are a Smart Investment

Natural Capital Values for Parks in England

- Annual economic value £6.6 billion
- Annual saving to the NHS of £2 billion
- Asset value of over £200 billion
- Every £1 spent provides between £7 and £10 of quantified benefit

High Streets are struggling. The focus of high streets is shifting away from retail to food and leisure services.

Parks are one of the top priorities when addressing the factors that influence viability and vitality and viability of high streets.

An 'urban heat island' effect is created in cities by solar radiation trapped within the built environment.

Parks in England provide an urban cooling benefit of £4.8m pa.

Increases in greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide trap heat, warm the globe and drive climate change.

The value of carbon sequestration by trees in public parks in England is estimated at £9m per year

As towns compete to attract investment, the presence of parks, squares and gardens becomes a vital.

Urban green spaces raise nearby house prices by an average of £2,500.

Mental ill health costs the UK £1058m pa

London's parks alone help avoid an estimated £370m of mental health related costs each year.

Air pollution is the largest environmental risk to public health in the UK, causing up to 36,000 deaths.

The benefits of air pollutant removal by trees in public parks in England is estimated at £60m per year.

Disconnected communities could be costing the English economy £27 billion every year.

Nearly half of all people say that parks are the most important public space. They create opportunities for social interaction in ways that enhance health and wellbeing.

Every year physical inactivity costs the UK around £1bn.

Active visits to Parks in England result in £2bn in avoided health costs.

A third of people are disconnected from the places where they live.

There is a social return of £8.50 for every £1 invested in nature conservation volunteering.

The number of species worldwide is in sustained mass decline, threatening the environment.

Parks are among the most species rich types of urban green spaces and 1,500 species of UK's pollinators deliver and estimated £680m in value to the economy.

The proportion of impermeable surfacing in towns and cities has risen by 22% since 2001.

Urban green spaces store and filter water, reducing the risk of flooding and improving water quality.

