

Greener Parks for Health Resources

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Parks serve essential functions for recreation and green space in communities. Incorporating green infrastructure to create greener parks enhances community well-being and addresses climate-related health impacts. The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) has developed a suite of [Greener Parks for Health](https://nrpa.org/GreenerParksforHealth) resources (nrpa.org/GreenerParksforHealth) to provide park and recreation professionals with the tools and knowledge to communicate about, advocate for and institutionalize equitable access to greener parks.

These resources were designed as a package. They offer a roadmap for securing the necessary support and investments from community members, elected officials, park and recreation leadership, other municipal agencies, and partners to advance greener parks. Informed by research, cross-sector input from subject matter experts and an assessment of the field, the following resources were developed:

- **[Greener Parks for Health Communications Toolkit](#)** – Provides evidence and values-based messaging to build community and leadership support, including one-pagers that provide facts and statistics on the environmental, health, economic and social impacts of greener parks.
- **[Greener Parks for Health Policy Action Framework](#)** – Includes new and existing policies and funding mechanisms at the federal, state and local levels that have the potential to remove barriers, incentivize, and fund greener parks while building equity and increasing resilience.
- **[Greener Parks for Health Advocacy Toolkit](#)** – Offers key actions tailored to specific audiences to advance cross-sector solutions for implementing greener parks.

NRPA envisions a future where everyone has equitable access to safe and inclusive green spaces, where greener parks are viewed as essential community infrastructure that provide environmental, health, economic and social benefits. While these resources were developed for park and recreation professionals, these individuals cannot realize this vision alone, it can only be achieved through community-led planning and decision making, as well as coordination with other municipal agencies and community partners.

Visit nrpa.org/GreenerParksforHealth for more information.



Henrietta Lacks Educational Park in Baltimore, Maryland, showcases green infrastructure elements such as this bioretention feature. Photo courtesy of NRPA