

# GROWING GREAT NEIGHBORHOODS

Urban green spaces provide areas where people of different backgrounds can come together. Community building and an increased sense of civic pride emerge, bringing about benefits for the community as a whole.

## PROMOTE CIVIC PRIDE

Urban residents living in greener areas build strong feelings of belonging and attachment to their neighborhood, and the trees that comprise their neighborhoods. Active participation promotes social interaction of residents, helping to build trust and social cohesion.<sup>1</sup>

## SAFER WITH LESS CRIME

Residents living in areas with trees and urban greenery report lower levels of fear, fewer incivilities and less violent behavior. The study also found that fewer crimes were reported where buildings have greener surroundings.<sup>2</sup> Urban areas with greenery were found to have fewer incidents of vandalism or graffiti according to a survey conducted in a California community by UC Riverside.<sup>3</sup>

## GOOD FOR BUSINESS & THE LOCAL ECONOMY

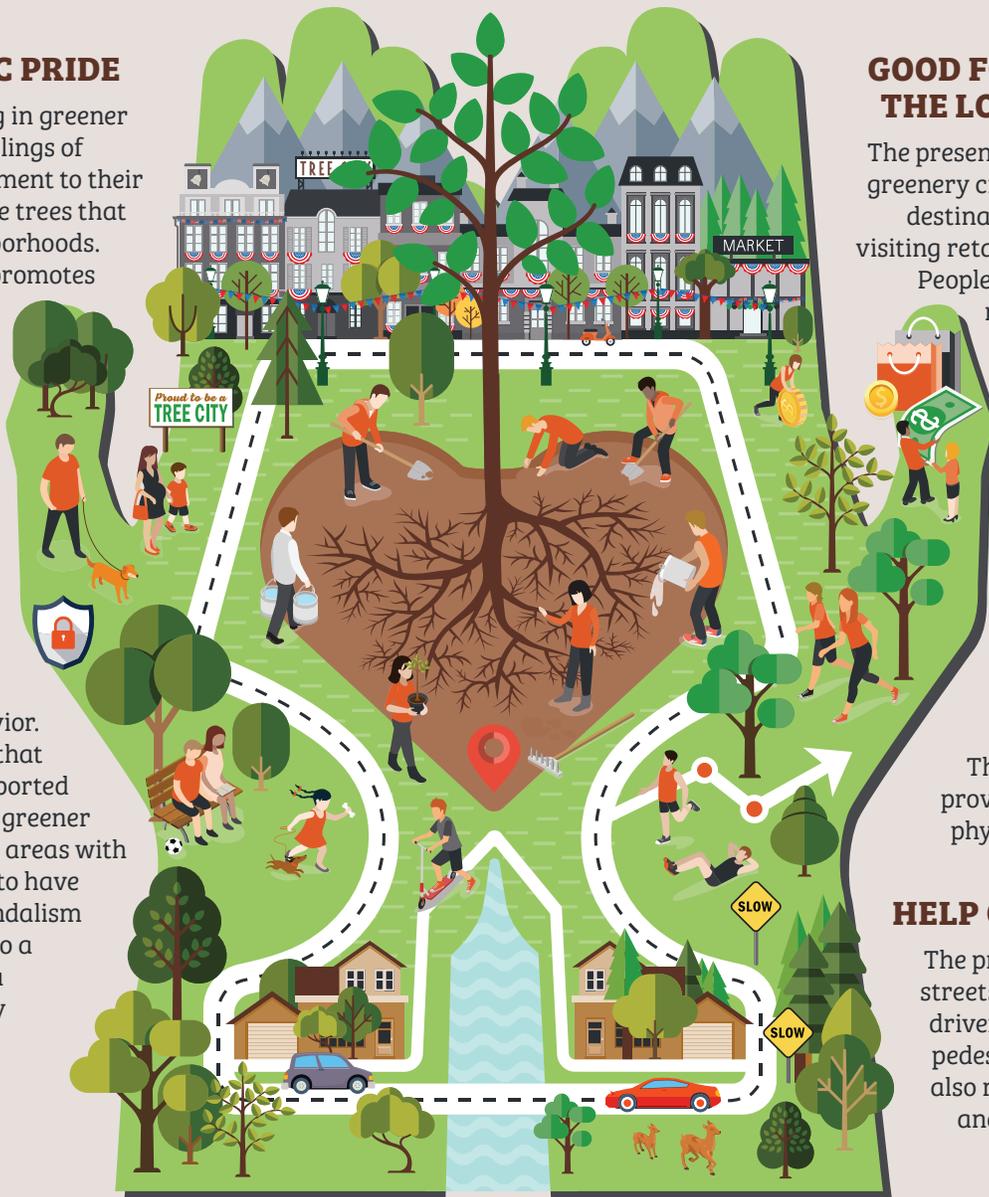
The presence of trees and urban greenery creates more desirable destinations for people when visiting retail and business areas. People are inclined to spend more time and money in retail areas with trees and plants.<sup>4</sup>

## PROMOTE EXERCISE

In neighborhoods with trees and greenery people judge distances to be shorter and are therefore much more likely to walk. This incidental exercise provides both mental and physical health benefits.<sup>5</sup>

## HELP CALM TRAFFIC

The presence of trees along streets reduces the speed of drivers, making it safer for pedestrians and cyclists. It also reduces the frequency and severity of crashes.<sup>6</sup>



### Literature Cited:

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