

**Myths and Facts About Parks**

**Myth: There is a park within walking distance of everyone’s home**

**Fact:** Unfortunately, many children play on the streets because they have nowhere else to play.

**Myth: Parks don’t affect health**

**Fact:** From community gardens to feeding programs to places to recreate, studies have shown that people who have easy access to parks are healthier.

**Myth: Parks are funded solely by my taxes; they don’t need my financial help**

**Fact:** Park funding is being slashed across the country forcing parks to shut down or forgo maintenance. To see how you can help locally contact YOUR park and recreation agency.

**Myth: Parks don’t need maintenance – it’s just trails and grass**

**Fact:** Maintenance of the park systems requires rangers and maintenance staff to cut grass, haul trash, clean up after storms, and perform safety inspections.

**Myth: Parks and recreation don’t play a role in conservation.**

**Fact:** Most park systems develop no more than 30 percent of their land, the rest is permanently open space helping to preserve important natural resources.