

Benefits of Shared Use

People everywhere want access to safe and affordable recreational spaces. With shared use, public and private property owners can open underutilized facilities for community use. Though often used as a strategy to increase opportunities for physical activity, shared use has many wide-ranging benefits.



Health

INCREASED PHYSICAL ACTIVITY among people who live near recreational spaces

REDUCED RISK OF CHRONIC DISEASE associated with more physical activity

BETTER ACCESS TO HEALTHY FOODS through community gardens and kitchens

IMPROVED MENTAL WELL-BEING for those who live near parks or recreational facilities

REDUCED STRESS for people who spend more time outside

Equity

MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR PHYSICAL ACTIVITY in low-income communities and communities of color, which are less likely to have access to recreational spaces

REDUCED HEALTH INEQUITIES by creating more spaces for play and exercise in the communities that need them most

Community

DECREASED CRIME, VANDALISM, AND VIOLENCE in recreational spaces that residents use regularly

STRONGER COMMUNITY TIES through informal interaction, organized activities, and volunteering

Education

IMPROVED ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE among kids who are more physically active

BETTER CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR when students can play and be active

Economy

MORE COST-EFFECTIVE than building new resources or facilities

INCREASED ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY when shared use supports small business incubation

HIGHER PROPERTY VALUES for properties closer to parks, open spaces, and recreational facilities