Social Support & Interaction

Your understanding of the world changes when you feel safe, you feel safe, you feel safe. When you positively and regularly connect with neighbors, feel supported and create social ties that are available to help you, through both the good and the bad times.

How do we encourage more social interaction and connectedness in our communities?

We envision and build public and common spaces that create opportunities for people to gather, socialize, discuss big ideas, and come together to address community issues. When you are socially and emotionally connected to others in your community, you feel safer, crimes go down, and you are more likely to feel positive rather than negative stress.

People who play together stay together! Local parks and play areas contribute to developing social support and offer opportunities to interact. They also provide a setting that helps you stay active and fit.

How do we help people play more and stay active?

We develop unique parks and recreation systems and provide high-quality programming that helps people learn to take full advantage of all that these spaces have to offer. When you have the opportunity to continue to play throughout your life and across age, you have a better chance of avoiding many health concerns.

New York City Neighborhoods of Peach & Greens, Avers Park, Flath, and the environment!

Green & Natural Environments

Connecting with nature changes everything. And you don’t have to be completely immersed in the forest to gain the benefits.

How do we support more interaction with green and natural environments?

We work in communities to find unique ways to bring nature back into urban spaces. Community parks, rooftop farms, water conservation gardens, natural play spaces, all help enhance our mind and memory functions, improve our water quality, feel a sense of place, and can increase stress and anxiety levels.

Healthy Food

Our food system offers many different opportunities for community transformation. Local food production can introduce a new economic model into a neighborhood, and making fresh and affordable food available improves diets and reduces health concerns.

How can healthy foods help improve the health of a community?

We create a local food system that ensures the availability of more high-quality foods, that generates entrepreneurship, and that supports environmental sustainability. Combined, these opportunities positively impact our health and wellbeing in many different ways.

Walking and Biking

Walking and biking are healthier for both people and the environment! Developing community destinations where walking and biking become an easier option than jumping in a car and driving from place to place reshape transportation decision-making for everyone.

How can we encourage more walking and biking?

We create destinations for people to walk and bike to in addition to the recreational greenways, and we introduce safety features and traffic calming design to improve the safety and aesthetic of streets.

The Unique Role of Healthcare Institutions

By utilizing their facilities, land, funding capacity, employees, political power, and other resources to support placemaking, the healthcare sector and its civic partners have a special opportunity to promote health and well-being in their communities.

• Using Community Health Needs Assessments to identify potential placemaking projects and strategies
• Utilizing Community Health Workers to engage local residents in placemaking efforts