



City of Abilene

Keep Abilene Beautiful Board Agenda

Special Called Meeting - Board Retreat

Notice is hereby given of a meeting of Keep Abilene Beautiful of the City of Abilene to be held on August 13, 2022, at 9:00 a.m., at the Development Corporation of Abilene, Conference Room, 174 Cypress Street, Suite 301, Abilene, Texas, for the purpose of considering the following agenda items.

CALL TO ORDER

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public Comments on Any Item on the Agenda

MINUTES

1. Approval of Minutes from the July 2022 Meeting

TREASURER'S REPORT

2. Review July Bank Statement

AGENDA ITEMS

3. Shoreline Sweeps: Protect the Locals - Saturday, August 27th

COORDINATOR'S UPDATE

4. Community Appearance Index

Annual Retreat Agenda

5. KAB History - A short review of where Keep Abilene Beautiful originated from and the recent highlights and achievements.
6. Areas of Focus - A review of the 2021 - 2024 Strategic Plan
 - a. Reduce Litter
 - b. Educate Community
 - c. Beautify Abilene
7. Seven Pillars of Action - Study the key focus priorities as set forth by the 2021 - 2024 Strategic Plan

- a. Innovate & Adapt - Rebrand, marketing, new programming and training, technology
 - b. Diversify Funding - Build a broad range of funding sources, including individuals, government
 - c. Building our Network - Support, strengthen and grow affiliates in Abilene
 - d. Partner - Be a valuable partner to other organizations in Abilene and other affiliates in the surrounding area that complement and magnify our work
 - e. Increase our Voice - Advocate, provide solutions to policymakers, government officials, etc.
 - f. Make Data-Based Decisions - Research, measure, and evaluate to determine impact.
 - g. Change Lives - Intentionally include diverse programs, education, and behavior change
8. Goals - Discuss achievements and plans to finish out goals as defined by the 2021 - 2024 Strategic Plan
- A. Reduce Litter
 - 1. Adopt-A-Street Program
 - 2. New Digital Reporting for State of Texas
 - 3. KTB & KAmB Clean Up Participation
 - B. Improve Recycling
 - 1. Current Recycling Stations in Abilene
 - 2. Cigarette Butts
 - C. Beautify Community
 - 1. Commemorative Tree & Bench Program
 - 2. Rose Park Amphitheater
 - D. Connect Locally
 - 1. Membership & Sponsorship Program
 - E. Modernize & Innovate
 - 1. KAB Rebranding
 - 2. Bee City USA
 - 3. Equitable Access to Nature
9. Special Events Calendar - Discuss and decide on events for FY 2022 - 2023
10. Officer Election - Nominate & Vote on Officer positions for FY 2022 -2023
- A. President
 - B. President-Elect
 - C. Treasurer
 - D. Secretary
11. Board Meeting and Committee Meeting Dates for FY 2022 - 2023

ADJOURNMENT

Notice

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Abilene will provide for reasonable accommodations for persons attending meetings. To better serve you, requests should be received forty-eight (48) hours prior to scheduled meetings. Please contact the City Secretary's Office at 325-676-6208. Telecommunication device for the deaf is 325-676-6360.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify the above meeting notice was posted on the bulletin board at the City Hall of the City of Abilene, Texas, on the 9th day of August, 2022, at 9:35 a.m.

*Kaitlin Richardson, Deputy City
Secretary, TRMC*

**MINUTES OF THE
KEEP ABILENE BEAUTIFUL BOARD
July 13, 2022 | 12PM**

OFFICERS PRESENT

Akane Thaxton, Vice President
John Willey, Secretary
Chase Robertson, Treasurer

OFFICERS ABSENT

Cristal Murillo, President

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Kyle Tolliver
Aida Pantoja
Deborah Williams

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Garrett Strickland
Reagan Van Coutren

KAB STAFF

Jennifer Pacheco, KAB Coordinator

ADVISORY MEMBERS

Kelley Messer, City Attorney
Max Johnson, Interim Director for
Public Works

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

n/a

GUESTS PRESENT

Jason Day, Abilene Recycling Center

CALL TO ORDER

Akane Thaxton called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m. A quorum of board members was present. Jason Day introduced himself as a new employee at the Abilene Recycling Center. Jennifer Pacheco announced that a new board member was recently appointed to KAB. Her name is Rebekah Raux-Summarall, and she will be at the next board meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

n/a

MINUTES

Motion to approve June 2022 board meeting minutes was made by Chase Robertson and seconded by Aida Pantoja. Through roll call, motion was carried unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Chase Robertson stated that the financial report will be presented quarterly instead of monthly going forward, and he reviewed the cash inflows/outflows from donations and invoices.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Fundraising & Events Committee – June 15, 2022

- The committee discussed the sustained desire to hold a crepe myrtle sale and combine it with some sort of event. They also discussed some details of the upcoming Community Appearance Index & Ice Cream Social.

Education & Outreach Committee – June 14, 2022

- Chase Robertson reported on several discussion topics at the committee meeting. Continued work on a bags-to-benches recycling program; use schools as a potential dropoff spot for bags and include a plaque on the eventual bench that recognizes KAB and dictates the number of bags that it took to create the bench. Start a monthly adopt-a-spot clean up initiative. Partner with Stormwater Service for rain barrel education. Find a way to partner with the Boy Scouts/Girl Scouts to help them earn different merit badges. Increase Facebook outreach by producing more posts regrading beautification tips and event reminders. Partnership with the Grace Gala by sponsoring a table; Aida Pantoja made a motion to sponsor a table at highest donation level; John Willey made a motion to sponsor at the Advocate level, and Kyle Tolliver seconded John's motion to sponsor at the Advocate level.

COORDINATOR'S UPDATE

- Keep Texas Beautiful Conference was attended by Jennifer Pacheco and Srini Valvada. It was a good networking and learning opportunity, and there were some fun moments too. KAB was recognized as a Gold Star Affiliate, and they received the Governor Community Achievement Award of Excellence.
- There are four potential board openings coming soon as current board members' terms expire. John Willey and Reagan Van Coutren will not renew their board positions.
- Jennifer Pacheco reminded all board members to regularly check their abileneboards email and plan to attend applicable committee meetings.

AGENDA ITEMS

Abilene Community Appearance Index 2022

- Volunteers will meet at Minter Park, then divide into different sections of the city to conduct "windshield inspections" of their respective areas. Ice Cream Social to follow at Minter Park. The goal is to have 45 volunteers sign up from a group of 400 email addresses on record through signupgenius.com.

Shoreline Sweeps

- These events will focus on different student groups and have different themes based on the time of year. A sticker series for water bottles can act as a good promotional item, and Stormwater will provide t-shirts for the event. The goal is to have educational talks in addition to the trash pickup initiative. Akane Thaxton questioned the use of large trash bags for the pickup because if they are mostly empty then the bags could become unnecessary trash themselves.

Where Ideas Grow: Board Retreat 2022

- Expect a busy and productive meeting including discussions regarding committee roles and a vote for next year's officers. Board members will received a survey soon about the specific meeting topics.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:41 p.m.

John Willey, Secretary

Cristal Murillo, President

PO Box 701, Abilene, TX 79604

PLEASE EXAMINE AT ONCE

Check your statement and enclosures, and report any discrepancies within thirty (30) days. Please direct any phone inquiries regarding your accounts to (855) 660-5862. Written inquiries should be sent to the address listed, attention: Research.

0009169

3380FF

18637A00X.004

*0009169 S1
KEEP ABILENE BEAUTIFUL INC
GENERAL OPERATING ACCOUNT
ATTN: NICOLE EAVES
PO BOX 60
ABILENE TX 79604-0060



ACCOUNT NUMBER	1013633319
STATEMENT DATES	7/01/22-7/29/22
ENCLOSURES	0
PAGE	1 of 2

SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS

Account Number	Account Description	Current Balance
1013633319	Business Interest Checking	53,119.65

ACCOUNT SUMMARY

Business Interest Checking

Account Number	1013633319	Statement Dates	7/01/22 thru 7/31/22
Previous Balance	53,110.63	Days in Statement Period	31
0 Deposits/Credits	0.00	Average Ledger	53,110.63
0 Checks/Debits	0.00	Average Collected	53,110.63
Monthly Maintain Fee	0.00		
Interest Pd This Stmt	9.02		
Ending Balance	53,119.65	2022 Interest Paid	14.11

Account Title:
Keep Abilene Beautiful Inc
General Operating Account
Attn: Nicole Eaves

MISCELLANEOUS CREDITS

Date	Description	Amount
7/31	Interest Deposit	9.02

INTEREST RATE SUMMARY

Date	Interest Rate
6/30	0.200000%

DAILY ENDING BALANCE

Date	Balance	Date	Balance	Date	Balance
7/01	53,110.63	7/31	53,119.65		



Checkbook Reconciliation

CHECKS OUTSTANDING

[illegible]

ENTER

Balance This Statement

\$ _____

ADD

Recent Deposits

(Not Credited On This Statement)

\$ _____

§

TOTAL

§

SUBTRACT

Checks Outstanding

§

BALANCE

§

Should agree with your checkbook balance after deducting charges and adding credits included on this statement, but not shown in your checkbook.

PLEASE REPORT ANY DISCREPANCIES WITHIN 30 DAYS

In Case of Errors or Questions About Your Electronic Transfers

Telephone us at (855) 660-5862

or

Write us at PO Box 701, Abilene, Texas 79604

We are capable of handling WEB code, TEL code and paper check conversion transactions, which may or may not apply to your account. These transactions may be initiated by a third party (normally a merchant) that has provided you with goods, services, or is in the process of collecting an insufficient check. These transactions will appear on your statement like an ATM or debit card transaction. Your authorization to make these types of electronic fund transfers may be expressed in writing or implied through the posting of a sign. Merchants may also receive authorization by telephone or through the internet. You should use caution and only provide your bank and account information to trusted third parties that you have authorized to initiate electronic fund transfers. Third parties may charge fees disclosed to you. We have no control over third party fees.

ERROR RESOLUTION NOTICE

In case of errors or questions about your electronic transfers, call or write us at the telephone number or address listed in this disclosure, as soon as you can, if you think your statement or receipt is wrong, or if you need more information about a transfer listed on the statement or receipt. We must hear from you no later than 60 days after we sent the FIRST statement on which the problem or error appeared.

- (1) Tell us your name and account number.
- (2) Describe the error or the transfer you are unsure about, and explain as clearly as you can why you believe it is an error or why you need more information.
- (3) Tell us the dollar amount of the suspected error.

If you tell us verbally, we may require that you send us your complaint or question in writing within 10 business days.

We will determine whether an error occurred within 10 business days (20 business days if the transfer involved a new account) after we hear from you and will correct any error promptly. If we need more time, however, we may take up to 45 days (90 days if the transfer involved a new account, a point-of-sale transaction, or a foreign-initiated transfer) to investigate your complaint or question. If we decide to do this, we will credit your account within 10 business days (20 business days if the transfer involved a new account) for the amount you think is in error, so that you will have the use of the money during the time it takes us to complete our investigation. If we ask you to put your complaint or question in writing and we do not receive it within 10 business days, we may not credit your account. An account is considered a new account for 30 days after the first deposit is made, if you are a new customer.

We will tell you the results within three business days after completing our investigation. If we decide that there was no error, we will send you a written explanation.

You may ask for copies of the documents that we used in our investigation.

KEEP ABILENE BEAUTIFUL ★ SHORELINE SWEEPS
PROTECT THE LOCALS



FIRST 100
PARTICIPANTS
GET A FREE SHIRT
& WATER BOTTLE
STICKER

**LAKE
KIRBY**
CLEAN-UP

SATURDAY
AUGUST 27
9:00 AM



REGISTER ONLINE: KEEPABILENEBEAUTIFUL.ORG



Keep
Abilene
Beautiful

STRATEGIC PLAN 2021-2024



KEEP ABILENE BEAUTIFUL IS AN INDEPENDENT NONPROFIT THAT ENVISIONS A COMMUNITY WHERE EVERYONE LIVES IN A CLEAN, GREEN AND BEAUTIFUL PLACE.

Keep Abilene Beautiful is a community improvement nonprofit organization with the strategy to inspire and educate people to take action every day to improve and beautify their community environment. Established in 1986, we strive to end littering, provide environmental education and beautify our community. We believe everyone should live in a clean, green and beautiful community and share the responsibility to contribute to that vision.

Behavior change – steeped in education, research and behavioral science – is the cornerstone of Keep Abilene Beautiful. We are set to empower generations of community stewards with volunteer programs, hands-on experiences, curricula, practical advice and other resources to deliver measurable environmental, economic and social benefits. The organization is driven by more than 400 volunteers, 11 volunteer board members and the support of corporate partners, social and civic service organizations, institutions of higher education, and government officials.

OUR PRIORITIES

INNOVATE AND ADAPT

Rebrand, marketing, new programming and training, technology

DIVERSIFY FUNDING

Build a broad range of funding sources including individuals, government foundations and corporations.

BUILDING OUR NETWORK

Support, strengthen and grow affiliates in Abilene and abroad.

PARTNER

Be a valuable partner to other organizations in Abilene, other affiliates in the surrounding area that complement and magnify our work.

INCREASE OUR VOICE

Advocate, provide solutions to policy makers, government officials, etc.

MAKE DATA-BASED DECISIONS

Research, measure, and evaluate to determine impact.

CHANGE LIVES

Intentionally include diverse programs, education, and behavior change.

OUR GOALS

GOAL 1: REDUCE LITTERING

Over the past 34 years, based on our annual litter index monitoring, Keep Abilene Beautiful has seen a slight reduction in litter for the areas monitored. However, litter continues to be a problem in Abilene. We need to adjust our approach to how we change attitudes and behaviors about littering. There are social, environmental and economic benefits to our work and people are an integral part of the solution.

- CONDUCT AND COMMUNICATE RESEARCH ON LITTER AND LITTERING BEHAVIOR TO DETERMINE THE BEST PROGRAMS FOR PREVENTION
We will conduct research on littering behavior, litter and lake & creek debris, allowing for an understanding of what types of litter exist, where and why people litter.
- CONTINUE TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT ANTI-LITTER AWARENESS, THOUGHT LEADERSHIP AND EDUCATION CAMPAIGNS
We will utilize all methods of media, education and our volunteer network to teach people to change their behavior and manage their waste correctly.
- DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT TOOLS FOR A LITTER PREVENTION BEHAVIOR-BASED APPROACH FOR CITIZENS, BUSINESS AND GOVERNMENT LEADERS
We will renovate existing programs and tools such as the Adopt-A-Spot, Spring Sweep and Falls Sweep programs, as well as develop new programs to increase our impact.

By 2024:

- ✓ **NEW:** 75% of our organization programs will report using a digital tool for measuring litter abatement.
- ✓ **NEW:** 50% of reporting programs enter, at least, 0.5 reduced score of litter index
- ✓ Improvement of littering behavior by 5% in the Abilene community

RESULTS	MEASUREMENT FORMULA	LEAD
75% of our organizations reports will be done using a digital tool for measuring litter abatement by 2024	The number of unique number of litter abatements entered in a digital tool divided by the total number of unique litter abatements	
50% of our reports entered will have a 0.5 reduced score of the litter index from the previous year	The number of unique litter index reports with at least a 0.5 drop in litter score divided by the total unique number of litter index reports.	
Improvement in littering behavior by 5% in the community by 2024	• Contract with a university that would conduct observation work on littering behavior every other year over ten years. Benchmark year would be the 2020 study. • Asking about how people observed others littering in a survey. (use questions from Burns & McDonnell survey)	

GOAL 2: IMPROVE RECYCLING

We are consuming products and resources rapidly and seek to support efforts to reduce waste, increase re-use and improve recycling quality and quantity. Through consumer education and our behavior change system will support a circular thought economy and fewer valuable resources will be wasted.

- EDUCATE AND ENGAGE INDIVIDUALS TO RECYCLE
We will provide our community, educators and the general public with training, tools and resources to effectively educate and motivate individuals to re-use, reduce and recycle.
- PROVIDE THOUGHT LEADERSHIP AND RESOURCES ON EFFECTIVELY ENGAGING INDIVIDUALS TO RECYCLE
Utilizing editorial calendars, public service campaigns, America Recycles Day events, speaking opportunities, blogs, websites, social media and thought leadership; we will work with the community network, youth advisory council, and other stakeholders to increase our impact in closing the loop.
- INCREASE RECYCLING IN PUBLIC SPACES AND AWAY FROM HOME
We will ensure more public spaces have bins, and utilize best practices in placement and labeling for recycling.

By 2024:

- ✓ **NEW:** Increase the number of people who intend to recycle by 5% annually
- ✓ **NEW:** Increase number of people who know how to correctly recycle by 3%
- ✓ **NEW:** Increase the number of people who have access to recycling bins away from home by 5%

RESULTS	MEASUREMENT FORMULA	LEAD
Increase the number of people who intend to recycle by 5% annually	- Increase the number of pledges on KAB websites (counts of unique emails) - Baseline is 2021 KAB data.	
Increase the number of people who know how to correctly recycle by 3%	- Broad reach recycling content (i.e. recycling game or chatbot) after KAB email pledge: test what is recyclable or not. - Baseline: Facebook poll with paid boost	
Increase the number of people who have access to recycling bins away from home by 5%	- Sum of the population of Abilene per 2016 Census that will receive Recycling Bins for Public Spaces - Baseline: Coke Bin 2021, possible Dr. Pepper/Snapple bins 2021	

GOAL 3: BEAUTIFY COMMUNITIES

Accessible, clean, well-managed and imaginatively designed public outdoor spaces offer a valuable resource for communities. Public space allows people to socialize, exercise, play and relax.

- DEVELOP AND GROW PARTNERSHIPS TO FURTHER COMMUNITY GREENING AND BEAUTIFICATION
We will work with strategic partners to increase programs and resources for Abilene to plant trees and community gardens, paint murals and reduce illegal graffiti, provide amenities and bins in public spaces
- DEVELOP TOOLS, RESOURCES, MODELS AND EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION FOR RESTORING AND REBUILDING A RESILIENT COMMUNITY AFTER A NATURAL DISASTER
We will establish the Abilene Restoration and Resiliency Fund and develop other resources using our expertise, to support our community in developing resilient public spaces after suffering a disaster.
- RAISE PUBLIC AWARENESS ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE AND ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL BENEFITS OF CLEAN, GREEN AND BEAUTIFUL PUBLIC SPACES AND KAB'S ROLE IN THIS SPACE.
We will increase the relevance and awareness of KAB's footprint in beautification.

By 2024:

- ✓ Restoration of 3 public spaces through the Abilene Restoration & Resiliency Fund
- ✓ **NEW:** Improvement, growth and maintenance of 5% more miles of waterways/roadways and 5% more acres of public spaces.

RESULTS	MEASUREMENT FORMULA	LEAD
Restoration of 3 public spaces through the Abilene Restoration & Resiliency Fund	The sum of the number of public spaces provided funding awarded under the ARRF.	
Improvement, growth and maintenance of 5% of miles of waterway/roadways and 5% acres of public spaces	Sum of the number of miles and acres improved or maintained through the Adopt-A-Spot, Great American Clean Up, Don't Mess With Texas and Texas Trash Days Baseline: 5 year average	

GOAL 4: CONNECT LOCALLY

Every person should be able to live in a clean, green and beautiful community and should have access to learning the importance of a sustainable environment and its impact on their neighbors, family and friends in social, economic and environmental ways acknowledging cultural diversity.

- WE WILL TEACH AND IMPLEMENT THE KEEP ABILENE BEAUTIFUL BEHAVIOR CHANGE MODEL
Provide tools to educators, the public and strategic partners to spread behavior change moving to a circular economy

- EXPAND OUR CITYWIDE PRESENCE TO INCREASE OUR RELEVANCE
We will work with partner organizations and corporations to address our issues on the local stage, using our research, education and affiliate model to target areas that have been identified as contributing the most to Abilene's litter and waterway debris problem.
- GROW AND STRENGTHEN A DIVERSE AFFILIATE AND VOLUNTEER NETWORK THAT REFLECTS THE FACE OF ABILENE
We will work locally to grow, strengthen and diversify our network to include historically underserved communities

By 2024:

- ✓ Improve capacity of existing volunteers through ongoing training and tools used by 80% of the state's affiliates
- ✓ Three new adopt-a-spot volunteer groups per year
- ✓ Thirty new local, university or business volunteers per year; including ten in predominantly diverse neighborhoods
- ✓ Two new Pecan Tree Business Member, three Crepe Myrtle Business Member, three new Bluebonnet Business Members, three KAB Patrons and five KAB Friend – Individual Memberships per year.

RESULTS	MEASUREMENT FORMULA	LEAD
Increased satisfaction of KAB's tools or training by 60% Increased consumption of KAB's tools or training 75%	Percent of Total unique users who do one of the following: • Number of volunteers who attend a full training (online or offline) • Number of volunteers who report the use of specific KAB tools within an Annual Survey	
Three new adopt-a-spot groups per year.	The count of new adopt-a-spot contract within the calendar year.	
Thirty new local, university or business volunteers per year; including ten in predominantly diverse neighborhoods.	The count of new volunteers per year. • Local and business affiliates are focused on parks, creeks and lakes. • University affiliates are both two-year and four-year colleges. • Predominantly diverse communities are those with a minority composition over 50% and/or have an individual poverty rate over 20% per most recent American Community Survey from US Census Bureau.	
Business and Individual Memberships per year: - Two: Pecan Tree & Crepe Myrtle Tree - Three: Crepe Myrtle Tree, Bluebonnet and Patron - Eight: Friends	The count of individual and business memberships with application dates within the calendar year	

GOAL 5: MODERNIZE AND INNOVATE

Innovation and relevance through technology, rebranding and cutting-edge programming and training need to be available to board members, volunteers, the public and our partners. Only through change, creativity and expansion will we increase our impact and meet our goals.

- EXPAND OUTREACH, MARKETING, PARTNERSHIP, AND EDUCATION EFFORTS TO FOCUS ON DIVERSE AND YOUNGER AUDIENCES.
We will increase participation and Keep Abilene Beautiful impact in schools and with the increased use of technology, through the COG Advisory Council, Waste in Place curriculum and school-based programs.
- CREATE AND BUILD A CREATIVE, RELEVANT AND CUTTING-EDGE YOUTH EDUCATION AND OUTREACH PROGRAM
We will digitize and translate into other languages and KAB curriculum and provide interactive tools for educators and students of all ages to improve recycling and end littering
- IMPLEMENT PUBLIC AWARENESS, ADVOCACY AND RE-BRANDING CAMPAIGN
We will develop a public awareness and individual giving campaign and re-branding of the organization.

By 2024:

- ✓ Expand the number of youth reached by 10% annually and create more recognition for youth engagement
- ✓ 5% increase in the number of people who are aware of Keep Abilene Beautiful's mission and brand
- ✓ Increase funding from individuals, grants, and events by 10% annually

RESULTS	MEASUREMENT FORMULA	LEAD
Expand the number of youth reached by 10% annually and create more recognition for youth engagement	The change in the number of students impacted by projects as reported by KAB Board members.	
5% increase in the number of people who are aware of Keep Abilene Beautiful's mission and brand	Build a rebranding campaign to bring awareness to the organization, its mission and brand. Include brand awareness in the Annual Survey	
Increase funding from individuals, grants, and events by 10% annually	The change in the amount of fundraised dollars year to year (minus membership program dollars)	

NEXT STEPS

KEEP ABILENE BEAUTIFUL IS PLEASED TO HAVE DEVELOPED ITS STRATEGY FOR THE NEXT THREE YEARS TO 2024. WE ARE COMMITTED TO WORKING TOWARDS OUR GOALS WHICH WILL BE CONTINUOUSLY REVIEWED.

THERE HAS NEVER BEEN A MORE IMPORTANT TIME FOR THE MISSION OF KEEP ABILENE BEAUTIFUL. THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE LOCAL ENVIRONMENT AND OF INDIVIDUALS' BEHAVIOR IN OUR COMMUNITY IS A FUNDAMENTAL PRIORITY. BUILDING PROGRESS WILL REQUIRE NEW PARTNERSHIPS, NEW WAYS OF WORKING AND SHARED RESPONSIBILITY OF CORPORATE, PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR PARTNERSHIPS COMING TOGETHER TO CREATE MEANINGFUL CHANGE FOR ALL.

Please join the Keep Abilene Beautiful mission and goals to reduce litter, improve recycling, beautify communities, change lives and innovate.



A few caring
people can
change the world.

Volunteers have
the heart to make
it happen.

Small acts can
transform your
community.

"It Belongs To All of Us"



City of Abilene/Keep Abilene Beautiful Adopt-A-Street/Adopt-A-Creek Application

The **Adopt-A-Street/Adopt-A-Creek** program gives groups the opportunity to help their local community by collecting litter and beautifying areas in their neighborhood. This citywide program takes the Don't Mess With Texas Adopt-A-Highway program to a local level to connect citizens of all ages.

☐ **Yes!** I want to **Adopt-A-Street/Adopt-A-Creek** in Abilene!

I would like to adopt the following location(s), if available:

Location(s): _____

★please be specific★ _____

Organization/Group: _____

Contact Name: _____

of Volunteers: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____

E-Mail: _____

Type of Organization (neighborhood, faith-based, non-profit, scouts, school, etc.): _____

Please remember:

- KAB will work with your group to find a location in need.
- Your group must adopt at least $\frac{1}{4}$ a mile of area within the City of Abilene for at least **two** years.
- Your group must agree to clean your adopted spot **four** times per year or more.
- KAB will provide your group with supplies and Safety Guidelines.
- The City of Abilene will put up a sign with your group's name **after** an agreement has been signed, releases have been signed by all participants, and one cleanup has been completed.
- Place the collected litter in tied bags at your sign(s) for collection.
- Wear bright clothing and exert all due care and caution during cleanups.
- Provide adult supervision for volunteers 17 years of age or younger.
- Submit your cleanup information to the KAB office within one week after cleanup.



DON'T TRASH YOUR COMMUNITY!

Did you know it's illegal to dump trash and bulky items in front of a home, business, alleyway, around trash bin areas, or on the street?



**GET RID OF YOUR ITEMS
AT THESE LOCATIONS**

FOR FREE!

ERC

Environmental Recycling
Center

**Standard Recyclables
Chemicals**

Tires (FEES APPLY)

Oils & Filters

Antifreeze

Batteries

Appliances

Paint

TUESDAY-FRIDAY

8AM-4PM

SATURDAY

8AM-12PM

SUNDAY & MONDAY

CLOSED

2209 OAK ST.

ABC

Abilene Brush Center

**Brush & Yard Waste
Tree Limbs**

Purchase Mulch Here!

**Premium Ground
\$6/YARD**

**Single Grind
\$4/YARD OR**

FREE IF SELF-LOADED

MONDAY-FRIDAY

8AM-5PM

SATURDAY

8AM-3PM

SUNDAY

CLOSED

2149 SANDY ST.

CCS

Citizens Convenience
Station

Mattresses

Couches

Furniture

Wood Fencing

Carpet Rolls

Bulky Items

TVs

Electronics

WEDNESDAY-SATURDAY

8AM-3PM

SUNDAY-TUESDAY

CLOSED

OPEN TO CITY OF ABILENE RESIDENTS • DRIVER'S LICENSE & CURRENT WATER BILL REQUIRED

Visit abilenetx.com/SolidWasteServices for more information



Keep
Abilene
Beautiful



Cigarette Waste Free Recycling Program



Recycle from anywhere

How it works

We've made getting started with the Cigarette Waste Free Recycling Program easy! Simply download a free shipping label to ship your cigarette waste to TerraCycle, and we'll recycle it.

Important note: In order to recycle this waste stream properly, make sure the cigarettes are fully extinguished. Please do not dump your cigarette waste directly into the box you plan to ship them in. Additionally, do not use paper bags to collect your waste. Instead, collect cigarette waste using sturdy plastic containers or bags.

You can order exclusive receptacles designed specifically for recycling cigarette waste in your community or at your business location. Receptacles are perfect for standardizing cigarette recycling in small or large-scale outdoor environments. These metal receptacles can be equipped with steel bolt bands for flexible placement at your location. [Click here](#) for more information.

Collect

Create a TerraCycle account and join this program. Then reuse any box you have to start collecting your cigarette waste.

Print Free Label

When your box is full, sign in to your TerraCycle account to download and print a prepaid shipping label.

Ship

Follow the special shipping instructions in the important note above. Then seal your box, affix the prepaid shipping label, and send it to us to be recycled.



0 Reviews

Cigarette Receptacles (6-Pack)

\$496.36

- 1 +
Add to cart

Description

USE THESE RECEPTACLES TO COLLECT THE BELOW

Extinguished cigarettes, cigarette filters, loose tobacco pouches, outer plastic packaging, inner foil packaging, rolling paper, and ash.

HOW IT WORKS

1. **INSTALL** | Install your Cigarette Receptacles in an easily accessible public location. [Click here to view the installation manual.](#)
2. **COLLECT** | As a safety precaution, do not fill your receptacles more than 85% of its full capacity. When ready to empty, place a bag or bucket beneath the receptacle and unlock the receptacle door with the provided key. Recycle the cigarette butts by participating in TerraCycle's free [Cigarette Recycling Program](#) or by purchasing a [Cigarette Waste Zero Waste Box](#).
3. **RECYCLE** | When we receive your waste, we'll safely recycle all of the collected materials. [Please click here to see how your waste is recycled.](#)

WHAT IS INCLUDED

- 6 fire-safe, 100% rust-resistant aluminum receptacle for on-site collection and shipping
- Dimensions: 3 1/8" x 3 1/8" x 19"
- Bolts for installation
- Shipping and handling costs
- **Note:** These receptacles do *not* come with stickers. Steel bands not included.

IMPORTANT RESTRICTIONS

Do not send in other types of waste like lighters, matches, or snack wrappers.

Do not send in household hazardous waste such as lithium ion batteries, pressurized canisters, pesticides, oil-based paint or medical sharps, organics, broken glass, bio-medical waste, soiled diapers, or expired medication.

Do not accept any item that is classified as sharp, flammable, reactive, corrosive, ignitable, radioactive, toxic, infectious, or pathogenic.

WHY? Each Zero Waste solution is custom-built for specific waste streams. Additionally, our Zero Waste System *must* adhere to standard shipping regulations.

Please note: This is a permanent collection unit. Please refer to the information above or reach out to the TerraCycle team at litter@terracycle.com. The product and shipping information for Zero Waste Boxes, Pouches, and Pallets does not apply to cigarette receptacles.

[How It Works What is Included? Important Restrictions](#)

How It Works

1. **INSTALL** | Install your Cigarette Receptacle in an easily accessible public location. [Click here to view the installation manual.](#)
2. **COLLECT** | As a safety precaution, do not fill your receptacle more than 85% of its full capacity. When ready to empty, place a bag or bucket beneath the receptacle and unlock the receptacle door with the provided key. Recycle the cigarette butts by participating in TerraCycle's free [Cigarette Recycling Program](#) or by purchasing a [Cigarette Waste Zero Waste Box](#).
3. **RECYCLE** | When we receive your waste, we'll safely recycle all of the collected materials. [Please click here to see how your waste is recycled.](#)

What is Included?

- Fire-safe, 100% rust-resistant aluminum receptacle for on-site collection and shipping
- Dimensions: 3 1/8" x 3 1/8" x 19"
- Bolts for installation
- 3 TerraCycle-branded, standardized stickers
- Shipping and handling costs
- Note: Steel bands not included.

Important Restrictions

Do not send in other types of waste like lighters, matches, or snack wrappers.

Do not send in household hazardous waste such as lithium ion batteries, pressurized canisters, pesticides, oil-based paint or medical sharps, organics, broken glass, bio-medical waste, soiled diapers, or expired medication.

Do not accept any item that is classified as sharp, flammable, reactive, corrosive, ignitable, radioactive, toxic, infectious, or pathogenic.

WHY? Each Zero Waste solution is custom-built for specific waste streams. Additionally, our Zero Waste System *must* adhere to standard shipping regulations.

Please note: This is a permanent collection unit. Please refer to the information above or reach out to the TerraCycle team at litter@terracycle.com. The product and shipping information for Zero Waste Boxes, Pouches, and Pallets does not apply to cigarette receptacles.

Customer reviews

0 Reviews
No reviews yet

Average Review 0.0

[Log in to leave a review](#)

View more Zero Waste Box products



[Styrofoam - Zero Waste Box™](#)

[\\$97.00](#)
[Shop Now](#)

WHAT IS THE COMMEMORATIVE TREE & BENCH PROGRAM?

THIS PROGRAM PROVIDES AN OPPORTUNITY TO HONOR PEOPLE AND COMMEMORATE SPECIAL EVENTS BY DONATING A BENCH OR TREE TO BE PLACED IN ONE OF OUR BEAUTIFUL PARKS.



The funds received are used to purchase the tree, commemorate the person and/or event, provide care and protection for the tree, and help beautify our parks.

Each tree will be a 15-20 gallon tree and you may select from one of the following species: Chinese Pistache, Shumard Red Oak, Live Oak, or Bur Oak.

Orders must be received by September 1st to be placed in October and November, weather permitting. Payment is due at the time order is placed. These donations qualify as a charitable contribution tax deduction.

A TREE OR BENCH IS A UNIQUE GIFT THAT LASTS FOR SEVERAL LIFETIMES, A WONDERFUL WAY TO CHERISH THE MEMORY OF A LOVED ONE, CELEBRATE A BIRTH, HONOR PERSONNEL IN UNIFORM, AND COMMEMORATE A WEDDING OR ANNIVERSARY.



The memorial bench will provide a peaceful place of rest and a plaque on the backrest will commemorate the honoree or event of your choice. You may select wood or recycled plastic lumber for the bench material.

After the tree is planted or bench is installed, the contact person will receive a certificate and map of the placement location.



For additional information:

Keep Abilene Beautiful
325-734-3301
www.keepabilenebeautiful.org

COMMEMORATIVE **TREE & BENCH** DONATION PROGRAM

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____

EMAIL _____

THIS TREE/BENCH IS: (CHECK ONE)

☐ IN MEMORY OF

☐ IN HONOR OF

☐ TO CELEBRATE

PERSON / EVENT: _____

WHERE WOULD YOU LIKE THE CERTIFICATE &
MAP OF LOCATION MAILED?

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

DONATION:

☐ TREE \$200

☐ BENCH \$750

☐ OTHER _____

Payment is due at the time of order. Make checks payable to Keep Abilene Beautiful. Should you wish to make a donation in a smaller amount, it will go towards our annual tree planting initiatives throughout the park system.



PO Box 60
Abilene, TX 79604

COMMEMORATIVE **TREE & BENCH** DONATION PROGRAM



CITY OF ABILENE PARKS & RECREATION

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
KEEP ABILENE BEAUTIFUL



COMMEMORATIVE TREE & BENCH DONATION PROGRAM

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____ EMAIL _____

THIS TREE/BENCH IS: (CHECK ONE)

☐ IN MEMORY OF

☐ IN HONOR OF

☐ TO CELEBRATE

PERSON/EVENT: _____

SPECIFY PARK LOCATION: _____

If you have a park in mind that you would like the tree/bench located, please specify otherwise we will pick an appropriate location and provide a certificate & map location.

WHERE WOULD YOU LIKE THE CERTIFICATE & MAP LOCATION MAILED?

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

DONATION:

☐ TREE \$200 _____ Chinese Pistache _____ Shumard Red Oak _____ Live Oak _____ Bur Oak

☐ BENCH \$750 _____ Wood bench _____ Recycled Plastic bench

☐ OTHER \$ _____

Payment is due at the time of order. Make checks payable to **Keep Abilene Beautiful**. Should you wish to make a donation in a smaller amount, it will go towards our annual Texas Arbor Day tree planting initiative throughout the park system.

Keep Abilene Beautiful, Inc.
PO Box 60
Abilene, Tx 79604

Keep Abilene Beautiful

Membership Program

Individual Membership Options:



\$25 Keep Abilene Beautiful Friend

- Keep Abilene Beautiful Sticker
- A subscription to our monthly electronic newsletter
- A personal investment in making Abilene cleaner and more beautiful



\$150 Keep Abilene Beautiful Patron

- All of the benefits of a Friend membership +
- Name recognition on the Keep Abilene Beautiful website
- A special gift from Keep Abilene Beautiful

Business Membership Options:



\$100 Bluebonnet Business Member

- Keep Abilene Beautiful Sticker
- A digital copy of our electronic logo for your website, recognizing you as a "Keep Abilene Beautiful Business Member"
- A subscription to our monthly electronic newsletter
- Business name recognition on the Keep Abilene Beautiful website



\$500 Crepe Myrtle Business Member

- All Bluebonnet level benefits +
- Logo recognition on the Keep Abilene Beautiful website
- One tagged social media post per year highlighting your business
- Mention of your business in an issue of our monthly electronic newsletter



\$1,000 Pecan Tree Business Member

- All Bluebonnet and Crepe Myrtle level benefits +
- Two social media posts per year highlighting your business
- Annual story feature of your business in our electronic newsletter
- Logo will be listed on the home page of the Keep Abilene Beautiful website in addition to the Sponsor page for premium exposure

Keep Abilene Beautiful is a 501(c)(3) organization, so all donations are tax deductible.

Donations can be made online on www.keepabilenebeautiful.org

Or mailed to: Keep Abilene Beautiful, P.O Box 60, Abilene, TX 79604

For more information or questions, contact (325) 734-3301 or keepabilenebeautiful@abilenetx.gov



Membership Form

1. Please select the membership level that you would like to join:

Individual & Family Membership Options:

☐

\$25 – Keep Abilene Beautiful Friend

☐

\$150 – Keep Abilene Beautiful Patron

Business & Organization Membership Options:

☐

\$100 – Bluebonnet Business Member

☐

\$500 – Crepe Myrtle Business Member

☐

\$1,000 – Pecan Tree Business Member

2. Member Information:

Name (individual / business/ organization): _____

Telephone Number: _____ Email Address: _____

Mailing Address: _____

☐

I would like to be recognized by name (available for all levels except for “Friend” level memberships).

☐

I would like to remain anonymous.

3. Payment Information:

☐

Check provided with form (make out to Keep Abilene Beautiful).

☐

Please call for credit card information.

☐

Please email a link to pay with credit card.

4. Forms can be mailed to P.O Box 60, 555 Walnut Street, Suite 207, Abilene, TX 79604
or emailed to keepabilenebeautiful@abilenetx.gov

Please allow two weeks after receipt of form and payment for us to process your membership. Memberships will not be processed until payment is received. You will receive a confirmation via email and your membership will be effective for twelve months after the processed date. Please contact us at keepabilenebeautiful@abilenetx.gov or (325)734-3301 with any questions.

Keep Abilene Beautiful is a 501(c)(3) organization. Donations are tax deductible.

Bee City USA

Program Overview

Thinking globally and acting locally, Bee City USA provides a framework for communities to work together to conserve native pollinators by increasing the abundance of native plants, providing nest sites, and reducing the use of pesticides.

Bee City USA affiliates make commitments to conserve native pollinators, laid out in a resolution adopted by the local city council. City staff and community members work together to carry out these commitments and make their city a better place for pollinators. Incorporated cities, towns, counties, and communities across the United States are invited to make these commitments and become Bee City USA affiliates.

Bee City USA Commitments

Establish a standing Bee City USA committee to advocate for pollinators.

Every committee will be different, but should include individuals with experience and interests that will help the committee complete the commitments. Committees generally include a mix of volunteers and city staff. The committee should have a chair or multiple co-chairs. This committee should be managed either by the certified affiliate (i.e. City or County) or a non-profit organization and should have a regular meeting schedule that is open to the public. See the resolution for full requirements associated with the committee.

Create and enhance pollinator habitat on public and private land by increasing the abundance of native plants and providing nest sites.

Affiliates commit to creating or enhancing pollinator habitat on public and private land each year. To assist with habitat creation and provide guidance for the community, affiliates create a native plant list and native plant supplier list. There's no need to create these materials before applying, but they should be complete by your first renewal. Guidance and examples will be provided to assist in developing each of these resources.

Reduce the use of pesticides.

Create and adopt an integrated pest management (IPM) plan designed to prevent pest problems, reduce pesticide use, and expand the use of non-chemical pest management methods. Like the native plant list and native plant supplier list, the IPM plan should be developed over the first few years of affiliation.



Incorporate pollinator-conscious practices into city policies and plans.

Affiliates commit to establish a policy in their comprehensive plan to acknowledge and commit to the Bee City USA designation. They agree to review the plan and other relevant documents to consider improvements to pest management policies and practices as they relate to pollinator conservation, identify appropriate locations for pollinator-friendly plantings, and consider other appropriate measures.

Host pollinator awareness events.

Affiliates commit to host or co-host at least one pollinator awareness event each year. The focus of these events should be on native pollinators and the steps we can take to conserve them.

Publicly acknowledge Bee City USA affiliation with signs and an online presence.

Affiliates commit to display at least one sign designating their community as a Bee City USA affiliate. Xerces provides the artwork for these signs and encourages affiliates to work with local sign makers to have them printed. Affiliates also commit to maintaining an online presence where they share information about their activities as well as their native plant list, native plant supplier list, and integrated pest management plan.

Pay an initial application fee and annual renewal fee.

To sustain the Bee City USA program we require an application fee and annual renewal fees. These fees are based on population. Visit the application page to learn more about fees. Renewal fees are the same amount as the application fee.

Annually apply for renewal and report on the previous year's activities.

Affiliates commit to submitting a renewal application once they have been certified for a full calendar year. Renewals allow Xerces to monitor affiliate activities and share the great work they're doing.

Benefits to your Community

Ensure survival of vital animal species

Help to ensure the survival of vital animal species crucial to our planet's functioning ecosystems.

Build community locally and nationally

Bring your community together around a positive, shared cause and connect with communities across the country that have made the same commitment.

Improve local food production

Raise community awareness of how our food grows and improve local food production through expanded pollination.

Support small businesses

Support the growth of local businesses including native plant nurseries and pollinator friendly landscaping.



Address pest problems with fewer pesticides

Raise community awareness of the least toxic ways to tackle home and garden pest problems. Mobilize your community to remove non-native invasive plants to make way for locally native plants.

Heighten awareness of biological diversity

Raise community awareness of the local environment's diversity of plant and pollinator species.

Benefits to your Committee

Mailed Welcome Package With Pollinator Conservation Resources

Receive a mailed welcome package including Xerces Society books and guidelines, Bee City USA brochures and bookmarks, and a pollinator habitat sign.

Access to an Online Affiliate Portal

Gain access to an affiliate portal where you can explore a variety of resources including helpful information for creating an Integrated Pest Management plan, native plant list, and native plant supplier list. Through the portal affiliates can also interact with other affiliates using the online forum, post their events to the community calendar, and view materials to assist with outreach and education.

Custom Logo and Street Sign Artwork

As an affiliate you will receive files for a custom affiliate logo that can be used on any materials associated with your work as well as artwork for a street sign.

Access to Training Opportunities

Affiliates will be invited to attend training opportunities, workshops, and webinars on a variety of topics including Integrated Pest Management, planting to support pollinators, and outreach and education.

Support From Pollinator Conservation Experts

Gain access to Xerces pollinator conservation staff across the country. Affiliates are welcome to contact the Xerces Society for one on one support.

Recognition of Conservation Work

Affiliates of Bee City USA gain national recognition for their work to conserve pollinators. Affiliates are listed on the Bee City USA website and can use their affiliation to promote their community's commitment to conservation. There are also opportunities for affiliates to share their work through presenting as part of webinars and writing blog posts.

Bee City USA Application



Form a committee.

Every committee will be different, but should include individuals with experience and interests that will help the committee complete the commitments. Committees generally include a mix of volunteers and city staff. The committee should have a chair or multiple co-chairs. This committee should be managed either by the certified affiliate (i.e. City or County) or a non-profit organization and should have a regular meeting schedule that is open to the public. See the resolution for a full list of requirements associated with the committee.

Assign facilitation to a local government body or non-profit organization.

Assign facilitation of the Bee City USA effort to a new or existing committee. This committee may be based in a local government or with a non-profit organization and may be an existing committee or a newly formed subcommittee.

Designate a local government department as a sponsor.

Designate a local government department as the Bee City USA program and committee sponsor and an employee from that department as the Bee City USA committee liaison. The liaison may or may not serve on the Bee City USA committee, but they facilitate communications between the city, the city staff and elected body, and the Bee City USA committee as needed.

Complete the online application form.

Login to create a profile and complete the online application form. Your application form will be reviewed once you indicate that it is complete and ready for review.

Complete the draft Bee City USA resolution.

Complete the draft resolution by downloading the template and updating the areas highlighted in yellow. Please do not remove or change any areas that are not highlighted in yellow. Upload your draft resolution to your online application for approval before submitting it to your local government.

Submit the application and resolution to your local government for approval.

Present your Bee City USA application and resolution to your local government for formal approval and adoption. Make sure you receive a scanned copy of the adopted resolution to submit to Xerces.

Submit your adopted resolution and pay the application fee.

Submit a scanned copy of your adopted resolution by uploading it to your online application and pay the application fee. Payment information is available once you begin your application. Once the final application, adopted resolution, and fee payment have been submitted, Xerces will notify all contacts listed on the application form of your successful certification. Application and renewal fees are based on population size.

\$100 (population <9,999)

\$200 (population 10,000 - 24,999)

\$300 (population 25,000 - 49,999)

\$400 (population 50,000 - 99,999)

\$500 (population >100,000)



Getting Started

Welcome to Bee City USA

Once your application is complete and has been approved you will receive an email notifying you of your affiliation. One email will be sent to the committee chair(s), liaison, committee members, mayor, elected body, and media contact, congratulating you on your affiliation and including a brief overview of the program. A second email will be sent to the chair(s) with more information about next steps and resources available to support your work. We will also mail a welcome package which includes Xerces Society books and guidelines, Bee City USA brochures and bookmarks, and a pollinator habitat sign to the address provided on the 'profile' tab of your account.

Communication

Bee City USA communicates with affiliates through e newsletters, email, and social media. The committee chair(s), liaison, and committee members will be added to our email list. Others who would like to receive communication from us can subscribe by filling out the form at the bottom of any page on our website. Committee chair(s) and liaisons will receive automated emails from our website related to their online account and renewing their affiliation. Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter @beecityusa for stories, news, training opportunities, and more!

Managing your Online Account

The online account you created to complete your application is the account you will use to access resources, maintain your contact information, and complete your renewals. There is a single username and password for each account, but you are welcome to share this with multiple people on your committee if you wish. Please keep the information on your profile including contact information, your website, and social media accounts up to date. To view all form fields on a tab of your profile click 'edit'. Make sure to scroll to the bottom and click 'update' before closing the page.

Street Sign and Logo

Once you become an affiliate of Bee City USA you will be provided with artwork for your custom logo as well as for a street sign. Visit the 'logo' tab on your profile (log into your account at beecityusa.org/login, click 'my profile' in the menu bar, and then click on the 'logo' tab) to download your logo artwork, access the street sign artwork, and download our logo use guidelines. If you would like your logo in a different file format please email beecityusa@xerces.org.

Templates

We provide affiliates with a range of online resources to support their work. These resources include template press releases (for initial affiliation as well as renewal), a pollinator week proclamation, website material, and powerpoint presentations. Visit beecityusa.org/engage-bee-city-usa-templates to download templates.

Online Resources



Once you log into your account at beecityusa.org you will be able to access a range of resources designed to support affiliates in their work. We recommend reviewing this website with your committee to familiarize yourself with tools and resources. Resources include example IPM plans, native plant lists, and native plant supplier lists, recorded webinars, outreach and education materials, and much more!

Trainings, Workshops, and Webinars

We frequently provide affiliates with online trainings, workshops, and webinars. We will share information about these opportunities through our e newsletter, email, and social media. We welcome affiliate involvement in webinars and our blog, so if you have an experience or story you think other affiliates would enjoy learning about please let us know at beecityusa@xerces.org.

Annual Renewal

Affiliates commit to submitting a renewal application once they have been affiliated with Bee City USA for a full calendar year. Renewal reports are submitted by the end of February and report on the previous calendar year. If an affiliate joined in 2021 their first renewal would be due February 28, 2023. They would then submit a renewal every February. Renewals are a great opportunity to share the work you're doing with the Bee City USA and Bee Campus USA community. The renewal application involves two elements: submitting a renewal report and paying the renewal fee. Past renewal reports can be viewed at beecityusa.org/work.

Renewal Report

The renewal report is a form that affiliates complete with information about their work from the previous calendar year. The report includes multiple choice questions, short answer questions, paragraph response questions, and photo uploads. Some of the information entered in the renewal report will be used to generate a PDF report shared publicly on our website. Log into your account at beecityusa.org and visit the 'renewal' tab on your profile to view the renewal questions. You can also download a preview of the renewal as a PDF, word document, or excel sheet. These previews are a great way to keep track of your work throughout the year and make it easy to complete the renewal when the time comes. When completing your renewal report click 'edit' to view all form fields and scroll to the bottom of the page and click 'update' to save your responses. Make sure to indicate that the renewal report is complete on the form when you're ready to submit it.

Renewal Fee

Bee City USA collects fees from affiliates in order to support the program and continue providing affiliates with resources and support. Renewal fees are the same amount as application fees and can be paid starting January 1st of each year by logging into your account and visiting the 'fee payment' tab on your profile. Payment can be submitted either using a credit card or by mailing a check. When submitting the online payment form you will indicate if you plan to pay with a credit card or check.



FAQs

Do you still have questions? Visit beecityusa.org/faqs for answers to frequently asked questions. You're also welcome to email us anytime at beecityusa@xerces.org.

Visit www.beecityusa.org to learn more.



NATURE PLAY CAN ENCOURAGE CARE FOR THE EARTH

THE ISSUE

Childhood has moved indoors, leaving kids disconnected from the natural world.

MEANINGFUL OUTDOOR EXPERIENCES BENEFIT CHILDREN AND INSPIRE THEM TO LOVE AND CARE FOR NATURE.

Children who are connected to nature have better health, higher satisfaction with life, and pro-environment behaviors.^{2, 13}



THE BENEFITS OF TIME IN NATURE:

Time outdoors in nature contributes to children's care for nature while supporting their healthy development.^{2, 10, 13}



children & nature
NETWORK

#NATURE
FOR ALL

ADDITIONAL RESEARCH ON THE BENEFITS OF NATURE AVAILABLE AT childrenandnature.org/research

SUPPORTING RESEARCH

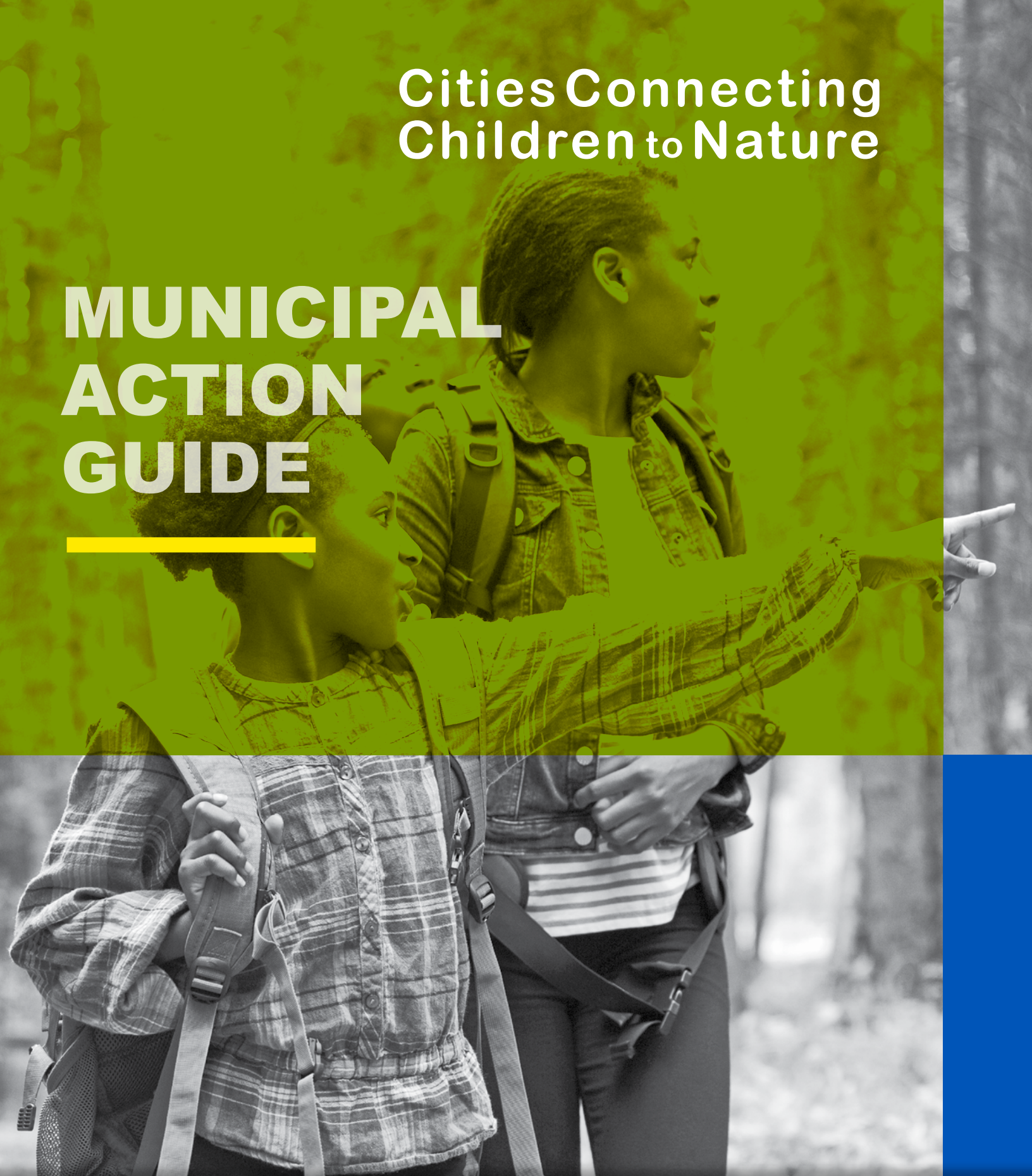
Studies cited here are from the report Home to Us All: How Connecting with Nature Helps Us Care for Ourselves and the Earth (Charles, C., et al. 2018. Children & Nature Network) and its summary, Connecting with Nature to Care for Ourselves and the Earth: Recommendations for Decision Makers (2018). Both documents are downloadable from childrenandnature.org and natureforall.global. 1. Otto, S.; & Pensini, P. (2017). Nature-based environmental education of children: Environmental knowledge and connectedness to nature, together, are related to ecological behaviour. *Global Environmental Change*, 47, 88-94. 2. Richardson, M.; Sheffield, D.; Harvey, C.; & Petronzi (2016). A Report for the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB): The Impact of Children's Connection to Nature. Derby: College of Life and Natural Sciences, University of Derby. 3. Zylstra, M.J.; Knight, A.T.; Esler, K.J.; & Le Grange, L.L.L. (2014). Connectedness as a core conservation concern: An interdisciplinary review of theory and a call for practice. *Springer Science Reviews*, 2(1), 119-143. 4. Chawla, L.; & Derr, V. (2012). The development of conservation behaviors in childhood and youth. In Clayton, C. (Ed) *The Oxford Handbook of Environmental and Conservation Psychology*. 5. Chawla, L.; & Cushing, D.F. (2007). Education for strategic environmental behaviour. *Environmental Education Research*, 13(4), 437-452. 6. Richardson, M. & Sheffield, D. (2017). Three good things in nature: Noticing nearby nature brings sustained increases in connection with nature. *Psychology*, 8(1), 1-32. 7. Richardson, M., Hallam, J. & Lumber, R. (2015). One thousand good things in nature: The aspects of nature that lead to increased nature connectedness. *Environmental Values*, 24 (5), 603-619. 8. D'Amore, C.; & Chawla, L. (2017). Many children in the woods: Applying principles of community-based social marketing to a family nature club. *Ecopsychology*, Vol. 9; No. 4. 9. Giusti et al. (2018). A framework to assess where and how children connect to nature. *Frontiers in Psychology* 8 (January). <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2017.02283> 10. Kuo, M.; Barnes, M.; & Jordan, C. (2019). Do experiences with nature promote learning? Converging evidence of a cause-and-effect relationship. *Frontiers in Psychology*. 10:305. doi: 10.3389/fpsyg.2019.00305. 11. Williams & Dixon (2013). Impact of garden-based learning on academic outcomes in schools: Synthesis of research between 1990 and 2010. *Rev Educ Res*, 83(2), 211-235. 12. D'Amore, C. (2015). Family nature clubs: Creating the conditions for social and environmental connection and care. *Proquest*. 13. Pritchard, A., Richardson, M., Sheffield, D., & McEwan, K. (2019). The relationship between nature connectedness and eudaimonic well-being: A meta-analysis. *Journal of Happiness Studies*, 1-23.

C&NN recognizes that not all studies support causal statements.

©2019 CHILDREN & NATURE NETWORK
Page 36 of 77

Cities Connecting Children to Nature

MUNICIPAL ACTION GUIDE



Cities Connecting Children to Nature

CCCN Initiative

The Cities Connecting Children to Nature (CCCN) initiative offers local officials guidance for establishing new connections between children and nature, through training on promising practices, access to national experts and peer learning opportunities. CCCN partners selected seven cities to form a pilot 2016-17 cohort, depicted on the map below, to receive intensive technical assistance to plan and implement citywide strategies to reduce disparities in access to nature. Tools and materials developed and tested in pilot cities appear in the CCCN Resource Hub described below. Generous support from The JPB Foundation underwrites the CCCN initiative, led by the National League of Cities Institute for Youth, Education, and Families (YEF Institute) and the Children & Nature Network (C&NN).

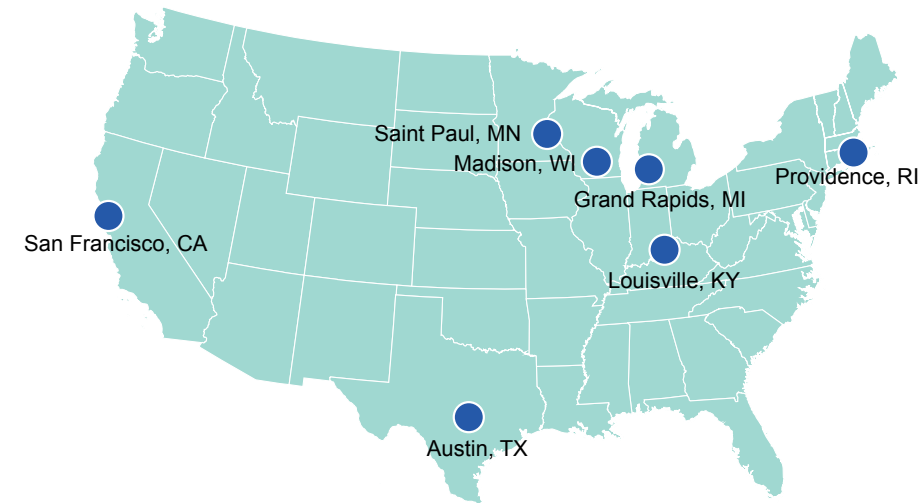
National League of Cities

The National League of Cities (NLC) is dedicated to helping city leaders build better communities. Working in partnership with the 49 state municipal leagues, NLC serves as a resource to and an advocate for the more than 19,000 cities, villages and towns it represents. NLC's Institute for Youth, Education, and Families helps municipal leaders take action on behalf of the children, youth, and families in their communities.

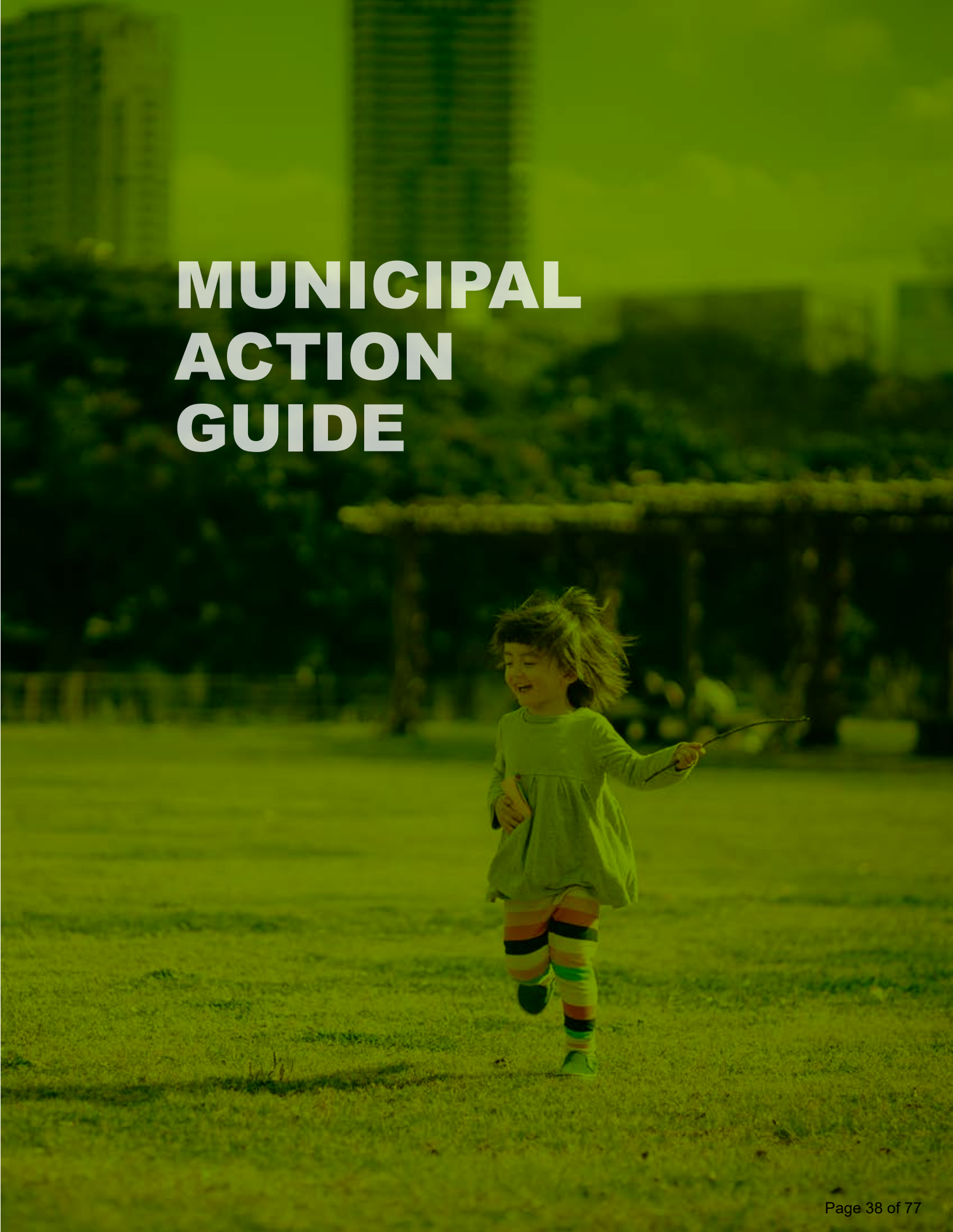
Children & Nature Network

The Children & Nature Network is leading a global movement to increase equitable access to nature so that children and natural places can thrive. C&NN powers this movement by investing in leadership and communities through sharing evidence-based resources, scaling innovative solutions and driving policy change.

CCCN Pilot Cities



MUNICIPAL ACTION GUIDE



THE CHALLENGE AND OPPORTUNITY

Across the ages and in every culture, childhood has included time playing in and exploring the outdoors. Yet over the last few generations, childhood has moved indoors, leaving kids disconnected from the natural world.

This trend has profound implications for children’s healthy development. Some of the consequences include high rates of obesity, diabetes, stress and depression in children, all of which disproportionately affect low-income populations and children of color.

Confronting these trends, emerging research summarized on pp. 22-23 shows that regular access to nature can produce:

- Improved health outcomes
- Higher academic achievement
- Increased social and emotional learning
- Strong social connections
- Increased creativity, self-esteem, focus
- A greater sense of environmental stewardship

More than 80 percent of the U.S. population lives in urban areas, where development and transportation patterns often limit the quantity and accessibility of natural features. And whereas others come close, only one of the largest 100 U.S. cities currently ensures that all children and families can walk to a park in ten minutes or less.

Children and families across the board face fears, pressures and temptations that result in an imbalance between time outdoors and time spent with electronic media in the perceived safety of

the indoors. Children in low-income families grow up with even less access to nature than their peers, and may not develop an affinity for parks and natural areas. Without intervention, they face diminished access to the benefits of nature, and fewer chances to gain the experience and skills to work in green jobs.

Meanwhile, city leaders nationwide have already shown a readiness to commit city resources to a Healthy Eating, Active Living agenda, aimed at reducing health inequities for children and adults. Pursuing strategies that prioritize access to nature can complement and reinforce ongoing outdoor play and health initiatives, bring numerous benefits, and awaken lifelong interest in nature. With purposeful design, such strategies represent the leading edge of national efforts to promote equity in nature access for low-income children and children of color.

More than 80 percent of the U.S. population lives in urban areas, where development and transportation patterns often limit the quantity and accessibility of natural features.



“AS A CHILD, I SPENT MOST OF MY TIME OUTDOORS IN THE WOODS BEHIND MY HOUSE. ‘NEARBY NATURE’ EXPERIENCES LIKE THIS TAUGHT ME HOW TO BE CURIOUS, RESILIENT AND SELF-RELIANT.”

MAYOR CHRIS COLEMAN
SAINT PAUL, MINNESOTA

To provide the benefits of nature for all children, cities can launch strategies in several areas: opening up park resources to all residents, and accentuating natural features in parks; focusing on the venues where many children spend time, such as early childhood centers and afterschool time programs; actively cultivating a new generation of leaders through youth stewardship activities; and fulfilling the promise of shared use agreements by adding nature play and learning spaces to school grounds and vacant lots.

POLICY CONTEXT

On its own, the largely grassroots movement to connect children and nature has only just begun to affect policy development by cities and other levels of government. By comparison, potentially related areas of policy have received more public and governmental attention – for instance, promoting healthy eating through urban agriculture and improved food access. Along the same lines, true

alignment with public health and sustainability policies awaits further leadership action.

SCAN OF CITY PRACTICES AND POLICIES TO CONNECT CHILDREN TO NATURE

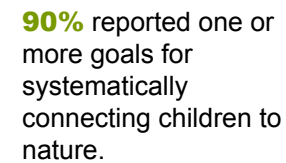
With assistance from the Yale School of Public Health, the YEF Institute and C&NN conducted a nationwide survey in 2015 to understand better how U.S. cities and community organizations currently promote children’s access to nature, and to gauge opportunities to establish gains. The 112 responses came from 70 municipal government agencies and 42 community organizations. Overall, the scan highlighted significant city-level efforts in the areas of goal-setting and policy, program, and partnership development. However, efforts to date have not generated abundant access to nature for low-income children, pointing to a need for broadening and deepening programs and partnerships.

THE GOAL FOR CITIES

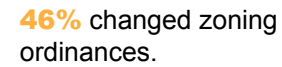
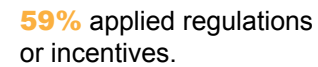
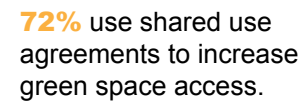
Greatly increase equitable access to nature, through children’s easy, regular contact with outdoor places that feature a variety of living things.

NATIONWIDE SURVEY FINDINGS, 2015

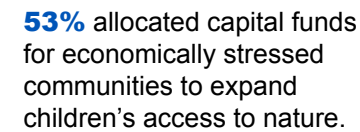
OBJECTIVES



POLICY



FUNDING



Early city policy examples include Children's Outdoor Bills of Rights, proclaimed publicly with support of the mayor in cities such as [Austin](#) and [San Francisco](#). These proclamations provide a policy platform and rallying point upon which to advance local initiatives. The City of Madison also added "nature access" as a consideration within the city's Comprehensive Plan in 2017.

STATE POLICY THAT SUPPORTS CITY ACTION

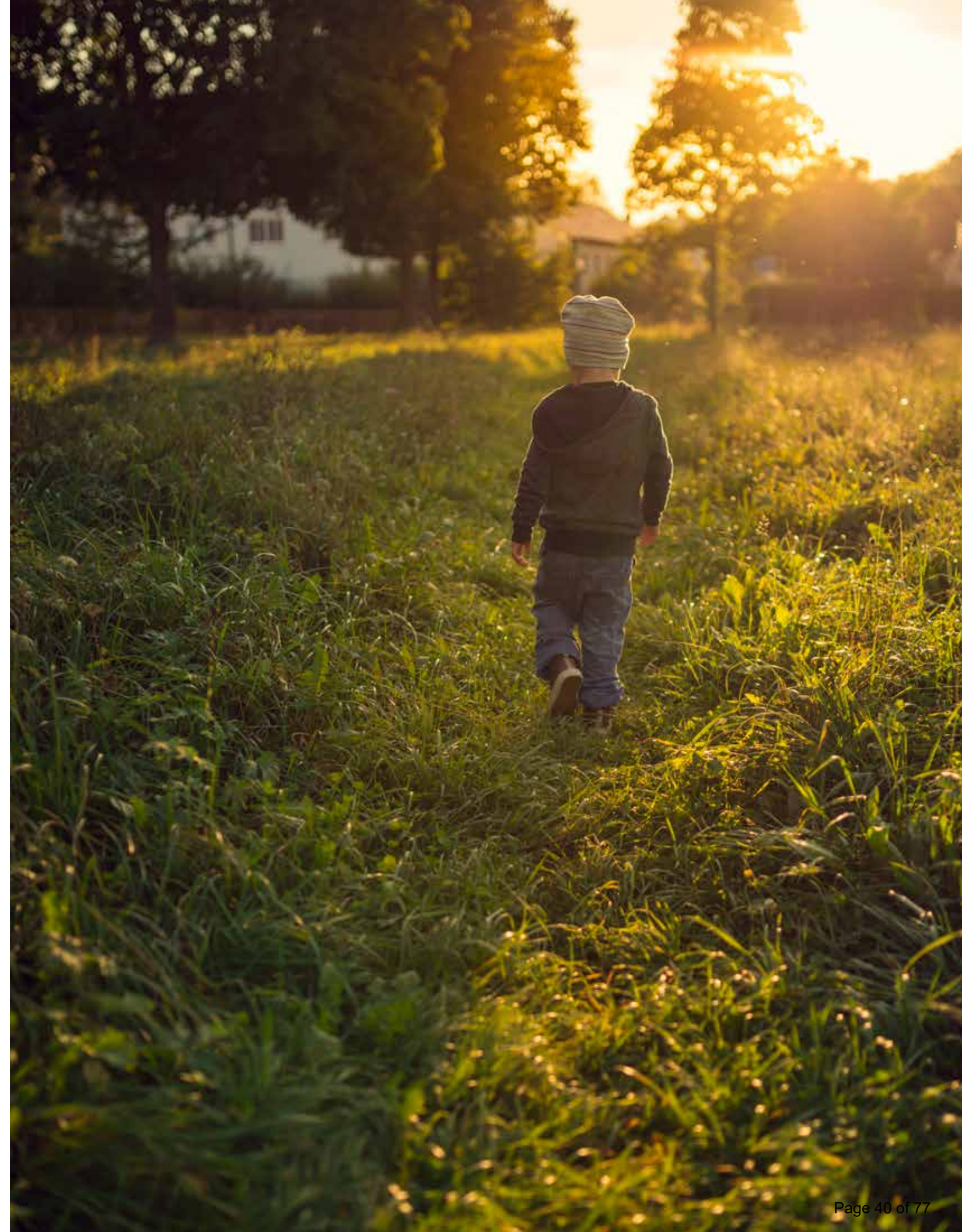
Children's Outdoor Bills of Rights in at least [15 states](#) declare the value and importance of childhood connection to nature. Regulations of the Texas Workforce Commission provide financial incentives to childcare centers to offer high quality natural outdoor play and learning environments.

THREE KEY QUESTIONS

With current practices, policies and early strategy development in mind, a city leader seeking to launch an initiative to connect children to nature should ask three guiding questions:

- 1 Does my city offer enough places for children to connect with nature?
- 2 What programs and partnerships can draw children and families to nature?
- 3 How can my city integrate access to nature with other city functions?

The following sections describe some of the ways cities have begun to answer these questions.



DOES MY CITY OFFER ENOUGH PLACES FOR CHILDREN TO CONNECT WITH NATURE?

One barrier connecting low-income children to nature more systematically is a sheer lack of easily accessible natural features or green space.

Knowing whether the city offers enough places for children to connect with nature requires analyzing physical assets and resident demographics. If disparities emerge – especially in built-out cities with little room to add new natural parks – the city needs to respond with creative measures. This involves making the most of opportunities such as adding natural features to landscaped parks, changing vacant lots and streetscapes, opening up community gardens to children, and establishing safe corridors that foster connections with existing natural areas. Additional creative options already in development by cities include converting schoolyards to green spaces, and providing nature play options for children in early childhood centers.

STRATEGY: CREATE GREEN SCHOOLYARDS

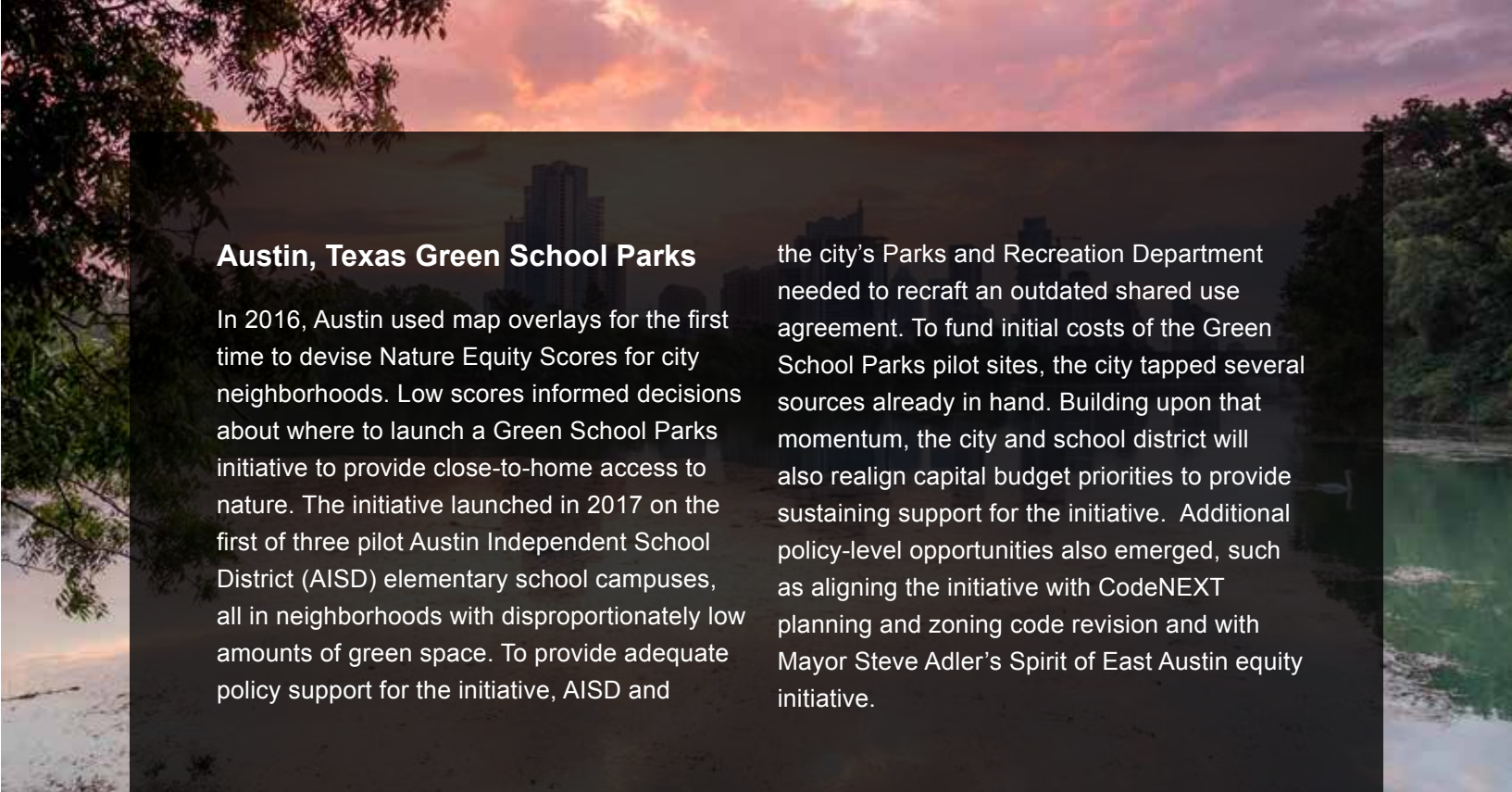
City governments and school district partners have begun to spread [green schoolyards](#) as a key strategy to connect more children to nature, just outside the schoolhouse door. Already prevalent in other countries and in a few cities in the U.S., green schoolyards replace asphalt or lawns with nature-filled places for students, teachers, parents and community members to play, learn, explore, and grow. Elements may include outdoor classrooms, native gardens, stormwater capture, traditional play equipment, nature play features, vegetable gardens, trails, and trees. Outside of school hours, these schoolyards remain open for community use, adding to the overall inventory of nature in a city.

Successful city- or school district-wide green schoolyard initiatives require policy supports such as shared use agreements, sustainable funding, and strategic partnerships. With these supports in place, green schoolyard programs typically rely on school systems for campus and district leadership, teacher development and curriculum, and ongoing maintenance. Community partners often provide support for environmental education and after-school programming, and city parks departments can share in the responsibility for delivering programs and maintaining these community spaces.

Adding natural elements to school grounds offers a rich opportunity for residents to contribute to design and become the stewards of new neighborhood assets. For example, to engage the broader school community, Austin, Texas developed the Barrington Green School Park design by drawing comments from 274 enrolled children and 135 community members on photo surveys displaying potential schoolyard features.

Beyond the design stage, ensuring the full and active use of green schoolyards occurs through four essential steps:

- Providing out-of-school time programming on site,
- Ensuring use during school hours through teachers and school staff,



Austin, Texas Green School Parks

In 2016, Austin used map overlays for the first time to devise Nature Equity Scores for city neighborhoods. Low scores informed decisions about where to launch a Green School Parks initiative to provide close-to-home access to nature. The initiative launched in 2017 on the first of three pilot Austin Independent School District (AISD) elementary school campuses, all in neighborhoods with disproportionately low amounts of green space. To provide adequate policy support for the initiative, AISD and

the city's Parks and Recreation Department needed to recraft an outdated shared use agreement. To fund initial costs of the Green School Parks pilot sites, the city tapped several sources already in hand. Building upon that momentum, the city and school district will also realign capital budget priorities to provide sustaining support for the initiative. Additional policy-level opportunities also emerged, such as aligning the initiative with CodeNEXT planning and zoning code revision and with Mayor Steve Adler's Spirit of East Austin equity initiative.

- Providing opportunities for informal community recreational use, and
- Continuing to involve neighborhood residents in management and stewardship.

STRATEGY: CREATE EARLY CHILDHOOD NATURE PLAY SPACES

Similar to green schoolyards, early childhood nature play spaces ensure access to nature where kids already spend their time, in this case in child care facilities. A variety of early care and education providers – family, friend and neighbor, as well as public, private, licensed and unlicensed sites – require specific consideration. Pilot cities pursuing expansion of early childhood nature play spaces, such as Madison and San Francisco, started out by surveying providers to learn about

greening opportunities and to consider current use of nearby nature sites. Over time, Madison plans to add nature play as a city childcare accreditation standard. Key partners for cities pursuing this strategy include local or regional accreditation agencies and zoning authorities, site directors, school districts, Head Start, and parks or public health agencies. In addition, park agencies may alter or naturalize existing parks and playgrounds – and ensure safe access routes – to foster use by child care centers and families with young children.

In one intensive early childhood model, cities such as [Seattle](#) and [Austin](#) operate nature preschools through partnerships between early childhood education providers and city parks departments.

The Children & Nature Network hosts a Green Schoolyards Resource Hub that provides resources for all of the steps involved in transforming school grounds throughout a city.

Go to www.childrenandnature.org/initiatives/schoolyards/

WHAT PROGRAMS AND PARTNERSHIPS CAN DRAW CHILDREN AND FAMILIES TO NATURE?

Alongside efforts to increase places where children can connect with nature, cities may not offer enough opportunities to *experience* nature.

Understanding whether children—and which children—can and do readily have structured and unstructured, meaningful nature experiences requires a close analysis of park use and program participation data. Deeper understanding may require new data collection to get at potential disparities by race, ethnicity, and income. Fortunately, tools have begun to emerge to support this data collection and analysis (see Measuring Baselines, Progress, and Results section, below). To raise the rate at which children experience nature, cities have begun to experiment with strategies such as making parks more inviting and accessible to all, and infusing nature into afterschool programming.

STRATEGY: MAKE PARKS INVITING FOR ALL

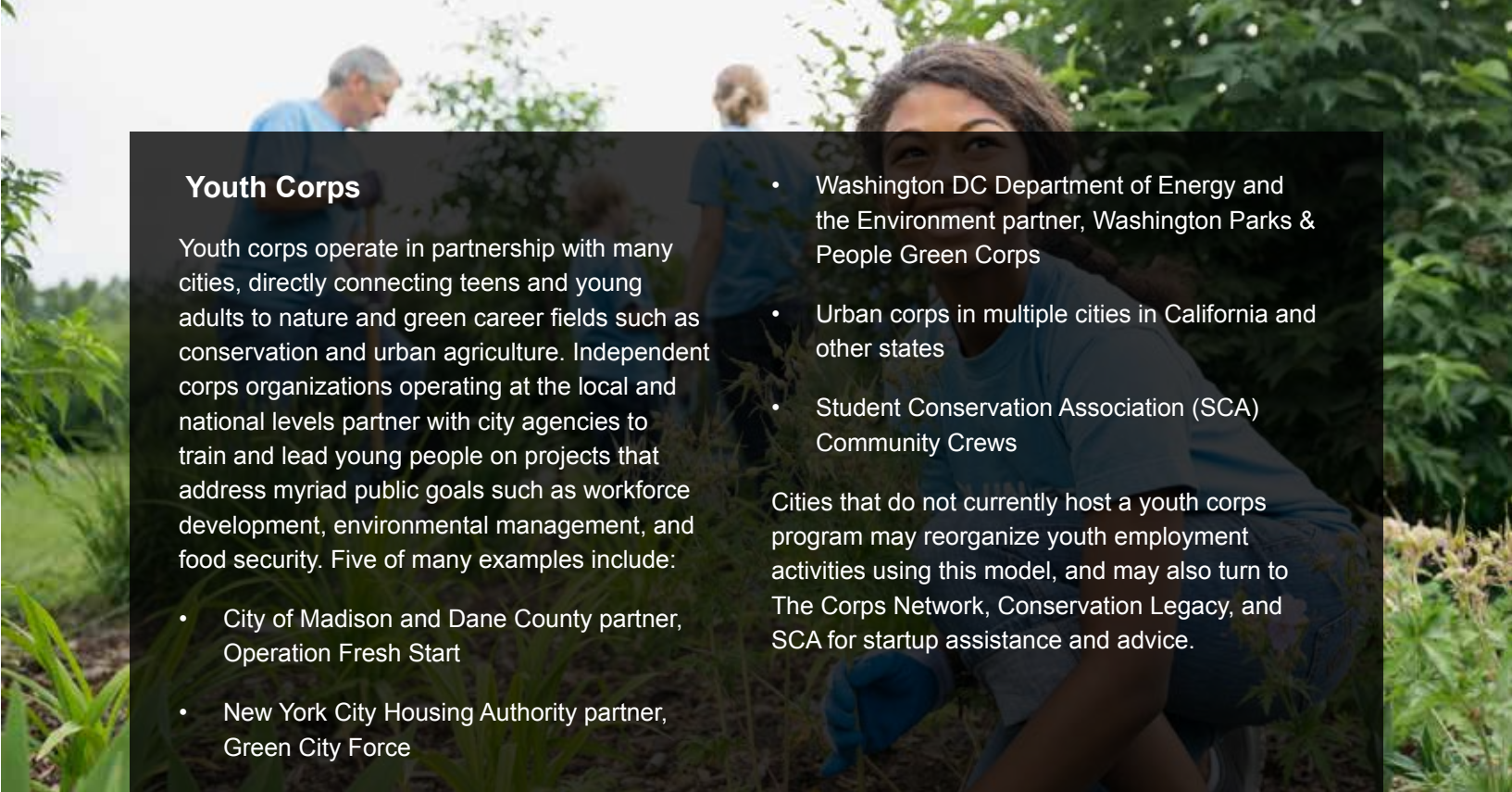
Some cities may already enjoy an abundance of natural features in city and regional parks, yet longstanding use patterns, discriminatory practices and transportation barriers (as well as neighborhood park deficits) may prevent [some users](#) from regular contact with those features. To invite the full range of children and families into parks, cities have developed the following techniques:

Train and enlist youth stewards: Building on the base provided by park friends groups can give cities new ways to connect teens to nature and invest a younger generation of users in environmental stewardship. For instance,

in Providence, the parks department, youth development organizations, and four local high schools partnered to establish new “Young Friends of Parks” groups. These organizations engage a very diverse cohort of students in park stewardship activities after school hours and on weekends.

Retrain and reorient park staff and operations: In many cities, strained park resources or other factors have tilted the balance of staff attention toward facility management instead of children and families’ experience. In this case, it becomes necessary to reorient priorities, retrain and devise new ways of supporting staff, and adopt new operational procedures. One opportunity involves providing training and support for public-facing park staff to offer more culturally relevant programming and communications to families of color. For instance, Saint Paul undertook ongoing revisions of park communication and outreach efforts to encourage park visitation by families and children of color, previously underrepresented among park users.

Add nature programming in parks: Stepping up the availability of nature-based programming connects underrepresented groups of children with park features and amenities. In 2017, Louisville launched a green career pathways exploration within the citywide summer youth employment program. A pilot group of six young people with an interest in green careers received training after school hours in the springtime, and spent



Youth Corps

Youth corps operate in partnership with many cities, directly connecting teens and young adults to nature and green career fields such as conservation and urban agriculture. Independent corps organizations operating at the local and national levels partner with city agencies to train and lead young people on projects that address myriad public goals such as workforce development, environmental management, and food security. Five of many examples include:

- City of Madison and Dane County partner, Operation Fresh Start
- New York City Housing Authority partner, Green City Force

- Washington DC Department of Energy and the Environment partner, Washington Parks & People Green Corps
- Urban corps in multiple cities in California and other states
- Student Conservation Association (SCA) Community Crews

Cities that do not currently host a youth corps program may reorganize youth employment activities using this model, and may also turn to The Corps Network, Conservation Legacy, and SCA for startup assistance and advice.

the summer leading nature activities for younger children based out of three city recreation centers. Based on the success of the pilot, Louisville has begun looking into opportunities to expand the program’s scope.

STRATEGY: INFUSE NATURE CONNECTIONS IN AFTERSCHOOL AND SUMMER ACTIVITIES

The formal or informal network of afterschool program providers in a city provides a way to scale connections to nature, by increasing the familiarity of afterschool and summer program staff with nature-based activities. These staff have the potential to infuse more nature experiences into programming for many children during the afterschool, weekend, and summer hours. This builds upon substantial efforts in many cities in recent decades to establish and strengthen citywide afterschool systems. In newly developing examples, cities partner with afterschool networks to pursue the following methods:

Recruit participants and add programming: Saint Paul Parks & Recreation joined YMCA Twin Cities to launch a new week-long summer nature camp, for children with little prior nature exposure

drawn from the city’s [Sprockets](#) network of afterschool programs.

Train and educate afterschool providers: Providing professional development and training for afterschool program staff can instill a sense of confidence in leading more activities outdoors, and equip staff with tools and strategies on how to use nature as part of core programming.

Track time in nature: Especially in cities using a common data collection system across the afterschool network, cities can assist providers by adding one or more data elements to measure “dosage” or the time children spend connecting to nature. This offers one of the surest paths to understanding who benefits from increased nature access, by race, ethnicity, and neighborhood. On a related note, Grand Rapids’ Expanded Learning Opportunities (ELO) Network now lists “Nature” as a program type in its provider directory, allowing families and schools to identify and locate opportunities for connecting to nature more easily.



HOW CAN CITIES INTEGRATE ACCESS TO NATURE WITH OTHER CITY FUNCTIONS?

In addition to expanding natural places, increasing programming and leveraging partnerships, it will take concerted effort by municipal leaders to draw upon the full strength and scope of city government to increase access to nature.

Whereas local leadership for children and nature initiatives may initially stem from parks and recreation departments, a blossoming effort involves many more agencies. Pioneering cities have begun to show the way. For instance, the mayor’s office and job training agency in Madison and Louisville, respectively, enlisted summer youth employment program participants to advance new children and nature initiatives. Water and sewer agencies joined with school districts in Chicago and Philadelphia to respond to EPA stormwater management [consent decrees](#) with broad commitments to install green schoolyards. Developments so far suggest a simultaneous policy opportunity and challenge for the emerging children and nature field: enlisting the strengths of multiple agencies for collective impact, and the urgent need to step up coordination among agencies.

STRATEGY: NATURE IN PARKS & LIBRARIES

Cities can readily promote access to nature through two operating departments commonly found within the city structure: public libraries and parks. Libraries, for instance, provide a venue to offer nature access to children and families at neighborhood locations through resources that inspire and educate. City parks offer prime venues for experiencing nature. As one example of an effort to complement existing turf, paved surfaces, and

conventional equipment, the City of Providence parks department added a landscape architect to its staff, with the charge to design and implement new nature play areas. Building upon the examples provided by the [Great Urban Parks Campaign](#) of the National Recreation and Parks Association and [PowerCorpsPHL](#) in Philadelphia, cities can also situate stormwater management projects in parks



In 2017 the City of Saint Paul library and parks departments expanded the NatureSmart Library model, first launched at Sun Ray Library in 2013, to three additional library sites. The transformations include installation of pollinator prairies and outdoor reading gardens, accompanied by activities to promote literacy and environmental education through experiential learning. Patrons can check out Nature Backpacks and use the contents, such as binoculars and field guides, to engage in nature activities in the library gardens and adjacent park land.

DEVELOPING A PLAN THAT “PUTS NATURE ON THE MAP”

Preparations for improving equitable access to nature in a city involve steps such as harnessing leadership, assessing the landscape, updating key partnerships, and ultimately informing a unified, comprehensive implementation plan focused on results. To use a familiar phrase appropriate to this new field, it becomes essential to “put nature on the map.”

Action Step: Harness mayoral leadership to set a policy platform and align city agencies around goals.

Mayors have uniquely strong abilities to provide leadership for connecting children to nature, through actions such as proclaiming a vision, setting goals, and assembling resources. To bring about more nature access for more children, mayors can also foster collaboration across city agencies that uplift existing city priorities, such as public health, safety, and active living.

Action Step: Conduct a community asset and gap assessment.

A number of local factors contribute to how much and how deeply a particular child might connect with nature. These include family circumstances, immediate neighborhood surroundings and safety (real or perceived), transportation corridors, and cultural traditions. Conducting a robust citywide asset and gap assessment results in capturing information to inform strategies, and activates community members and trusted neighborhood-level leaders to engage. Key elements include:

- A policy and landscape scan of institutional guidelines as well as physical, geographic features;

- An inventory of relevant city partners and children and nature programs, ideally noting scale, quality, and reach in terms of income, racial, and ethnic groups in the city; and
- Demographic indicators and other qualitative data to inform an equity analysis and prioritize subsequent solutions.



Madison, Wisconsin

The City of Madison, through the combined effort of the parks and public health departments, conducted a two-phase community asset and gap assessment. Analyses of health data identified health disparities between racial groups beginning before children reach school age. In the next phase, the city-county team conducted assessments of seven sites using the Preschool Outdoor Environment Measurement Scale (POEMS) tool. This determined the baseline quality of outdoor play spaces at early childhood sites in the neighborhoods where most children of color live, and fed into strategy development with early childhood providers.

Action Step: Convene and build relationships with key institutions and external partners.

City governments and leaders rarely have their “hands on all the levers” that can connect more children with nature – cities need partners. Institutional partners to consider enlisting include independent water and sewer authorities, housing authorities, and county public health agencies. Through listing current and potential partners, school districts also emerge, whether through their interest in heightened student learning or fulfilling their roles as community anchors. For example, a close working partnership between Grand Rapids Mayor Rosalynn Bliss and the Superintendent of Grand Rapids Public Schools resulted in a mutual commitment to increase opportunities for students. The leaders set out to update the city and school district shared use policy and to embrace green schoolyards as part of the green infrastructure of the city along with parks. In San Francisco, a joint city-schools-nonprofit team lined up support for expanding nature play opportunities at early childhood sites, some of those managed by the school district.

Action Step: Get youth involved.

With an eye to the present and the future, city leaders can seize the opportunity to involve young people in planning and providing more access to nature, in several ways. In the near term, engaging a diverse group of youth helps increase the relevance of city plans and actions for otherwise underrepresented populations. For the longer term, the experience that youth gain cultivates a new crop of leaders with affinity for nature. As examples: In addition to techniques such as the KidSpeak forum in Grand Rapids, Madison engaged its summer interns to conduct schoolyard site assessments, interview peers and other residents about their experiences in nature, and eventually to build natural play features at early childhood sites; the City of Providence enlisted children’s view of parks and nature through drawings.



Grand Rapids, Michigan

The City of Grand Rapids sought to expand children’s access to nature at a time when a major update of the Parks Master Plan had already begun. The Master Plan process used mapping overlays to reveal severe gaps in park and nature access in several densely-developed parts of the city, and incorporated youth perspectives on nature through one of an unfolding series of KidSpeak events. The new plan highlights opportunities to expand a network of nature-rich corridors to link neighborhoods to key assets such as parks and the Grand River. In addition, the plan for the first time proposes creating green schoolyards as a means of expanding “nearby nature.”

Action Step: Build relationships with residents, and “co-produce” plans.

Early experience from cities underscores that equity-minded city leaders use a “co-production” process to generate assessments and plans, and to establish feedback loops post-implementation. Successful co-production builds upon a foundation of demonstrated support for local neighborhood concerns, understanding of local strengths and assets, commitment to residents’ well-being, and willingness to meet them where they are – geographically and in terms of priorities. A well-managed co-production process deepens trust, honors the perspective of future community partners in defining “nature connection,” cultivates local leadership, and promotes longevity of city strategies. For example, the City of Saint Paul hired community member liaisons to engage African-American, Latino, and Hmong residents of the city during a community assessment.



TOWARD LASTING IMPACT

The nation needs many more examples of institutionalized policy commitments to connect children to nature more equitably.

using designs that also increase natural features.

These examples will take the form of actual budget items that result in more nature-focused personnel, programming, and infrastructure. Future steps will also include formal adoption of nature and equity language in guidance documents such as comprehensive plans, zoning codes, and capital budgets, in addition to park and open space plans.

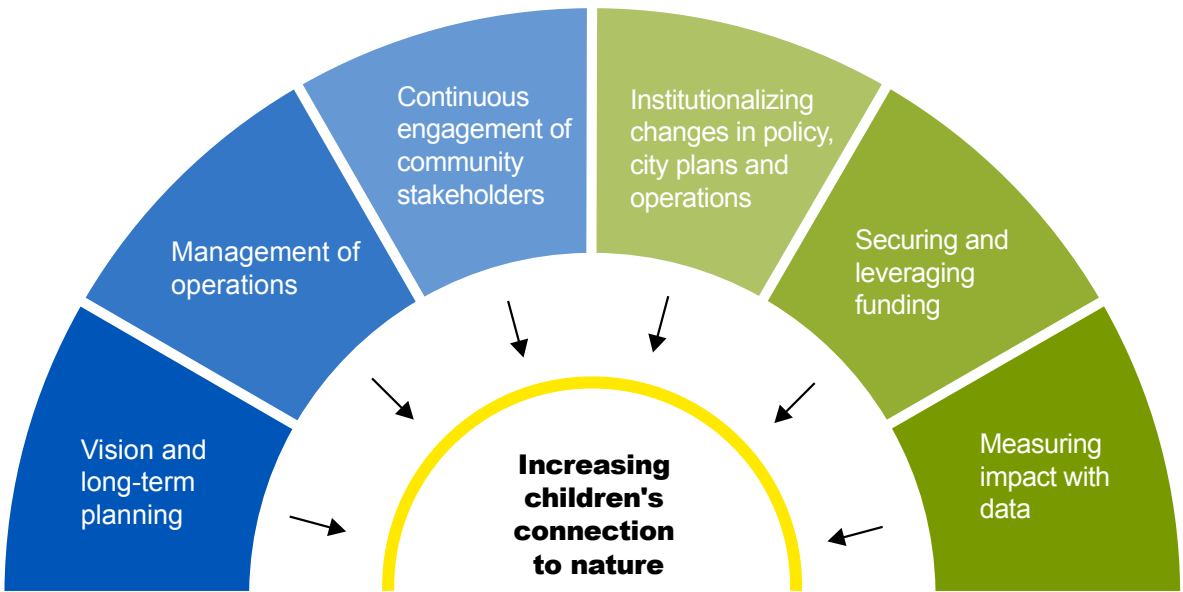
SUSTAINABILITY & SCALE

As these examples emerge, it's important to rely upon strategies that cities and their partners can

readily sustain. To ensure the continuation of systems, policies and practices that allow children to connect to nature equitably, cities must address the following six elements of sustainability:

The [CCCN Project Sustainability Framework](#) offers actionable checklists and suggested activities for ensuring momentum in each of the six categories. Examples have also begun to emerge for how to mount a children's nature connection initiative of long standing. Two cities developed subcommittees and working groups to attend to sustainability issues, and another drew upon the framework to design a staff position to manage its children and nature initiative.

SIX ELEMENTS TO SUSTAIN A CHILDREN & NATURE INITIATIVE



Measuring Baselines, Progress, and Results

High quality, city- or neighborhood-level data that describe children's connection to nature proves critical to understand baseline inequities and strengths, as well as subsequent improvements resulting from strategies. Most cities will need to add data elements beyond those they currently collect to paint the picture of which children connect to nature, how often, and how meaningfully.

The CCCN initiative recommends that cities focus initially on at least one indicator from each of the three categories of **policy, infrastructure, and programs and experience**. The CCCN Metrics Toolkit provides cities a bank of suggested

measures in all three categories, as well as tools for collecting baseline data and telling impact stories. Policy and infrastructure indicators, such as the amount of the city's operating budget dedicated to children and nature, or the quality and availability of nature play spaces in parks, address conditions that fall directly within the city's purview. Programming indicators such as the numbers and characteristics of youth engaged with nature depict progress and challenges that may involve city partners as well.

As one example of new data collection using the Toolkit: the City of Madison assessed the baseline quality of outdoor play spaces at early childcare sites, and will measure again for quality improvements after implementing new physical features.

FRONTIERS TO EXPLORE

Cities active in the new children and nature field have pioneered the important strategies outlined above. Three examples of categories for further strategy development include:

Social determinants of health: Cities can further increase access to nature as they also give attention to the structural conditions in which children grow up, known as the "social determinants of health." Food systems including community gardens; public housing as well as efforts to ensure green and healthy homes; the local health care system; and economic stability and employment initiatives all provide further grounds for action. Design and green-focused activity within neighborhoods and the physical environment – extending to items such as "green streets," walkability, playgrounds, and safety – represents a particularly rich area for exploration as well.

Sustainability and resilience: The potential to leverage prominent city attention to environmental sustainability and resilience with connecting children with nature remains largely untapped, yet holds great promise on at least two fronts. Environmental restoration and monitoring projects offer hands-on venues for children to connect with nature from a relatively young age. In addition, exposing children to city sustainability and resilience measures increases appreciation of ecosystem health and environmental threats, thus likely stimulating the development of future stewardship-minded citizens.

Partnerships with nature organizations: Other programmatic partners that run or support culturally specific outing clubs, such as [Latino Outdoors](#), [Outdoor Afro](#), [GirlTrek](#), and [Family Nature Clubs](#), bring families to nature within supportive and comfortable peer groups. Also, national organizations such as [Trust for Public Land](#) and [The Nature Conservancy](#) maintain state and local offices that can assist cities. And the Wilderness Inquiry [Canoemobile](#) travels the nation to help those in cities "get into the same boat."





CONCLUSION

Time in nature provides children the chance to develop social-emotional skills and healthy behaviors critical to thrive.

City leaders can play active roles to ensure that nearby nature spaces exist and that children and families who otherwise have less access feel comfortable using those spaces. Coordinated efforts between municipal agencies and partners such as school districts and community-based organizations maximize benefits to young people. Such partnerships also readily align with city priorities to address public health, academic, economic, environmental and equity outcomes. As awareness and evidence of the benefits of nature grow, cities will doubtless illuminate and establish many more pathways to nature connection.

RESOURCES

FROM CCCN

Resource Hub

The [CCCN Resource Hub](#) provides resources and tools for cities and their partners seeking to connect more children to nature, more equitably: This publication provides links to several items in the Resource Hub, and those items serve as appendices to this publication. <http://www.childrenandnature.org/initiatives/cities/hub/>

Metrics Toolkit

The [CCCN Metrics Toolkit](#) compiles three resources developed for use by initiative pilot cities and partners to set goals, choose indicators, and assess their impact in connecting children to nature. The Toolkit may prove most useful for a city team that has completed a community asset and gap analysis and stands ready to set informed goals.

Partners

The [National League of Cities](#) and [Children & Nature Network](#) co-lead Cities Connecting Children to Nature. Generous support from [The JPB Foundation](#) underwrites the CCCN initiative.

FROM OTHERS

Richard Louv

Richard Louv’s publications, including [Last Child in the Woods](#) launched an international movement to connect children to nature. Along with several more recent publications, Louv provides an eloquent call to action and offers guidance and inspiration for grassroots actors and local leaders.

Natural Learning Initiative

The Natural Learning Initiative based at the NC State College of Design offers a variety of nature play resources, including the [Nature Play and Learning Places National Guidelines](#).

Outdoors Alliance for Kids

The Outdoors Alliance for Kids (OAK) operates as a national strategic partnership whose members share a common interest in connecting children, youth and families with the outdoors. In addition to serving as a leading source of information and organizing on relevant federal policy, OAK offers the [Every Child Healthy Outdoors \(ECHO\) Across America Toolkit](#), which contains tools to enlist leaders at the state and city levels, assess current policies, set policy goals, and launch campaigns.

Rand Corporation / City Parks Alliance / Trust for Public Land

The [First National Study of Neighborhood Parks research](#) of Dr. Debra Cohen and colleagues, conducted in partnership with City Parks Alliance and Trust for Public Land, examines baseline neighborhood park usage and can inform park investment and management practices to improve public health.

Salzburg Global Seminar / International Union for Conservation of Nature

Salzburg Global Seminar and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature joined together in 2017 to issue a call to city leaders to ensure all children have the opportunity to enjoy safe, free play in nature-filled spaces. The [Salzburg Statement on the Child in the City: Health, Parks and Play](#) represents international consensus among thought leaders on actions that can transform cities for children.

Trust for Public Land

The Trust for Public Land’s [Center for City Park Excellence](#) offers a database and publications on how parks produce social, economic, and ecological value to residents, including yearly updates on city park facts and figures.

NATURE CAN IMPROVE ACADEMIC OUTCOMES

Spending time in nature enhances educational outcomes by improving children’s academic performance, focus, behavior and love of learning.

BETTER ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

Learning in natural environments can:



BOOST PERFORMANCE
in reading, writing, math, science and social studies
1, 2, 3, 4, 5



ENHANCE
creativity, critical thinking and problem solving⁹



Seeing nature from school buildings can foster academic success^{6, 7, 8}

ENHANCED ATTENTION

Spending time in nature can help children focus their attention:



FOCUS AND ATTENTION
10, 11, 12, 13



ADHD SYMPTOMS
14, 15



The greener the setting, the better the focus^{14, 15}

NATURE CAN IMPROVE HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Spending time in nature provides children with a wide range of health benefits.

HEALTHY BABIES

Nature exposure for mothers can promote:



BETTER FETAL GROWTH³



HEALTHIER BIRTH WEIGHTS^{1, 2, 3}



NATURE CONTACT IS
especially beneficial for mothers of lower education and socio-economic levels^{2, 3, 4}

HEALTHY EYES AND VITAMIN D LEVELS

Time spent in bright sunlight can:



REDUCE NEARSIGHTEDNESS
5, 6, 7



INCREASE VITAMIN D LEVELS⁸



INCREASED ENGAGEMENT & ENTHUSIASM

Exploration and discovery through outdoor experiences can promote motivation to learn:



INCREASED ENTHUSIASM FOR LEARNING
1, 16



GREATER ENGAGEMENT WITH LEARNING¹⁷



IMPROVED BEHAVIOR

Nature-based learning is associated with reduced aggression and fewer discipline problems:^{18, 19}



MORE IMPULSE CONTROL¹⁰



LESS DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR²⁰



INCREASED PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

Access to parks and greenspace can foster:



INCREASED PHYSICAL ACTIVITY^{11, 12}



REDUCED RISK OF OBESITY¹³



OUTDOOR PLAY
increases the likelihood that girls will remain active into adolescence⁹

SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL WELLBEING

Learning in nature can support:



IMPROVED RELATIONSHIP SKILLS^{17, 20}



REDUCED STRESS¹⁷ ANGER^{18, 19} AND AGGRESSION^{18, 19}



SUPPORTING RESEARCH
¹Lieberman & Hoody (1998). Closing the achievement gap: Using the environment as an integrating context for learning. Results of a Nationwide Study. *San Diego: SEER*.
²Chawla (2015). Benefits of nature contact for children. *J Plan Lit*, 30(4), 433-452.
³Berezowitz et al. (2015). School gardens enhance academic performance and dietary outcomes in children. *J School Health*, 85(8), 508-518.
⁴Williams & Dixon (2012). Impact of garden-based learning on academic outcomes in schools: Synthesis of research between 1990 and 2010. *Rev Educ Res*, 83(2), 211-235.
⁵Wells et al. (2015). The effects of school gardens on children's science knowledge: A randomized controlled trial of low-income elementary schools. *Int J Sci Edu*, 37(17), 2858-2878.
⁶Li & Sullivan (2016). Impact of views to school landscapes on recovery from stress and mental fatigue. *Landscape Urban Plan*, 148, 149-158.
⁷Wu et al. (2014). Linking student performance in Massachusetts elementary schools with the "greenness" of school surroundings using remote sensing. *PLoS ONE* 9(10): e108548.
⁸Matsuoka, R. H. 2010. Student performance and high school landscapes. *Landscape and Urban Planning* 97 (4), 273-282.
⁹Moore & Wong (1997). Natural Learning: Rediscovering Nature's Way of Teaching. Berkeley, CA: MIG Communications.
¹⁰Faber Taylor et al. (2002). Views of nature and self-discipline: Evidence from inner-city children. *J Environ Psy*, 22, 49-63.
¹¹Mårtensson et al. (2009). Outdoor environmental assessment of attention promoting settings for preschool children. *Health Place*, 15(4), 1149-1157.
¹²Wells (2000). At home with nature effects of "greenness" on children's cognitive functioning. *Environ Behav*, 32(6), 775-795.
¹³Berto et al. (2015). How does psychological restoration work in children? An exploratory study. *J Child Adolesc Behav* 3(3).
¹⁴Faber Taylor et al. (2001). Coping with ADD: The surprising connection to green play settings. *Environ Behav*, 33(1), 54-77.
¹⁵Amoly et al. (2014). Green and blue spaces and behavioral development in Barcelona schoolchildren: The BREATHE Project. *Environ Health Perspect*, 122:1351-1358.
¹⁶Blair (2009). The child in the garden: An evaluative review of the benefits of school gardening. *J Environ Educ*, 40(2), 15-38.
¹⁷Rios & Brewer (2014). Outdoor education and science achievement. *Appl Environ Educ Commun*, 13(4), 234-240.
¹⁸Bell & Dymont (2008). Grounds for health: The intersection of green school grounds and health-promoting schools. *Environ Educ Res*, 14(1), 77-90.
¹⁹Nedovic & Morrissey (2013). Calm, active and focused: Children's responses to an organic outdoor learning environment. *Learn Environ Res*, 16(2), 281-295.
²⁰Ruiz-Gallardo & Valdés (2013). Garden-based learning: An experience with "at risk" secondary education students. *J Environ Educ*, 44(4), 252-270.

SUPPORTING RESEARCH
¹Dzhambov et al. (2014). Association between residential greenness and birth weight: Systematic review and meta-analysis. *Urban For Urban Gree*, 13(4), 621-629.
²Markevych et al. (2014). Surrounding greenness and birth weight: Results from the GINIplus and LISAplus birth cohorts in Munich. *Health Place*, 26, 39-46.
³Dadvand et al. (2014). Inequality, green spaces, and pregnant women: Roles of ethnicity and individual and neighbourhood socioeconomic status. *Environ Inter*, 71, 101-108.
⁴Agay-Shay et al. (2014). Green spaces and adverse pregnancy outcomes. *Occup Environ Med*, 71(8), 562-9.
⁵French et al. (2013). Time outdoors and the prevention of myopia. *Exp Eye Res*, 114, 58-68.
⁶He et al. (2015). Effect of time spent outdoors at school on the development of myopia among children in China. *JAMA*, 314(11), 1142-1148.
⁷Dolgin (2015). The myopia boom: Short-sightedness is reaching epidemic proportions. Some scientists think they have found a reason why. *Nature*, 519, 276 - 278.
⁸McCurdy et al. (2010). Using nature and outdoor activity to improve children's health. *Curr Prob Pediatr Adolesc Health Care*, 40(5), 102-117.
⁹Pagels et al. (2014). A repeated measurement study investigating the impact of school outdoor environment upon physical activity across ages and seasons in Swedish second, fifth and eighth graders. *BMC Public Health*, 14(1), 803.
¹⁰Almanza et al. (2012). A study of community design, greenness, and physical activity in children using satellite, GPS and accelerometer data. *Health Place*, 18(1), 46-54.
¹¹Hartig et al. (2014). Nature and health. *Annual Rev Publ Health*, 35, 207-28.
¹²Christian et al. (2015). The influence of the neighborhood physical environment on early child health and development: A review and call for research. *Health Place*, 33, 25-36.
¹³Wolch et al. (2011). Childhood obesity and proximity to urban parks and recreational resources: A longitudinal cohort study. *Health Place*, 17(1), 207-214.
¹⁴Duncan et al. (2014). The effect of green exercise on blood pressure, heart rate and mood state in primary school children. *Int J Environ Res Public Health*, 11(4), 3678-3688.
¹⁵Wells & Evans (2003). Nearby nature: A buffer of life stress among rural children. *Environ Behav*, 35(3), 311-330.
¹⁶Corraliza et al. (2012). Nature as a moderator of stress in urban children. *Procedia - Soc Behav Sci*, 38, 253-263.
¹⁷Chawla et al. (2014). Green schoolyards as havens from stress and resources for resilience in childhood and adolescence. *Health Place*, 28, 1-13.
¹⁸Roe & Aspinall (2011). The restorative outcomes of forest school and conventional school in young people with good and poor behavior. *Urban For Urban Gree*, 10, 205-212.
¹⁹Younan et al. (2016). Environmental determinants of aggression in adolescents: Role of neighborhood green space. *J Am Acad Child Adolesc Psychiatry*, 55(7), 591-601.
²⁰Chawla (2015). Benefits of nature contact for children. *J Plan Lit*, 30(4), 433-452.



Cities Connecting Children to Nature



Annual Recognition Requirements for the Reporting period *January 1, 2021 - December 31, 2021*

KTB affiliates will receive Good Standing, Silver Star or Gold Star recognition on an annual basis (the KTB reporting period runs on the calendar year). **Grant and funding opportunities offered by KTB require a minimum of Good Standing.**

GOOD STANDING (minimum requirements):

- Achieve official affiliate status by 1/1/2021
- Pay \$175.00 annual dues by 3/25/2022 (Invoices will be mailed out in January 2022)
- Complete and submit the KTB Annual Report online by 3/25/2022
- New! Must complete TWO of the following options:
 - Participate in one endorsed in-person activity/event in 2021 (i.e. Arbor Day Event, America Recycles Day, Great American Cleanup, Keep Texas Waterways Clean, KTB Fall Sweep, community collection event, have a booth at an event or business, present at a school or organization meeting, etc.)
 - Participate in one virtual activity/event in 2021 (i.e. Facebook or Instagram live event, virtual fundraiser, hosted a virtual learning event, etc)
 - Attend 4 hours of approved virtual or in-person training in 2021 (i.e. KTB conference sessions, KTB regional training, KTB webinars and/or with approval, other outside sources such as KAB seminars/webinars, COG/TCEQ/TPWD/etc. trainings, Master Gardener seminar, etc.)
 - Conduct a Community Appearance and/or litter survey in 2021 (i.e. litter index, windshield survey, or any other assessment to measure the level of litter in your community)

SILVER STAR recognition:

- All requirements for Good Standing met
- Must complete ONE of the following options:
 1. Submission of TWO 2021 Beautify Texas Awards (formerly KTB Awards) applications
 2. Complete one of the three Star online questions through the Annual Report:
 - New Programs & Program Innovations
 - Youth Education & Engagement
 - Data Collection
 3. Participate in KTB Affiliate Mentorship Program as an Affiliate Mentor OR Complete the Affiliate Annual Survey
 4. Participate in the Keep Texas Recycling Program
 5. Attend 6 additional hours (10 hours total) of approved virtual or in-person training in 2021 (i.e. KTB conference, KTB regional training, KTB webinars and/or with approval, other outside sources such as KAB seminars/webinars, COG/TCEQ/TPWD/etc. trainings, Master Gardener seminar, etc.)

GOLD STAR recognition:

- All requirements for Good Standing met
- Letter of Support: Provide a letter from an elected official, civic group, business, or youth group that describes the value of your affiliate to the community. The letter must be dated between 1/1/2022 and 3/25/2022 and be written on letterhead. Letter may be scanned and emailed or mailed to the KTB office.
- Must complete TWO of the following options:
 1. Submission of TWO 2021 Beautify Texas Awards (formerly KTB Awards) applications
 2. Complete one of the three Star online questions through the Annual Report:
 - New Programs & Program Innovations
 - Youth Education & Engagement
 - Data Collection
 3. Participate in KTB Affiliate Mentorship Program as an Affiliate Mentor OR Complete the Affiliate Annual Survey
 4. Participate in the Keep Texas Recycling Program
 5. Attend 6 additional hours (10 hours total) of approved virtual or in-person training in 2021 (i.e. KTB conference, KTB regional training, KTB webinars and/or with approval, other outside sources such as KAB seminars/webinars, COG/TCEQ/TPWD/etc. trainings, Master Gardener seminar, etc.)
 6. Keep America Beautiful affiliate in Good Standing (must provide documentation)

Recognition collateral materials, annual dues and report must be submitted online by **March 25, 2022**.

Please contact Sara Walters, Program Manager, (swalters@ktb.org) for questions.

Below is a list of qualifying participatory events hosted by Keep Texas Beautiful in 2021. If you have participated in another related activity you would like to consider for Annual Recognition, please contact Sara Walters at swalters@ktb.org.

2021 Participation Activities

January

- ☐ 1/20 Webinar: Texas Legislative Session - The Basics and What to Expect in 2021
- ☐ 1/21 Webinar: Governor's Community Achievement Award Webinar Series, Tips from Past Winners

February

- ☐ 2/11 Webinar: Expanding Diversity and Inclusion in Environmental Outreach Efforts, Part 1
- ☐ 2/15 Awards: Dos XX Waterways Grant

March

- ☐ 3/2 Webinar: Leave no Trace, the Rotten Truth About Trash
- ☐ 3/3 Webinar: Expanding Diversity and Inclusion in Environmental Outreach Efforts, Part 2
- ☐ 3/4 Awards: Governor's Community Achievement Awards closes
- ☐ 3/25 Awards: Beautify Texas Awards closes
- ☐ 3/31 Training: Houston Regional Training (virtual)

April

- ☐ 4/2 Events: Affiliate Recognition closes
- ☐ 4/29 Webinar: Partners in Litter Abatement: Regional Action Plans and Data Solutions

May

- ☐ 5/1 Events: Parks and Trails Cleanup Month

June

- ☐ 6/28 Event: Annual Keep Texas Beautiful Conference begins (June 28 – July 1)

July

- ☐ 7/19 Webinar: The Impact of Outdoor Education on Student Academic and Social Outcomes
- ☐ 7/30 Awards: Rebuilding Texas Grants due

August

- ☐ 8/12 Webinar: Social Media and Marketing Tips from Affiliates
- ☐ 8/26 Webinar: Fall Sweep

September

- ☐ 9/9 Training: San Marcos Regional Training
- ☐ 9/11 Event: Fall Sweep Begins
- ☐ 9/13 Awards: H-E-B/Central Market Green Bag Grant Application opens
- ☐ 9/16 Webinar: Call Before You Dig
- ☐ 9/23 Webinar: Expand Your Cleanup Impact Through Regional Collaboration

October

- ☐ 10/1 Awards: H-E-B/Central market Green Bag Grant Application closes
- ☐ 10/20 Webinar: Texas Litter Database Deep Dive Training

November

- ☐ 11/1 Webinar: How to Host an Art Contest
- ☐ 11/10 Webinar: Placemaking Webinar Series, Activating Public Spaces
- ☐ 11/30 Webinar: Placemaking Webinar Series, Public Art as a Placemaking Tool

December

- ☐ 12/3 Training: Rio Grande Valley Regional Training
- ☐ 12/14 Webinar: GCAA Webinar Series, Tips from Past Winners

Affiliate Recognition Requirements

Please submit your Annual Report by March 25, 2022.

The 2022 Recognition requirements are available [HERE](#). Recent updates include:

- Four (4) activity options to choose from to be in Good Standing. The change allows for you to reach good standing when an in-person event might not be possible.
- New options to achieve gold or silver status, like participating in the Keep Texas Recycling program or completing the Affiliate Survey

As a reminder, submitting a GCAA application is no longer an option for credit towards gold or silver recognition status.

If you have questions about affiliate recognition or your affiliate status, please contact [Sara Walters](#), Program Manager.

The reporting period for the 2022 Affiliate Recognition is January 1, 2021 - December 31, 2021. KTB affiliates received Good Standing, Silver Star or Gold Star recognition based on activity during this annual KTB reporting period. Grant and funding opportunities offered by KTB require a minimum of Good Standing.

Questions? [Let us know.](#)

Benefits of Affiliation

Join the Keep America Beautiful® network of more than 650 state and community-based affiliates to help carry out our shared mission at the state, county, and municipal levels.

Since 1953, Keep America Beautiful has provided a replicable framework for community education and hands-on stewardship that seeks to end littering, improve recycling, and beautify America's communities. Using the fundamentals of the Keep America Beautiful Model for Change, our affiliates reach deep into communities to effect meaningful, positive, and lasting change by delivering innovative and locally-focused programs that address their community's needs.

Why Become an Affiliate?

Among the top reasons for affiliating with Keep America Beautiful are:

- National Credibility
- Powerful National Network of Peers
- Training
- Tools, Resources, and Programs
- Community Impact Grants and Special Initiatives
- Self-Determination

Key Highlights of the Benefits of Affiliation

Networking: Keep America Beautiful provides a platform for affiliates to interact with a nationwide network of like-minded organizations. Affiliates have the opportunity to network through events at our National Conference, groups of similar affiliates, service on program committees, the Keep America Beautiful Executive Director Online Community Forum (an intranet site for affiliates to network, ask questions, and share ideas & resources), and facilitated social media groups.

Training: Keep America Beautiful provides several professional development, as well as training opportunities for our Affiliate Network, including:

- **National Conference:** Our annual conference provides networking, learning, and sharing opportunities, which allow affiliates to engage with national sponsors, board members, and partners. The conference celebrates the many achievements of our network through our National Awards program.
- **Webinar Series:** A facilitated webinar series covering a wide range of professional development topics including mission consistent content, best practices, and ways to effectively lead your organization while engaging your community.
- **One-On-One Training** with Regional Directors and certified trainers.

Tools, Resources, and Programs:

Keep America Beautiful provides in-kind materials and credible tools for our network to activate in their community. This includes tools to activate volunteers, materials and guides with best practices, and media materials. Some highlights include:

Tools

- **The Keep America Beautiful Volunteer Portal:** Keep America Beautiful offers an event registration and volunteer management portal for affiliates to post and manage events in real-time, allow for direct communication with volunteers about events, as well as track and report on volunteer activities. The volunteer portal allows affiliates to manage, track, and report on people, programs, training, and volunteer opportunities in real-time.
- **Keep America Beautiful Community Appearance Index:** This method allows affiliates a quick, reliable, and visual assessment of the community. Optional indices include those associated with graffiti, illegal signs, vehicles, outdoor storage, and other public nuisances and hazards.
- **The Keep America Beautiful Model for Change:** Academically developed with decades of validation from the field, our Model for Change engages people at every step and results in sustainable change for the greater good. This model is the guiding force behind our PSAs, and the programs and initiatives that educate and facilitate community engagement.
- **Toolkits and Guides:** Keep America Beautiful has a library of toolkits and guides to help build capacity and activate programs locally.

Resources

- **National Research:** Keep America Beautiful continually monitors issues and trends within our goals and publishes periodic studies and findings that give Keep America Beautiful and the Affiliate Network data to demonstrate the needs of our work.
- **National Insurance Program:** Keep America Beautiful, in conjunction with USI Insurance Services, offers a comprehensive insurance program for the Keep America Beautiful Affiliate Network, including group premium rates. This benefit of affiliation is available to all nonprofit affiliates. The national program encompasses a broad suite of insurance coverage including, but not limited to: General Liability, Property, Auto, Umbrella, Directors and Officers, Employment Practices, and Cyber Liability.

Keep America Beautiful Signature Programs

Keep America Beautiful programs are research-based, measurable, and designed for local implementation by our affiliates to improve their community environments. Keep America Beautiful partners with corporate sponsors to provide tools and resources for affiliates to adapt programs for their community. Highlighted programs include:

- **Great American Cleanup®:** the nation's largest community improvement program engages individuals to take greater responsibility for their local environment via community service projects.
- **Cigarette Litter Prevention Program:** the nation's largest cigarette litter reduction program.
- **America Recycles Day®:** the only nationally recognized day dedicated to promoting and celebrating recycling in the United States.

Community Impact Grants and Special Initiatives:

Keep America Beautiful partners with businesses to provide significant funds and products to our affiliates that can be used for creating and expanding local community improvement programs. Recent national initiatives include grants for beautification, community greening, litter prevention, recycling (including bins), and more.

Keep America Beautiful Builds Community Affiliates Step-By-Step

Keep America Beautiful trainers guide a community through the affiliate development process:

- **Build Community Support:** A Community Team is built using a tri-sector partnership model
- **Community Training:** Local leaders trained on Keep America Beautiful tools
- **Local Action:** Establish local board of directors and gather information on community issues
- **Affiliation Training:** Board and staff training, discussion about programs, resources, and networking
- **Develop a Community Plan:** Setting goals and objectives
- **Build on Success:** Focus on results, provide incentives, and recognition

Become an Affiliate!

Keep America Beautiful affiliates bring together residents, businesses, public officials, and civic leaders to identify local concerns and apply the Keep America Beautiful 5-step Model for Change that engages people at every step of the process:

1. Get the facts
2. Prioritize the behaviors
3. Plan systematically
4. Evaluate impacts
5. Provide feedback

Education and behavior change are the cornerstones of our organization – and our affiliates' service projects are based on the knowledge and needs of their local communities.

Impact on America's Communities

The bottom line? Thanks to the national efforts of Keep America Beautiful, its affiliates, and many partners, volunteers across America are being energized to take an educated and active role in caring for their communities. In doing so, Keep America Beautiful is helping affiliate communities achieve sustainable, tangible results with demonstrated impact.



Keep Abilene Beautiful Board Program Handbook

Last Updated: 5/7/19

Keep Abilene Beautiful Introduction:

Our Mission: To educate and engage the citizens of Abilene to take responsibility for improving their community environment.

Keep Abilene Beautiful (KAB), formerly known as Abilene Clean & Proud, was established in 1986. KAB is a 501(c)(3) organization with an 11 member board of directors, appointed by City Council. The City of Abilene employs the Coordinator as the Stormwater Education and Keep Abilene Beautiful Coordinator. The Coordinator splits time (approximately 50/50) between Stormwater Education and KAB duties.

The organization's mission is to educate and engage the citizens of Abilene to take responsibility for improving their community environment. KAB does this by bringing community organizations together to support projects such as clean-ups, planting trees, beautification projects, environmental education efforts, and school grants.

KAB is an affiliate of both Keep Texas Beautiful (KTB) and Keep America Beautiful (KAmB). KAB often participates in KTB and KAmB events which help us retain our affiliate status and often allow us to receive free clean-up supplies. Both groups require KAB to complete yearly reporting requirements. KAB has maintained the status of Gold Star affiliate with KTB for many years, which is the highest level an affiliate can hold.

Keep Abilene Beautiful

What Does Keep Abilene Beautiful Do?

Our mission: To educate and engage the citizens of Abilene to take responsibility for improving their community environment.

Our Main Areas Of Focus:

- Beautification:**
Encouraging tree plantings and landscaping that shows Abilene at its best.
- Litter Reduction:**
Reducing litter through community cleanups.
- Environmental Education:**
Supporting teachers and students with educational opportunities and grants.

How Can You Get Involved?

- Learn More:**
Visit our website to learn about our programs and sign up for our monthly newsletter. Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, & Twitter!
- Donate:**
Support the efforts of Keep Abilene Beautiful through a tax deductible donation. Contact us or make a donation through our website.
- Host a Cleanup:**
It is easy for organizations, business, families, and individuals to host a cleanup. We can even provide you with supplies! Contact us to learn more.

Contact Us:
www.keepabilenebeautiful.org
keepabilenebeautiful@abilenetx.gov
(325)734-3301

Keep Texas Beautiful AFFILIATE | **KEEP AMERICA BEAUTIFUL**

Keep Abilene Beautiful Programs:

Programs are not listed in any particular order

Methods of Public Communication:

KAB Website:

www.keepabilenebeautiful.org is the official website of KAB. It has information about the organization and programs. The website is updated by the KAB Coordinator.

KAB Newsletter:

The KAB monthly newsletter was started towards the end of 2018. This electronic newsletter highlights upcoming events, programs, and recognizes volunteers. Currently this newsletter goes out to about 300 people. The newsletter is constructed and sent out by the KAB Coordinator.

Social Media Channels:

KAB currently holds Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram accounts, although Facebook is the primary focus. A majority of social media activity is organized through Sprout Social, a management platform that KAB has access to through the City of Abilene. The KAB Coordinator is responsible for the bulk of social media activity, but board members can request publishing access if they choose.

Clean-Up Programs:

Adopt-A-Street & Adopt –A-Creek Program:

The Adopt a Street / Creek program is held in partnership with the City of Abilene's Stormwater Department. This program is facilitated by the Stormwater Education and Keep Abilene Beautiful Coordinator. This program is open to anyone including: neighborhood associations, businesses, organizations, families, and individuals. Interested groups apply for an area of their choosing (the Coordinator can provide recommendations). Groups commit to 4 clean-ups a year in that location for a total of two years. In recognition of their efforts they receive a sign (paid for by Stormwater) placed at their location. KAB provides clean-up supplies.

Note: This program is one of the more popular programs and provides a majority of the clean-ups that KAB tracks.

Loot for Litter:

The Loot for Litter Program provides financial assistance to organizations or Adopt-a-Street/Creek participants for their efforts in helping collect litter along roadways within the City limits. This is requested through an application process. If approved, Keep Abilene Beautiful will fund up to \$100 per litter pickup event. KAB will fund no more than 6 litter cleanups totaling no more than \$600 per year. Eligibility requirements can be found on KAB's website.

Note: This program has not been very active in recent history.

KAB Coordinated Clean-ups:

KAB will coordinate our own clean-ups occasionally. The most common KAB coordinated clean-up is the Lake Kirby Clean-up in October (although it has also occurred in April). While most of our other clean-up programs host pre-formed volunteer groups, these clean-ups combine individuals and groups from all over the community. These clean-ups require more resources and coordination, so they only occur periodically.

Single Clean-ups or Community Service Hours:

KAB supports many clean-up efforts throughout the year. These include one-time clean-ups hosted by outside groups or individuals in need of community service hours. The level of partnership between KAB and outside group clean-ups range from providing supplies to higher levels of KAB partnership. Higher levels of partnership are brought to the KAB board for discussion, while supplies can be provided without board involvement. Individuals who need community service hours have set criteria that they need to meet, which can be obtained from the Coordinator.

Note: We assist with local clean-ups fairly frequently (example: Downtown Initiative, McMurry Serves, etc.). Community service work requests come from local university students and Teen Court ordered requirements. These service clean-ups are moderately common, with a handful occurring each year.

Fundraising Campaigns:

Love Where You Live T-shirts:

KAB's "Love Where You Live" t-shirts are a joint fundraiser and community pride campaign. T-shirts are sold at some KAB events and available year-round at local retail stores. T-shirts are sold for \$15 with the proceeds benefiting KAB programs.

Note: Current retail locations include Candies by Vleta's and The Embroiderette.

Membership and Sponsorship Program:

These programs were released in 2019 as a revision of the discontinued Litter Free Business campaign. The Membership program incorporates both individual and business membership options, with multiple levels available for each. While not required, it is recommended that board members hold at least the lowest level of KAB Membership as a show of support. Funds received from this program go into the general operating funds of KAB and can be spent on any board approved use.

The Sponsorship program is a way for interested parties to specifically sponsor certain project areas including: wildflower seeds, tree planting, wildlife and conservation projects, environmental education grants, and clean-up supplies. These funds are held specifically for KAB to use within the specified project area.

Note: Currently only the Membership program is available online. The Sponsorship program is anticipated to be available in May or June of 2019.

KAB Clay Shoot:

KAB had their first annual Clay Shoot in 2018. The Clay Shoot is hosted at Abilene Clay Sports. This event raises funds through shooter registration fees, station sponsors, and prize raffles. Event coordination is generally lead by the Event and/or Fundraising Committees.

Note: This is currently KAB's largest fundraiser and only annual fundraising event.

Education Classes and Presentations:

The KAB coordinator regularly provides free education classes or presentations for local students or community organizations. These programs include science class presentations, career day events, teacher professional development workshops, organizing school fieldtrips to city facilities (ERC, water treatment plant, etc.), and KAB awareness presentations to local community groups. These programs are by request and scheduled based on availability. Program requests go through the KAB Coordinator. Board members are able to host presentations if they wish, but information needs to be shared with the Coordinator so that that presentation can be tracked and recorded.

Events:

KAB does participate in a number of public events each year including: Business Expo, Outdoor Adventure Day, etc. Due to frequent conflicts at these events for the Coordinator (between their commitment to both Stormwater and KAB), KAB board members are often needed to man KAB booths/table. KAB has an event committee that helps decide which events KAB will participate in each year.

Memorial Tree and Bench Program:

This program provides an opportunity to honor people and special events by donating a tree or bench to be placed in an Abilene park. Fees are donated to Keep Abilene Beautiful, but are then transferred in full to the Abilene Parks Department. Fees cover the purchase of the tree/bench and the continued maintenance by the Parks Department.

Note: Lower popularity, with a few requests coming in each year. KAB houses this program as a service to Parks because KAB has the 501(c)(3) status that allows us to accept tax-exempt donations. Being a city entity, Parks is limited in the funding that they can request from citizens.

Community Grants:

Keep Abilene Beautiful offers grants to various schools and community organizations that meet our mission. Applications are available on the KAB website. All applications are preliminarily reviewed by the Grants & Awards Committee, who then present the request and a recommendation for a full board vote.

Note: KAB currently budgets for \$6,000 a year in grant awards. KAB's grant process is currently being reviewed by the Grants & Awards Committee.

Annual Awards:

Each year KAB awards three community achievement awards: KAB Recycling Award, Donna Albus Beautification Award, and the KAB Sustainable City Award. The KAB Recycling Award recognizes achievement in preventing waste through recycling efforts. The KAB Sustainable City Award recognizes sustainability efforts through water or energy conservation, litter prevention, or any community action that recovers resources or sustains our culture. The Donna Albus Beautification Award recognizes achievement in preventing waste through recycling efforts. Donna Albus is a past KAB coordinator, current Abilene City Councilwoman, and KTB board member. Donna maintains involvement in KAB. She will nominate groups for this award, but the KAB board selects the winner. Nomination forms are available on the KAB website.

Nominations are accepted until December 31st of each year. Nominations will first be reviewed by the Grants & Awards Committee who will then present the applications and a recommendation to the full board. There is no monetary gift with these awards, but they do receive an engraved stone award.

Note: The awards have been presented and recognized in different ways in the past. In the past KAB held an award ceremony, but due to cost and coordination efforts that event was discontinued. Most recently (2019) the awards were presented at the Hot Host Awards Ceremony hosted by the Abilene Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Volunteer Program:

KAB maintains a list of volunteers. Contact is made with all volunteers primarily once a month through our monthly newsletter, although they can be contacted via email anytime a volunteer need arises. KAB (primarily through the Adopt A Street / Creek program) volunteers are encouraged to send pictures of their volunteer efforts. KAB recognizes their efforts through a monthly volunteer spotlight in our newsletter and social media channels once a month. KAB also publishes a thank you to all groups (or individuals) that completed a clean-up in the previous month through our newsletter and social media channels.

Internship Program:

KAB recently created a new Internship Program available to local college level students. Students who are accepted into this program have an opportunity to gain valuable experience while helping with KAB's community programs. A program description and qualifications are available on KAB's website.

Board Programs:

These are programs that board members have the opportunity to participate in or should be knowledgeable about.

Board Committees:

The KAB board currently has four committees: Executive Committee, Events Committee, Fundraising & Marketing Committee, and Grants & Awards Committee. These committees are able to work on projects within their committees to later present to the full-board. This allows the board to accomplish more while cutting down on needed board discussion (until the end). Board members volunteer for a committee(s) and can be assigned by a board vote. Committees

should be reevaluated at the annual board retreat at the minimum. Members of a committee cannot match or exceed the number of board quorum.

Executive Committee: Defined by the KAB board bylaws. Consists of the President, President-Elect, Secretary, and Treasurer. This committee is automatic for members holding these positions.

Events Committee: Play a major role in organizing KAB events throughout the year.

Fundraising & Marketing Committee: Organize and seek out fundraising opportunities. Marketing is a new addition to this committee and will act as a side function of the committee until a full committee can be formed.

Grants & Awards: Reviews grant requests and award nominations, making recommendations for full board consideration.

Keep Texas Beautiful Conference:

KTB hosts an annual conference, generally in the month of June. Each year the board will select a number of board members that they are willing to send. KAB will pay the conference and hotel fees for attending board members (up to the approved number). Travel and meals (those not included in the conference fee) are the responsibility of the individual to cover. COA Stormwater generally pays the conference and travel fees for the KAB Coordinator.

Board Retreat:

KAB hosts a board retreat each August. A regular meeting is held first, followed by a special retreat meeting to help plan the coming year. Both meetings are open to the public and subject to the Open Meetings Act that all KAB meetings follow. The retreat is usually held on a Saturday and at a location determined by the board in advance.

Litter index:

As part of our affiliation with KAmB, each year KAB board members participate in the Litter Index. Through this program KAB board members visit specific areas and visually rate the amount of litter present. These sites are the same every year, so the amount of litter can be compared to past years. This process can show us if litter in those areas is trending upward or downward. Board members are provided a map, written directions, and instructions on how to rate their area. Often multiple board members are assigned to an area so that multiple scores can be combined. Board members are assigned areas in July and they are due in August (in time for KAmB's yearly August reporting).

GCAA (Governor's Community Achievement Award):

While on the KAB board you will likely hear the term GCAA mentioned frequently. This program is a TxDOT (Texas Department of Transportation) funded program facilitated through KTB. Each year KTB affiliate communities around the state of Texas apply for this award. The application is quite detailed and specific in how it is completed. The task of completing this application each February falls to the KAB Coordinator, but is often reviewed by volunteer members of the board. For this award KAB applies on behalf of the city, so the programs reported are not just KAB programs but city wide (that fall within the purview of the application). This means that we include numbers from any city or community program that ties into recycling, community beautification, or waste reduction.

Each year winners from 10 population categories are selected, with each winning community receiving a landscaping grant tied to that community category. Abilene falls into Category 9 for populations between 90,001 – 180,000. The award for our community size is \$290,000. This grant is furnished through TxDOT and stays with TxDOT, the funds do not get transferred to the community or community organization. The award funds landscaping projects in the winning communities that align with TxDOT regulations. The winning community will generally put together a group of local TxDOT staff, board members of the winning affiliate, and other community voices. Together this committee will work with TxDOT to develop locations and design concepts that later TxDOT will implement with the awarded funds. This process can take upwards of two years until the construction and implementation is completed.

KAB most recently won this award in 2018 and is currently in the process of finalizing the design for the award projects. This is the fourth time that KAB has won the GCAA award, with past awards including the buffalo sculptures that you may pass when coming into Abilene. A past award also included some of the work and sculptures done near Frontier Texas. After an affiliate wins, they are not eligible for another win for 3-4 years. Despite that KAB is not eligible to win in the years immediately following the award receipt, it is still required by KTB that we submit an application yearly to maintain our good standing.

BYLAWS
OF
KEEP ABILENE BEAUTIFUL, INC.
AS AMENDED March 28, 2019

ARTICLE ONE

OFFICES

1.01 Registered Office and Registered Agent

The Corporation shall have and shall continuously maintain in the State of Texas a registered office, which is located at 555 Walnut Street, Abilene, Texas 79601, and whose mailing address is P.O. Box 60, Abilene, Texas 79604. The Corporation shall also have and continuously maintain a registered agent whose address will be that of the registered office. The registered agent's name is Robert Hanna. The Board of Directors may, from time to time, change the registered agent and/or the address of the registered office provided that such change complies with the Texas Business Corporation Act and is appropriately reflected in these Bylaws and in the Articles of Incorporation.

1.02 Principal Office

The principal office of the Corporation in the State of Texas shall be located in the City of Abilene, Taylor County, Texas, and it may be, but need not be, identical with the registered office of the Corporation. The Corporation may have such other offices either within or without the State of Texas as the Board of Directors may determine or as the affairs of the Corporation may require from time to time.

ARTICLE TWO

PURPOSE

2.01 Purposes

The purpose for which the Corporation is organized is to promote civic, cultural and educational awareness through informed and active participation of citizens in making Abilene a cleaner, safer, and more attractive place to live, work and play.

ARTICLE THREE

NO STOCK AND NO STOCKHOLDERS

3.01 No Stock and No Stockholders

The Corporation shall have no capital stock and no stockholders.

ARTICLE FOUR

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

4.01 Responsibility of Board of Directors

The business and affairs of the Corporation and all corporate powers shall be exercised by or under authority of the Board of Directors, subject to the Texas Non-Profit Corporation Act, the Articles of Incorporation, and these Bylaws. The Board of Directors shall have full charge of the property and business of the Corporation, with full power and authority to manage and to conduct the same.

The Board of Directors may, by contract, resolution, or otherwise, give general or limited or special power and authority to the officers and agents of the Corporation to transact the general business or any special business of the Corporation.

The Board of Directors will be responsible for making an annual report to the City Council of the year's activities.

4.02 Director Eligibility

Persons eligible for appointment to the Board of Directors shall either live or work within the City of Abilene.

4.03 Number of Directors

The Board of Directors shall be composed of eleven (11) members, a majority of whom shall be a resident of the City of Abilene.

4.04 Attendance

All Directors must not miss more than three (3) meetings held in any fiscal year whether regular, special or emergency. In addition to the board meetings, all Directors must perform six (6) hours of service at a Keep Abilene Beautiful sponsored activity per quarter.

4.05 Term of Office

Terms of office for Directors begin October 1. The Directors of the Board shall be appointed by the Mayor with the approval of the City Council of Abilene, Texas, in September for terms beginning October 1 and shall hold their office for a term of three (3) years or until their successors are appointed.

4.06 Vacancies and Removal of Directors

Upon the death, resignation, removal, or vacancy of office of any of the Directors, the Mayor, with the approval of the City Council of the City of Abilene, Texas, shall nominate and appoint a successor Director, who shall hold office for the unexpired term of the Director he or she is appointed to succeed. If the best interests of the City of Abilene, Texas, require the removal of any Director, removal of such Director shall be effected by majority vote of the City Council of the City of Abilene, Texas. Failure to meet the attendance requirements may lead to removal if it is in the best interest of Keep Abilene Beautiful and the City of Abilene.

4.07 Advisory Members

The City Manager or designee, the City attorney or designee and the Executive Director of Keep Abilene Beautiful shall be advisory members to the Board without voting privileges. Advisory members must be employees of the City of Abilene and shall act only in an advisory capacity to the Corporation. The President may appoint other advisory members as necessary.

4.08 Community Partners

The President may appoint members of the Community who are not City of Abilene employees to act as Community Partners to Keep Abilene Beautiful. Community Partners shall act as advisory members to the Board without voting privileges.

4.09 Regular Meetings, Notice and Quorum

Regular meetings of the Directors shall be held once a month or as directed by the President and shall be held at such place as the President may determine. Notice of any meeting shall be given to the public in accord with the requirements of the Texas Open Meetings Act. A majority of the appointed Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum. There shall be a regular annual meeting of the Board of Directors during the Month of August to elect a President, President Elect, Secretary and Treasurer. It will be the responsibility of these officers to present the annual budget and program of work for approval no later than the September regularly scheduled Board meeting.

4.10 Special and Emergency Meetings

Special meetings of the Directors may be called by the President upon at least 72 hours notice, stating the purpose or purposes thereof, or such special meeting may be held at any time by request of at least three (3) of the Directors, giving at least 72 hours notice. Special meetings will be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Texas Open Meetings Act.

An emergency meeting may be held if such meeting and notice thereof complies with the Texas Open Meetings Act.

4.11 No Compensation

No salary or compensation of any kind shall be paid to any Director on the Board, except for actual expenses upon proof and approval of the Board of Directors.

4.12 Rules of Procedure

All meetings, whether regular, special or emergency, shall be conducted in accordance with City Council's Rules of Procedure.

ARTICLE FIVE

OFFICERS

5.01 Composition of Officers

The officers of the Corporation shall be elected by the Directors and shall consist of a President, a President Elect, a Secretary and a Treasurer. Only Directors are eligible to hold an office.

5.02 Election of Officers

The Officers of the Corporation shall be elected annually by the Board of Directors at the annual meeting of the Board of Directors. Vacancies shall be filled at any meeting of the Board of Directors and any person who fills a vacancy shall serve until the next election of officers. Each officer shall hold office until his or her successor has been elected and qualifies, or until the death, resignation, or removal of the officer.

5.03 Removal of Officers

Any officer or agent elected or appointed by the Board of Directors may be removed at any time for any reason by the affirmative vote of a majority of the whole Board of Directors.

5.04 President

The President shall be the chief executive officer of the Corporation and, subject to the direction of the Board of Directors, shall supervise and control the business and affairs of the Corporation. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Board of Directors. The President shall see that all orders, resolutions, and rules of procedure of the Board are carried into effect, and shall perform all other duties that usually pertain to the office or are delegated to him by the Board of Directors.

5.05 President Elect

In the absence of the President or in the event of the President's inability or refusal to act, the President Elect shall perform the duties of the President and, as such, the President Elect shall have all the powers of, and be subject to all the restrictions upon, the President. The President Elect shall also have such powers and shall perform such other duties as may be assigned by the President or by the Board of Directors.

5.06 Secretary

The Secretary is responsible for keeping records of the proceedings of the Board of Directors, including the minutes of all meetings of the Board of Directors and shall perform all duties that usually pertain to the office of Secretary or which are delegated by the Board of Directors or by the President. The Secretary shall also be the custodian of the records and the seal of the Corporation and shall affix the seal to documents, the execution of which is duly authorized.

5.07 Treasurer

The Treasurer is responsible for seeing that regular books, records and books of account of the Corporation are kept, including using a bookkeeping service if approved by the Board, and shall deposit all monies and other valuable effects of the Corporation in a depository selected by the Directors, make such financial reports as directed by either the Board of Directors or the President, maintain the board credit card and/or debit card (said use will require prior board approval and shall be reported in the financial report at the monthly Board of Directors meeting), sign checks of the Corporation (checks require two signatures and can be signed by the Treasurer, President, or President Elect), and render to the President and Directors at the regular meetings of the Board of Directors or whenever they may require it, an account of all transactions as Treasurer and of the financial condition of the Corporation. The Treasurer shall perform all other duties as may be prescribed by the Board of Directors or by the President.

ARTICLE SIX

FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION

6.01 Fiscal Year

The fiscal year of the Corporation shall begin on the 1st day of October and end on the 30th day of September each year.

6.02 Operating Funds

No profit shall ever be realized by any person in the operation of this corporation. The Corporation will have the power to raise money, charge for memberships, accept gifts and donations, apply for and receive grants, and otherwise generate revenue for its expenses.

The funds that are raised will be used to carry out the charitable and educational purposes of the organization. Any funds of the Corporation which are not required immediately for the ongoing activities of the Corporation may be invested by the Board of Directors.

To maintain clean records for audit purposes, all bookkeeping and records concerning Corporation funds will be completely separate from bookkeeping and records concerning funds budgeted by the City, and funds will be deposited in separate accounts from the City's accounts.

Should the City withdraw financial support from the Corporation, any unexpended City budgeted funds at the end of the budget year shall revert to the City.

At no time shall funds held by the Corporation be paid to the City of Abilene unless it is a reimbursement for actual expenses, or unless a $\frac{3}{4}$ majority of the Board of Directors votes to disburse funds in this manner.

Should the City of Abilene's financial support be changed from direct budget support and employment of the KAB Coordinator to a single annual contribution, the contribution would be considered a contribution to the Corporation and could be spent as Corporate funds.

In the event that the Corporation should no longer be related to the City of Abilene, either by choice of the City Council by withdrawing financial support or by choice of the Board of Directors by majority vote of the Board and with City Council approval, then the City Council would thereby relinquish its responsibilities as set forth in these Bylaws to appoint members to the Board of Directors and to give final approval to Bylaws. Members serving on the Board at that time will remain on the Board until the completion of their terms, but new members will be chosen in accordance with the procedure determined by the Board of Directors. At such time, the Corporation will no longer indemnify the City of Abilene according to Article 10, Section 10.01.

The Corporation shall not be required to return funds from sources other than to the City of Abilene. In the event of dissolution of this Corporation, all remaining funds or assets of said Corporation, after the payment of all corporate debts, shall vest in the City of Abilene for the purpose of maintaining a clean, safe, and attractive city.

6.03 Entering into Contracts

The Board of Directors may authorize any officer(s) or agent(s) to enter into any contract or to execute and deliver any instrument in the name of and on behalf of the Corporation, and such authority may be general or may be confined to specific instances.

6.04 Annual Budget

An annual budget shall be submitted to the Board of Directors for approval no later than September's regularly scheduled Board meeting.

6.05 Annual Audit

The Board of Directors shall provide for an annual outside financial audit as required by law.

ARTICLE SEVEN

COMMITTEES

7.01 Executive Committee

The Executive Committee shall consist of the President, President Elect, Secretary, Treasurer and Executive Director. The duties of the Executive Committee shall be to function as the nominating committee for Board Officers, be the recommending committee for new Directors, and authorize and exercise all functions of the Board, subject to final approval by the Board.

7.02 Other Committees

The Committee Chair shall be nominated by the President and approved by the Board of Directors. All committees shall serve the objectives of the Organization.

ARTICLE EIGHT

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

8.01 Executive Director

The KAB Coordinator employed by the City of Abilene shall act as the Executive Director and shall be responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Organization. The Executive Director shall have charge of the business, property, and general programs, of the Organization, including the maintenance of records of the Board of Directors, maintenance of the

financial reports, and minutes as recorded by the Secretary and approved by the Board of Directors. The Executive Director shall give or cause to be given all notices required by law or by these Bylaws and shall be responsible for ensuring all meetings comply with the Texas Open Meetings Act.

ARTICLE NINE

AMENDMENTS TO BYLAWS

9.01 Amendments to Bylaws

These Bylaws shall be adopted by the Board of Directors of said Corporation. The power to alter, amend, or repeal the Bylaws or to adopt new Bylaws is vested in the Board of Directors. Any alteration, amendment or repeal requires a majority of the Board of Directors to vote in favor of such alteration, amendment or repeal in a meeting called for that purpose. Furthermore, any alteration, amendment or repeal shall not become effective nor have any force or effect whatsoever unless and until same has been approved by a written resolution passed by the City Council of Abilene, Texas, except as otherwise stated in Article 6, Section 6.02, Paragraph 7.

ARTICLE TEN

INDEMNITY

10.01 Indemnity

Subject to Article 1396-2.22A of the Texas Civil Statutes, as amended, the Board of Directors shall authorize the Corporation to pay or reimburse any current or former Director or Officer of the Corporation for any costs, expenses, fines, settlements, judgments, and other amounts, actually and reasonably incurred by such person in any action, suit, or proceeding to which he is made a party by reason of holding such position as Officer or Director; provided, however, that such Officer or Director shall not receive such indemnification if he/she is finally adjudicated in such instance to be liable for negligence or misconduct in office. The indemnification herein provided shall also extend to good faith expenditures incurred in anticipation of, or preparation for, threatened or proposed litigation. The Board of Directors may, in proper cases, extend the indemnification to cover the good faith settlement of any such action, suit, or proceedings, whether formally instituted or not.

Furthermore, the Corporation agrees to indemnify, hold harmless and defend the City of Abilene, its officers, agents, and its employees, from and against all claims and suits for damages, injuries to persons (including death), property damage (including loss of use), and expenses, including court costs and attorney's fees, arising out of or resulting from the Corporation's work and from any liability arising out of or in connection with the City of Abilene or its agents, officers, or employees entry upon said property, common, constitutional, or statutory law, or based in whole or in part upon the negligent or intentional acts or omissions of the Corporation, its officers, employees, agents, subcontractors, licensees, invitees, or trespassers or based in whole or in part upon the negligent acts or omissions of the City of Abilene, its

officers, employees, agents, licensees, or invitees. The Corporation agrees to waive any and all claims it may have against the City of Abilene, connected with, resulting from, or arising out of, claims and suits covered by this indemnification provision and agrees that any insurance carrier involved shall not be entitled to subrogation under any circumstances against the City of Abilene, its officers, agents, and employees.

Director and Officer protection occurs through the City indemnification policy as set forth in Resolution #40-1997.

ARTICLE ELEVEN

MISCELLANEOUS

11.01 Miscellaneous

The Board of Directors shall provide a Corporate Seal which shall be in the form of a circle and shall have inscribed thereon the name of the Corporation, substantially as follows: Keep Abilene Beautiful, Inc., Abilene, Texas.

11.02 Table of Contents and Headings

The Table of Contents and Headings used in these Bylaws have been inserted for convenience only and do not constitute matter to be used in construing or interpreting them.

11.03 Construction

Whenever the context so requires, the use of a masculine pronoun shall include the feminine, and singular shall include plural and conversely.

If any portion of these Bylaws shall be invalid or inoperative, then, so far as is reasonable and possible:

- (a) The remainder of these Bylaws shall be considered valid and operative, and
- (b) Effect shall be given to the intent manifested by the portion held invalid or inoperative, in so far as not prohibited by law.

11.04 Relation to Articles of Incorporation

These Bylaws are subject to and are governed by the Articles of Incorporation of Keep Abilene Beautiful, Inc.

CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy Amended Bylaws of Keep Abilene Beautiful, Inc. and that such Bylaws were duly adopted by the Board of Directors of said Corporation on March 28th, 2019.

ATTEST:

E'Lisa Smetana, Secretary of the Corporation