

## THE TRANSFORMATION OF URBAN OPEN SPACES







**HR&A** is a real estate and economic development consulting firm that partners with design firms to lead collaborations of the public, private, nonprofit, and civic sectors.

We provide financial analysis, strategic advice, project management, and facilitation with the aim of transforming communities and revitalizing urban environments in the United States and abroad.

## Public spaces are urban infrastructure and create economic value.

Public-private partnerships enhance and unlock value

Value creation is multi-benefit and long-lasting

Equitable public investment leads to better outcomes

What is the public sector's role in implementing public space transformation?

**GOALS** Establish vision, goals, and priorities

### **METRICS**

Develop metrics to track success: investment, community access & engagement, health/environmental

#### **TACTICS**

Use policy, funding, and financing tools to advance priority projects

## **Economic value** | Parks and open spaces supported by public-private partnerships create economic value.



## The High Line | A highly programmed linear park built on elevated rail line.



**The High Line** | The "Friends of" group was founded to save the structure from demolition.



**The High Line** | This innovative plan appealed to the local community, developers, and the City.



**The High Line** | Innovative zoning allowed for new development and the creation of value for the High Line.



#### The High Line | Economic value creation derives from real estate and tourism value.



The High Line | New tax revenues exceed City investment by 800%.





Total City funding for High Line construction (55% of total) **800%** return

on the City's investment

**The High Line** | The amenity value of the High Line has helped to catalyze development of a new neighborhood in West Chelsea.



## \$2+ billion new development to date

1,400

**12%** of total new value (2007 to 2013)

new units

**The High Line** | The unique amenity is also helping West Chelsea grow more rapidly through increased private investment, compared to neighboring areas.



We know that park benefits go beyond economic benefits – open spaces are "triple-bottom-line" civic investments that create benefits across the city.



At a system scale, planning investments in open space should be considered based on the desired benefits and values.



#### **Evaluating Park Impacts** | Compared to peers, Dallas is under-resourced in citywide park investment.

City	Population	Annual Pop. Growth	Economic Drivers	Climate
Dallas	1,260,000	0.07%	Energy, <u>Corporate</u>	Humid subtropical
Houston	2,200,000	0.60%	Energy, Healthcare	Humid subtropical
Austin	890,000	1.75%	Tech, Education	Humid subtropical
San Antonio	1,410,000	1.52%	Military, Energy, Finance	Humid subtropical
San Diego	1,360,000	0.68%	Military, Tourism, Biotech	Semi-arid
Atlanta	450,000	0.08%	Media, IT, Corporate	Humid subtropical
Denver	650,000	0.82%	Distribution, Defense, Tourism	Semi-arid continental
Phoenix	1,510,000	0.94%	Finance, Manufacturing	Hot desert
Chicago	2,720,000	-0.68%	Finance, Corporate	Humid continental
Minneapolis	400,000	0.00%	Commerce, Distribution	Humid continental
Portland	610,000	1.04%	Distribution, Apparel	Mild temperate
Seattle	650,000	0.80%	Tech, Tourism	Temperate marine
Median	1,070,000	0.88%		

38% less spending on park operations

> **45% less** investment in capital improvements

**Evaluating Park Impacts** | Dallas has a wealth of open space assets, but they are relatively inaccessible, especially as compared to aspirational peers.

#### **Population Density vs. Park Access**

- Density without Parkland (people/acre)
- Percent of Population within  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile of Park



**Evaluating Park Impacts** | This analysis suggested new public investments in trails across the city could address social cohesion and equity, a goal set forth by City leaders.

EQUITY	DALLAS HAS A MULTITUDE OF PARK ASSETS BUT POOR ACCESS COMPARED TO PEERS
REAL ESTATE	IN DALLAS, REAL ESTATE EXCEEDED ALL OTHER
DRIVES VALUE	SOURCES OF VALUE, TOTALING \$345M / YEAR
ACROSS	REGARDLESS OF PARK TYPOLOGY, HIGHLY
TYPOLOGIES	PROGRAMMED PARKS PERFORM EXTREMELY WELL.
TRAILS =	INEXPENSIVE TO BUILD AND MAINTAIN AND TOUCH A
HIGHEST ROI	LOT OF REAL ESTATE, RESULTING IN <u>50:1</u> VS. <u>7:1</u> ROI.
TRAILS =	NEW TRAILS COULD CONNECT DIVERSE
GREATER EQUITY,	NEIGHBORHOODS AND THEIR EXISTING PARKS,
MORE	PROVIDING PROGRAMMING TO THOSE PARKS AND
PROGRAMMING	INCEASING ACCESS TO PARKLAND ACROSS THE CITY.

**Equitable Investment** Achieving 1<sup>st</sup> order inclusive economic gains requires careful planning and ongoing commitment.



What trickle-down economics promises



What trickle-down economics delivers

**The High Line** A mature park, The High Line has contributed to stunning growth, and now increasingly focused on serving the diversity of New York City.



is for you.

## **A Top Visitor Attraction**

## 7.6M Total Visitors, 2015

## **NYCHA** Public Housing **Resident Visitation (2012)**

22%

had not visited the High Line

10%

did not know about the High Line **The High Line |** The High Line's model for inclusive programming began in 2011 with a detailed community survey that revealed neighbors hadn't been properly engaged but could be.



11<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge Park | The Park addresses geographic racial disparities with a neighborhoodscale plan to provide services while addressing risk of displacement.



11<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge Park | The Park is advancing a holistic model for inclusive park development, guided by an Equitable Development Plan drafted by park leaders..





11<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge Park | The Park, still in planning stages, seeks to create a high quality park and neighborhood experience that benefits today's residents.

#### Goals

Create economic opportunities for

the existing resident and business community

# Facilitate inclusive neighborhood development

Deliver a public space that meets the cultural, recreational, and health **needs** of the local community.

11<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge Park | Planning equitably ahead of park and neighborhood development means the impacts of its investments are expansive.

Goals	Impacts
Create <b>economic opportunities</b> for the existing resident and business	Employment of local residents and business by 11SBP
community	Park visitor spending at neighborhood businesses
Facilitate inclusive neighborhood development	Delivery of neighborhood amenities supported by market rate development
	Mitigation of resident, business, political and cultural displacement
Deliver a public space that meets the	Recreation + park enjoyment by local residents
cultural, recreational, and health <b>needs</b>	Improved health of local residents due to exercise
of the local community.	Improved health of local residents due to healthier food access
	Increased awareness of neighborhood culture within greater DC

11<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge Park: A leader in inclusive development of open spaces, the Equitable Development Plan considers actions at every stage.



Key questions

## GOALS

What are Fortaleza's goals and its vision for the role parks will play in its growth?

**METRICS** How will success against these goals be tracked?

### TACTICS

What policy tools, public funding and financing mechanisms, and public-private partnerships can be used?



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