

# NEIGHBORS & NATURE

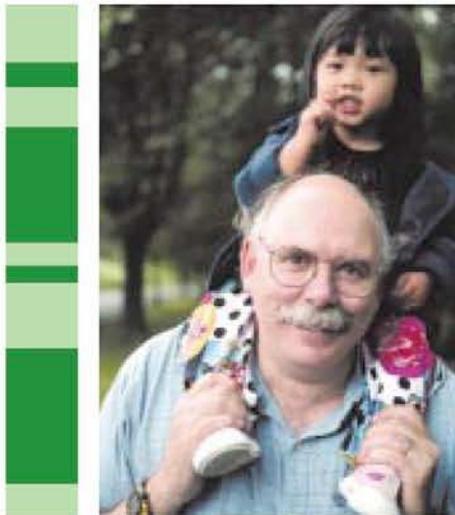
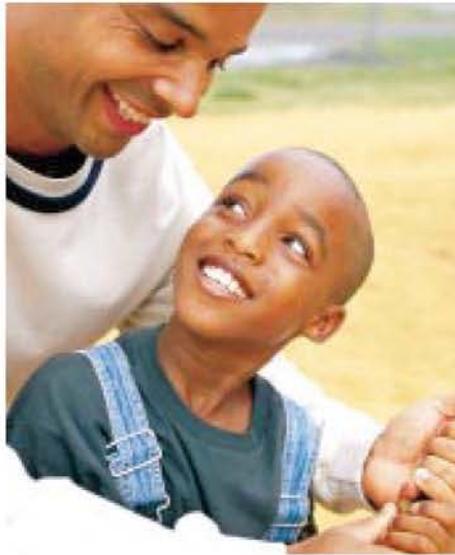


University of Illinois  
Landscape & Human  
Health Laboratory

[www.lhhl.uiuc.edu](http://www.lhhl.uiuc.edu)

Where **trees** are planted,  
communities grow.

Relationships  
between neigh-  
bors are made  
stronger simply  
through the  
presence of veg-  
etation.



**ILLINOIS**  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

The more trees and grass in the common spaces of inner-city neighborhoods, the more those spaces were used by residents.



A recent scientific study by the **UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN** found that the more trees and grass in the common spaces of inner-city neighborhoods, the more those spaces are used by residents. And, use of these common spaces means more opportunities for informal social interaction. In other words, relationships between neighbors are made stronger simply through the presence of vegetation.



The study also found that, compared to residents living near barren spaces, those closer to green spaces enjoy more social activities, have more visitors, know more of their neighbors, and have stronger feelings of belonging. Essentially, greener common areas facilitate the development and maintenance of stronger social ties – *the very fabric of a healthy neighborhood*.

For all of their social benefits, it's extremely important that urban planners recognize the value of green spaces in cultivating healthier communities. We must all work together toward building, protecting, and maintaining natural settings in our urban areas so we can improve the quality of life for the many people who live there.

Fertile ground for community: Inner-city neighborhood common spaces. *American Journal of Community Psychology*, 26(6), 823-851. Kuo, F.E., Sullivan, W.C., Coley, R.L., & Brunson, L. (1998)



College of Agricultural,  
Consumer and  
Environmental Sciences

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN



For more information about this and other surprising studies, visit [www.lhhl.uiuc.edu](http://www.lhhl.uiuc.edu), or contact the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Landscape and Human Health Laboratory, at 217-244-0930. Study conducted in partnership with NUCFAC.

Compared to residents living near barren spaces, those closer to green spaces enjoyed more social activities, had more visitors, knew more of their neighbors, and had stronger feelings of belonging.