



Livable Communities: Generating Revenue, Saving Money

Empowered by the passage of Public Act 13-109, Connecticut's Legislative Commission on Aging spearheads an ongoing livable communities initiative, which supports and honors the journey to age in place (a far-preferred and cost-effective way). Livable communities are places that foster independence and support residents across the lifespan. They are attractive to all ages. And they're a smart investment for Connecticut. Here are some examples of quantifiable value:



PLANNING & ZONING

Areas in the City of Nashville that utilized form-based codes (organized by physical form, rather than separation of uses) had property values go up 3.5 times faster than the region as a whole (City of Nashville, 2013).



HEALTH SERVICES

If 1 in 10 new adults started a regular walking program, the U.S. would save \$5.6 billion in costs for managing the adverse health impacts of obesity (National Governors Association, 2006).



PUBLIC SPACES & BUILDINGS

After a pedestrian plaza was constructed in Brooklyn, New York, retail sales at locally-owned businesses increased by 172%. In Union Square North, commercial vacancies fell by 49% after installation of a protected bike lane (New York City Department of Transportation, 2012).



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Places where residents have the strongest emotional connection to the community demonstrate the highest rates of economic growth (Soul of the Community, Knight Foundation & Gallup, 2011). And people in walkable neighborhoods trust neighbors and volunteer more than in non-walkable neighborhoods (University of New Hampshire, 2010).



HOUSING

In metro Washington D.C., increments of walkability add over \$300 per month to apartment rents and nearly \$82 per square foot to home values (Brookings Institution, 2012).



SOCIAL SERVICES

Through efforts to rebalance Connecticut's long-term services and supports to make home and community-based care a more available option, the expected cost avoidance by 2025 is \$725,218,550 (Connecticut Long-Term Care Planning Committee, 2013).



TRANSPORTATION

A 5 to 10 mph reduction in traffic speeds increased adjacent residential property values by roughly 20% nationally in the U.S. (Local Government Commission, 2000). Property values within walking distance of public transit stations are 40% higher than values of other properties in the same region (American Public Transportation Association, 2013).

Connecticut's Legislative Commission on Aging has been improving the quality of life for older adults of today and tomorrow for 22 years. With just 4 employees and 21 volunteer members from across the state, we shape innovative public policies, promote government accountability, establish diverse partnerships and coalitions, and analyze demographic trends to prepare Connecticut for a longer-lived, rapidly growing older adult population.

This fact sheet was adapted in part from the content presented in Hazel Borys's *Why Placemaking Matters: What's in it for me?* <<http://www.placemakers.com/2014/09/15/why-placemaking-matters-whats-in-it-for-me/>>