



PRESS RELEASE

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Study Offers Solutions for Improving Parks & Park Experiences in Urban Areas

Newport Beach, CA August 31, 2016 – The environmental non-profit Friends of Harbors, Beaches and Parks (FHBP) released a timely study highlighting innovative solutions for cities to implement increasing parks and park programs. Valuable research has already relayed the economic benefits of parks. More recently the health benefits of parks have been identified as well. One analysis lacking in Orange County was park accessibility and sufficiency. In an attempt to widen our view, expand access to parks and nature by reducing barriers, FHBP focused its research on three of the County’s most park-poor cities: Stanton, Garden Grove, and Westminster.

“All three of the cities featured in this report worked closely with FHBP to provide details about their parks and community programs,” stated Melanie Schlotterbeck, the study author and Green Vision Project Coordinator. “We were pleasantly surprised at the park facilities, community programs, and public-private partnerships the cities had developed in trying to make parks a priority in their communities.”

After researching local park accessibility and sufficiency issues, FHBP provided meaningful solutions to overcome the challenges with existing parks. With more than a dozen innovative solutions featured in the 43 page report, cities with limited ability to expand existing parklands now have an array of ideas to incorporate as funding becomes available or prioritized. The recommendations are both replicable and scalable to all jurisdictions, not just park-poor, urban, and built out cities.

The Study offers ideas including: utilizing utility corridors, creating pop-up parks, adding parklets, increasing park programming, converting parking lots to temporary parks, increasing programming opportunities for all ages, and more. In fact, some of these ideas had already been incorporated by our featured cities. “Stanton had partnered with local businesses and used park bond funding to design and build its new Central Park, Garden Grove held popular Concerts in

the Park to engage residents during the summer, and Westminster is building walking paths along Hoover Street in a Rails-to-Trails project,” added Ms. Schlotterbeck. “These are all great steps taken toward improving park experiences and opportunities for residents.”

FHBP is grateful for the generous funding from The Boeing Company which allowed completion of this useful analysis. We seek to provide our decision makers with unique, innovative, and replicable ways to increase green spaces locally. Working closely with our local cities, we can engage residents and get people outdoors. The free report can be downloaded from our website: www.FHBP.org.

Friends of Harbors, Beaches and Parks is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization based in Newport Beach. Our mission is “to promote, protect, and enhance the harbors, beaches, parks, trails, open spaces, natural preserves, and historic sites in Orange County.” Learn more at: www.FHBP.org.