

# Valuing Arlington's Community Parks and Open Space

Parks provide opportunities for regular outdoor activity, creative play, and community cohesion. Beyond the value of enjoying green, open space are the mental and physical health benefits resulting from visits to parks and engaging in them for exercise and relaxation. Then there are the environmental benefits provided by the green infrastructure of parks - improved air quality, soil conservation, reduced water pollution, and habitat preservation.

While the most important benefits of parks are not monetary, it is helpful to consider the costs of maintaining and expanding parks and urban space relative to the benefits parks are known to yield.

## **\$ 155 Million** Annual Arlington Park's Benefits

### **\$ 120 Million**

When people go to an Arlington County park for exercise or recreation rather than a private club or gym, they save money.

### **\$ 13 Million**

Park users - walkers, ball players, gardeners - reap health benefits and save on medical costs.

### **\$ 11 Million**

Arlington homeowners pay more to live near parks or open space, increasing property values and property tax revenue.

### **\$ 9 Million**

Visitors to Arlington parks support local businesses, including hotels and restaurants.

### **\$ 3 Million**

Arlington parks also provide environmental services, including reduced storm water runoff and decreased air pollution, at lower costs than sewage or water treatment facilities.

## **\$ 160 Million**

A permanent increase in property values for residents with homes near parks and open space.

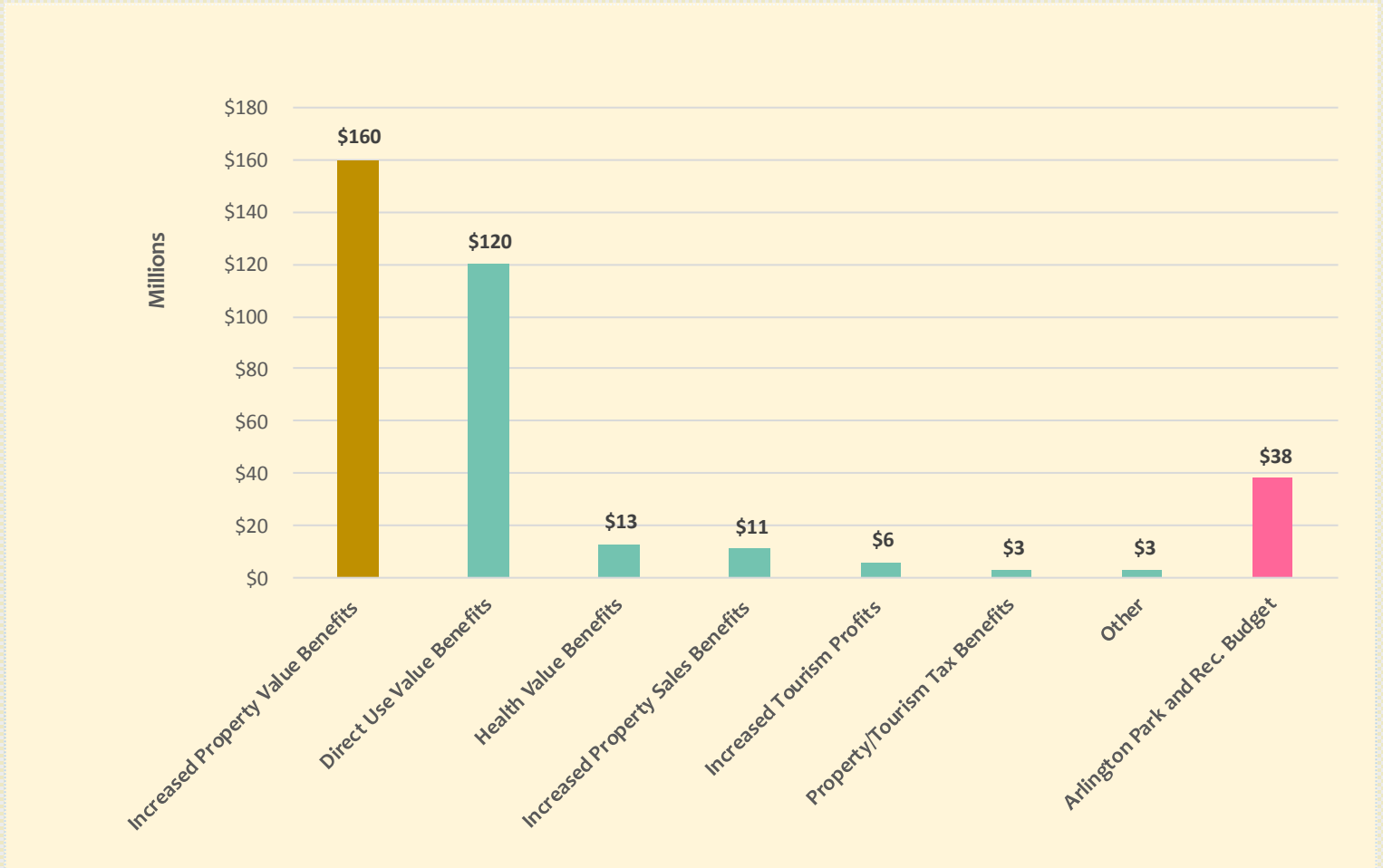
## **\$ 38 Million**

Arlington Parks and Recreation Budget (CY 2015)

# Value of Arlington's Park and Open Space\*

Property Value Benefits: \$160 Million    Annual Benefits: \$155 Million

Arlington Parks and Recreation Budget (CY 2015): \$38 Million



\* Estimates for Arlington based on Arlington park acreage and using a formula based on average benefits for 10 U.S. cities from studies by the Trust for Public Land.

Estimates are rounded to the nearest million.