

**EVERYONE IN URBAN AMERICA SHOULD LIVE WITHIN A SHORT WALK OF A PARK  
THAT IS CLEAN, SAFE AND VIBRANT**

**WHEREAS**, nearly four in five Americans now live in urban areas;

**WHEREAS**, More than at any time in our history, urban areas are the engines generating our nation's wealth – keeping America competitive in the rapidly changing global market;

**WHEREAS**, our most economically sound cities are the ones with ample parks and open spaces, which have been determined to be essential to the quality of city life;

**WHEREAS**, a key factor in business re-location decisions is the quality of life for employees, with a premium on adequate parks and open space;

**WHEREAS**, a study completed by Texas A&M University showed that parks and open space contributed positively to the property values of surrounding properties;

**WHEREAS**, for every \$1 million invested in parks and recreation infrastructure, at least 20 jobs are created;

**WHEREAS**, healthy parks and urban green spaces are strongly linked to a greater sense of safety, less aggressive and violent behavior and lower levels of crime;

**WHEREAS**, a group of studies reviewed in the American Journal of Preventive Medicine showed that the creation of or enhanced access to places for physical activity combined with informational outreach produced a 48.4 percent increase in the frequency of physical activity;

**WHEREAS**, parks and open spaces also help mitigate the impacts of climate change, by helping to capture and store rain during extreme precipitation events and cooling cities during heat waves;

**WHEREAS**, America's mayors have long recognized the value of healthy vibrant parks and have led innovative park and open space development initiatives across the country;

**WHEREAS**, America's mayors have historically supported urban park systems through a variety of forward-thinking programs;

**WHEREAS**, a new federal policy is needed that recognizes urban parks as a national economic priority, leverages their potential to create healthier and more vibrant cities, and supports the development of diverse and sustainable funding mechanisms;

**WHEREAS**, President Barack Obama has directed federal agencies to adopt a holistic and integrated approach to urban policy through programs such as the Neighborhood Revitalization Initiative, Partnerships for Sustainable Communities, and Regional Innovation Clusters;

**WHEREAS**, President Obama launched the America's Great Outdoors (AGO) Initiative in April 2011 and charged the Secretaries of the Departments of the Interior and Agriculture, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Chair of the White House Council on Environmental Quality to develop a 21st-century conservation and recreation agenda;

**WHEREAS**, President Obama has called on Congress to fully fund the Land Water and Conservation Fund, revenue derived from oil and gas royalty revenue and not from personal taxes, to support the America's Great Outdoors Initiative;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors applauds President Barack Obama for his commitment to develop a 21st century urban policy and conservation and

recreation agenda and the Administration's leadership to enhance funding for community efforts to protect and restore parks, natural places, and our land and water.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges President Obama to include urban parks as essential elements in a comprehensive approach to urban policy and community development.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Mayors to support the adoption and implementation of the recommendations of the America's Great Outdoors Initiative.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to support full funding for the Land Water and Conservation Fund to establish and support great urban parks.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Mayors to raise awareness of the need for greater public and private investment in parks and green space to create healthy, walkable and sustainable cities; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the U.S. Conference of Mayors and the nation's Mayors stand ready to work in partnership with the President, all members of the Administration and Congress to create healthy and vibrant urban parks and open spaces for the 21st century and work to engage the public and private leaders in this effort.