



Expanding Green Spaces in Leeds

Green spaces are the “lungs” for cities as they being expanded will allow for people to have better health, it reduces flood risks and increases biodiversity. This allows Leeds to become a more resilient and livable city.

The Problem

The sustainability dimensions of the problem are the environmental, social and economic problems.

Environmental: Urban green spaces are key for fostering biodiversity as they offer habitats for native species and allow for pollinators to thrive which is essential for ecosystems. Additionally, green spaces are essential to mitigating climate change effects by absorbing carbon and reducing flood risk by absorbing water.

Social: Access and accessibility to green spaces has been shown to enhance the mental and physical health.

Economic: Green spaces can also raise property values as people would prefer to live by a green space. It also reduces healthcare costs due to greenspaces promoting healthier lifestyles.

Health and Well-being evidence: According to a study by Public Health England, people who live within a 10-minute walk of a green space have reduced risks of mental health issues and experience lower rates of chronic illnesses (Public Health England et al 2020). An Australian study has shown perceived neighborhood greenness to be more strongly associated with mental health than with physical health. (World Health Organisation et al 2016).

Environmental Impact Evidence: Research from the University of Leeds highlights that green spaces play a significant role in reducing urban temperatures by up to 2-3 degrees Celsius during heatwaves, which is essential as Leeds faces hotter summers due to climate change (University of Leeds et al 2024).



Economic Benefits Evidence: The UK National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 highlights that green spaces that are maintained to a high standard increase the values of the properties around them by 15%.



Reference list

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