

# BTT Land Preservation - Green Space Benefits Overview (July 2019)

## Community

1. Integrate the local community with the local environment – build a sense of place, a sense of belonging; appreciate the beautiful surroundings and what makes this habitat special (reduces fear, makes people more comfortable)
  2. Gathering place - indoors and out - place to connect with each other and the environment
  3. Access to and education about wild spaces people may not have access to otherwise (e.g. many can't get away to parks or "up north" or are fearful of the unknown or different) and thus can then get the benefits that nature has to offer for well-being (physical, mental, cognitive). e.g. Kids' Camp, Environmental Learning Center
  4. Build community in gathering and caring for the space/natural environment/gardens
  5. Example: Mears Park (design by Weiming Lu) natural spaces, "adopt a garden", brought in the birds, animals, people... people felt ownership and community. Really boosted the living environment downtown.
3. Help with Children's Health: ADD/ADHD, Autism Spectrum Disorders, Cognition, Depression, General Health, Nature Deficit Disorder, Obesity, Stress, Anxiety, Type II Diabetes, Well-Being
  4. Other Benefits for Children such as: Builds confidence, Promotes creativity and imagination, Teaches responsibility, Provides different stimulation, Gets kids moving, Makes them think, Reduces stress and fatigue)
  5. Links with Morbidity – fewer trees have been linked to greater deaths due to lower-respiratory tract and cardiovascular illness ([The relationship between trees and human health](#). American Journal of Preventative Medicine, 2013)

## Environmental

1. [Preservation of an Oak Savanna](#) -- which is the most endangered habitat in the world. (Although ours is degraded and would need some restoration). Restoration is possible and desired.
2. Preservation of habitat for the Endangered [Rusty Patched Bumble Bee](#).
3. Preservation for the wildlife that lives there and uses it for migration, pollination, breeding, etc. (mammals, birds, amphibians, insects, etc.)
4. Moderation of storm water runoff
5. Erosion control
6. Air quality enhancement
7. Help control climate change (by increasing our tree coverage -- we could [lower CO2 levels by as much as 25%!\)](#)
8. Provide low-impact recreation

## Health

1. List of 100's of articles, studies, etc. relating environment and human health. [ASAL.org](#)
2. Help with Adults' Health: Alzheimer's & Dementia, Asthma & Respiratory Disorders, Cognition, Depression, General Health, Heart Health, Hospital Recovery, Obesity, PTSD, Stress, Anxiety, Stroke, Type II Diabetes, Well-Being/Mental Health

## Financial

1. Cost-Benefit: "Any serious and comprehensive cost-benefit analysis will look beyond the simplistic notion that "development = increased tax base" and will teach us that we quite literally can't afford not to protect natural areas." ~Natural Areas: Protecting Vital Community Asset; pg 8, MN DNR, 1997.
2. Intangibles: Beauty, experiences, witness wildlife in native environment,
3. Nature Center/Visitor Center that focused on BTT land and the Battle Creek Parks would generate more interest and involvement, increase usage of all areas and bring in fees
4. Corporate Retreat Center -- self-sustaining financially and taxable and leave green space for center and public
5. Could be a jewel in City/County cap. Not many urban space / capital cities have this kind of space within their boundaries. Benefit for tourism in St. Paul, and thus boost business on the east side. Connect with bike trails and Bruce Vento Sanctuary.

## Historical

1. Historical significance of an 100+ years of BTT and its story, different models it's used over the years to help the boys, different nature ideas they've used over the years (animal husbandry, skiing -- model T still in woods used for ski tow rope, Frisbee golf, fitness course, trail maintenance, sweat lodges, campfires, firewood business/activity, etc.)
2. Native American Historical Significance