

THE IMPACT OF URBAN GREEN SPACES ON PEOPLE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

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Background

- Extreme weather phenomena (urban heat islands/heat waves) frequently endanger the urban environment, inflicting damage to the city and its population.
- Urban green space is one of the most essential components in fighting climate change in urban areas.
- The significance of urban green space has long been overlooked by the general public.
- My work aims to show people how urban green spaces help to reduce climate change while also enhancing urban conditions.

Research Question



How might urban green spaces assist to mitigate the effects of climate change in cities while also improving human and urban conditions?

Internship

- Conducted an internship with City Fruit.
- Work included providing translation and learning materials for City Fruit, as well as participating in a community outreach effort.

Method



Independent online research & literature review for the research question.

Results

- With additional urban green spaces, the overall impact of climate change (urban heat islands/heat waves) in urban area can be reduced. (See Figure 1)
- More urban green space planning not only minimizes urban climate change, but also improve urban environment and comfortability.
- Human health benefits significantly from urban green spaces (mental & physical).
- Urban green spaces can be used for food production (urban farms/orchards), locally grown food helps reduce GHG emissions in during transportation.

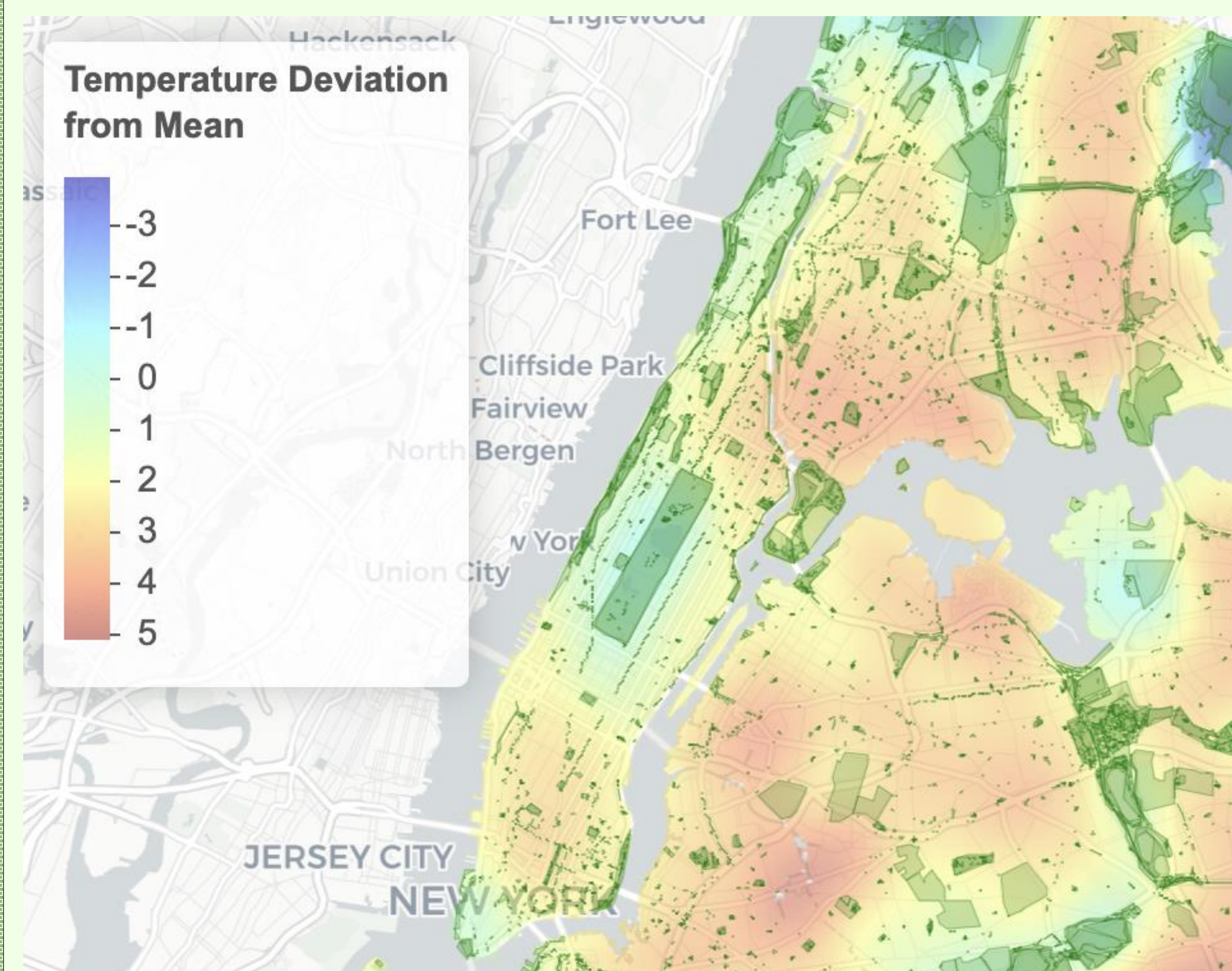


Figure 1: Heat map of NYC, green space & land surface temperature. Green colors represent green spaces, the surrounding temperature is cooler when compared to places with fewer green spaces (shown in orange colors).

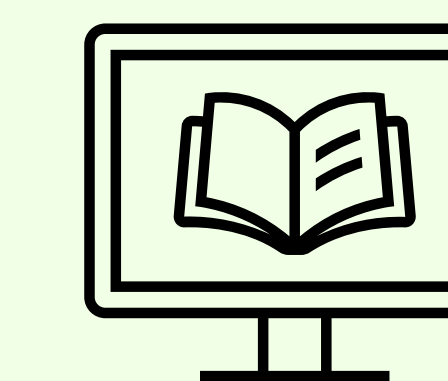
Implications



Figure 2: An image of a good urban green space. Where urban residents can relax and engage in physical activities.

- People need recognize the value of urban green spaces. (see Figure 2)
- More urban greening projects should be incorporated into the urban development process, support locally sourced vegetables & fruits.
- Benefits of urban green spaces should be included into school curricula to educate future generations.
- Work to conserve existing urban green spaces and restore damaged tree canopies. Advocate for sustainable policies.
- More awareness of the benefits about protection and rehabilitation of urban green spaces.

Question for you



As an individual, what can you do to protect urban green spaces?

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