

112TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 3583

To authorize the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to establish and carry out a community revitalization program to provide Federal grants to communities for the rehabilitation of critically needed parks, recreational areas, and facilities, the development of improved recreational programs, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 20, 2012

Mrs. HAGAN (for herself, Mr. KERRY, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

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## A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to establish and carry out a community revitalization program to provide Federal grants to communities for the rehabilitation of critically needed parks, recreational areas, and facilities, the development of improved recreational programs, and for other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Community Parks Re-  
5       vitalization Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds the following:

3 (1) According to the 2010 United States Cen-  
4 sus, over 80 percent of the population of the United  
5 States lives in urban areas.

6 (2) Urban parks are a critical part of our Na-  
7 tion's urban infrastructure, playing a vital role in re-  
8 vitalizing neighborhoods, stimulating our Nation's  
9 economy, combating national issues such as obesity  
10 and juvenile delinquency, and protecting our envi-  
11 ronment.

12 (3) Urban parks are a catalyst for active out-  
13 door recreation, an industry which in 2010 sup-  
14 ported 6,100,000 American jobs, generated  
15 \$646,000,000,000 in retail sales and services across  
16 the United States, generated \$39,900,000,000 in  
17 Federal tax revenues, and \$39,900,000,000 in State  
18 and local tax revenues.

19 (4) Studies also show that approximately 20  
20 jobs are created for every \$1,000,000 invested in  
21 parks and conservation projects.

22 (5) Studies have found that parkland saves cit-  
23 ies millions of dollars in storm water management  
24 and air pollution expenses by capturing precipita-  
25 tion, reducing runoff, and absorbing air pollutants.

1           (6) Between 2001 and 2012, as funding for  
2 local parks and recreation significantly declined, the  
3 number of adults classified as overweight or obese  
4 steadily increased from 61 percent to 67 percent.  
5 Similarly, during this same period, the number of  
6 children and adolescents classified as overweight or  
7 obese nearly tripled, going from 12 percent in 2001  
8 to 33 percent in 2011.

9           (7) Physical inactivity contributes to obesity  
10 and takes a toll on our Nation's economy, as the an-  
11 nual costs of medical spending and lost productivity  
12 from individuals in the United States being obese  
13 and overweight are estimated to be  
14 \$147,000,000,000. Access to urban parks is critical  
15 to combating this issue. A study by the Centers for  
16 Disease Control found that the creation of, or en-  
17 hanced access to, places for physical activity, such as  
18 parks, led to a 25.6 percent increase in the percent-  
19 age of people exercising on 3 or more days a week  
20 which improves the physical and mental health of  
21 our citizens.

22           (8) Access to urban parks is critical to com-  
23 bating obesity and its residual impact on health care  
24 expenses. A study by the Centers for Disease Con-  
25 trol and Prevention found that the creation of, or

1 enhanced access to, places for physical activity, such  
2 as parks, led to a 25.6 percent increase in the per-  
3 centage of people exercising on 3 or more days a  
4 week, which improves the physical and mental health  
5 of our citizens.

6 (9) According to the Centers for Disease con-  
7 trol and Prevention, over the 25 years preceding the  
8 date of enactment of this Act, rates of obesity have  
9 more than tripled among adolescents ages 12 to 19  
10 and doubled among adults ages 20 to 74 and chil-  
11 dren ages 6 to 11.

12 (10) Physical inactivity contributes to obesity.  
13 A study by the CDC found that the creation of, or  
14 enhanced access to, places for physical activity led to  
15 a 25.6 percent increase in the percentage of people  
16 exercising on 3 or more days a week. Physical activ-  
17 ity can improve physical and mental health. The an-  
18 nual costs of medical spending and lost productivity  
19 from individuals in the United States being obese  
20 and overweight are estimated to be  
21 \$147,000,000,000.

22 (11) Urban parks also decrease juvenile delin-  
23 quency by providing quality after school programs.  
24 According to the Juvenile Justice Bulletin, without  
25 structured, supervised activities in the after school

1 hours, youth are at greater risk of being victims of  
2 crime or participating in anti-social behaviors, espe-  
3 cially during the hours of 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm.

4 (12) The National Youth Violence Prevention  
5 Resource Center reported that students who spend  
6 no time in extracurricular activities, such as those  
7 offered in after-school programs through parks and  
8 recreation agencies, are 49 percent more likely to  
9 have used drugs and 37 percent more likely to be-  
10 come teen parents than are those students who  
11 spend 1 to 4 hours per week in extracurricular ac-  
12 tivities.

13 (13) According to the Juvenile Justice Bulletin,  
14 without structured, supervised activities in the after-  
15 school hours, youth are at greater risk of being vic-  
16 tims of crime or participating in anti-social behav-  
17 iors. Juveniles are at the highest risk of being a vic-  
18 tim of crime between 2:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m., and  
19 the peak hour for juvenile crime is between 3:00  
20 p.m. and 4:00 p.m., the first hour after most stu-  
21 dents are dismissed from school.

22 **SEC. 3. PURPOSES.**

23 The purposes of this Act are—

24 (1) to authorize the Secretary to establish and  
25 carry out a community revitalization program to

1 provide Federal grants to communities for the reha-  
2 bilitation of critically needed parks, recreational  
3 areas, and facilities, the development of improved  
4 recreational programs, and for other purposes;

5 (2) to improve urban areas through economic  
6 development;

7 (3) to prevent and improve chronic disease out-  
8 comes, including cardiovascular disease, diabetes, de-  
9 pression, and obesity;

10 (4) to improve recreational areas and facilities  
11 and expand recreation services in urban areas with  
12 a high incidence of crime and to help expand recre-  
13 ation opportunities for at-risk youth;

14 (5) to promote collaboration between local agen-  
15 cies involved in parks and recreation, law enforce-  
16 ment, youth social services, and juvenile justice sys-  
17 tem;

18 (6) to ensure accessibility to therapeutic recre-  
19 ation services and to provide recreation opportunities  
20 for injured or disabled members of the Armed  
21 Forces; and

22 (7) to encourage the rehabilitation of existing  
23 and construction of new urban recreational areas  
24 and facilities with environmentally beneficial compo-  
25 nents, when possible, such as sustainable landscape

1 features and upcycled and recycled materials, and to  
2 prioritize the selection of projects that provide envi-  
3 ronmental benefits to urban areas, including by up-  
4 dating lighting, planting trees, increasing the urban  
5 forestry canopy, improving stormwater management,  
6 increasing green infrastructure, employing water  
7 conservation measures, and adding green spaces to  
8 urban areas.

9 **SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.**

10 In this Act, the following definitions shall apply:

11 (1) The term “recreational areas and facilities”  
12 means indoor or outdoor parks, buildings, sites, or  
13 other facilities that are dedicated to recreation pur-  
14 poses and administered by public or private non-  
15 profit agencies to serve the recreation needs of com-  
16 munity residents, with emphasis on public facilities  
17 readily accessible to residential neighborhoods, in-  
18 cluding multiple-use community centers that have  
19 recreation as a primary purpose, but excluding  
20 major sports arenas, exhibition areas, and con-  
21 ference halls used primarily for commercial sports,  
22 spectator, or display activities.

23 (2) The term “rehabilitation and construction  
24 grants” means matching capital grants to local gov-  
25 ernments for the purpose of rebuilding, remodeling,

1 expanding, or developing existing or building new  
2 recreational areas and facilities, including improve-  
3 ments in park landscapes, infrastructure, buildings,  
4 and support facilities, and the provision of lighting,  
5 emergency phones, or other capital improvements to  
6 improve the security of urban parks, but excluding  
7 routine maintenance and upkeep activities.

8 (3) The term “innovation and recreation pro-  
9 gram” grants means matching grants to local gov-  
10 ernments to cover costs of personnel, facilities,  
11 equipment, supplies, or services designed to dem-  
12 onstrate innovative and cost effective ways to aug-  
13 ment park and recreation opportunities, or support  
14 new or existing programs, which increase access to  
15 recreation opportunities for returning veterans and  
16 active duty military and their families or provide  
17 constructive alternatives for youth at risk for engag-  
18 ing in criminal behavior.

19 (4) The term “recovery action program grants”  
20 means matching grants to local governments for de-  
21 velopment of local park and recreation recovery ac-  
22 tion programs, including for resource and needs as-  
23 sessment, coordination, citizen involvement and plan-  
24 ning, and program development activities to encour-



1 age public definition of goals and develop priorities  
2 and strategies for overall recreation system recovery.

3 (5) The term “maintenance” means all com-  
4 monly accepted practices necessary to keep rec-  
5 reational areas and facilities operating in a state of  
6 good repair and to protect such areas and facilities  
7 from deterioration resulting from normal wear and  
8 tear.

9 (6) The term “local government” means any  
10 city, county, town, township, parish, village, or any  
11 local or regional special district such as a park dis-  
12 trict, conservation district, or park authority.

13 (7) The term “private nonprofit agency” means  
14 a community-based, non-profit organization, cor-  
15 poration, or association organized for purposes of  
16 providing recreation, conservation, and educational  
17 services directly to urban residents on either a  
18 neighborhood or community-wide basis through vol-  
19 untary donations, voluntary labor, or public or pri-  
20 vate grants.

21 (8) The term “Secretary” means the Secretary  
22 of Housing and Urban Development.

23 (9) The term “State” means any State of the  
24 United States (or any instrumentality of a State ap-

1 proved by the Governor), the District of Columbia,  
2 and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

3 (10) The term “insular areas” means Guam,  
4 the Virgin Islands, American Samoa, and the North-  
5 ern Mariana Islands.

6 **SEC. 5. FEDERAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS.**

7 (a) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 180 days after  
8 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall pro-  
9 mulgate regulations establishing a community revitaliza-  
10 tion program to provide Federal rehabilitation and con-  
11 struction grants, innovation and recreation programming  
12 grants, and recovery action program grants in accordance  
13 with this Act.

14 (b) REQUIREMENTS.—The regulations required  
15 under subsection (a) shall include—

16 (1) eligibility requirements for the grant pro-  
17 gram established pursuant to such subsection;

18 (2) the timing and form of applications required  
19 to be submitted to the Secretary by local govern-  
20 ments seeking such grants;

21 (3) required elements of any grant application  
22 required to be submitted to the Secretary by local  
23 governments seeking such grants;

1           (4) criteria for priority selection and approval  
2 by the Secretary in choosing which local govern-  
3 ments receive grant funds;

4           (5) guidelines for seeking modification of a  
5 project to be funded or which is funded by the grant  
6 program established pursuant to such subsection;  
7 and

8           (6) penalties placed on local governments that  
9 received amounts under the grant program estab-  
10 lished pursuant to such subsection for failing to  
11 comply with the reporting and recordkeeping re-  
12 quirements set forth in section 13, up to and includ-  
13 ing rescission of grant amounts for repetitive viola-  
14 tions.

15 **SEC. 6. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS AND PRIORITY CRI-**  
16 **TERIA.**

17 (a) **ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.**—

18           (1) **IN GENERAL.**—In developing the regula-  
19 tions required under section 5(a), the Secretary shall  
20 set forth eligibility requirements for receiving grants  
21 under the community revitalization program estab-  
22 lished pursuant to this Act.

23           (2) **CONSIDERATIONS.**—The eligibility require-  
24 ments required to be established under paragraph  
25 (1) shall be based on—

1 (A) evidence of a commitment to ongoing  
2 planning, rehabilitation, service, operation, and  
3 maintenance programs for park and recreations  
4 systems, as described in section 8;

5 (B) population density (the number of per-  
6 sons per square mile of land area);

7 (C) total population under 18 years of age  
8 or over 59 years of age;

9 (D) the number of unemployed people as a  
10 percentage of the civilian labor force;

11 (E) the percent of households without  
12 automobiles available;

13 (F) the percent of persons with income  
14 below 125 percent of the poverty level;

15 (G) the percent of single-headed house-  
16 holds with children present; and

17 (H) any additional criteria the Secretary  
18 determines appropriate.

19 (b) PARTIAL ELIGIBILITY WAIVER.—

20 (1) GENERALLY.—Subject to paragraph (2),  
21 the Secretary is authorized to designate local govern-  
22 ments in standard metropolitan statistical areas, as  
23 defined by the most current census, that do not  
24 meet all of the eligibility requirements required

1 under subsection (a) as eligible to receive grants  
2 under this Act.

3 (2) LIMITATION OF FUNDS.—Grants to local  
4 governments described in paragraph (1) shall not ex-  
5 ceed, in the aggregate, 15 percent of the funds ap-  
6 propriated pursuant to this Act for rehabilitation  
7 and construction, innovation and recreation pro-  
8 gram, and recovery action program grants.

9 (c) ELIGIBILITY CERTIFICATION.—As part of any ap-  
10 plication process set forth pursuant to the regulations pre-  
11 scribed under section 5, a responsible official for a local  
12 government that has applied for a grant under this Act  
13 shall certify that the local government meets all of the eli-  
14 gibility requirements established under this Act with re-  
15 spect to receipt of grant amounts under the community  
16 revitalization program established pursuant to this Act. If  
17 a local government applies for a partial eligibility waiver  
18 under subsection (b), such certification shall specify which  
19 of the eligibility requirements are met by the local govern-  
20 ment.

21 (d) PRIORITY CRITERIA.—

22 (1) GENERAL PRIORITY CRITERIA.—The Sec-  
23 retary shall establish priority criteria for the selec-  
24 tion and approval of projects to be funded by grant  
25 amounts made available pursuant to this Act. The

1 priority criteria established under this subsection  
2 shall be based on factors such as—

3 (A) a higher population density of the  
4 project neighborhood;

5 (B) demonstrated deficiencies in the condi-  
6 tion of existing recreational areas and facilities  
7 in the project neighborhood;

8 (C) demonstrated deficiencies in access to  
9 neighborhood recreation opportunities, particu-  
10 larly for minority and low- and moderate-in-  
11 come residents, veterans or active duty military  
12 families, and residents with physical or mental  
13 disabilities;

14 (D) the number of unemployed people as a  
15 percentage of the civilian labor force of the  
16 project neighborhood;

17 (E) public participation in determining re-  
18 habilitation or development needs;

19 (F) the extent to which a project or pro-  
20 gram supports or complements target activities  
21 undertaken as part of a local government's  
22 overall community development and urban revi-  
23 talization program;

24 (G) the extent to which such a project  
25 would—

1 (i) provide employment opportunities  
2 for minorities, youth, and low- and mod-  
3 erate-income residents in the project neigh-  
4 borhood; and

5 (ii) provide for participation of neigh-  
6 borhood, nonprofit, or tenant organizations  
7 in the proposed rehabilitation and con-  
8 struction activity or in subsequent mainte-  
9 nance, staffing, or supervision of rec-  
10 reational areas and facilities;

11 (H) the amount of State, local, and private  
12 support for the project as evidenced by commit-  
13 ments of non-Federal resources to project con-  
14 struction or operation; and

15 (I) any additional criteria the Secretary de-  
16 termines appropriate.

17 (2) PRIORITY CRITERIA FOR REHABILITATION  
18 AND CONSTRUCTION GRANTS.—In addition to the  
19 general priority criteria established under paragraph  
20 (1), the Secretary shall establish priority criteria for  
21 the selection and approval of projects to be funded  
22 by a rehabilitation and construction grant made pur-  
23 suant to this Act, including whether the project—

24 (A) builds recreational areas and facilities  
25 in areas that are located within half a mile of

1 public housing or a school and do not currently  
2 have indoor or outdoor facilities;

3 (B) creates, maintains, or revitalizes play-  
4 grounds or active play areas for children;

5 (C) connects children to the outdoors for  
6 physical activity and access to nature;

7 (D) promotes physical activity for individ-  
8 uals and the community at large;

9 (E) works collaboratively with local govern-  
10 ments, colleges, and universities, and other in-  
11 stitutions to track the longitudinal rates of  
12 chronic diseases in the community such as car-  
13 diovascular disease, diabetes, depression, and  
14 obesity;

15 (F) uses environmentally beneficial compo-  
16 nents such as sustainable landscape features  
17 and upcycled and recycled materials;

18 (G) provides environmental benefits to  
19 urban areas, including by—

20 (i) updating lighting;

21 (ii) planting trees;

22 (iii) increasing the urban forestry can-  
23 opy;

24 (iv) improving stormwater manage-  
25 ment;



- 1 (v) increasing green infrastructure;
- 2 (vi) employing water conservation
- 3 measures; or
- 4 (vii) adding green spaces;
- 5 (H) connects to public transportation;
- 6 (I) uses LEED Green Building Standards
- 7 or contains energy efficiency components such
- 8 as energy efficient lighting and HVAC systems,
- 9 and uses SITES sustainable landscape stand-
- 10 ards, or other sustainable components and prac-
- 11 tices;
- 12 (J) contains safe trails or routes, such as
- 13 trails, bikeways, and sidewalks that connect to
- 14 neighborhoods and enhance access to parks and
- 15 recreational areas and facilities;
- 16 (K) enhances or expands youth develop-
- 17 ment in neighborhoods and communities by en-
- 18 gaging youth in environmental stewardship,
- 19 conservation, and service projects;
- 20 (L) updates existing equipment or facilities
- 21 to be in compliance with the most recent acces-
- 22 sibility guidelines published by the United
- 23 States Access Board, specifically by removing
- 24 architectural barriers so that sites comply or
- 25 exceed the requirements of the final guidelines

1 for the accessibility of recreational areas and  
2 facilities; or

3 (M) constructs new facilities or sites to  
4 comply with or exceed the minimum require-  
5 ments of the final guidelines for the accessi-  
6 bility of recreational sites and facilities pub-  
7 lished by the United States Access Board.

8 (3) PRIORITY CRITERIA FOR INNOVATION AND  
9 RECREATION PROGRAM GRANTS.—In addition to the  
10 general priority criteria established under paragraph  
11 (1), the Secretary shall establish priority criteria for  
12 the selection and approval of programs to be funded  
13 by an innovation and recreation program grant  
14 made pursuant to this Act, including whether the  
15 project or program—

16 (A) promotes the unique integration of  
17 recreation with other community services, such  
18 as transportation, public housing and public  
19 safety, either to expand or update current serv-  
20 ices, or to link programs within the social serv-  
21 ice structure of a neighborhood or between  
22 neighborhoods;

23 (B) utilizes new management and cost-sav-  
24 ing or service-efficient approaches for improving  
25 the delivery of recreation services;

1 (C) serves communities with a high popu-  
2 lation of active military families or veterans;

3 (D) ensures accessibility to therapeutic  
4 recreation services and provides recreation op-  
5 portunities for injured or disabled members of  
6 the Armed Forces;

7 (E) employs veterans, youth, or uses youth  
8 volunteers;

9 (F) targets youth that are at the greatest  
10 risk of becoming involved in violence and crime;

11 (G) demonstrates past success in providing  
12 constructive alternatives to youth at risk for en-  
13 gaging in criminal behavior

14 (H) demonstrates collaboration between  
15 local park and recreation, juvenile justice, law  
16 enforcement, and youth social service agencies  
17 and nongovernmental entities, including private,  
18 nonprofit agencies;

19 (I) shows the greatest potential of being  
20 continued with non-Federal funds or may serve  
21 as models for other communities.

22 **SEC. 7. REHABILITATION AND INNOVATION AND RECRE-**  
23 **ATION PROGRAM GRANTS.**

24 (a) AUTHORIZATION.—Upon approval of an applica-  
25 tion by the chief executive of an eligible local government,

1 the Secretary may provide 70 percent matching rehabilita-  
2 tion and construction grants and innovation and recre-  
3 ation program grants directly to such eligible local govern-  
4 ment.

5 (b) TRANSFER.—At the discretion of a local govern-  
6 ment receiving a rehabilitation and construction grant or  
7 innovation and recreation program grant pursuant to sub-  
8 section (a), and if consistent with an approved application,  
9 such a grant may be transferred in whole or in part to  
10 private nonprofit agencies, provided that assisted rec-  
11 reational areas and facilities owned or managed by such  
12 private nonprofit agencies offer recreation opportunities to  
13 the general population within the jurisdictional boundaries  
14 of the local government.

15 (c) PAYMENTS.—Grant payments may be made only  
16 for rehabilitation and construction or innovation and  
17 recreation projects and programs approved by the Sec-  
18 retary. In the case of rehabilitation and construction and  
19 innovation projects, such payments may be made periodi-  
20 cally in keeping with the rate of progress toward the satis-  
21 factory completion of a project, except that the Secretary  
22 may, when appropriate, make advance payments on ap-  
23 proved rehabilitation and construction and innovation  
24 projects in an amount not to exceed 20 percent of the total  
25 project cost.

1 (d) MODIFICATION OF PROJECT.—The Secretary  
 2 may authorize modification of an approved rehabilitation  
 3 and construction or innovation project only when a grant-  
 4 ee has adequately demonstrated that such modification is  
 5 necessary because of circumstances not foreseeable at the  
 6 time such project was proposed.

7 (e) SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR INNOVATION AND  
 8 RECREATION PROGRAM.—Innovation grants shall cor-  
 9 respond to the goals, priorities, and implementation strat-  
 10 egies expressed in local park and recreation recovery ac-  
 11 tion programs, with particular regard to the special con-  
 12 siderations listed in section 8(b) of this Act.

13 **SEC. 8. LOCAL COMMITMENTS TO SYSTEM RECOVERY AND**  
 14 **MAINTENANCE.**

15 (a) RECOVERY ACTION PROGRAMS.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—As a requirement for project  
 17 approval, a local government applying for a grant  
 18 under this Act shall submit to the Secretary evidence  
 19 of its commitment to ongoing planning, rehabilita-  
 20 tion, service, operation, and maintenance programs  
 21 for its park and recreation systems. Such commit-  
 22 ment shall be expressed in a local park and recre-  
 23 ation recovery action program that maximizes co-  
 24 ordination of all community resources, including

1 other federally supported urban development and  
2 recreation programs.

3 (2) INTERIM PRELIMINARY ACTION PRO-  
4 GRAMS.—During an initial interim period to be es-  
5 tablished by regulation, the recovery action program  
6 requirement under paragraph (1) may be satisfied  
7 by submission of preliminary action programs of a  
8 local government that define objectives, priorities,  
9 and implementation strategies for overall system re-  
10 covery and maintenance and commit such local gov-  
11 ernment to a scheduled program development proc-  
12 ess.

13 (3) 5-YEAR ACTION PROGRAM.—Following the  
14 interim period under paragraph (2), each local gov-  
15 ernment applicant shall submit to the Secretary, as  
16 a condition of eligibility, a 5-year park and recre-  
17 ation recovery action program that demonstrates—

18 (A) identification of recovery objectives,  
19 priorities, and implementation strategies;

20 (B) adequate planning for rehabilitation of  
21 specific recreational areas and facilities, includ-  
22 ing projections of the cost of proposed projects;

23 (C) capacity and commitment to assure  
24 that facilities provided or improved under this

1 Act shall thereafter continue to be adequately  
2 maintained, protected, staffed, and supervised;

3 (D) intention to maintain total local public  
4 outlays for park and recreation purposes at lev-  
5 els at least equal to those in the year preceding  
6 that in which grant assistance is sought, except  
7 in any case where a reduction in park and  
8 recreation outlays is proportionate to a reduc-  
9 tion in overall spending by the applicant; and

10 (E) the relationship of the park and recre-  
11 ation recovery action program to overall com-  
12 munity development and urban revitalization ef-  
13 forts.

14 (4) CONTINUING PLANNING PROCESS.—Where  
15 appropriate, the Secretary may encourage local gov-  
16 ernments to meet recovery action program require-  
17 ments through a continuing planning process which  
18 includes periodic improvements and updates in re-  
19 covery action program submissions to eliminate iden-  
20 tified gaps in program information and policy devel-  
21 opment.

22 (b) RECOVERY ACTION PROGRAM SPECIAL CONSID-  
23 ERATIONS.—Recovery action programs shall address, at a  
24 minimum, the following special considerations:

1           (1) Rehabilitation of existing recreational areas  
2           and facilities, including—

3                   (A) general systemwide renovation;

4                   (B) special rehabilitation requirements for  
5           recreational areas and facilities in areas of high  
6           population concentration and economic distress;  
7           and

8                   (C) restoration of outstanding or unique  
9           structures, landscaping, or similar features in  
10          parks of historical or architectural significance.

11          (2) Local commitments to innovative and cost-  
12          effective programs and projects at the neighborhood  
13          level to augment recovery of park and recreation sys-  
14          tems, including—

15                   (A) recycling of abandoned schools and  
16          other public buildings for recreation purposes;

17                   (B) multiple use of operating educational  
18          and other public buildings;

19                   (C) purchase of recreation services on a  
20          contractual basis;

21                   (D) use of mobile facilities and rec-  
22          reational, cultural, and educational programs or  
23          other innovative approaches to improving access  
24          for neighborhood residents;



1           (E) integration of the recovery action pro-  
2           gram with federally assisted projects to maxi-  
3           mize recreation opportunities through conver-  
4           sion of abandoned railroad and highway rights-  
5           of-way, waterfront, and other redevelopment ef-  
6           forts and such other federally assisted projects,  
7           as appropriate;

8           (F) conversion to recreational use of street  
9           space, derelict land, and other public lands not  
10          now designated for neighborhood recreational  
11          use; and

12          (G) use of various forms of compensated  
13          and uncompensated land regulation, tax induce-  
14          ments, or other means to encourage the private  
15          sector to provide neighborhood park and recre-  
16          ation facilities and programs.

17          (c) PUBLICATION OF REQUIREMENTS.—The Sec-  
18          retary shall establish and publish in the Federal Register  
19          requirements for preparation, submission, and updating of  
20          local park and recreation recovery action programs.

21          (d) INNOVATION AND RECREATION PROGRAM  
22          GRANT.—

23                (1) ELIGIBILITY.—In order to be eligible to re-  
24                ceive an at-risk youth recreation grant, a local gov-  
25                ernment shall—

1 (A) include in its 5-year park and recre-  
2 ation recovery action program the goal of—

3 (i) utilizing new ideas, concepts, and  
4 approaches aimed at improving facility de-  
5 sign, operations, or programming in the  
6 delivery of recreation services;

7 (ii) increased access of therapeutic or  
8 other recreation services to veterans and  
9 military families; or

10 (iii) reducing crime and juvenile delin-  
11 quency; and

12 (B) provide a description of implementa-  
13 tion strategies to achieve such goals.

14 (2) COORDINATION.—The description of imple-  
15 mentation strategies under paragraph (1) shall also  
16 address how the local government is coordinating its  
17 recreation programs with other community develop-  
18 ment or service agencies.

19 (e) RECOVERY ACTION PROGRAM GRANTS.—The  
20 Secretary is authorized to provide up to 50 percent match-  
21 ing grants to eligible local government applicants for re-  
22 covery action program development and planning to meet  
23 the objectives of this section.

1 **SEC. 9. STATE ACTION INCENTIVE; FEDERAL GRANTS, IN-**  
2 **CREASE.**

3 The Secretary is authorized to increase Federal reha-  
4 bilitation and construction grants and innovation and  
5 recreation program grants authorized under section 7, by  
6 providing an additional match equal to the total match  
7 provided by a State of up to 15 percent of the total project  
8 or program costs. In no event may the Federal matching  
9 amount exceed 85 percent of total project or program cost.  
10 The Secretary shall further encourage the States to assist  
11 in assuring that local recovery plans and programs are  
12 adequately implemented by cooperating with the Depart-  
13 ment of Housing and Urban Development in monitoring  
14 local park and recreation recovery action programs and  
15 in assuring consistency of such plans and programs, where  
16 appropriate, with State recreation policies as set forth in  
17 statewide comprehensive outdoor recreation plans.

18 **SEC. 10. MATCHING REQUIREMENTS; NON-FEDERAL SHARE**  
19 **OF PROJECT OR PROGRAM COSTS.**

20 (a) NON-FEDERAL SOURCES.—The non-Federal  
21 share of project or program costs assisted under this Act  
22 may be derived from—

- 23 (1) general or special purpose State or local  
24 revenues;
- 25 (2) State categorical grants;
- 26 (3) special appropriations by State legislatures;

1           (4) donations of land, buildings, or building ma-  
2           terials;

3           (5) in-kind construction, technical, and plan-  
4           ning services; or

5           (6) any combination of paragraphs (1) through  
6           (5).

7           (b) PROHIBITED SOURCES.—No moneys from any  
8           Federal grant program other than general revenue sharing  
9           and the community development and energy efficiency and  
10          conservation block grant programs shall be used to match  
11          Federal grants under this program.

12          (c) PRIVATE CONTRIBUTIONS.—The Secretary shall  
13          encourage States and private interests to contribute, to  
14          the maximum extent possible, to the non-Federal share of  
15          project or program costs.

16          **SEC. 11. CONVERSION OF RECREATION PROPERTY.**

17          No property improved or developed with assistance  
18          under this Act shall, without the approval of the Sec-  
19          retary, be converted for uses other than for public recre-  
20          ation. The Secretary shall approve such conversion only  
21          if the Secretary determines it to be consistent with the  
22          current local park and recreation recovery action program  
23          and only upon such conditions as the Secretary determines  
24          necessary to assure the provision of adequate recreation

1 properties and opportunities of reasonably equivalent loca-  
2 tion and usefulness.

3 **SEC. 12. COORDINATION OF PROGRAM.**

4 The Secretary shall—

5 (1) coordinate the urban revitalization and liv-  
6 able communities program with other Federal de-  
7 partments and agencies and with State agencies that  
8 administer programs and policies affecting urban  
9 areas such as the White House Office of Urban Pol-  
10 icy and departments that administer programs and  
11 policies affecting climate change, green jobs, hous-  
12 ing, urban development, natural resources manage-  
13 ment, employment, transportation, community serv-  
14 ices, and voluntary action;

15 (2) encourage maximum coordination of the  
16 program between appropriate State agencies and  
17 local government applicants; and

18 (3) require that local government applicants in-  
19 clude provisions for participation of community and  
20 neighborhood residents, including youth, and for  
21 public-private coordination in recovery action pro-  
22 gram planning and project selection.

1 **SEC. 13. REPORT; RECORDKEEPING; AUDIT AND EXAMINA-**  
2 **TION.**

3 (a) REPORT.—Each recipient of assistance under this  
4 Act shall submit to the Secretary, for each fiscal year such  
5 assistance is received, an annual report detailing the  
6 projects and programs undertaken with such assistance,  
7 the number of jobs created by such assistance, and any  
8 other information the Secretary determines appropriate  
9 based on the priority criteria established by the Secretary  
10 under sections 5 and 6.

11 (b) RECORDKEEPING.—Each recipient of assistance  
12 under this Act shall keep such records as the Secretary  
13 shall prescribe, including records that fully disclose the  
14 amount and disposition of project or program under-  
15 takings in connection with which assistance under this Act  
16 is given or used, and the amount and nature of that por-  
17 tion of the cost of the project or program undertaking sup-  
18 plied by other sources, and such other records as will fa-  
19 cilitate an effective audit.

20 (c) AUDIT AND EXAMINATION.—The Secretary and  
21 the Comptroller General of the United States, or their  
22 duly authorized representatives, shall have access, for the  
23 purpose of audit and examination, to any books, docu-  
24 ments, papers, and records of a recipient of assistance  
25 under this Act that are pertinent to such assistance.

1 **SEC. 14. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appro-  
3 priated such sums as necessary to carry out this Act for  
4 each of fiscal years 2013 through 2022.

5 (b) RECOVERY ACTION PROGRAM GRANTS.—Not  
6 more than 3 percent of the funds appropriated pursuant  
7 to subsection (a) in any fiscal year may be used for grants  
8 for the development of local park and recreation recovery  
9 action programs pursuant to section 8 of this Act.

10 (c) INNOVATION AND RECREATION PROGRAM  
11 GRANTS.—Not more than 10 percent of the funds appro-  
12 priated pursuant to subsection (a) in any fiscal year may  
13 be used for innovation grants pursuant to section 7 of this  
14 Act.

15 (d) DISCRETIONARY FUND.—Notwithstanding any  
16 other provision of this Act or any other law or regulation,  
17 not more than 2 percent of the funds appropriated pursu-  
18 ant to subsection (a) in any fiscal year may be used to  
19 provide rehabilitation and construction grants, innovation  
20 and recreation program grants, and recovery action pro-  
21 gram grants to be used in the insular areas. Such sums  
22 will not be subject to the matching provisions of this Act,  
23 and may only be subject to such conditions, reports, plans,  
24 and agreements, if any, as determined by the Secretary.

1 **SEC. 15. LIMITATION OF USE OF FUNDS.**

2 Not more than 10 percent of funds appropriated pur-  
3 suant to section 14 for rehabilitation and construction  
4 grants in any fiscal year may be used for the acquisition  
5 of lands or interests in land.

6 **SEC. 16. REPORTS TO CONGRESS.**

7 (a) INTERIM REPORT.—Not later than 5 years after  
8 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall sub-  
9 mit to Congress an interim report containing such findings  
10 and recommendations as the Secretary determines appro-  
11 priate with respect to the community revitalization pro-  
12 gram established pursuant to this Act.

13 (b) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than 10 years after  
14 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall sub-  
15 mit to Congress a report describing the overall impact of  
16 the community revitalization program established pursu-  
17 ant to this Act.

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