Innovative Spaces: Creating Age-friendly Outdoor Spaces for Longevity and Connection

Dr. Sue M. Paul OTR/L, MBA SeniorScapes Solutions, LLC

Dr. Sue Paul

OCCUPTIONAL THERAPIST HEALTHY AGING INNOVATOR







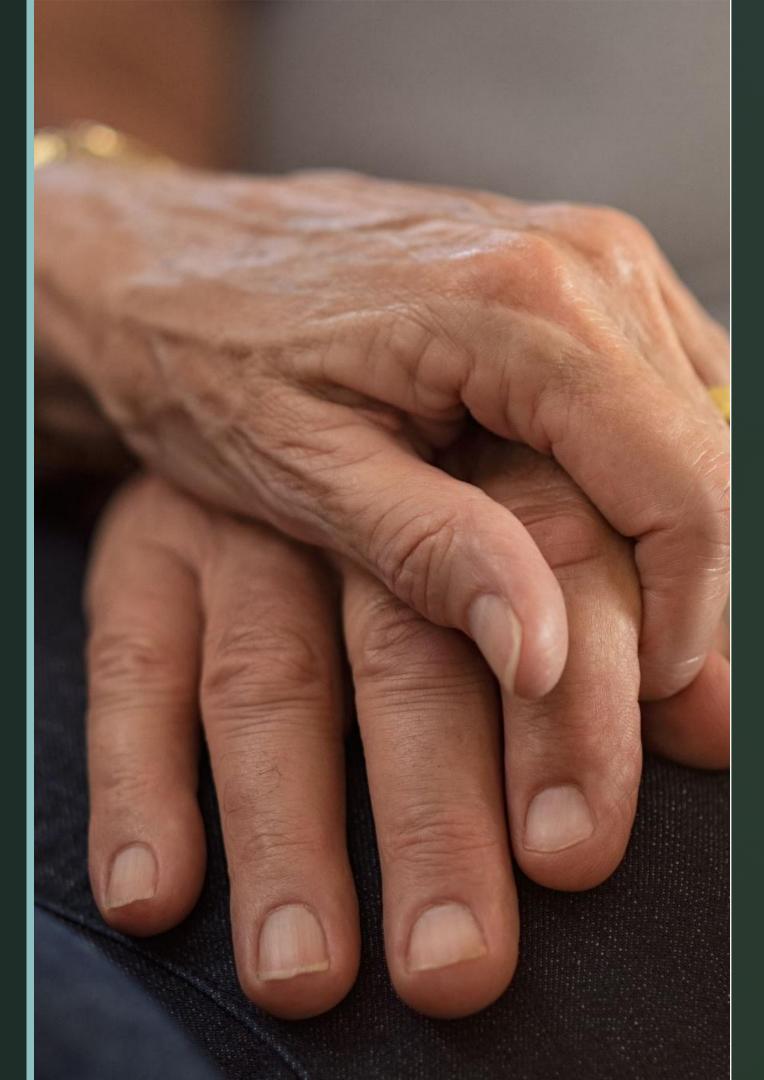


Our Aging Communities

Every day 10,000 baby boomers reach age 65

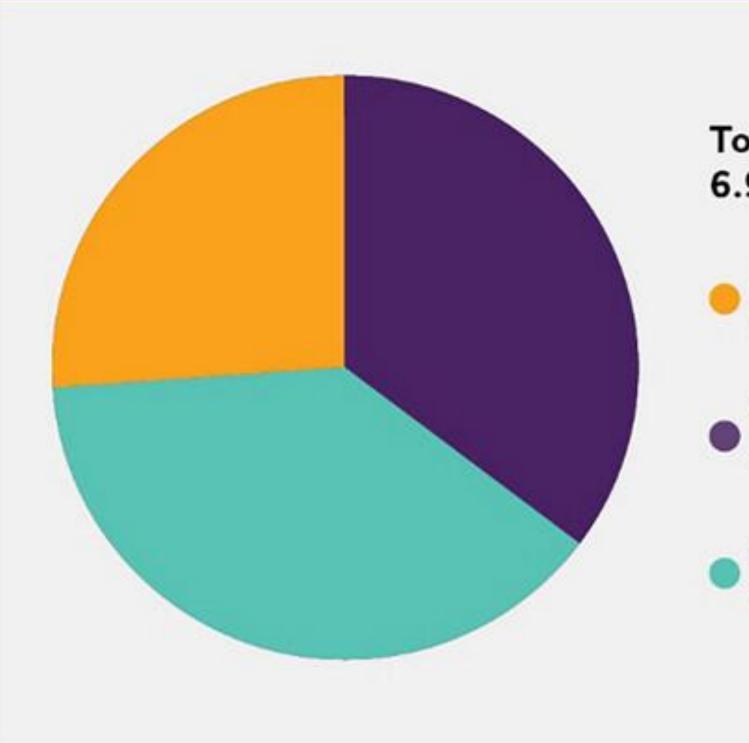
By 2030, 1 in 6 people worldwide will be over 60

88% of older adults prefer to age in place, making accessible public spaces essential.



Current State of Health: Aging Population

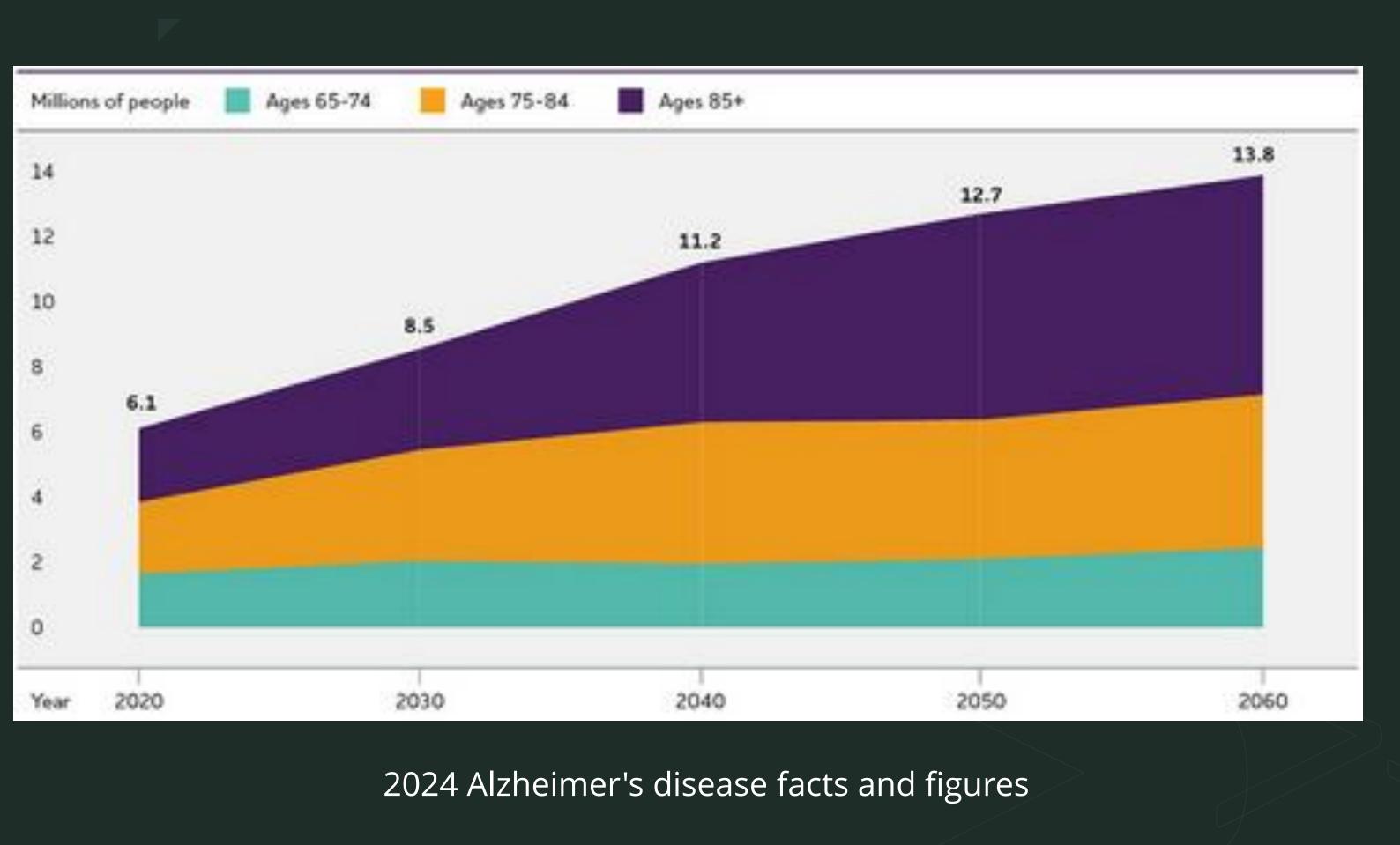
- With rise in aging community comes a rise in age-related health issues²
- In US, 92% of older adults have at least one chronic condition.
- 77% have two or more chronic conditions
- 2/3 of deaths among 65+ each year are caused by heart disease, cancer, stroke, and diabetes

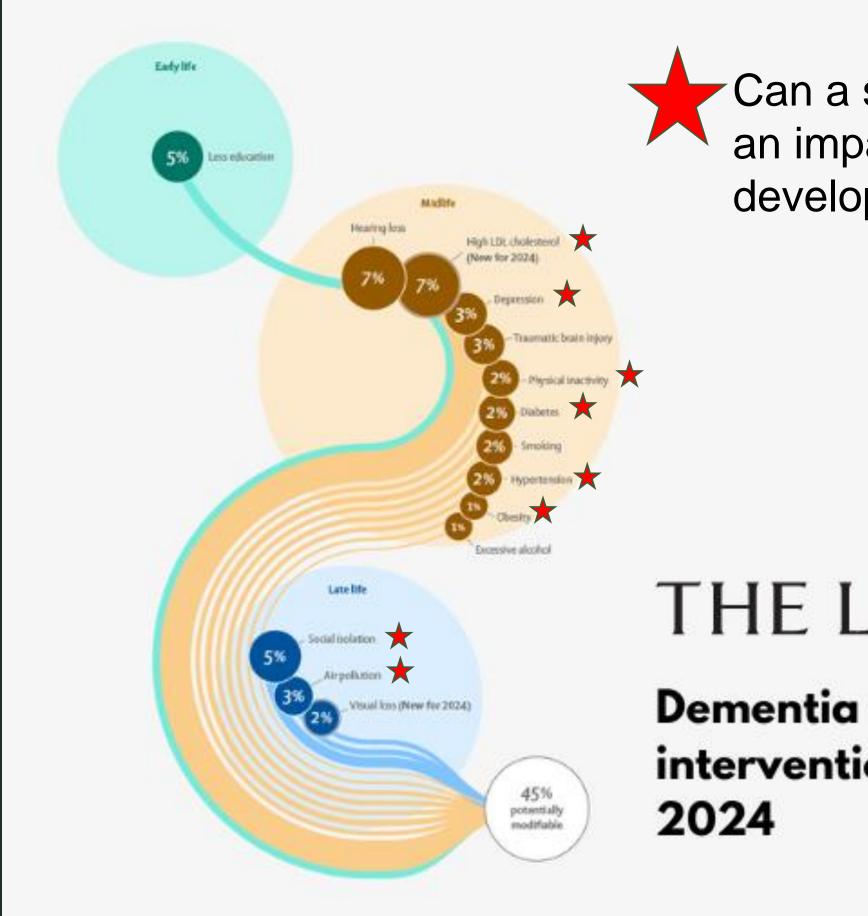


Dementia: On the Rise 2024 Alzheimer's disease facts and figures

Total: 6.9 Million

- 65-74 years: 1.83 Million (26.4%
- 75-84 years: 2.67 Million (38.6%
- 85+ years: 2.42 Million (35.4%

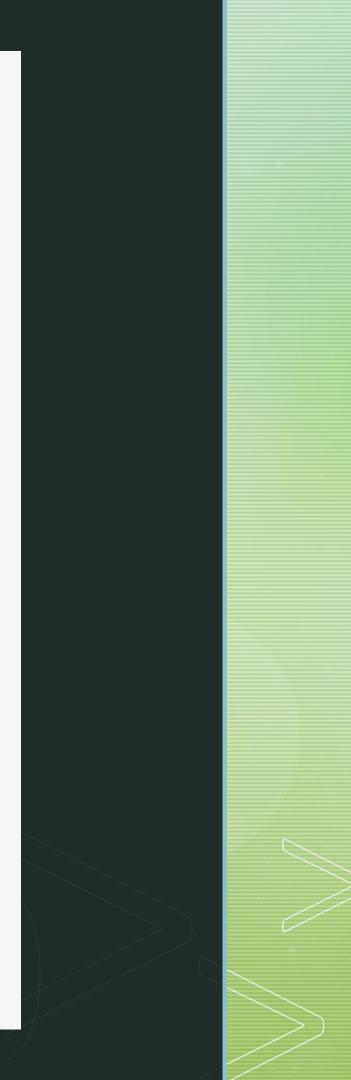




Can a senior park have an impact on the risk of developing dementia?

THE LANCET

Dementia prevention, intervention, and care





Marge: I love ge my daughter!

Joanne: My husband and I do our exercises at the park every day.

Betty: There is a great park right in my neighborhood and I go there all the time!

Marge: I love going to the park with

Just Being in Nature Matters







Senior-centric Parks:

Intentional Design + Targeted Amenities= The Perfect Prescription

Frederick, Maryland

- Population of 86,000 people, aging at 3x the national rate
- 1 in 5 Frederick residents is 60 or older
- The 85+ cohort set to quadruple over next 20 years.
- 11% of the population aged 65 or older has a
- diagnosis of dementia 22 large county parks, 72 city-managed parks, 4 dog
 - parks, **0 senior parks**

Coming Soon

PROPOSED SENIORSCAPES PARK FEATURES

Senior-Centric Features

- Nearby parking and drop off zone Accessible bathroom and water fountain Shade structures
- Level walking path with graded challenges
- Active and quiet spaces Maximum distance 50' between seating surfaces

Dementia-Friendly Features Split rail fence around area

- Caregiver respite near entrance/exit
- Sensory, cognitive, and motor activities
- Healthy Aging Features Physical

Cardio Cardio 820' long Walking Path Upright/recumbent bike Arm bike Cross trainer with touch screen

- Strength
 Leg press
 Horizontal row
 Pull down

- Pull down
 Chest press
 Balance
 Step up and bar
 Up and Go
 Log beam with rails

- Log beam with raise
 Mobility
 Up and Go
 Leg lift and Flex wheel
 Parallel bars
 Chaine
 - Stairs
 Ramp
 Stretch station

 - Streptingstones
 Surface challenges with rails
 Turf
 Stopes
 Waves
 Logs
- Cognitive Health

Socialization

- Brain games/cognitive stimulation
 Putting green
 Music station

Emotional and Mental Well-being Exposure to nature/green and blue spaces Social opportunities

- Social Engagement
 Pavilion and gazebo
 Walking path
 Games (brain games, putting green)



Asbury SeniorScapes at MONOCACY VILLAGE PARK FREDERICK, MD SEPTEMBER 2024

GRAPHIC SCALE







Human & Rohde, Inc. landscape architects/land planners

512 Virginia Ave. Towson, Maryland 21286 (410) 825-3885 Phone (410) 825-3887 Fax www.humanandrohde.com



Strength: Low Impact Fitness Equipment



Cardio: Fitness Equipment and Walking Path



Balance: Up and Go, Balance Beam, Step Up, Parallel Bars



Mobility: Stairs and Ramp



Mobility: Surface Challenge



Brain Health: Clock, Scavenger Hunt, Memory Games



Brain Health and Socialization: Putting Green, Open Space



Sensory: Music Station, Nature Spaces

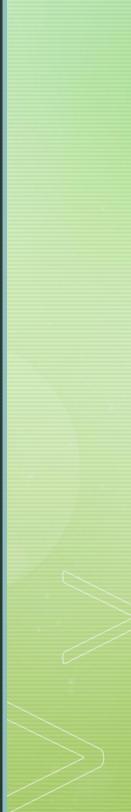
Park Funding was a G.I.F.T

Grants

- Individuals
- Foundations •
- Town







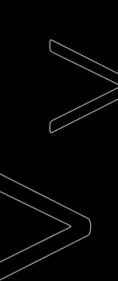


Longevity and Connection

- aging.

1. We can shift how we think about

2. We can shift how we utilize the inherently healthy resources found in public parks.



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Thank you for this opportunity!

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