

OPINION

Letter: Investing in parks means investing in public health

to the editor

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FILE. Letter writer says, 'Now, more than ever, the positive impact created by access to nature and quality outdoor recreational opportunities extends beyond simply being a sound investment in resiliency and neighborhood revitalization; it is a crucial aspect of our public health infrastructure.' (Lori Van Buren/Times Union)

Lori Van Buren/Albany Times Union

Chris Churchill's recent column offering suggestions on how the City of Albany should utilize federal stimulus money highlighted the importance of investing in the community's parks and open spaces. Now, more than ever, the positive impact created by access to nature and quality outdoor recreational opportunities extends beyond simply being a sound investment in resiliency and neighborhood revitalization; it is a crucial aspect of our public health infrastructure. Ensuring that all residents have access to nearby,

accessible and well-maintained parks and trails is crucial for increasing the quality of life for residents and visitors alike. Investing in these assets, which are often taken for granted and overlooked, increases property values, encourages commercial activity, enhances physical and mental health, and fosters a sense of wellbeing and livability. This is the ideal opportunity for Albany's leadership to ensure our precious parks, trails and open spaces remain a refuge for future generations of Albanians.

Robin Dropkin