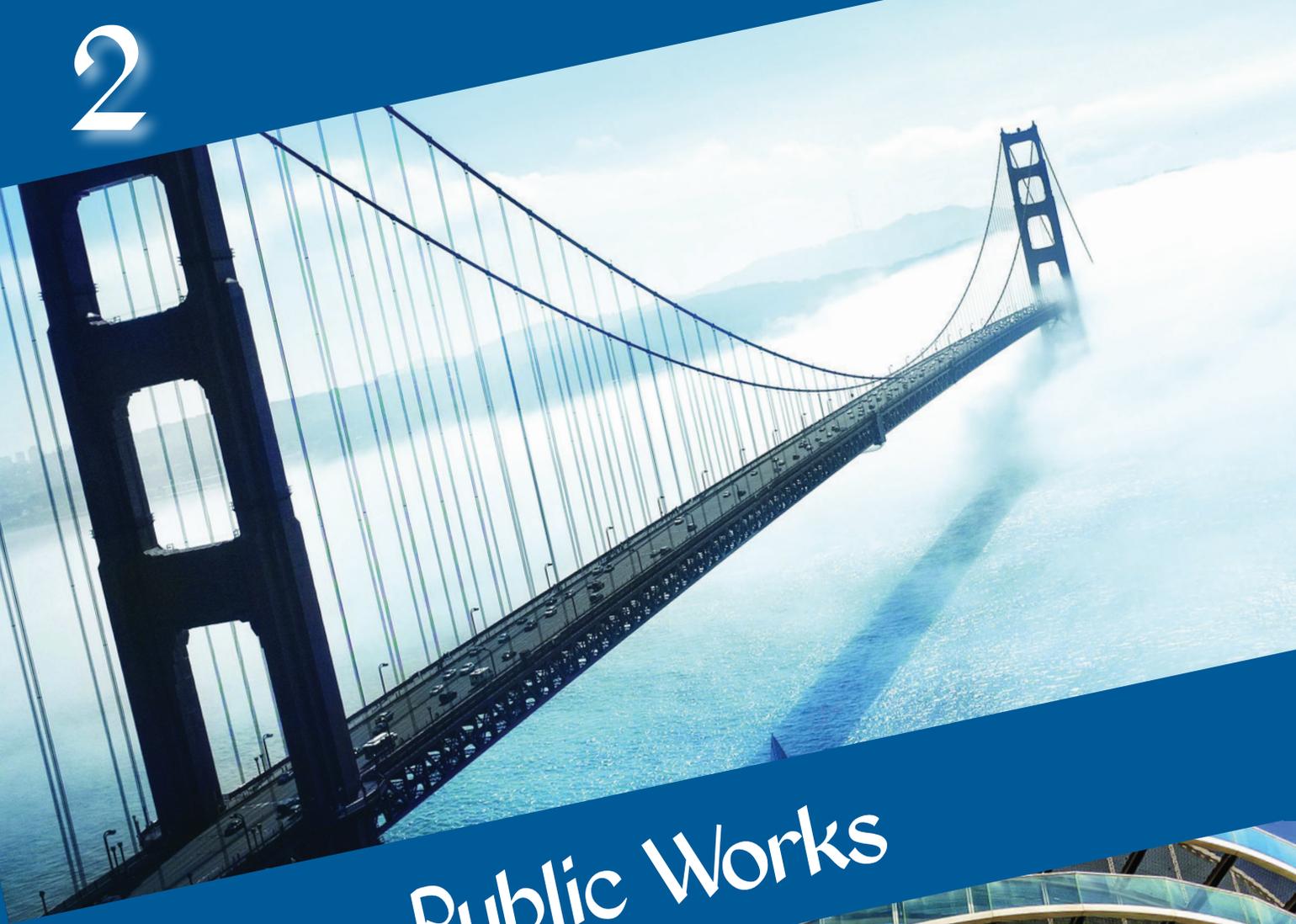
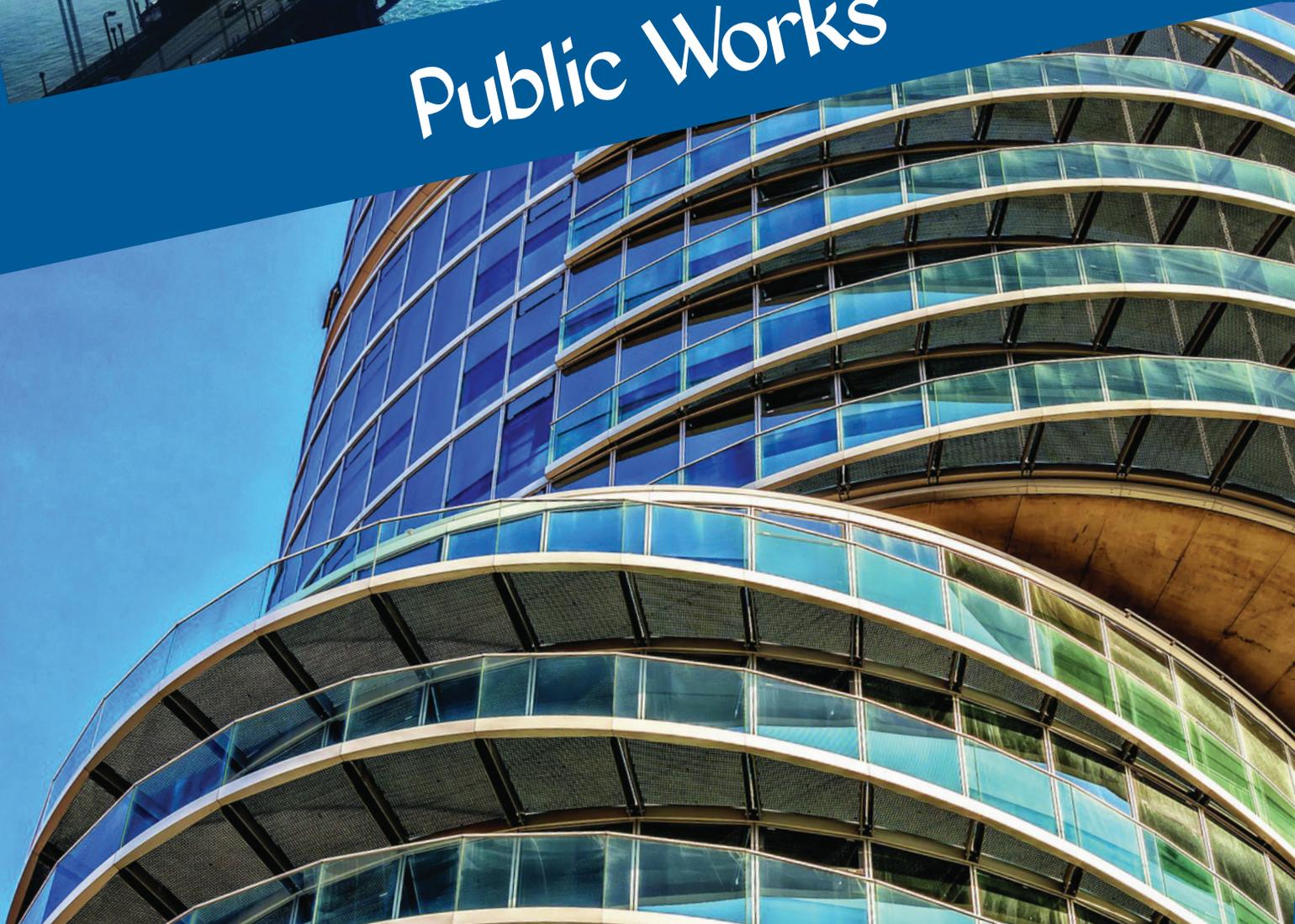


2



# Public Works



## 2 Public Works



*Before you read the text, answer the following questions.*



- ✓ What service does each of these constructions provide?
- ✓ Who is responsible for the construction of these structures in a country?
- ✓ What other kinds of buildings or infrastructures can you think of?



1. Read the adapted text about public works and then do the tasks that follow.

**Public works** is a multi-dimensional concept in economics and politics, touching on multiple arenas including: **recreation** (parks, beaches), **aesthetics** (trees, green space), **economy** (goods and people movement, energy), **law** (police and courts), and **neighbourhood** (community centres, social services buildings).

Public works, in particular, are a broad category of **infrastructure** projects, financed and constructed by the government for employment, recreational, health and safety uses in the greater community. They tend to be high-cost investments; however, they are vital to a country's economic development and prosperity. Projects related to infrastructure improvements may be funded publicly, privately or through public-private partnerships.

Public works include **public buildings** (municipal buildings, schools, hospitals), **transport infrastructure** (highways, bridges, ports, airports), **public spaces** (public squares, parks), **public services** (water supply, sewage, dams, electrical grid) and other **physical assets** and **facilities**. **Municipal infrastructure, urban infrastructure, and rural development** usually represent the same concept but imply either large cities or developing nations' concerns respectively.

The terms **public infrastructure** or **critical infrastructure** are at times used interchangeably. However, critical infrastructure includes public works (dams, waste water systems, bridges, etc.) as well as facilities like hospitals, banks, and telecommunications systems and views them from a national security viewpoint and the impact on the community that the loss of such facilities would entail. Furthermore, the term public works has recently been expanded to include **digital public infrastructure** projects.

According to another distinction, infrastructure can be hard or soft. **Hard infrastructure** refers to the physical networks necessary for the functioning of a modern industry. This includes roads, bridges, railways, etc. **Soft infrastructure** refers to all the institutions that maintain the economic, health, social, and cultural standards of a country. This includes educational programmes, official statistics, parks and recreational facilities, law enforcement agencies, and emergency services.

The public works sector is responsible for planning, reviewing, coordinating, and supervising public construction projects in a country, in accordance with regulations concerning sustainability, high-quality, efficiency and reliability.

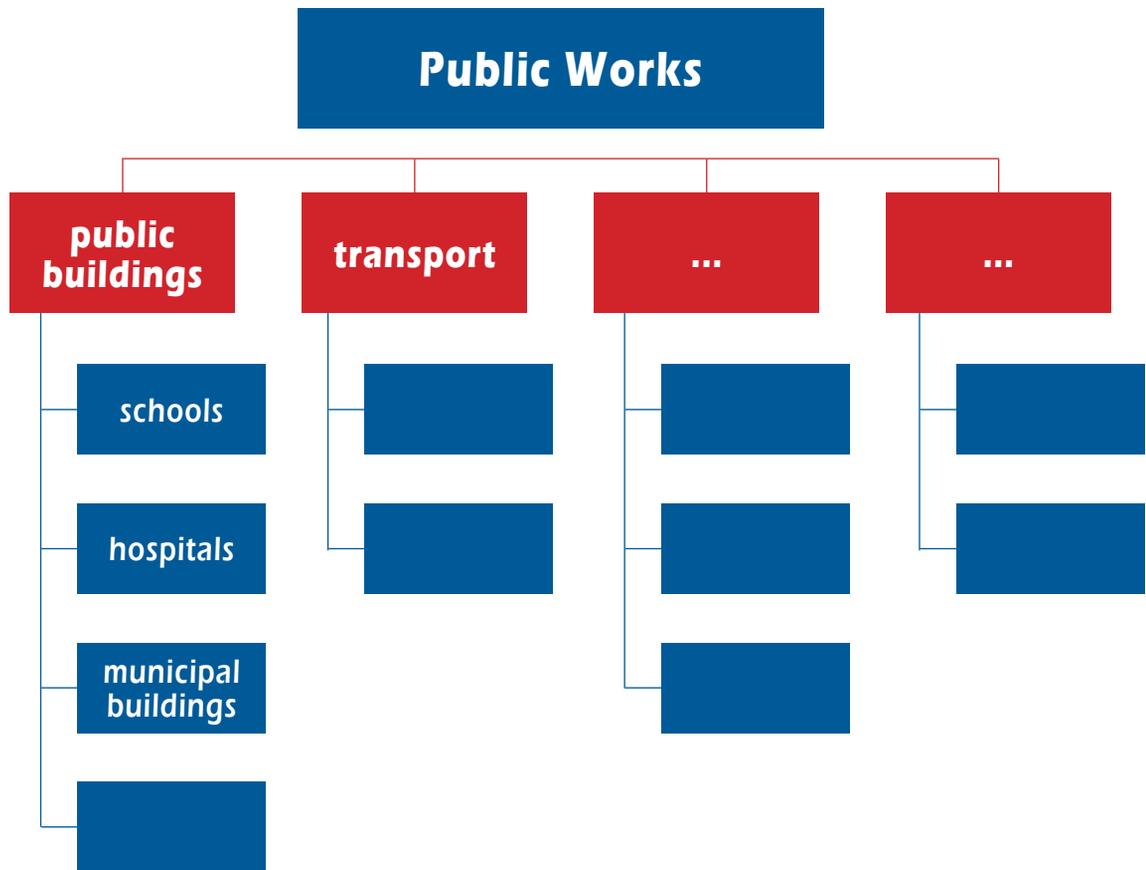
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Public\\_works](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Public_works)

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Infrastructure>

# 2 Public Works



In groups, draw a mindmap like the one below to classify words from the text that relate to public works. You can also add any other relevant words you know.

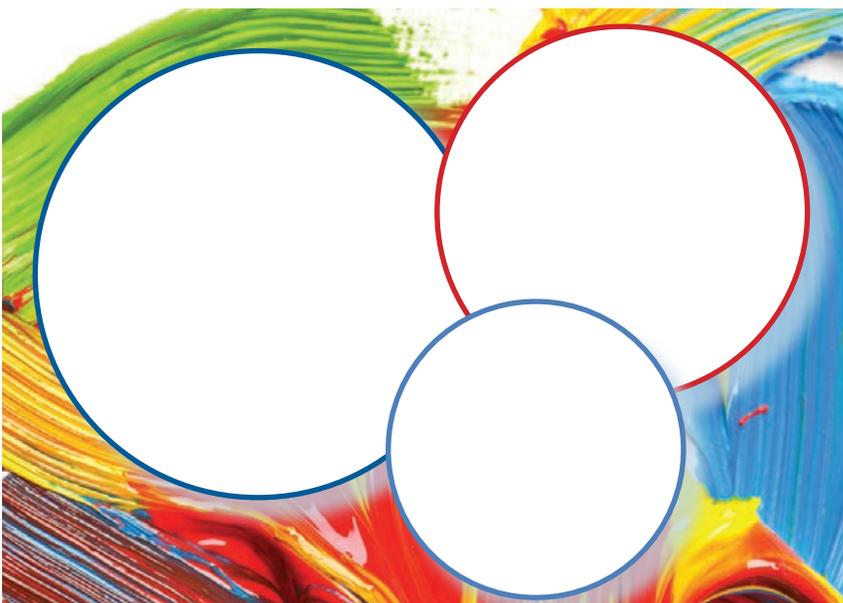




2. Complete the table below with words from the text.

The public works sector is responsible for:	
Main types/ kinds of infrastructure:	
Ways of funding:	

3. Work in pairs and make a poster with the different services public works provide to citizens (e.g. education, cleaning etc.). Then make a presentation to your classmates.



A **service** is a transaction in which no physical goods are transferred.

**Public services** are paid for by society as a whole. They are provided by government to supply public needs such as transport, communications, or utilities such as electricity and water.



## Relative Clauses

### 4. Read the following sentence and answer the questions below.

The public works sector, **which** is responsible for planning, reviewing, coordinating, and supervising public construction projects in a country, acts in accordance with specific regulations.

- ✓ What does the word **which** refer to?
- ✓ What is its function in the sentence?
- ✓ Which other words are used for the same function?

### 5. Compare the above sentence with the captions below. What do the relative pronouns refer to?



This cement, which is lumpy, is not suitable for the pavement.



The man who is wearing a helmet is the project manager.



The area where the project was carried out was a poor one.



The construction company, whose name is well-known, is responsible for building the water dam.

6. Study the following tables about the formation of Relative Clauses. Add any notes you think are important for you to remember!

<i>Relative Clauses</i>		
	Adverbs-Pronouns	
We use relative clauses to describe/ refer to person/ object/place/thing in the main clause	who / that which / that where when whose why	people objects/animals/ideas place time possession reason

<i>Defining</i>	A defining relative clause gives necessary/essential information to the meaning of the main sentence.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is not put in commas.</li> <li>The relative pronoun can be omitted when it is the object of the relative clause.</li> </ul>
<i>Non-defining</i>	A non-defining relative clause gives extra information about the person/object/ place it refers to.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is put in commas.</li> <li>The relative pronoun/adverb cannot be omitted.</li> </ul>

<b>Notes</b>	<i>That</i> can be used instead of <i>who</i> , <i>whom</i> , or <i>which</i> but it is never used after commas or prepositions.	Mr Bennett, who/that is the manager of the company, fired two workers last week.
	<i>Whose</i> is never omitted.	The site workers whose benefits are reduced are on strike.
	With <i>when</i> and <i>where</i> we do not need a preposition.	The building where I used to work at was a rather old one.
	<i>Which</i> may also refer to a whole sentence.	The bridge collapsed after the heavy rain, which was rather unexpected.
	Prepositions before relative pronouns are mostly used in formal English.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The man <b>to whom</b> I spoke is a site engineer → <i>formal</i></li> <li>The man I spoke <b>to</b> is a site engineer → <i>colloquial</i></li> </ul>

## 2 Public Works

7. Complete the sentences using the correct relative pronoun/adverb. Then write *D* for defining and *ND* for non-defining sentences and whether the relative can be omitted or not.

- 1 Building a house, \_\_\_\_\_ is a complicated process, involves knowledge of architectural design, building codes and basic construction elements.
- 2 A potential new homeowner \_\_\_\_\_ usually consults with two or three contractors requests bids from each one.
- 3 I will always remember \_\_\_\_\_ I decided to set up this leading company in the construction sector.
- 4 The crew of the construction site at Highbury Rd, \_\_\_\_\_ the wall collapsed, works to save the houses at peril.
- 5 Do you know the reasons \_\_\_\_\_ the bridge over the river finally collapsed?
- 6 Our building company, \_\_\_\_\_ strategy is successful, will finally carry out the project of the dam construction.
- 7 That's the construction site \_\_\_\_\_ the accident happened last week.
- 8 The hard hat worker, \_\_\_\_\_ wears a blue uniform, is the leader of the workers' union.
- 9 The hospital, \_\_\_\_\_ has recently been refurbished, is on the east side of the city.
- 10 The area, \_\_\_\_\_ the road works take place, has problems with the stability of the underlying soils.

8. Complete the sentences below so they are true for you using relative pronouns/adverbs.

- 1 I would like to work at a place .....
- 2 If I knew the reason .....
- 3 My best friend, .....
- 4 My teacher, .....
- 5 The school .....
- 6 Do you know the person .....



## How public spaces make cities work



More than 8 million people are crowded together to live in New York City. What makes it possible? In part, it's the city's great public spaces – from tiny pocket parks to long waterfront promenades – where people can stroll and play. Amanda Burden helped plan some of the city's newest public spaces, drawing on her experience as, surprisingly, an animal behaviourist. She shares the unexpected challenges of planning parks people love – and why it's important. (This talk was presented at an official TED conference).

[https://www.ted.com/talks/amanda\\_burden\\_how\\_public\\_spaces\\_make\\_cities\\_work#t-50185](https://www.ted.com/talks/amanda_burden_how_public_spaces_make_cities_work#t-50185)

<https://www.flickr.com/photos>

9. Now watch Amanda Burden's speech on how to create public spaces and especially parks in big cities. Then do the tasks below.

[https://www.ted.com/talks/amanda\\_burden\\_how\\_public\\_spaces\\_make\\_cities\\_work](https://www.ted.com/talks/amanda_burden_how_public_spaces_make_cities_work)



# 2 Public Works

10. *True* or *False*?



Watch and listen carefully and mark the following statements as true (T) or false (F).

	True	False
a. Open and pleasing public spaces is the way to have quality life in big cities.		
b. Greenery and resting places are not really important for everyday city life.		
c. It is not always so easy to create successful public spaces that attract citizens.		
d. The best way to reshape life in cities is by reducing use of motor vehicles.		



11. Watch and listen carefully again and then answer the following questions in pairs.



1. What do people usually have in mind when they think about cities? What does Amanda Burden think?
2. What is the key to planning a great city and why?
3. Why did Paley Park in midtown Manhattan become a small phenomenon? What is special about it?
4. Trying to find housing for one million additional New Yorkers and at the same time deal with the problem of traffic in the city, they came up with an ambitious solution. What was that?

## 2 Public Works

12. Watch and listen carefully again and complete the missing words in the following sentences.

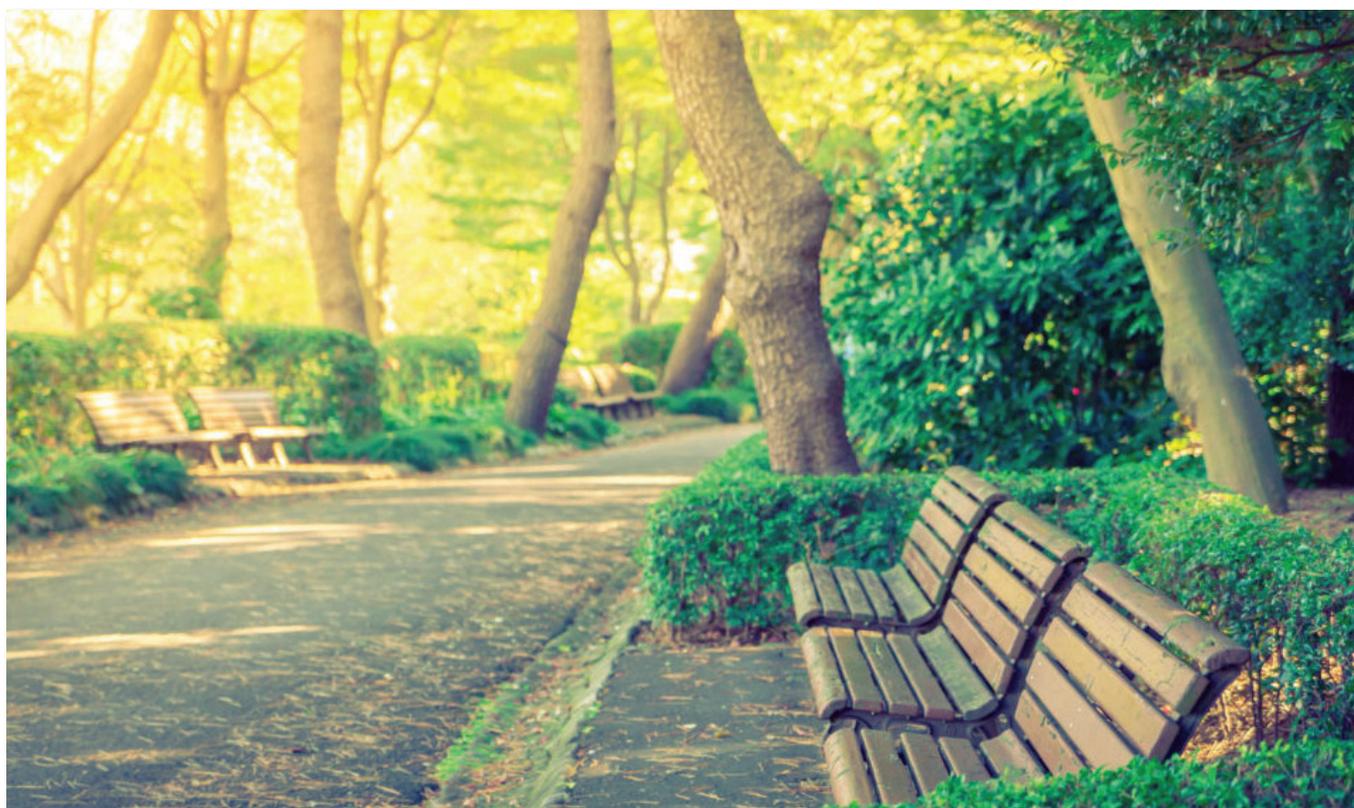


1. Even more important than buildings in a city are the \_\_\_\_\_ in between them.
2. This little space became a small phenomenon, and because it had such a profound \_\_\_\_\_ on New Yorkers, it made an enormous impression on me.
3. This little park provided what New Yorkers crave: \_\_\_\_\_.
4. For me, becoming a \_\_\_\_\_ meant being able to truly change the city that I lived in and loved.
5. Open spaces in cities are opportunities for commercial investment, but they are also opportunities for the \_\_\_\_\_ of the city.
6. Instead of building a park as a complement to future development, why don't we reverse that equation and build a small but very \_\_\_\_\_ public open space first.
7. New York does place a high value on attracting immigrants, so we were excited about the prospect of \_\_\_\_\_.
8. We needed to redo our zoning and basically reshape the entire city, targeting where \_\_\_\_\_ could go.



13. ✓ Brainstorm specific public works which you consider user-friendly.
- ✓ Write down examples of public works in your area which you classify as user-hostile.

14. Discuss the following topics in pairs.

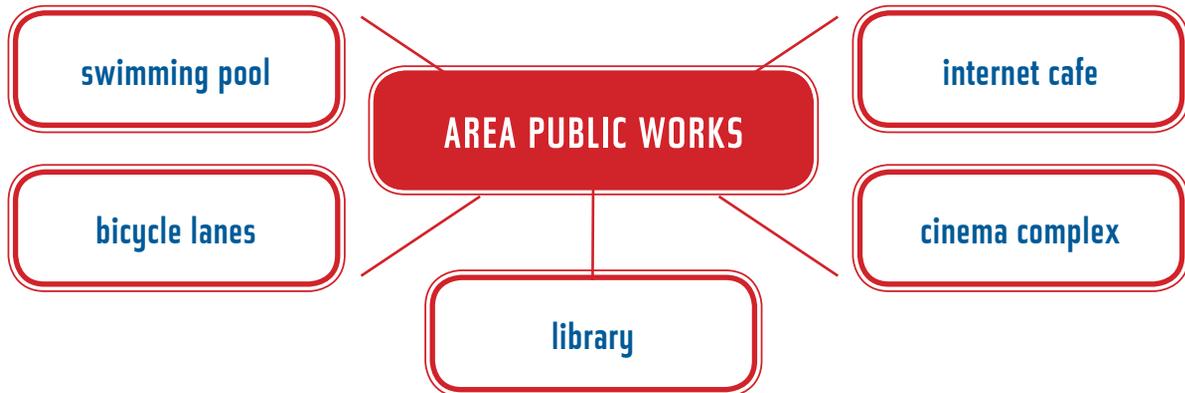


- a. Which public works make life in a neighbourhood easier for citizens?
- b. Which are the advantages of living in a neighbourhood with parks and open-space green areas? Are there any disadvantages you can think of?

## 2 Public Works

15. Work in groups and discuss the following issues.

The local town council has decided to improve the quality of life in the area where you live and has put forward the following suggestions. Decide which two of them are the most important ones justifying your answers.



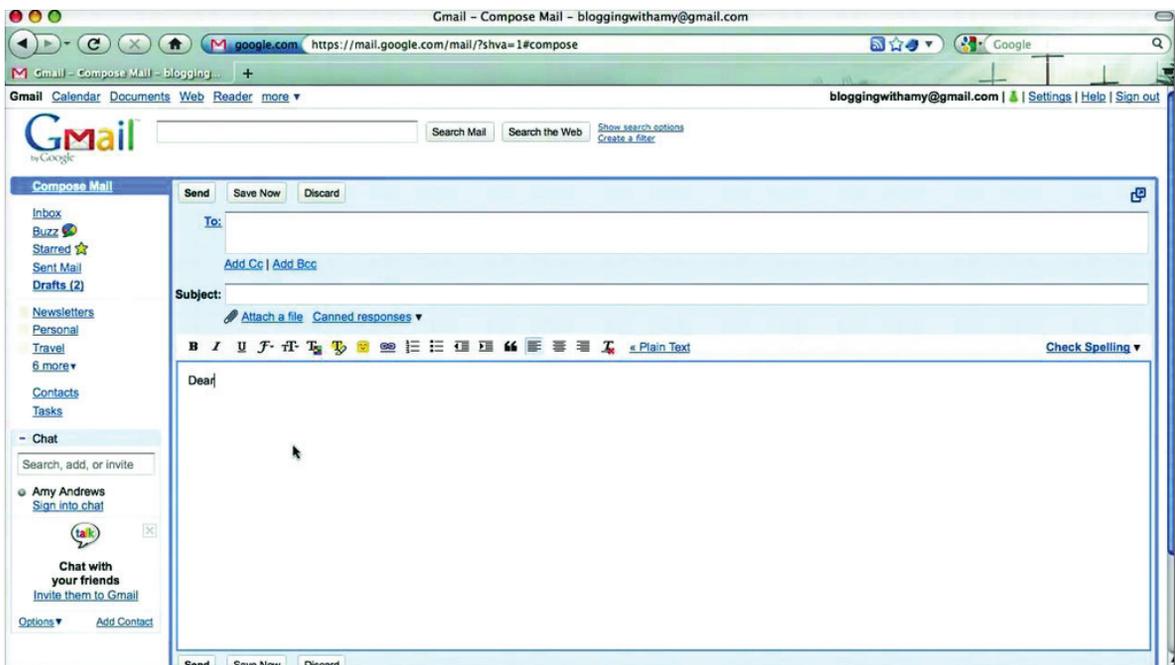
16. a. Do citizens in Greece influence the decisions concerning the construction of public works in their area?
- b. What do you think about the existing infrastructure in the area where you live?





17. Look at the photos and write a formal e-mail to a member of the city council to report a road problem in your area. Write about:

- the existing problem
- the maintenance needed
- any more information you consider necessary



## 2 Public Works

