

Fairfax County Benchmarking Charts

Parks, Recreation and Libraries Program Area Benchmarking Charts

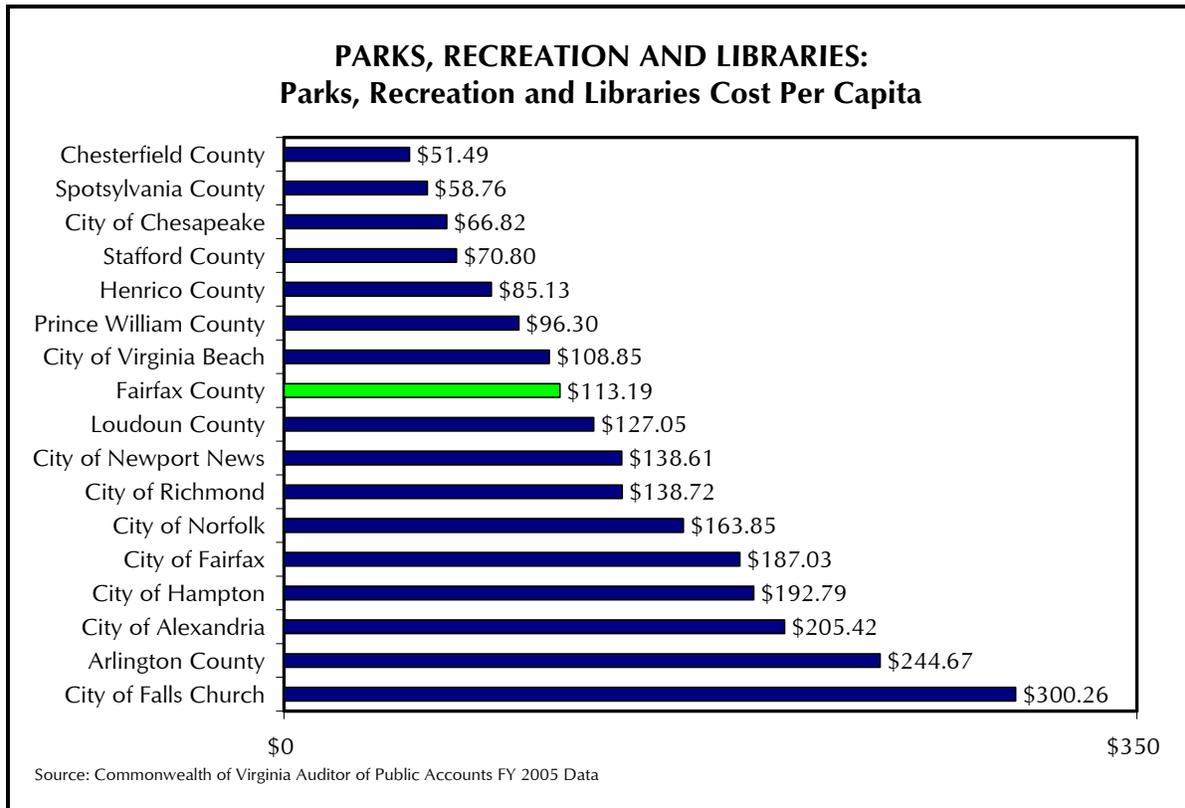
As a means of demonstrating accountability to the public for results achieved, benchmarking data have been included in the annual budget since the FY 2005 Budget. These data are included in each of the Program Area Summaries in Volume 1 (General Fund) and now in Volume 2 (Other Funds) as available. The first benchmarking statistic presented for each program area is a cost per capita comparison collected by the Auditor of Public Accounts (APA) for the Commonwealth of Virginia. Due to the time required for data collection and cleaning, FY 2005 represents the most recent year for which data are available. An advantage to including these benchmarks is the comparability. In Virginia, local governments follow stringent guidelines regarding the classification of program area expenses. Cost data are provided annually to the APA for review and compilation in an annual report. Since these data are not prepared by any one jurisdiction, their objectivity is less questionable than they would be if collected by one of the participants. In addition, a standard methodology is consistently followed, allowing comparison over time. Fairfax County's cost per capita for this program area is highly competitive with other large jurisdictions in the state, and particularly the other Northern Virginia localities.

A number of other benchmarks are shown that are provided through the International City/County Management Association's (ICMA) comparative performance program. Fairfax County has participated in ICMA's benchmarking effort since 2000. Approximately 150 cities, counties and towns provide comparable data annually in a number of service areas. However, not all jurisdictions provide data for every service area. Parks, Recreation and Libraries represent several of the benchmarked service areas for which Fairfax County provides data. Additional program-level performance measurement data are presented within each of these agencies' budget narratives.

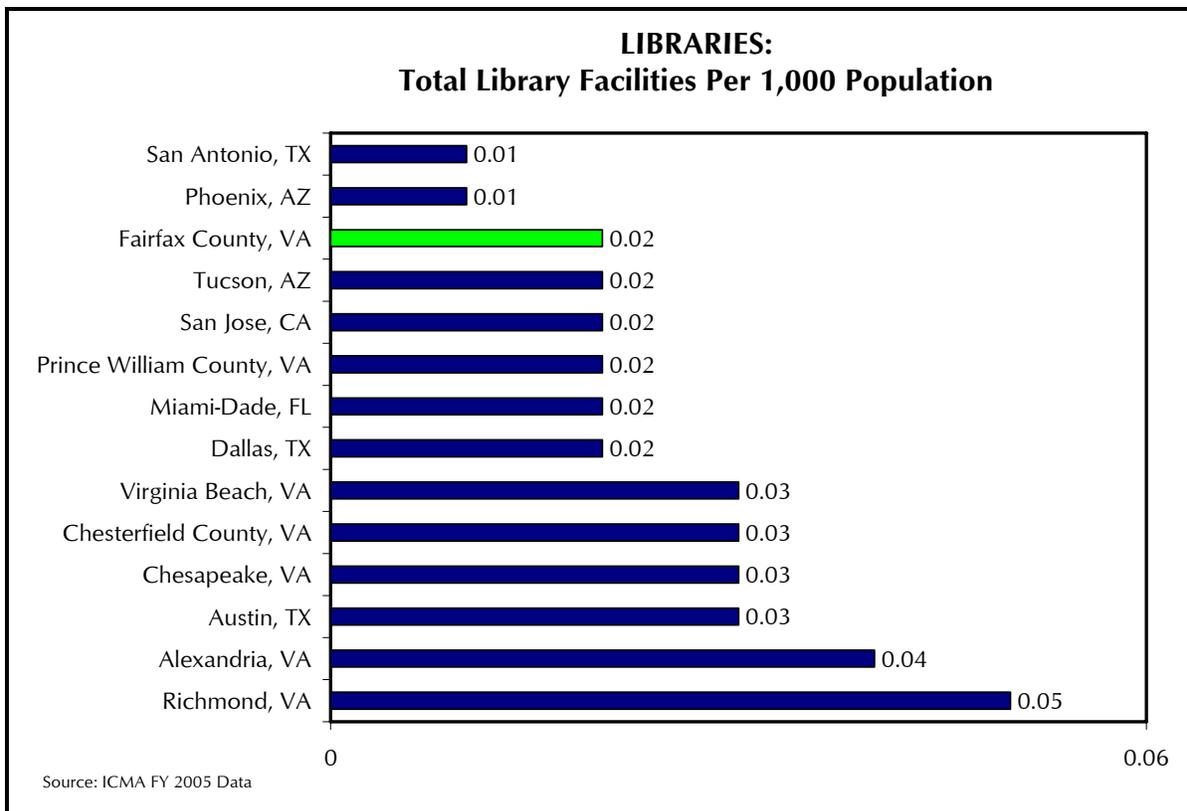
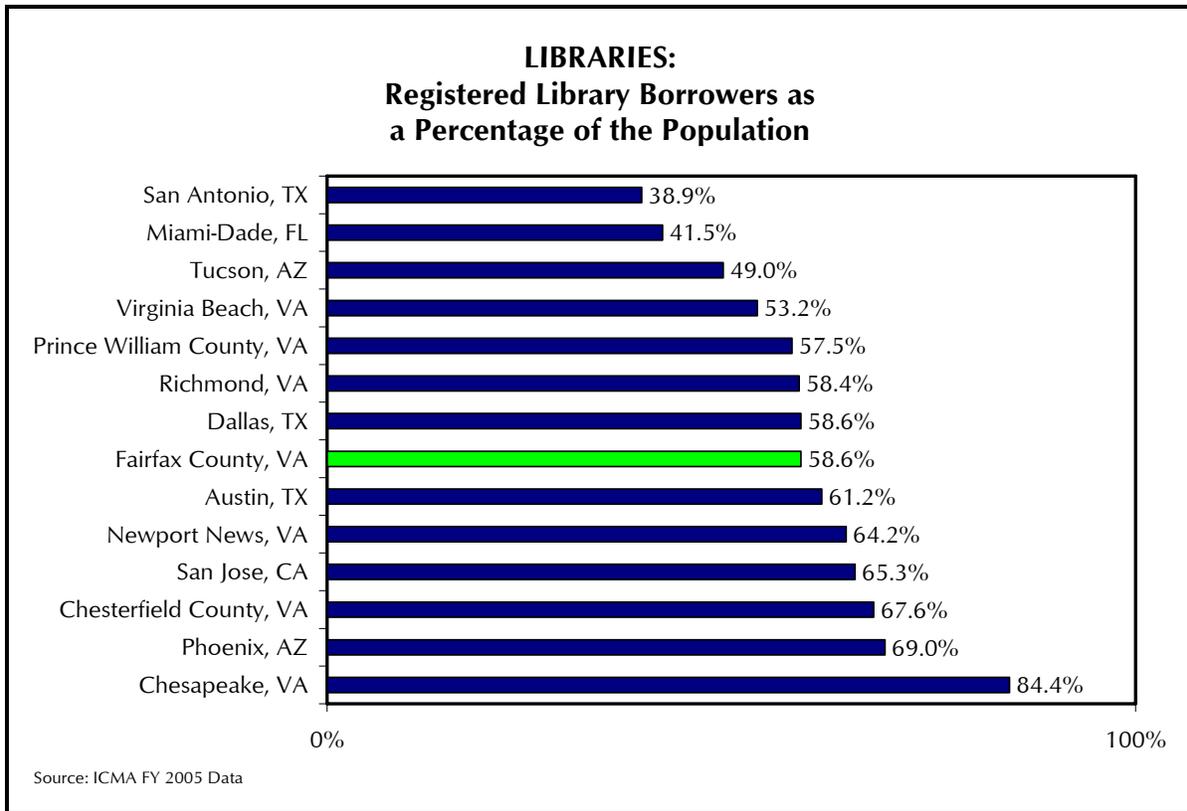
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Participating local governments (cities, counties and towns) provide data on standard templates provided by ICMA in order to ensure consistency. ICMA then performs extensive data cleaning to ensure the greatest accuracy and comparability of data. As a result of the time to collect the data and undergo ICMA's rigorous data cleaning processes, information is always available with a one-year delay. FY 2005 data represent the latest available information. The jurisdictions presented in the graphs below generally show how Fairfax County compares to other large jurisdictions (population over 500,000). In cases where other Virginia localities provided data, they are shown as well.

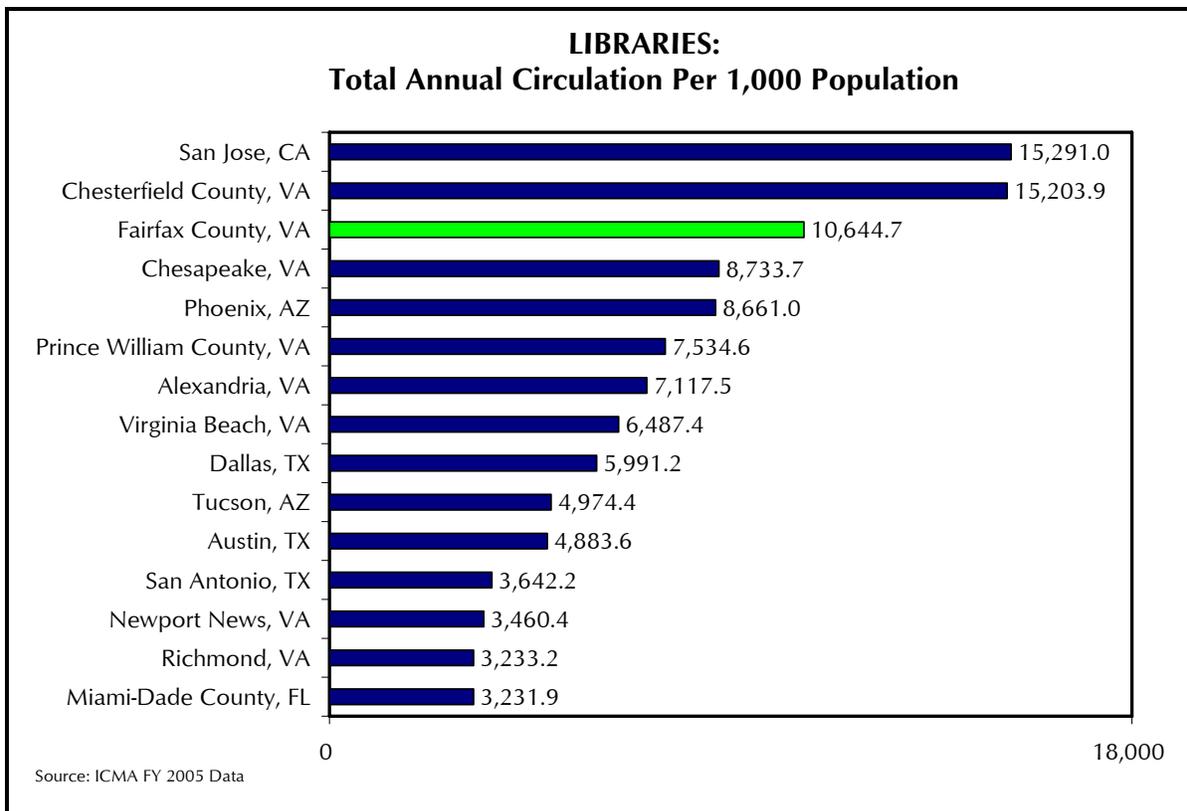
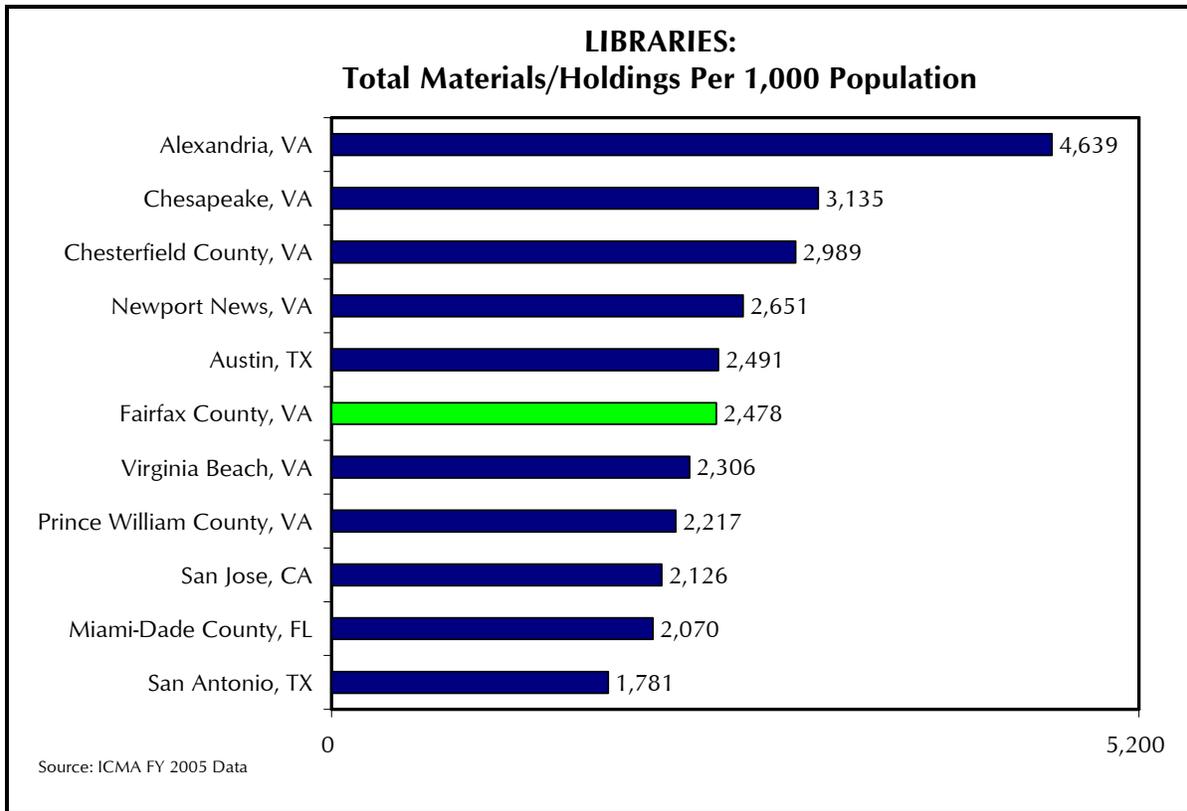
An important point to note in an effort such as this is that since participation is voluntary, the jurisdictions that provide data have shown they are committed to becoming/remaining high performance organizations. Therefore, comparisons made through this program should be considered in the context that the participants have self-selected and are inclined to be among the higher performers than a random sample among local governments nationwide. It is also important to note that not all jurisdictions respond to all questions. In some cases, the question or process is not applicable to a particular locality or data are not available. For those reasons, the universe of jurisdictions with which Fairfax County is compared is not always the same for each benchmark. As can be seen on the following pages, the County compares favorably in the Libraries and Parks/Recreation service areas in terms of both efficiency and effectiveness.



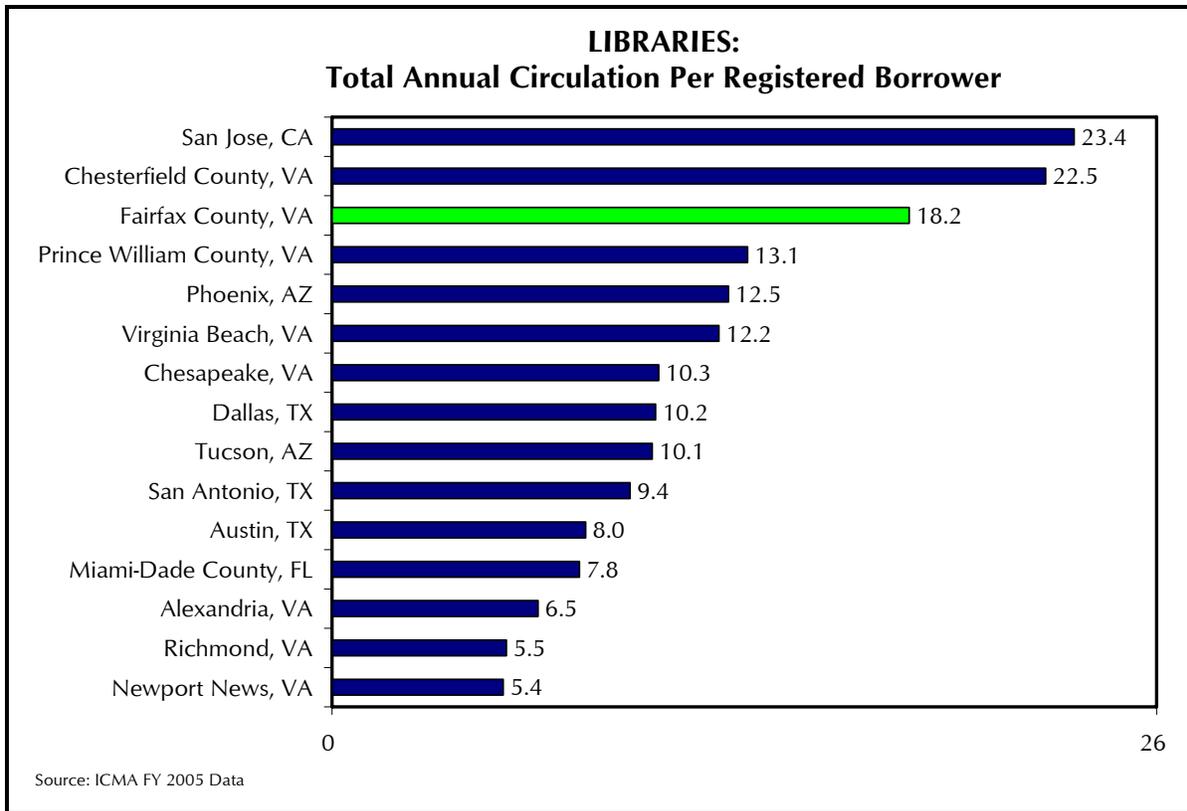
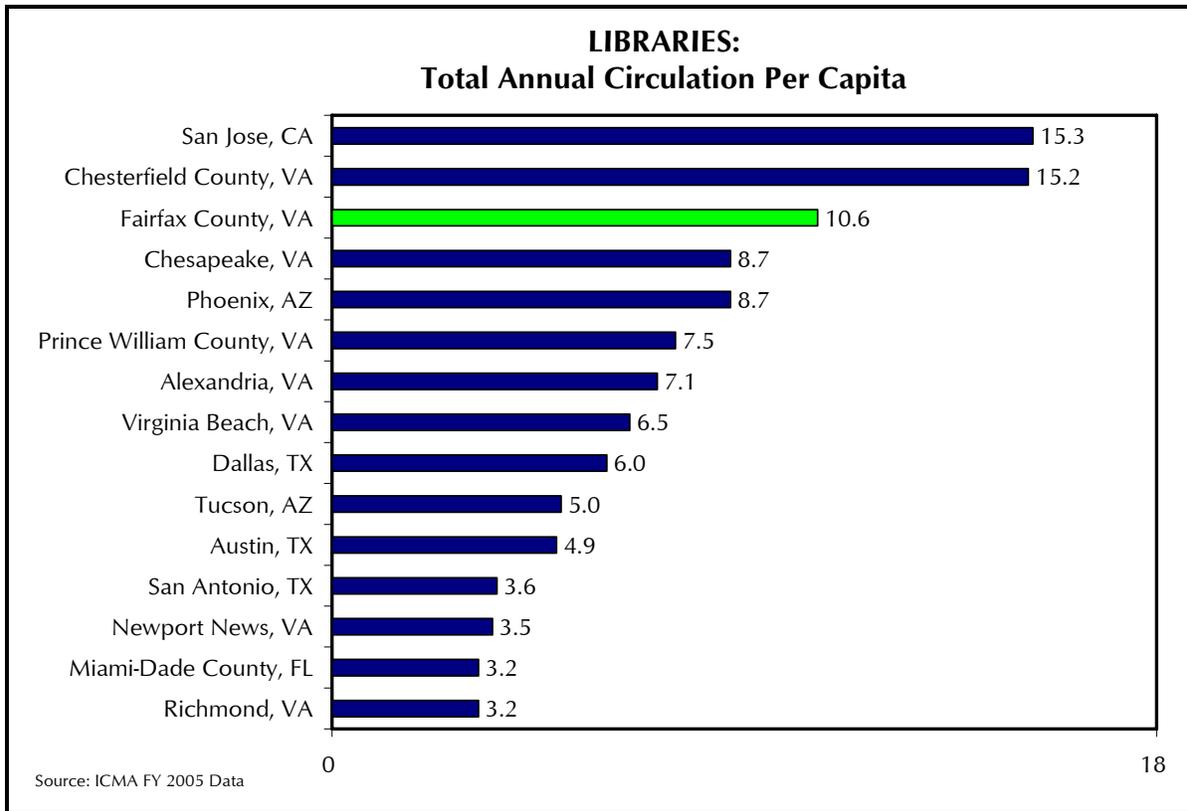
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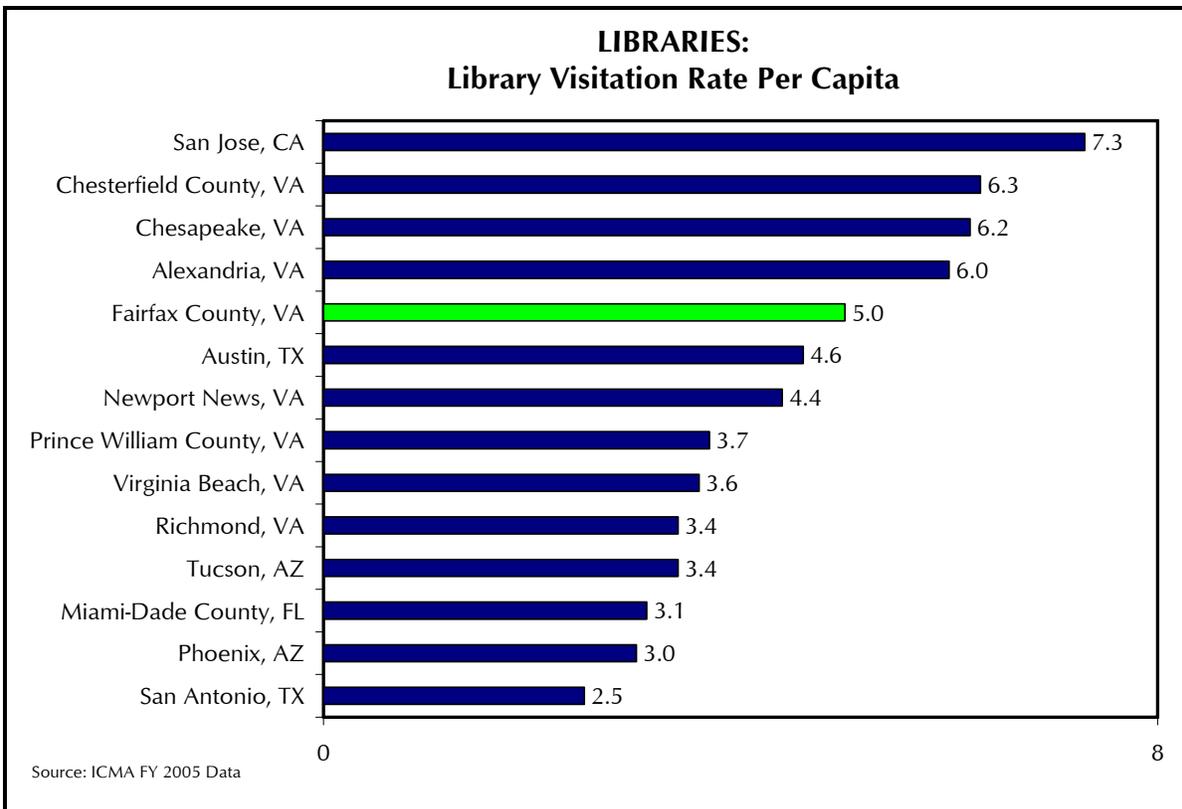
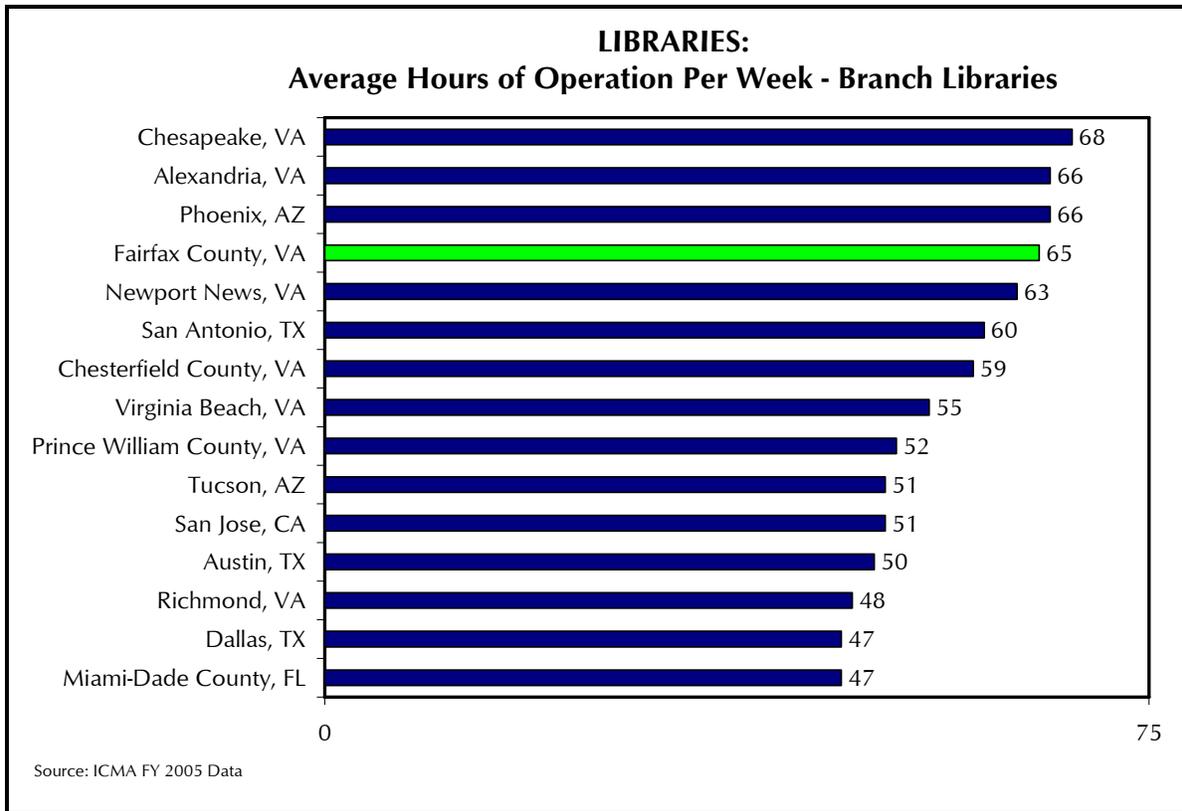
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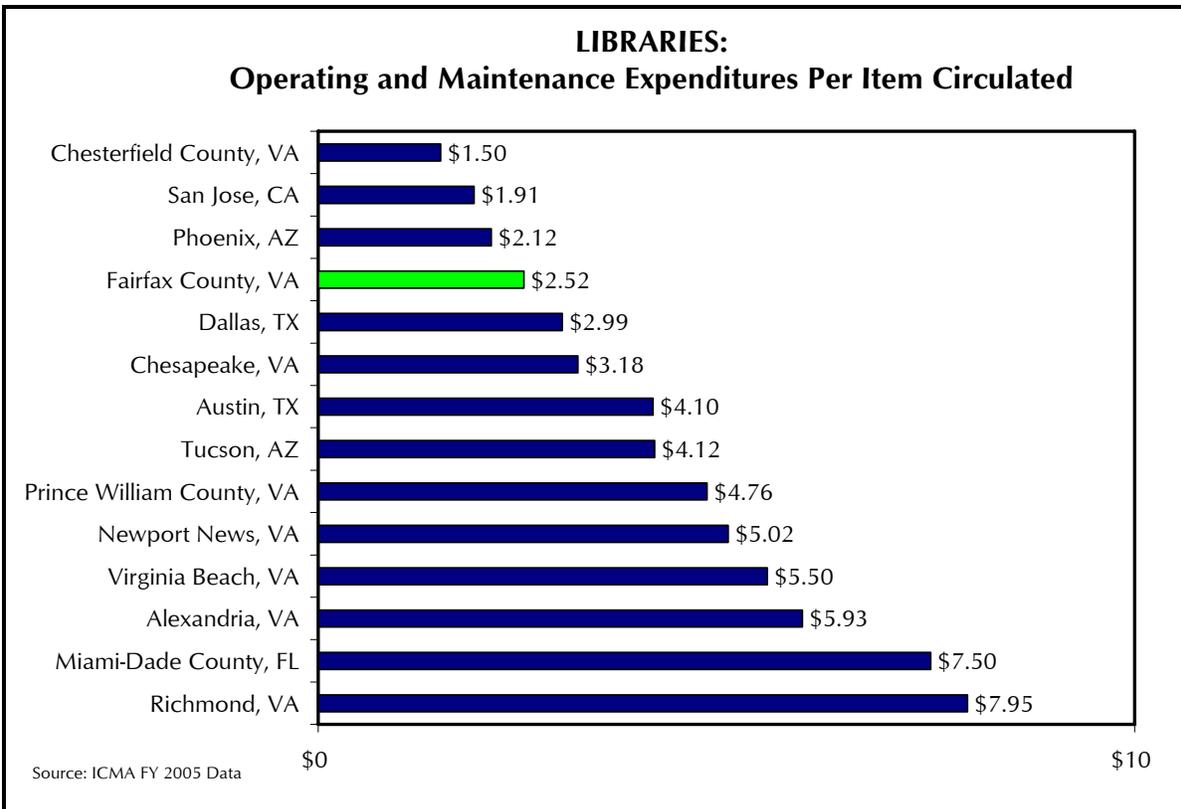
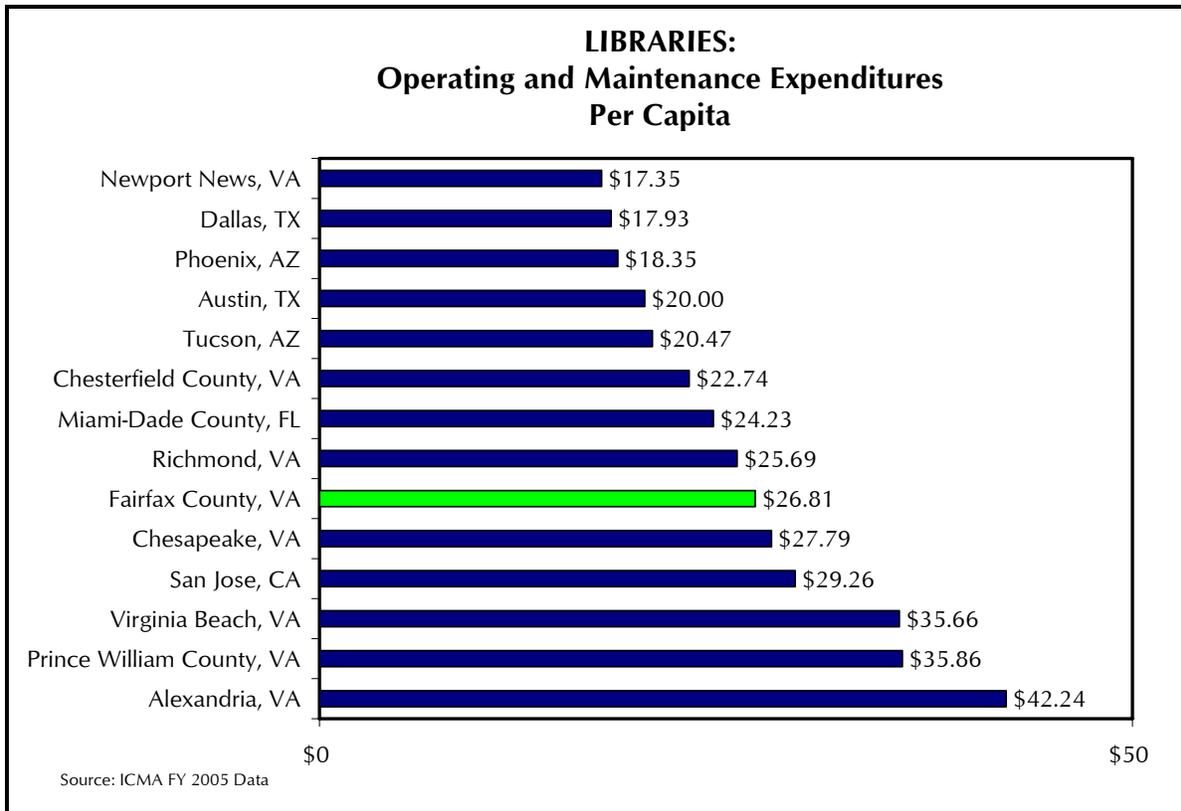
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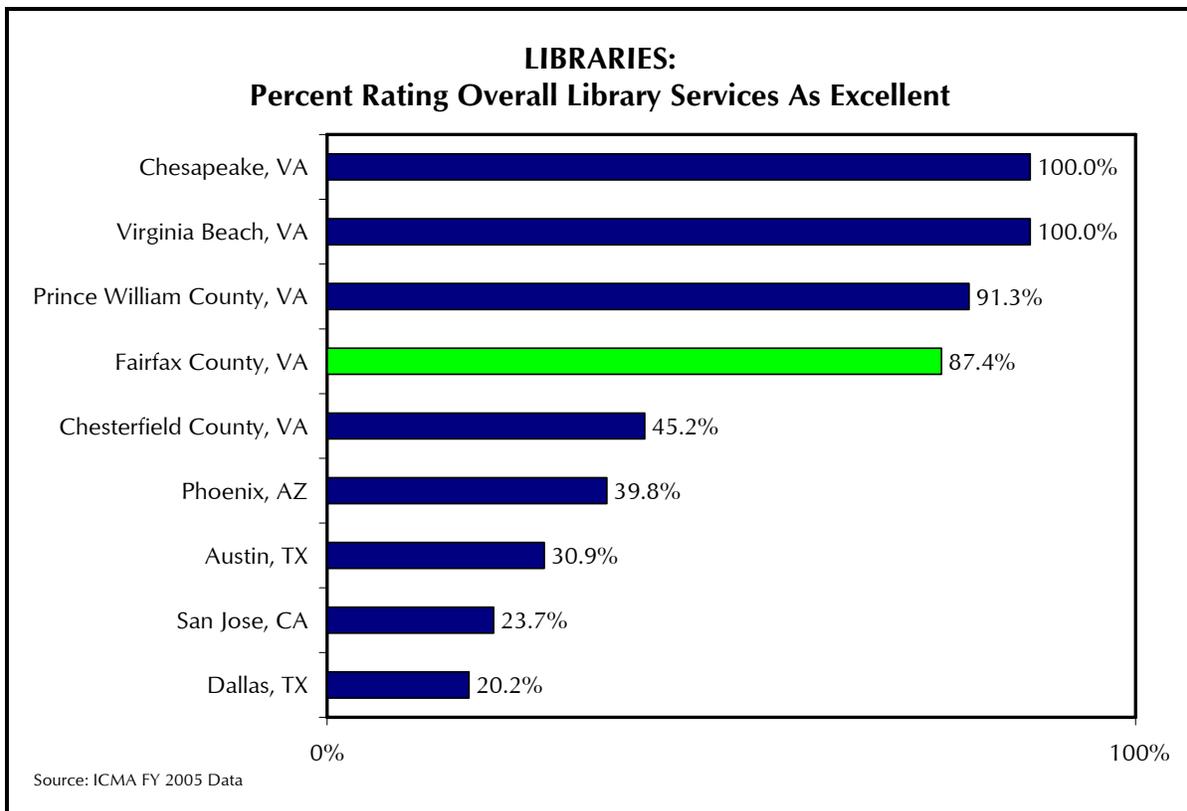
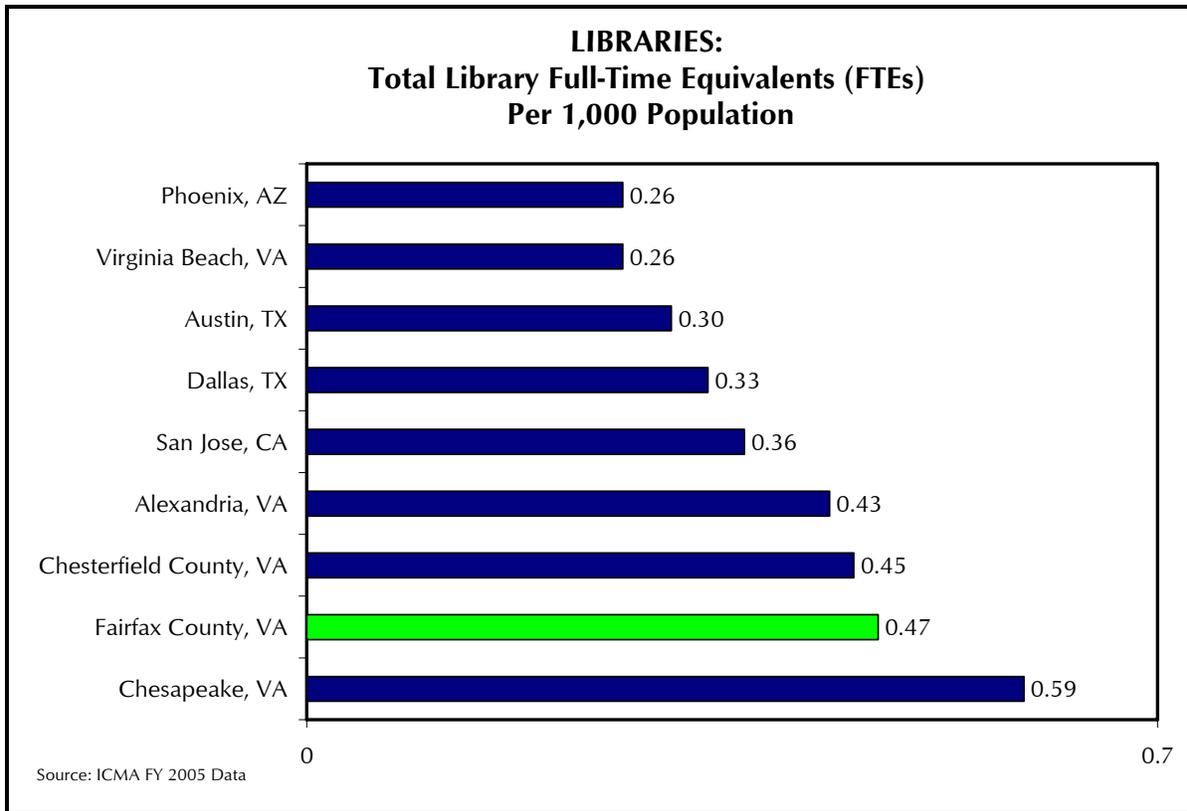
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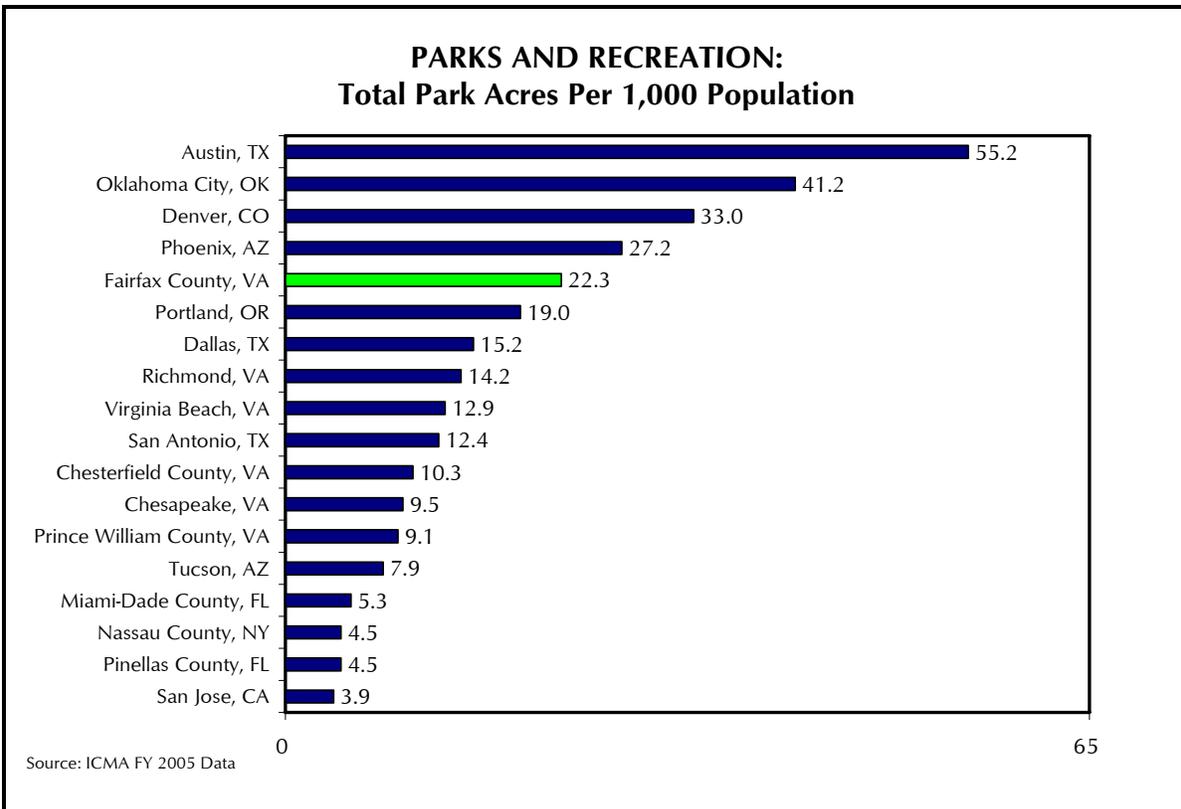
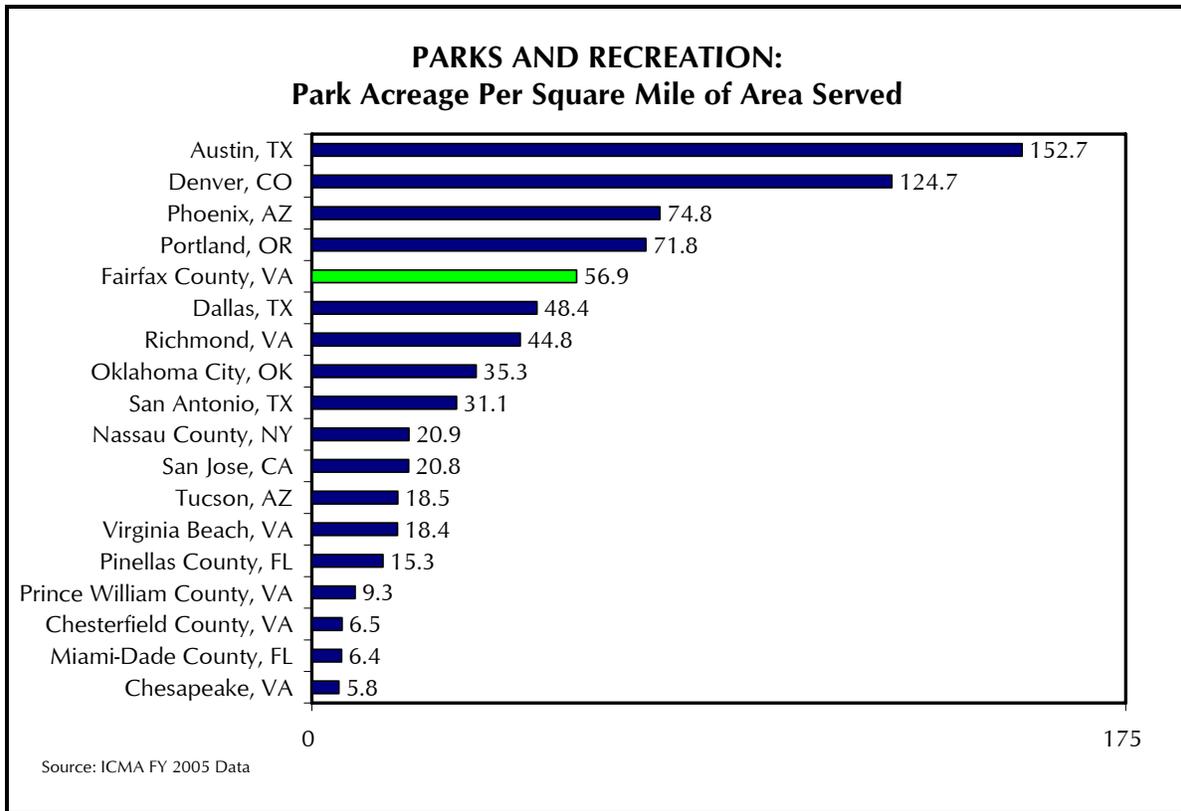
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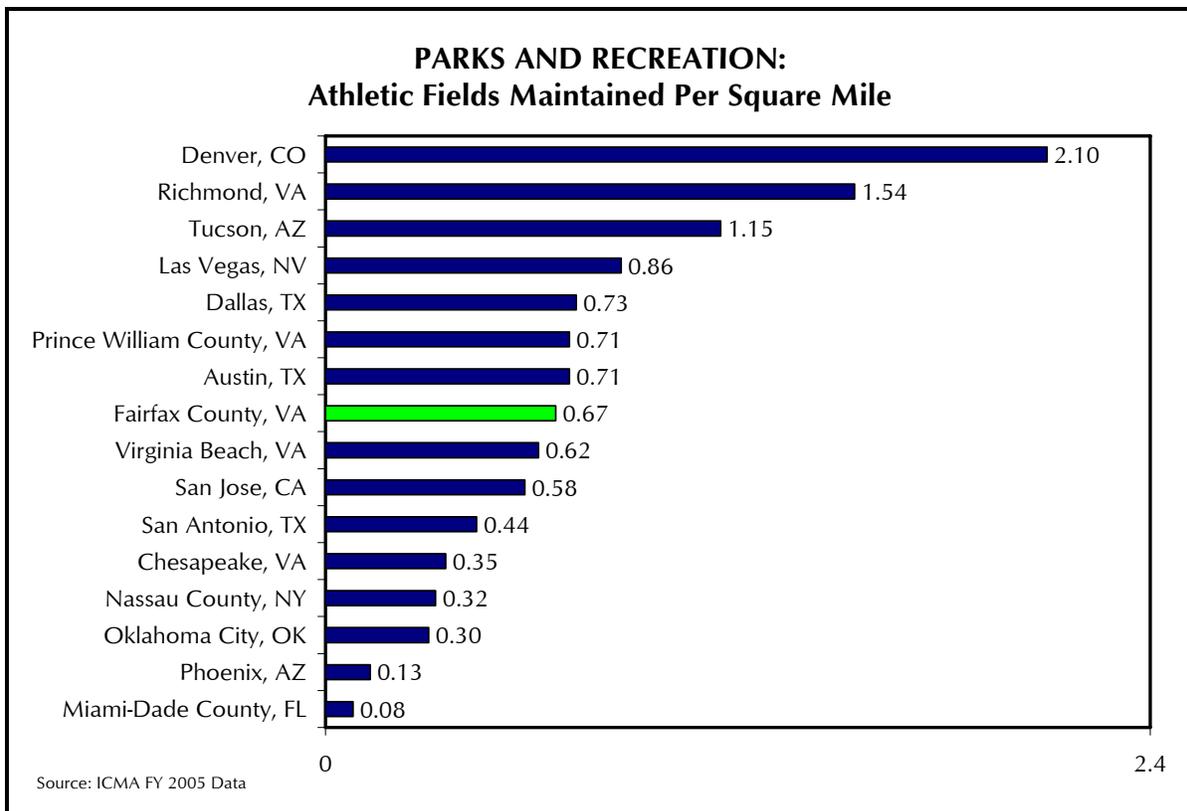
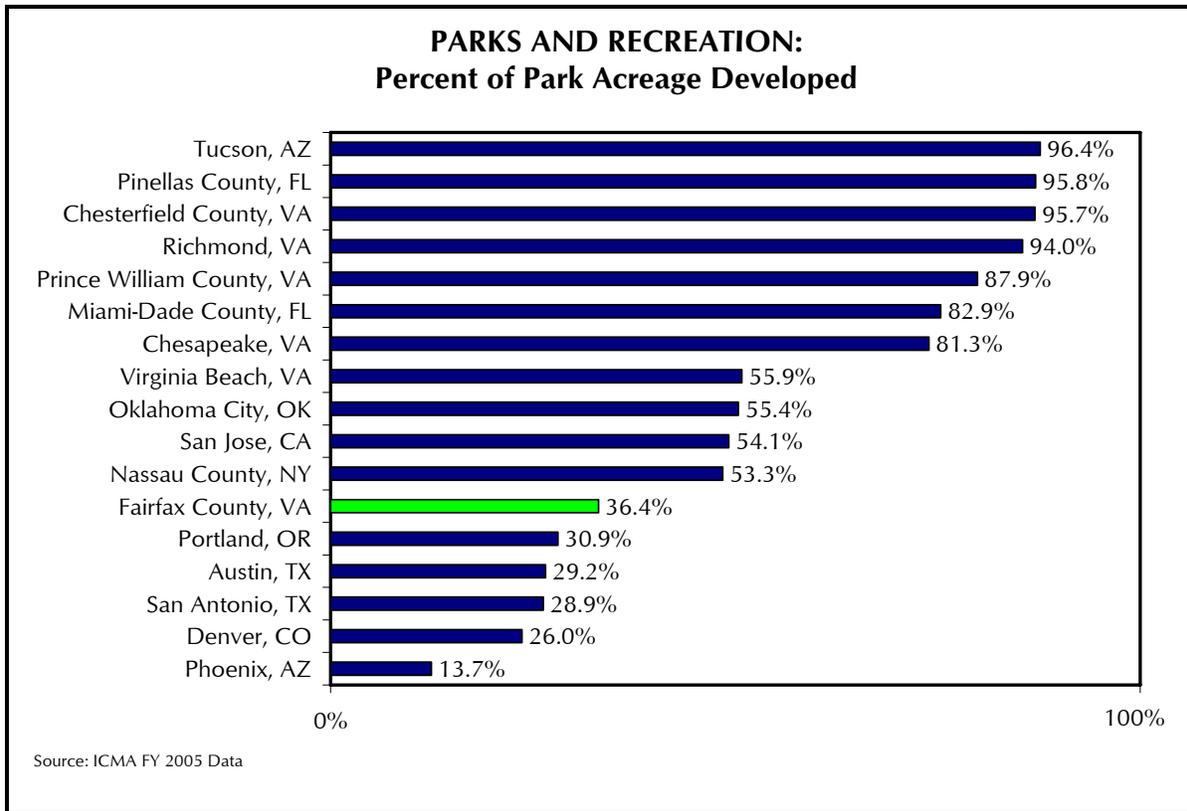
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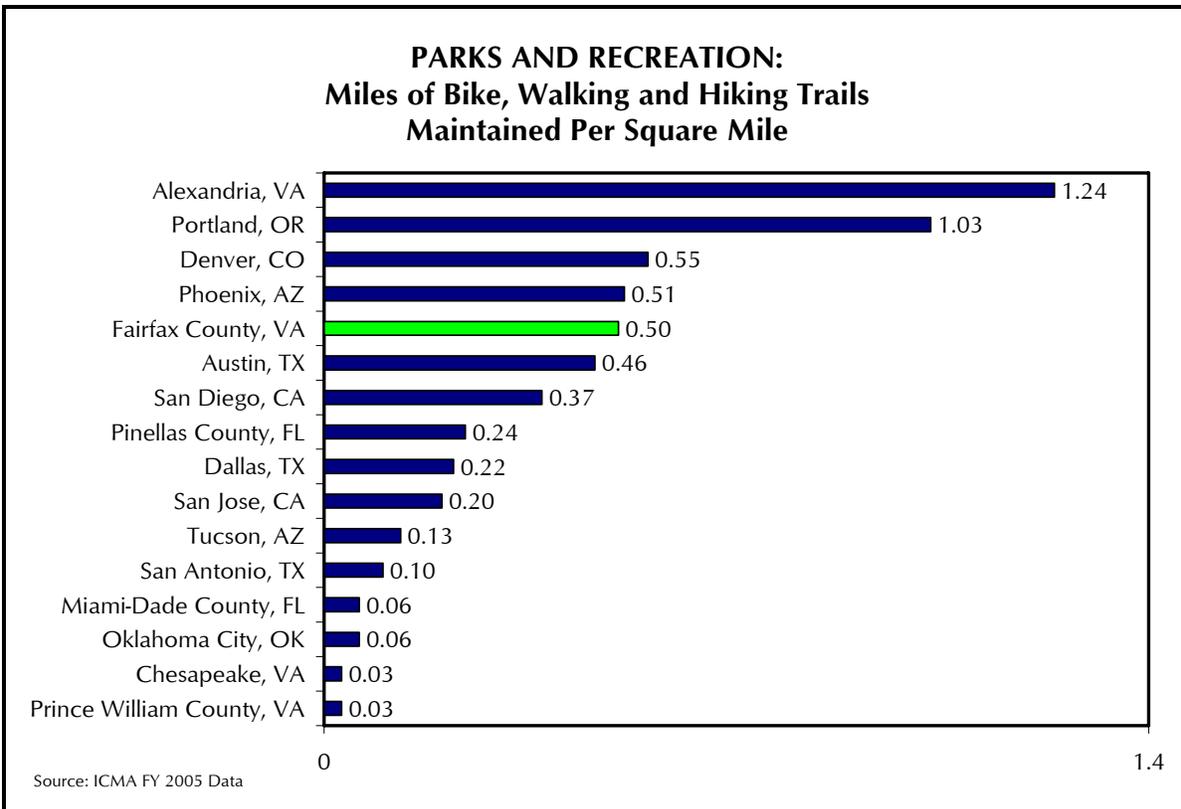
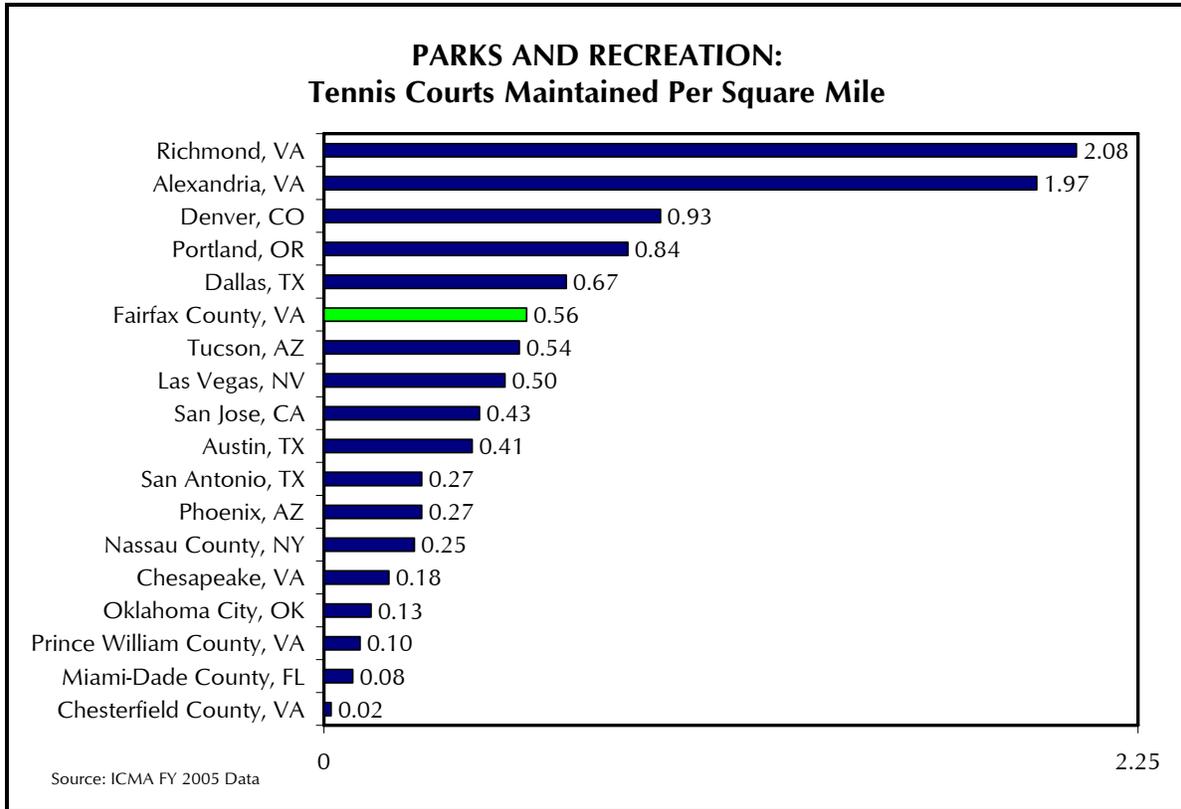
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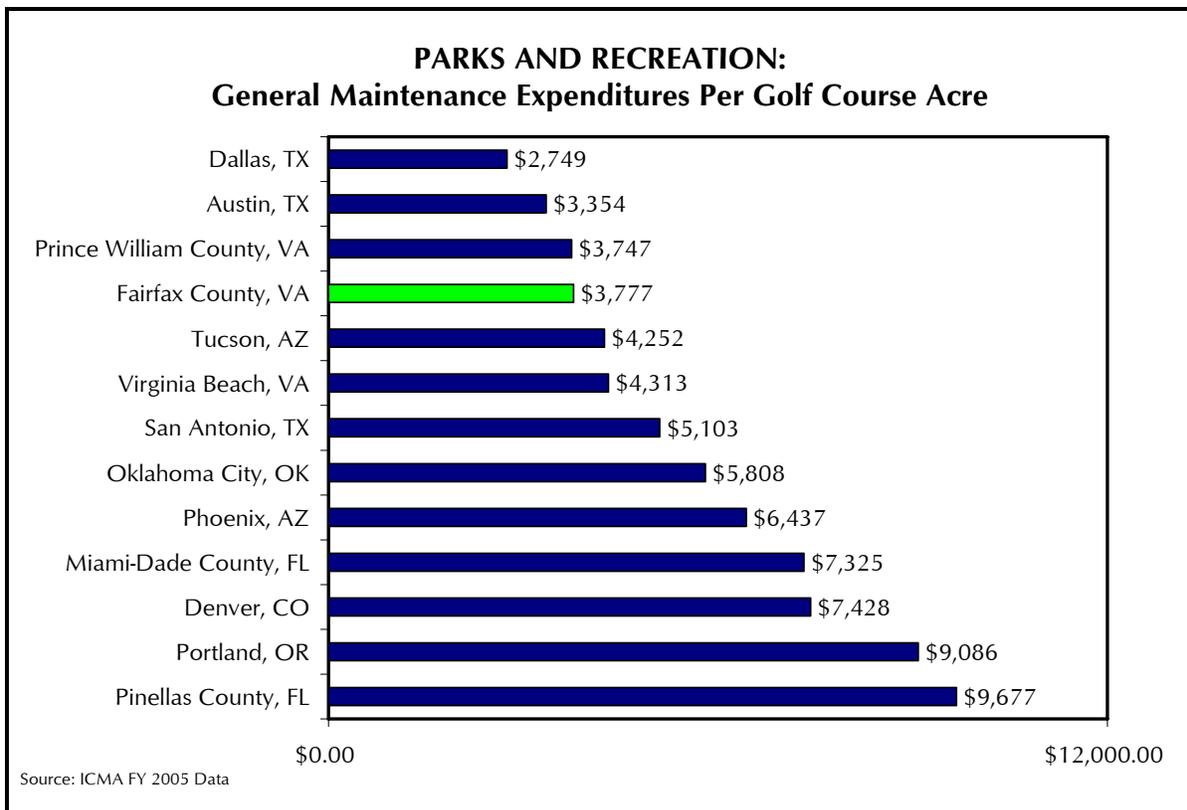
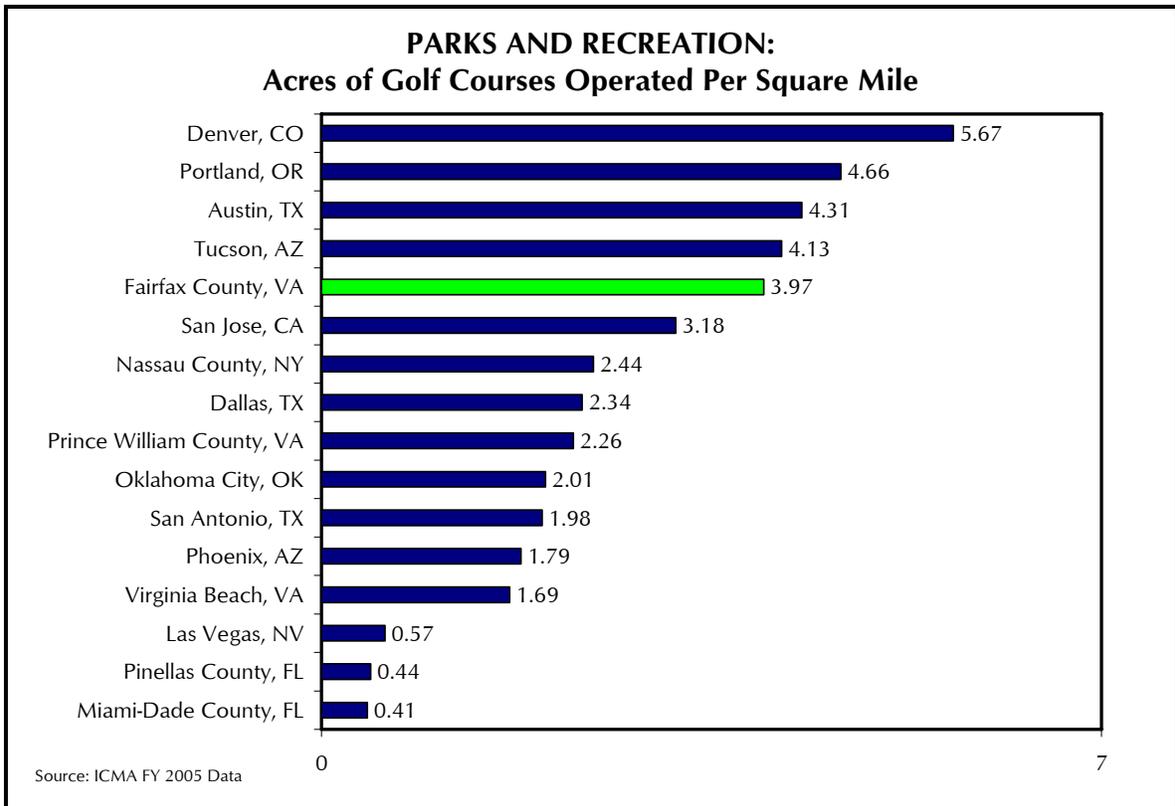
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