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Houses near parks cost £10,000 more

• Homes within walking distance of public parks now command a "green premium" of as much as £10,000 above the typical house price, a study has found.

Experts say it is due to public space becoming scarcer because of increased development and pressure on local authorities to sell public areas. The premium rises to £21,000 in London, according to research by the financial services company [ING Direct](#).

The Government is aiming to relax planning laws as part of its National Planning Policy Framework, which campaigners claim could lead to green spaces disappearing in towns and cities.

Julian Hartley, mortgage director at [ING Direct](#) said: "As planning regulations are relaxed and more local authorities sell green areas, we're likely to see the green premium increase significantly."

