



Designing Public Spaces

Energized Public Spaces Design Guidelines

Approved February 2019



THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION



Abstract

The *Designing Public Spaces: Energized Public Spaces Design Guidelines* should be used in conjunction with Sector Plan Design Guidelines. This document will be used to guide the design of public spaces within the *Energized Public Spaces Functional Master Plan (EPS Plan)* Study Area as outlined in more detail in these guidelines. The guidelines are based on existing conditions analysis, stakeholder input and current best practices in public space design from the region and beyond. Design guidelines provide guidance that informs the character and quality of plan recommendations, park types, and zoning code requirements. These design guidelines are approved by the Montgomery County Planning Board for use by public entities, developers and designers in preparing design proposals, and for planners and the Board in reviewing them. These guidelines may need to be reviewed and updated by the Planning Board as best practices and conditions in the *EPS Plan* Study Area evolve overtime.

Sources of Copies

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Illustration by Atul Sharma

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INTRODUCTION

“The way we build cities, the way we make places, can have a profound effect on what kinds of lives are lived within those spaces.”

William H. Whyte



Approved and Adopted March 2018 |
ENERGIZED PUBLIC SPACES FUNCTIONAL MASTER PLAN
for Parks in Mixed Use and Higher Density Residential Areas



The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Department of Parks, Montgomery County

Delivering Energized Public Spaces

Integrating a system of public spaces where the County is growing

Montgomery County has always been known for its natural beauty, great neighborhoods and public spaces. The need to continue to provide adequate public spaces within our most densely populated areas is as critical to this vision as it is challenging. Our region continues to be diverse and to grow within our neighborhood centers. *Designing Public Spaces: Energized Public Spaces Design Guidelines* is a companion to the *Energized Public Spaces Functional Master Plan (EPS Plan)*. The scope of these guidelines addresses the network of public spaces within the adopted *EPS Plan* Study Area - refer to Figure 1.2.

The role of public spaces must support and adapt to a community's evolving social, recreational and environmental needs. The term "energized" means population density. The energized portion refers to the unique ability to attract people to a place and promote social interaction/gathering within the community – a common sense of belonging. The big shift on the role of parks, especially those located in areas with more people and jobs, is that parks and public spaces are no longer only amenities. They became a platform for

a diversity of community experiences. The terminology "public spaces" includes "urban parks" and "non-urban parks". The terminology "urban parks" allows the M-NCPPC to apply for different public or private grants.

In Chapter 2, the document provides areawide design guidelines that are applicable to all public spaces within the EPS Study Area. The network of public spaces within the EPS Study Area will be inviting, easily accessible, attractive, comfortable, safe, and provide a range of experiences.

The *Vision 2030 Plan* and the *2017 Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PROS) Plan* recognize the need to focus on urban parks in the County's growing urban centers and lay the groundwork for a new urban park typology that will require partnerships, grants, creative funding and comprehensive and sustainable approaches to their planning, design, construction, maintenance and programming.

Urban parks offer a larger design challenge due to their locations within expensive and scarce lands. They

necessitate more condensed, efficient and multi-use public spaces. Chapter 3 focuses on the urban park typology established in the *2017 PROS Plan*, and provides specific key elements based on the main function of each park type. All public spaces that fit in the description of one or more urban park types, or were identified as such in master or sector plans, should follow the guidelines in both Chapters 2 and 3.

Depending on the property ownership, public spaces could be privately- or publicly-owned and maintained. These spaces are accessible to the public within a larger network owned by:

- M-NCPPC, Montgomery County, Public Schools, Other Municipalities bounding the EPS Study Area, and Private Owners (POPS - Privately-Owned Public Spaces)

The Appendix of this document provides links to our upcoming online library showing detailed examples and Case Studies of Urban Park and Public Space Types for additional guidance on open space design.

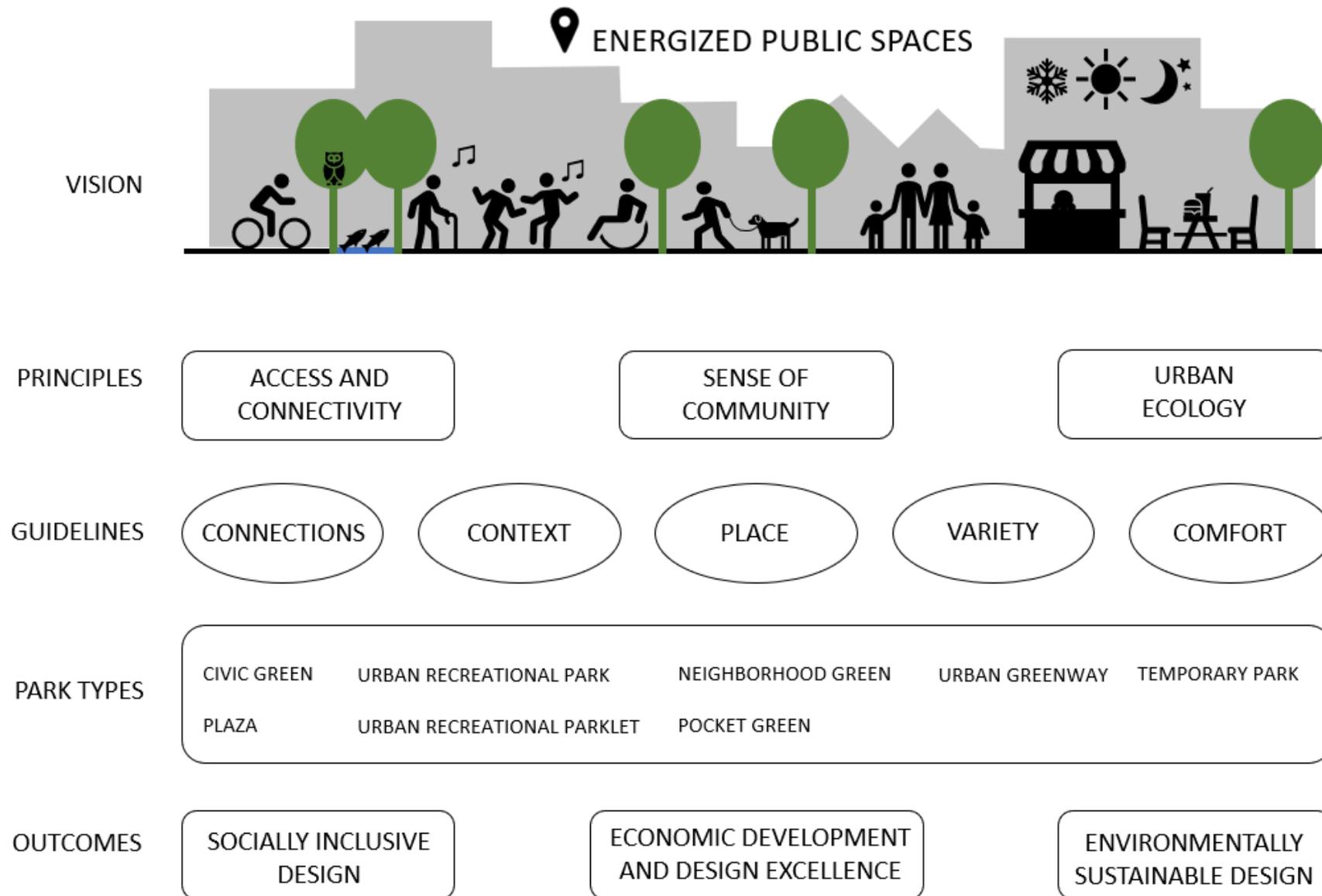


Figure 1.1 - Energized Public Spaces Design Framework

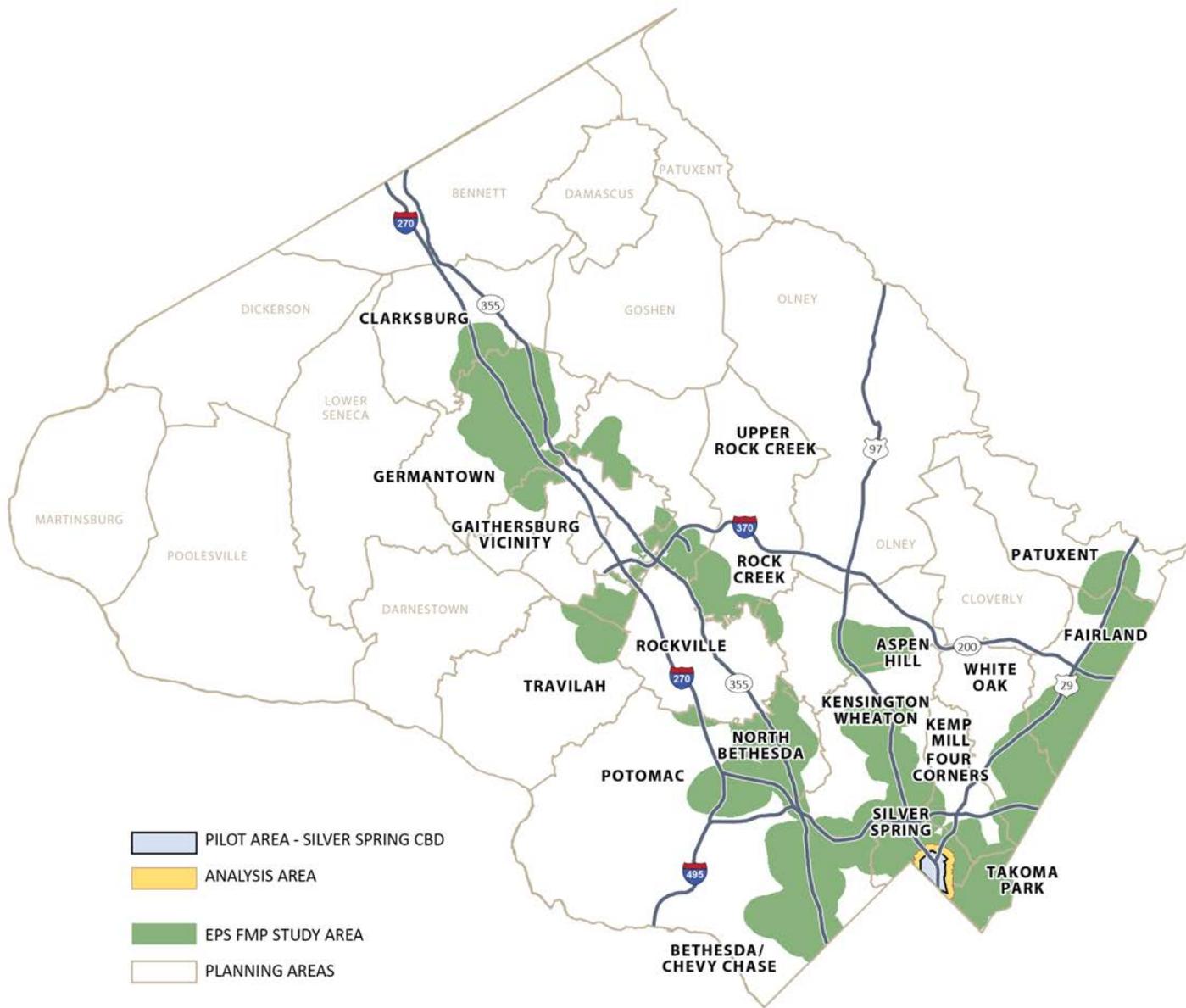


Figure 1.2 - Energized Public Spaces Plan Study Area and Pilot Area Map

For the criteria used to select the study area, refer to Energized Public Spaces Functional Master Plan, March 2018.

1.1 Vision and Purpose

“Provide stronger, healthier and happier communities in the County. In the places where we have the most people, everyone can walk to a public space to enjoy the outdoors.” *Energized Public Spaces Functional Master Plan*



Klyde Warren Park, Dallas Art District, TX. Source: Pinterest

Vision and Purpose

The *EPS Plan*'s vision is to provide access to a network of public spaces within a 10-minute walking distance for a resident or worker in our denser urban areas. The *EPS Plan* was created to provide a comprehensive approach to define and locate different park types within the EPS Study Area. This document, *Designing Public Spaces: Energized Public Spaces Design Guidelines*, provides overall design guidance for all existing and proposed public spaces within the EPS Study Area. This document aligns with and supports the policies included in the *2017 PROS Plan*, the *EPS Plan*, and the *2017 Recreational Guidelines for Private Residential Development (Recreation Guidelines)*. It will provide overall design guidance to all stakeholders including planners, designers, decision-makers, developers, land owners and citizens during master and sector plan processes. It will also be used in the development review process by the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) staff.

How to Use these Guidelines

A. Master and Sector Plans, Associated Design Guidelines and Streetscape Standards:

For Master and Sector Plans and associated documents within the larger EPS Study Area, this document should be used to assist in the development of recommendations for park and public space design. For Plan areas not covered within the EPS Study Area, these guidelines will serve as an available resource for the same purpose.

B. Development Review:

For Development Review applications in Master and Sector Plans within the larger EPS Study Area, this document will provide guidance on the design of privately-owned Public Open Spaces. Specific site recommendations in the Master or Sector Plan and the associated Plan Design Guidelines relating to the design of Public Open Spaces will take precedence. However, in the absence of specific language for designing public spaces in Master and Sector Plans, these guidelines should inform the design of Public Space.

For Development Review applications in Master and Sector Plans outside of the EPS Study Area, these guidelines will serve as an available resource to help achieve excellence in the design of the space.

Guidelines Flexibility

The Planning Board may approve alternative design approaches that better meet the intent of the design guidelines. This review flexibility will allow room for truly exceptional and unexpected creative solutions to improve public spaces.

In addition to compliance with the guidelines, unique design proposals with alternative solutions will be evaluated based on the surrounding context, site conditions, and how the project meets the *EPS Plan*, master/sector plan goals, design principles and design guidelines intent, and other studies and policies affecting the specific development site.

1.2 Goals

Develop Flexible Design Guidelines...

- That are adaptable, supportive of the existing network of public spaces, and are responsive to diverse, changing demographics and needs within the County (Refer to Chapter 2).
- That offer a flexible menu of options within different contexts and settings for each urban park type identified in the *2017 PROS Plan* and in master or sector plans as they are created and adopted (Refer to Chapter 3).

Create a Common Language for Urban Parks and Public Spaces...

- That allows alignment of input from County officials, staff, the development community and citizens on the types of amenities and/or programming they can expect in a particular type of park or public space.
- That clarifies the roles and expectations from developers and landowners when zoning requires publicly accessible spaces.
- That guides M-NCPPC staff in the planning, design, and development review processes.

Provide Examples...

- That illustrate the design intent proposed in this document through photographs with explanatory captions in Chapter 3 and additional case studies in upcoming online library.

1.3 Integrated Public Process

This document was created through a public process that provided input and information from different groups. Specifically, these groups included:

Urban Parks Advisory Group

Formed with volunteers representing the following three major stakeholder groups:

- Citizen or Community Group Representatives
- Property Owners, Developers, Designers
- Montgomery County Government Staff

The goals of this group were to help staff analyze and develop overall design guidelines for a diverse network of parks and public spaces within the *EPS Plan* Study Area.

Core Team and Designers Groups

An internal core team of designers and planners from the Montgomery County Departments of Parks and Planning met throughout the process to create, write and coordinate the written and graphic content of these guidelines.

Operations Framework Document

Following the adoption of these guidelines, an Operations Framework - another companion document to the *EPS Plan* - will be created. This document will align the programming, policing, maintenance and operations of new and existing public spaces with the principles and design guidelines discussed in this document.

The integration of these two documents will help in the delivery of successful public spaces through partnerships that will maximize use and programming, offset costs and help serve a more inclusive and larger public.

1.4 Outcomes

“City parks play a vital role in the social, economic and physical well-being of America’s cities and their residents. Parks are now recognized as powerful tools for urban communities and local economies.” City Parks Alliance

Well-designed parks and public spaces, particularly within our community and neighborhood centers, promote social interaction, provide a respite with nature for citizens, create economic value for surrounding neighborhoods and property owners, and help relieve and mitigate heat island effects and storm water runoff. They also provide natural habitat and views of nature. They are a platform for many community experiences that have direct and indirect benefits to the lifestyle and health of residents, employees, and visitors.

Parks and public spaces have always played an important role in the quality of life in Montgomery County. They support mental and physical health for all of us. Our parks are inclusive and enjoyed by all county residents and visitors, no matter one’s economic standing, ethnicity or physical ability. They have been the places where our natural environment and cultural attractions are emphasized and preserved, where we

learn about and enjoy nature, where we recreate, and where we can just relax.

In the past, County parks were used to frame neighborhoods and preserve natural features and corridors. As the County continues to grow and densify, a greater emphasis on parks as central focal points and points of refuge for neighborhoods and communities needs to be realized.

Socially Inclusive Design - An integrated, welcoming, safe, comfortable, inviting and easily-accessible network of parks and public spaces promotes community-building and encourages stewardship of our cultural and natural resources. Well-designed parks and public spaces generate community identity, pride, and advocacy as well as champion and promote physical and mental health.

Economic Development and Design Excellence - Well-designed parks and public spaces increase surrounding property values and become the “postcards” of communities by promoting their livability and attractiveness. As economic drivers, they

increase the desire to live in, work in and visit these communities.

Environmentally Sustainable Design - The implementation of sustainable design practices in parks and public spaces will continue to support the County’s desire to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 2027 (*Resolution 18-794*) and promote community resilience to climate change. By offsetting urban heat island effects, reducing stormwater run off, connecting wildlife corridors, and absorbing more carbon, parks and public spaces protect our limited natural resources while promoting human and habitat health.



People **EXERCISE MORE** if they have access to **PARKS** and other safe outdoor places. **Physical activity can reduce or prevent serious health problems.**

PARKS INCREASE PROPERTY VALUES



Houses near parks or trails have **5-20% higher property values** than those in the surrounding community.

PARKS SAVE MONEY ON INFRASTRUCTURE

Cities are creating and using parks as a green infrastructure approach to **managing stormwater and preventing flooding.**



Using just one park and investing in green infrastructure instead of gray infrastructure, the **City of Atlanta is saving at least**

\$16 MILLION

PARKS KEEP CITIES COOLER

Parks help to cool cities by reducing the heat island effect.



PARKS ATTRACT RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES



Infographics in this page illustrate the series of benefits associated to an integrated network of parks and public spaces within urban areas. Source: City Parks Alliance

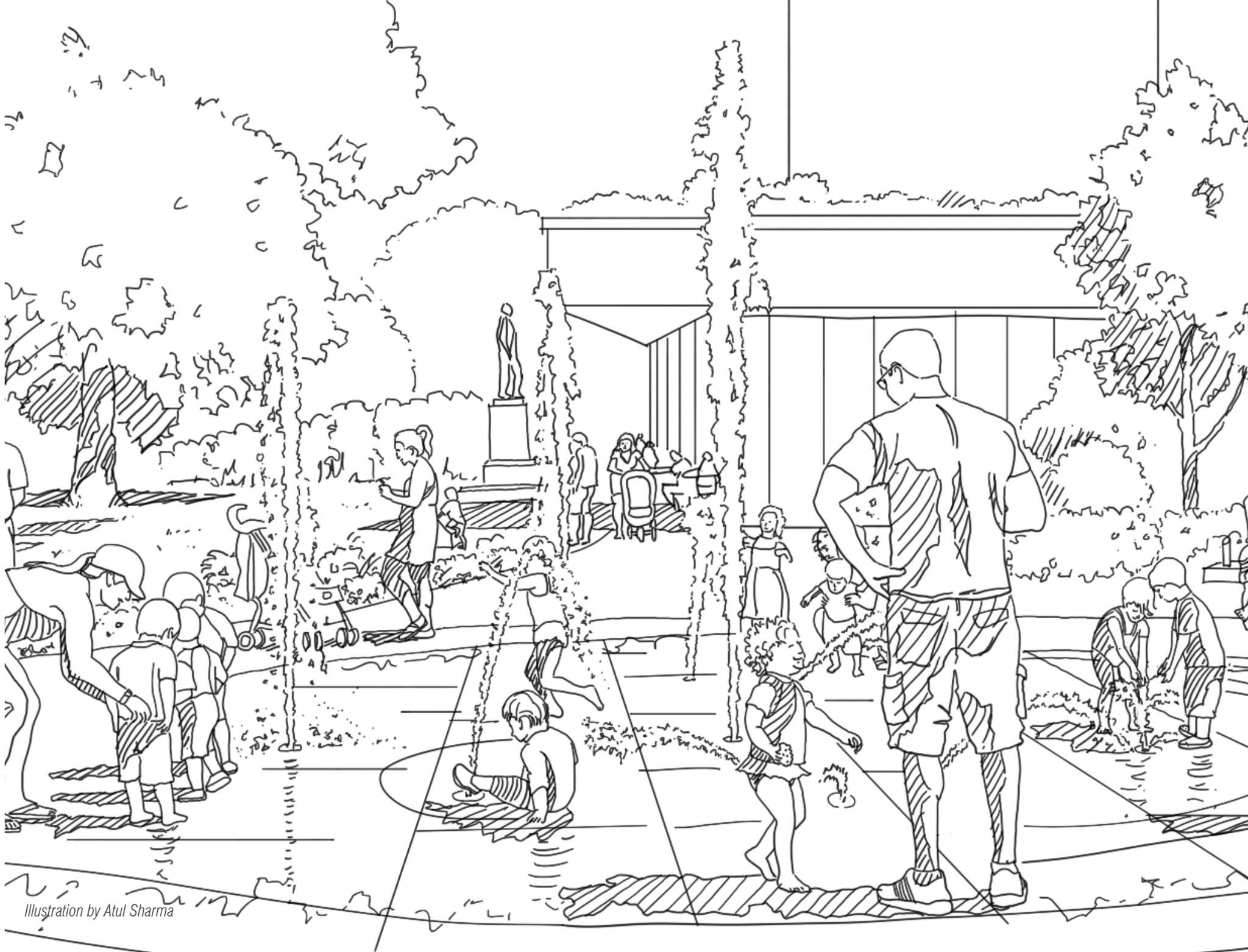


Illustration by Atul Sharma

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AREAWIDE DESIGN GUIDELINES

“The measure of any great civilization is in its cities, and the measure of a city’s greatness is to be found in the quality of its public spaces, its parks and squares.”

John Ruskin

2.1 Design Principles

Three design principles support the goals of *Vision 2030 Strategic Plan*, the *2017 PROS Plan* and the *EPS Plan*, and provide the foundation for the guidelines that will steer the design of all publicly accessible parks and public spaces within the EPS Study Area, and throughout Montgomery County.



ACCESS & CONNECTIVITY

Public spaces must be open and inviting to everyone. They should be centrally located and easily accessible - within a 10-minute walking distance. Public spaces should be linked to a larger street and open spaces network. Urban public spaces are well-defined and framed with fronting streets and buildings providing synergy of uses and making the space a focal point of a larger area or neighborhood.



SENSE OF COMMUNITY

Public spaces are the physical, social, cultural and environmental “heart” of communities in districts, neighborhoods, towns and cities. They are the places of community identity, value, pride and social interaction. They must be attractive, safe and engaging with a range of experiences for social gathering, relaxation and active recreation or play.



URBAN ECOLOGY

Public spaces must support the social and environmental well-being of the greater community. They inherently promote health and habitat by helping clean and filter the air and water, keep places cooler, and contribute to community resilience by acting as green infrastructure. In addition, public spaces encourage greater environmental stewardship, education and responsible interaction with natural habitat.

2.2 Design Guidelines

While the three design principles are at the core of all public spaces in Montgomery County, public space design should be considered through the lens of the following five design guidelines that shape the public realm framework of parks, streets and other public spaces within the EPS Study Area. Each guideline contains a series of topics to be considered and addressed during the design process. Table 2.1 summarizes the design intent of each design guideline, and its associated topics.

	Guideline	Design Intent	Topic
A.	CONTEXT	Incorporate Site Context in the Design of Public Spaces	Adjacencies Existing Conditions Planned Conditions
B.	PLACE	Celebrate and Incorporate Community Identity	Features Community-Driven Process
C.	COMFORT	Make Public Spaces Inviting	Enclosure Amenity Design and Location Safety
D.	VARIETY	Provide Flexible Spaces for a Diversity of Activities and Experiences	Space Flexibility Diverse Programming
E.	CONNECTIONS	Enhance Community Connections	Access Multiple Links Wayfinding

Table 2.1 - Matrix illustrating Design Guidelines, their Design Intent, and Topics

A.

CONTEXT

Intent: Incorporate Site Context in the Design of Public Spaces

Create vibrant public spaces that are distinctive to the location, a site's topography and unique traits. A community's surrounding physical form and architecture should be considered in the design of the public spaces.

1. **ADJACENCIES:** Ensure public spaces relate to adjacent streets, open spaces, architecture and landscape.
 - a. **Public Realm:** Reinforce and integrate new parks and public space into the public realm of street, trail and park networks.
 - b. **Architecture/Landscape:** Respond to adjacent building entrances, unique building forms and/or landscape masses. Buildings facing and near parks should be inviting to pedestrians with entrances, windows, and active uses at the ground floor. Where elevations lack these features, such as at blank walls and at garages, consider incorporating public art features such as colorful and/or moving screens or murals to provide pedestrian interest.
 - c. **Defined Space:** Design urban parks and open spaces as “living rooms” of our neighborhoods, towns and cities by including streets, landscape and walls that define the space.

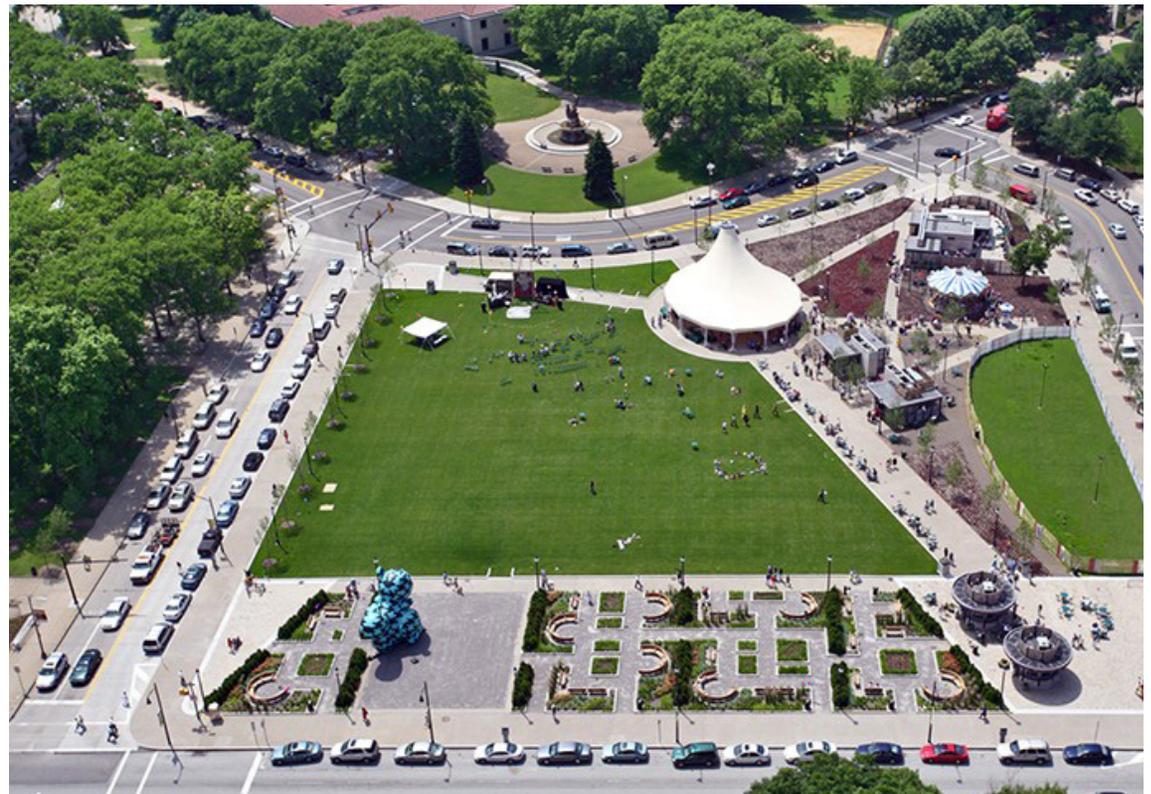


Pentagon Row Plaza, Arlington, Virginia. The centrally located plaza is a public space framed by buildings and landscape features. The central green space allows visual connections to and from the park, and also from the surrounding ground floor retail and residential units. The space caters to the needs of the visitors and residents. Source: Federal Realty Investment Trust

“A sustainable park is a park that’s made to preserve natural resources and promote quality of life for the people around it. It uses existing native plants and geographic features to be more efficient, while also enjoyable.” - Meeting of the Minds

“Streets and their sidewalks, and the main public places of a city, are its most vital organs.” – Jane Jacobs

- d. **Views:** Capitalize on views and important axes to and from the site - design places to see and be seen. Frame important signature elements of the public space with landscape, trees and/or topography. Frame views out from the park towards landmark buildings, building entrances, and/or major view axes with pathways, landscapes, rows or bosques of trees or topography.
2. **EXISTING CONDITIONS:** Take advantage of existing geography, landscapes, topography and microclimates. Use existing topography to inform park design and to minimize extreme excavation or grading. Consider balanced terracing to accommodate major grade changes and to enhance important views.
3. **PLANNED CONDITIONS:** Consider nearby planned development and infrastructure improvements to design with the flexibility to integrate those assets and constraints into a cohesive neighborhood plan. Within all existing or new neighborhood or site plans, the park or public space should be considered a central “room” within the larger mass of building frontages and blocks.



Schenley Plaza, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, takes advantage of existing adjacent institutional buildings facing the central lawn area by creating visual and physical connections, making it a central civic focal point for the surrounding community. Source: Sasaki

B.

PLACE

Intent: Celebrate and Incorporate Community Identity

Public spaces are places that bring economic and social value to their surrounding communities through people's interactions and enhancement of their identity. Linking physical, historic, cultural, and natural features of the site into the design of the park or public space creates a unique sense of place. Each public space should celebrate the special features that provide its unique identity and help the community engage and learn.

1. **IDENTITY:** Incorporate physical, social, cultural and natural features of the site and neighborhood into the design of the park or public space.
2. **FEATURES:** Design features that will attract people to the public space and make it an inviting destination, or community focal point. Make special features visible to invite people to use the space and, when appropriate, tell a story. All features should be designed as an integrated system with clear circulation to defined spaces and featured artistic, historic and/or programmed components.
 - a. **Signage:** Where appropriate, consider special signage or branding that reflects the historic, cultural or natural character of the community. Provide opportunities for interpretation of unique community features such as wetlands, tree groves, or historic elements.
 - b. **Public Art:** Integrate public art into the designs of parks or public spaces and its surroundings. Art can be a featured piece, or part of the architectural elements of the spaces such as the

paving or a paving feature, the light poles, an interactive water feature, furnishings, signage and/or an element of the adjacent or surrounding landscape or architecture. Artwork should be designed by an artist, who engages the community in the design process. Interactive art features are encouraged over non-interactive art features.

- c. **Historic Features:** Reuse or renovate existing historic or cultural features where feasible in or adjacent to parks and public spaces.
- d. **Natural Features** - Incorporate and/or create settings and resources that bring nature, existing geography and/or topography into the design of the public space.
 - i. To the greatest extent possible, use native plants and tree species that thrive in our climate. Native plants are typically drought tolerant, are hospitable to native fauna and help to create a natural link between our parks, open spaces and natural resources.



Indianapolis Cultural Trail, Indiana, is an 8-mile linear park and trail that connects six cultural districts. New features incorporate public art and lighting, allowing use of the space at night. Source: visitindiana.com

“By turning ‘spaces’ into ‘places’ we can take a step towards providing inhabitants with access to interesting, equitable and attractive settings to meet various needs and facilitate more interaction in the urban life.” Source: Global Public Space Toolkit: From Global Principles to Local Policies and Practice (2016), UN-HABITAT

- ii. Consider the use of a diverse palette of plant and tree species that provide different colors, forms and textures throughout all the seasons. Diverse plant types also minimize potential expansive destruction from pests or harsh climate conditions.
- iii. Consider annual plantings to heighten colorful spring, summer and fall experiences in important focal areas within parks.
- iv. Bio-swales, rain gardens, conservation landscapes and porous pavers, as well as green roofs on buildings, should be incorporated into park and open space designs to mitigate stormwater runoff. Provide a design solution that balances both recreation space and habitat restoration/conservation.
- v. Where possible, use recycled or recyclable materials and/or materials with low environmental impacts.
- vi. Consider interactive design solutions to enhance the relationship between people and elements of the natural environment.



Riverfront Park, Newark, New Jersey, was created by transforming the previously contaminated industrial land adjacent to the city’s Passaic River. It consists of various waterfront recreational amenities for citizens to enjoy. Interpretive signage and a variety of event venues support community demographics and creates a sense of belonging, pride and ownership. Source: Newark Riverfront (top); City Village News (bottom left); Inhabitat (bottom right)

3. **COMMUNITY-DRIVEN PROCESS:** Engage the community early in the design process to ensure the design is meaningful and reflective of community identity. Engage stakeholders such as property owners, developers, non-profit groups, community members, artists, and public agencies to collaborate in delivering creative design solutions and development strategies.

a. **Temporary Places:** Consider short-term/ temporary design solutions that reflect community identity where possible. They can become pilot public spaces before long-term development occurs. Refer to Chapter 3 - 3.1.8 Temporary and/ or Interim Park.

b. **Performance Surveys:** Consider different ways to gather public input on the possible uses of the public space. This information can help improve future design solutions for the space.

c. **Environmental Stewardship:** Work with the community and schools to develop early advocacy programs and activities to encourage nature appreciation, education, and stewardship.

“Cultural representation and diversity in neighborhoods are determinants of community resilience. Preservation of cultural diversity helps social systems better adapt to and cope with change. Consequently, integrating local input into decision making is essential to preserving cultural assets.”

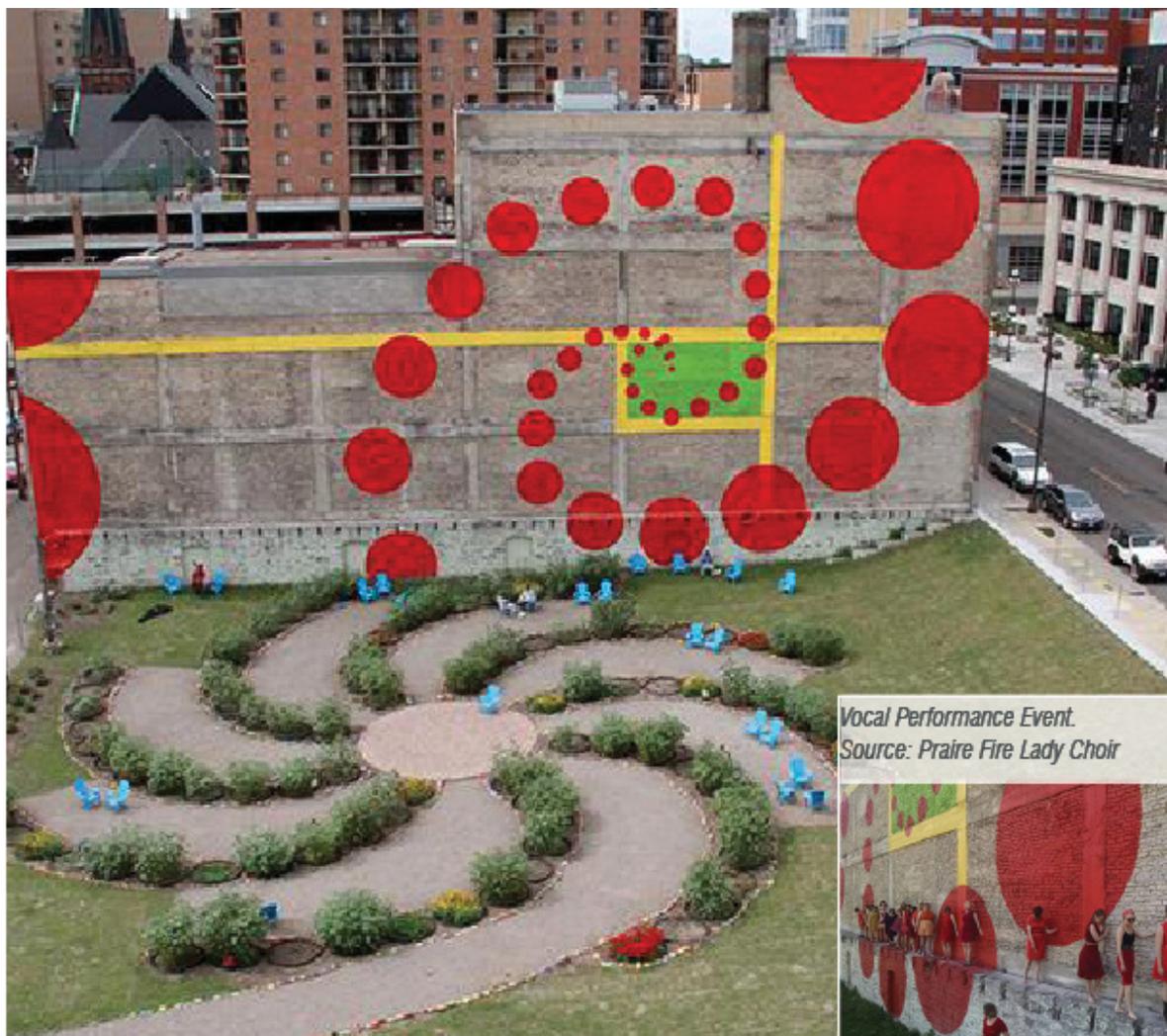
*Source: Inclusive Healthy Places,
Gehl Institute*



Benito Juarez Park, City of Maywood, California, created this 40-foot-long mosaic dragon as a popular centerpiece that animates the park. It was inspired from traditional Oaxacan art and created by local artist Jolino Beserra. Located in the most crowded and park-poor community of Los Angeles County, the park is “a neighborhood icon created in the cultural vocabulary of its largely Mexican-American residents”- Trust for Public Land. Source:Trust for Public Land



(Top and bottom) Wunder Garten in the NoMa BID, Washington DC, is an example of adding a variety of pop-up events and program elements to serve the community's need for parks and public spaces. Source: Top: optoro.com; Bottom: Wundergarten DC



Vocal Performance Event.
Source: Praire Fire Lady Choir

The Urban Flower Field, St.Paul, Minnesota, interim park and mural was created through collaboration between the City of St. Paul Parks and Recreation, Public Art Saint Paul, the University of St. Thomas, Minneapolis College of Art and Design and Neighborhood Volunteers. This temporary space will remain in place while a permanent park is planned and designed. Source: City of St.Paul

C.

COMFORT

Intent: Make Public Spaces Inviting

Great parks are comfortable to people of all ages, ethnicities and economic backgrounds. Parks and public space design should address the elements of human scale, enclosure and scenery by providing desirable amenities. People need to feel attracted to the space, welcomed in, feel comfortable to stay, and delighted to come back.

1. **ENCLOSURE** - Frame spaces and/or pathways within parks with landscape, trees and/or light fixtures to define the spaces, and create edges to establish a transition from space to space. In parks over ½ acre, provide different spaces and experiences that encourage multiple park uses and users through the creation of landscapes, park edges, and furnishings.
 - a. **Adequate Building Frontages:** Make sure buildings surrounding the central public space have frontage and publicly accessible areas that face the space to encourage human interaction and activity at the ground level. Provide a visible and accessible front to building entries. Refrain from creating separate “back door” entrances for persons with mobility limitations.
 - b. **Streets:** Ensure that public spaces are bordered by at least one street. Adjacent streets should have sidewalks to promote access and circulation from its other edges.
 - c. **Space Hierarchy:** Provide a sense of hierarchy through parks. All parks and open spaces should have at least one primary space with smaller spaces, pathways and alcoves feeding off them. This hierarchy should encourage greater circulation through the parks and provide multiple experiences such as places to gather as a group, throw a frisbee with friends, take a leisurely walk or jog, and/or to read a book alone.
 - d. **Surroundings:** Integrate public spaces with sidewalks, streets and alleys, circulation routes, recessed entries, courtyards, plazas, through-block connections, and weekend street closures.
 - e. **Scale:** Create opportunities for lively, pedestrian-oriented open spaces to attract interest and encourage interaction with the site, adjacent buildings, and street grid. Provide human-scale places to pause and contemplate views, to play and be active, and/or to gather with friends, family and community.
 - f. **Microclimate:** Take advantage of microclimate elements to make the best use of the site and bring comfort to pedestrians.
 - i. Wherever possible in parks and open spaces, plant large native tree species with expansive canopies when mature as iconic objects in the space. Large trees maximize evapotranspiration of rain and runoff, minimize heat island effects in the summer and provide shade for park users and adjacent buildings. Provide a balance of shaded and sunny areas.
 - ii. Consider solar exposure and natural ventilation in the placement of park spaces, paths and amenities. These elements are important in promoting park activities throughout different seasons.
 - iii. Add features to mitigate undesirable microclimatic conditions, such as structures to provide shade, and screening to buffer wind and noise.
2. **AMENITY DESIGN AND LOCATION:** Amenities should be located in places that maximize use. Furniture, sports amenities and special features should all support the overall park or open space concept and design.



Sister Cities Park, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, provides respite through tree shade and strategic placement of seating and other features. This arrangement provides relief from weather and also lets visitors stay outdoors and enjoy the public space longer. Source: M-NCPPC

(Top left) Ellsworth Plaza, Silver Spring, Maryland, has retail frontage that surrounds the plaza providing eyes on the space, and promoting a safe and comfortable location for users. Source: M-NCPPC; (Top right) Rittenhouse Square, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, has trees, benches, and shrubs to provide well defined boundaries, and separation from the hustle and bustle of the adjacent streets. High canopies allow visibility throughout the space. Source: PlanPhilly.com; (Bottom) Spruce Street Harbor Park, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Visitors take a break on hammocks during a hot summer afternoon. Source: M-NCPPC

a. **Furnishings:**

i. **Seating and Tables:** provide a variety of arrangements using comfortable and durable materials that are accessible to all ages and abilities. Permanent seating should be located at the edge of spaces and along connecting pathways where desired. Locate seating to promote views and lines of sight across spaces. Also consider movable furniture that allows visitors to make choices and to gather in smaller or larger groups when desired.

ii. **Trash and Recycle Bins:** Place in strategic locations with convenient access for collection and maintenance.

iii. **Bike Racks:** locate near transit stops, adjacent to building entries, near shared parking areas and/or next to play areas. Design bike racks to be attractive, playful and functional.

iv. **Drinking Fountains:** Provide drinking fountains near areas of physical activity that are accessible to all such as playgrounds, multi-use courts, trail heads, and exercise equipment. Design drinking fountains to be attractive, playful and functional.

b. **Visitor Facilities:** In larger parks or open spaces that allow for additional park facilities such as bathrooms or concession stands, design them to be adjacent to primary circulation routes and to maximize safe use.

i. **Restrooms:** Consider providing public restrooms, especially if the public space is

a regional destination and cannot rely on surrounding uses to provide service.

ii. **Concession/ kiosks:** Located in a way that maximizes use yet minimizes interruption of primary park spaces.

iii. **Wi-Fi:** Wherever possible, consider providing Wi-Fi access in public spaces.

3. **SAFETY:** Provide programming, visibility and active uses to encourage human interaction and promote a sense of personal safety.

a. **Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED):** Apply principles of CPTED

by providing open lines of sight throughout parks and public spaces. Encourage natural surveillance through strategic placement of trees, shrubs and furniture.

b. **Lighting:** Provide adequate lighting to highlight the public space as community focal points and to highlight special buildings and features throughout the day and evening. Consider seasonal lighting and provide adequate light levels to support pedestrian safety and security at central spaces and pathways at night. Light levels and the direction of lighting should maximize safety yet minimize night sky light pollution in the surrounding neighborhood.

c. **Ground Floor Transparency:** Provide adequate transparency through spaces at the ground level, especially at gathering areas, building entries and view corridors. Transparency provides the pedestrian with the ability to see activities in and



(Top and bottom) The Porch at 30th Street Station, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, implemented creative seating with swing seats and shade canopies, as well as pop up events, for visitors to enjoy the space and socialize in a comfortable setting. Source: universitycity.org

around the public spaces, promoting a sense of safety

- d. **Landscape:** Along walkways and more isolated play areas, provide appropriate native tree species with high canopies and low shrub species to maximize sight lines and minimize places to hide. Maintain landscape so that there is permanent visibility across open spaces.
- e. **Maintenance:** Design the spaces to allow efficient access for operations and maintenance. Consider maintenance needs from the beginning of the park design process. Provide access to water. If needed, provide structurally appropriate routes for maintenance vehicles and appropriate infrastructure year-round.



Christmas lights at Zuccotti Park, New York City, New York, heightens activity within public spaces beyond daylight hours. This also helps to strengthen safe and comfortable settings. Source: Wikipedia

“Many successful plazas have one common element: a sense of continuous enclosure. Think of it as an outdoor living room with the surrounding buildings as walls. You’re walking down the street and you suddenly enter this large open gathering space bordered by buildings. Without this sense of enclosure, you feel exposed to traffic and other flows of the city. An enclosed plaza feels more like a space to stay than a wide corridor to walk through.” Source: Projexity Blog (2015)

D.

VARIETY

Intent: Provide Flexible Spaces for a Diversity of Activities and Experiences

Parks and public spaces allow people to gather in a common place and share a range of activities and physical experiences that can be either active or contemplative. Urban parks and public spaces should encourage a diversity of uses by delivering unique spaces and features that accommodate social interaction. A variety of programming options should be employed at these spaces to serve different audiences.

1. FLEXIBILITY:

- a. **Design:** Spaces should be designed to be flexible to accommodate multiple types of programs and events. These programs should celebrate the physical, social, cultural, and natural features of the site and respond to the diversity within communities.
 - i. **Street Closure:** Where feasible, design the edges of public spaces to encourage temporary street closures to provide additional space for activities and events, especially during the weekends.
 - ii. **All weather/season:** In large or small parks and open spaces, consider how events such as food festivals, markets, games, movies, music, art and/or sports etc. can be accommodated over different times of the year. Consider integrating seasonal planting and appropriate infrastructure for these events.
 - iii. **Multi-Use Spaces/Facilities/Furnishings:** Give preference to multi-use spaces such as lawns, play fields and courts instead of specialized uses. Buildings located inside public spaces should be designed for flexible uses to accommodate changes in the program and demographics. Consider movable seating to allow flexibility in accommodating different spatial configurations and numbers of users. Consider including space for community-scale events such as performances and farmer's markets. Where possible, allow space for kiosks and community bulletin boards, cafes, or street vendors.
 - iv. **Community Open Space:** Create versatile spaces by providing continuous areas of lawn or pavement surrounded by paths.
 - v. **Diverse users:** Consider female and male, kids and seniors, people walking through or lingering.
- b. **Simultaneous Uses:** In large or small parks and open spaces, consider how events such as food festivals, markets, games, movies, concerts, art shows and/or sports etc. encourage simultaneous uses when desired. Foster interaction opportunities.
 - i. **All ages:** Provide activity areas for all ages, interests and backgrounds. Multi-generational facilities are encouraged.
 - ii. **All Experiences:** Provide spaces for active recreation, contemplation and social gathering.
 - iii. **Multi-Use Spaces/Facilities/Furnishings:** Give preference to multi-use spaces such as lawns, play fields and courts instead of specialized uses. Buildings located inside public spaces should be designed for flexible uses to accommodate changes in the program and demographics. Consider movable seating to allow flexibility in accommodating different spatial configurations and numbers of users. Consider including space for community-scale events such as performances and farmer's markets. Where possible, allow space for kiosks and community bulletin boards, cafes, or street vendors.
 - iv. **Community Open Space:** Create versatile spaces by providing continuous areas of lawn or pavement surrounded by paths.
 - v. **Diverse users:** Consider female and male, kids and seniors, people walking through or lingering.

2. DIVERSE PROGRAMMING: Design spaces that allow a diversity of programs in public spaces.

- a. **Promote Placemaking:** Where possible, promote a public placemaking process within public spaces that fosters public design and management which encourages community pride and future public spaces improvements.
- b. **Diverse Schedule of Operations:** Design public spaces to host different activities throughout the course of the day, week or year. Design spaces

for evening activity to give those who work and/or study during the day an opportunity to enjoy public spaces.

- c. **Diverse Scale of Events:** Consider space for programming and events at different scales to attract diverse users.



“A space performs well when people use it—especially when those people come from diverse groups and interact with each other, which promotes inclusion. Numerous studies have suggested that exposure to people who are different from one’s self—including differences in race, sexual preference, or religion—increases tolerance and empathy toward others. Creating spaces that invite a diversity of users helps build a more inclusive and equitable community for all.” Source: Inclusive Healthy Places, Gehl Institute



(Top and bottom left) Bryant Park, New York City, New York, is a great example of flexible furnishings, diverse programming, and supporting amenities that allows year-long use. Source: Bryant Park Corporation. (Bottom right) Mission Dolores Park, San Francisco, California, has a large unprogrammed lawn area that accommodates small to large scale events. This is used for picnics and active recreation at other times. Source: SF.Curbed.com

E.

CONNECTIONS

Intent: Enhance Community Connections

Successful public spaces are connected to their surrounding neighborhoods and easily accessible to all - including children, seniors and individuals with disabilities. Connections should prioritize the pedestrian experience of arrival and departure, the navigation of the space, and the selection of different destinations. Public spaces should be integrated to a network of existing parks, public spaces, ecological and historic/cultural areas and community destinations.

1. ACCESS:

a. Prioritize Pedestrian Circulation:

- i. Pedestrian circulation should be prioritized over other transportation uses (bicycles, motorized vehicles).
- ii. Provide direct pedestrian connections through the space to public transit and to adjacent public and private pedestrian infrastructure.
- iii. Provide ample space for pedestrian flow and circulation, especially in areas where there is already heavy pedestrian traffic or where the project is expected to increase pedestrian traffic.
- iv. Locate activity areas and programming in spaces that are centrally located in relation to view corridors, entries, public transit and the adjacent street grid.
- v. Add features to assist pedestrians in navigating sloped sites, long blocks, or other site challenges. Include exterior stairs and landings, escalators, elevators, and seating at key resting points. Provide through-

block connections and accessible ramps to recreational, educational, and habitat preservation areas.

- vi. Consider implementing “woonerf:” roadways that are shared by pedestrians, bicycles and vehicles in all parks and public spaces, where appropriate.

b. **Access to All:** Make public spaces feel welcoming to all and meet the needs of diverse communities to promote equitable access. Integrate universal access into site design. Consider children, seniors and individuals with disabilities.

c. **Connect with Nature:** Provide opportunities to connect to off-site natural areas to promote a continuous habitat and increase migration corridors wherever possible. Promote watershed connectivity through education and best stormwater management practices. Where possible, daylight and/or restore existing waterways.

d. **Gateways:** Design access points with

distinguished features so all visitors can be greeted and welcomed through a “front door” to the park/public space.

e. **Loading/Service Areas:** Place loading/service areas away from main entries, storefronts and fronting streets surrounding the public space, when possible. Provide vegetation to buffer loading/service areas from the surrounding public space.

2. MULTIPLE LINKS:

a. **Integrate Mobility:** Locate public spaces in proximity to transportation options, streets networks, sidewalks, trails and mid-block connections that offer safe pedestrian access and crossings.

b. **Parking:** Where multiple transportation options such as walking, biking and transit are readily available, public spaces should not contain dedicated parking lots. Provide shared parking on streets and at nearby surface parking lots or garages where possible.

*“One study found that people living within a half-mile of a park participate in 38 percent more exercise sessions per week than people who live further away.”
Source: Inclusive Healthy Places, Gehl Institute*

3. **WAYFINDING:** Provide clear and creative wayfinding to connect different spaces.

a. **Hours of Operations:** Provide clear and visible signage for park operation hours and closures. Where necessary, or desired, provide maps of the

park, and educational information.

b. **Signage:** Consider graphics and signage designs that connect to a network of public spaces within the same neighborhood/district. Consider the use of public art in signage that

makes people feel welcomed and part of the greater community.



Cheonggyecheon Stream, Seoul, Korea's restoration project brought transformation to an industrial eyesore by demolishing an elevated freeway and uncovering a section of the historic Cheonggyecheon Stream. This new amenity is an ecological and recreational asset for citizens to enjoy. The transformation also spurred dramatic economic growth to the area. Source: M-NCPPC



University of Washington, Seattle, Washington, provided wider sidewalks that allow comfortable pedestrian connections. Benches, trees and bike racks create socially inviting space and provide safe connections for pedestrians and commuters. Source: GGN (Gustafson Guthrie Nichol) Landscape Architects



“Safe Routes to Parks is NRPA’s campaign to implement environmental, policy, and program strategies that create safe and equitable access to parks for all people. These strategies align with the goals of the 10-Minute Walk campaign and are great tools and resources to increase access and safe walking connections to parks.” - National Recreation and Park Association. Source: NRPA



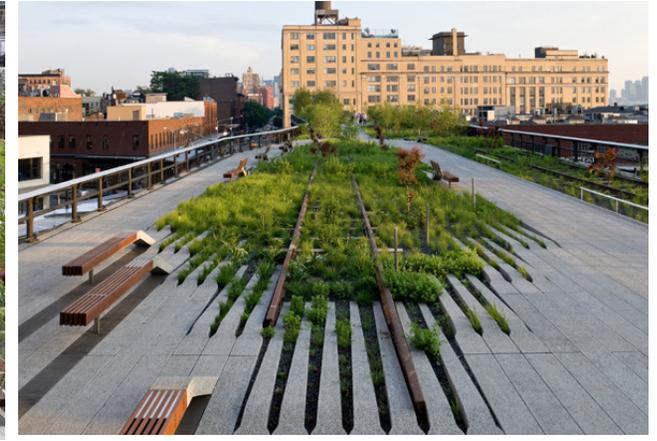
Rose Kennedy Greenway, Boston, Massachusetts, is a linear series of parks and gardens that re-connect many of Boston’s neighborhoods that had been previously isolated by an elevated freeway. Well-connected to the street grid and transit lines, the park is easily accessible by public transportation, walking and biking. Source: Nancy Lane/Boston Herald



Clear and strategic placement of wayfinding and signage assist navigation to and within a public space. Creative and inclusive designs that are accessible and representative of the users, such as tactile or multilingual signs, can provide diverse and safe connections for all. Source: Calgary Riverwalk



Designing safe connections to public spaces for all ages and abilities enables parks to function as multi-generational and inclusive spaces. Source: Indyculturaltrail.org



High Line Park, New York, NY. The High Line is a successful example of reimagining abandoned transportation infrastructure into an innovative and integrated system - a linear public park. Running along 20 blocks, this new space delivers an urban corridor connecting habitat, wildlife, people and neighborhoods. A design of new paving and plantings allows varying ratios of hard to soft surfaces that accommodates high pedestrian traffic flow and green spaces. Each element in the design considered sustainable principles such as material selection with low life-cycle costs, native, drought-resistant plant species to fit the High Line's micro-climates, and water recirculation.. Source: ASLA



Separated bike paths provide safe pathways for bikers, allowing multi-modal connections to parks and public spaces. Source: M-NCPPC



Yanweizhou Park, Jinhua City, China, delivered a bridge and path system that connects the city with nature and accounts for dynamic water currents and easy pedestrian traffic flow. Source: www.landezine.com; M-NCPPC



Downtown East Commons, Minneapolis, Minnesota, provided sidewalks with food truck parking that brings enclosure and activity for safe pedestrian circulation around the edges of the park. Creative landscaping and seating options also create a human scale for pedestrians. Source: Hargreaves Associates

2.3 Checklist

This checklist summarizes the areawide design guidelines. Design proposals will be evaluated based on a combination of adherence to these guidelines, staff review and input, and Planning Board approval.

A.

CONTEXT: Incorporate Site Context in the Placement of Public Spaces

- 1. **ADJACENCIES:** Ensure public spaces relate to adjacent streets, open spaces, architecture and landscape.
 - a. **Public Realm**
 - b. **Architecture/Landscape**
 - c. **Defined Space**
 - d. **Views**
- 2. **EXISTING CONDITIONS:** Take advantage of existing geography, landscapes, topography and microclimates. Use existing topography to inform park design and to minimize extreme excavation or grading. Consider balanced terracing to accommodate major grade changes and to enhance important views.
- 3. **PLANNED CONDITIONS:** Consider nearby planned development and infrastructure improvements to design with the flexibility to integrate those assets and constraints into a cohesive neighborhood plan.

B.

PLACE: Celebrate and Incorporate Community Identity

- 1. **FEATURES:** Design features that will attract people to the public space and make it an inviting destination, or community focal point.
 - a. **Signage**
 - b. **Public Art**
 - c. **Historic Features**
 - d. **Natural Features**
- 2. **COMMUNITY-DRIVEN PROCESS:** Engage the community early in the design process to ensure the design is meaningful and reflective of community identity.
 - a. **Temporary Places**
 - b. **Performance Surveys**
 - c. **Environmental Stewardship**

C.

COMFORT: Make Public Spaces Inviting

1. **ENCLOSURE** - Frame spaces and/or pathways within parks with landscape, trees and/or light fixtures to define the spaces, create edges or to establish a transition from space to space.

- a. **Adequate Building Frontages**
- b. **Streets**
- c. **Space Hierarchy**
- d. **Surroundings**
- e. **Scale**
- f. **Microclimate**

2. **AMENITY DESIGN AND LOCATION:** Amenities should be located in places that maximize use.

- a. **Furnishings**
- b. **Visitor Facilities**

3. **SAFETY:** Provide programming, visibility and active uses to encourage human interaction and promote a sense of personal safety.

- a. **Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)**
- b. **Lighting**
- c. **Ground Floor Transparency**
- d. **Landscape**
- e. **Maintenance**

D.

VARIETY: Provide Flexible Spaces for a Diversity of Activities and Experiences

- 1. **FLEXIBILITY:**
 - a. **Design:** Spaces should be designed to be flexible to accommodate multiple types of programs and events.
 - b. **Simultaneous Uses**
- 2. **DIVERSE PROGRAMMING:** Design spaces that allow a diversity of programs in public spaces.
 - a. **Promote Placemaking**
 - b. **Diverse Schedule of Operations**
 - c. **Diverse Scale of Events**

E.

CONNECTIONS: Enhance Community Connections

- 1. **ACCESS**
 - a. **Prioritize Pedestrian Circulation**
 - b. **Access to All**
 - c. **Connect with Nature**
 - d. **Gateways**
 - e. **Loading/Service Areas**
- 2. **MULTIPLE LINKS**
 - a. **Integrate Mobility**
 - b. **Parking:** Where multiple transportation options such as walking, biking and transit are readily available, public spaces should not contain dedicated parking lots.
- 3. **WAYFINDING:** Provide clear and creative wayfinding to connect different spaces.
 - a. **Hours of Operations**
 - b. **Signage**



Public Media Commons, St. Louis, Missouri -The Nine Network in partnership with the University of Missouri-St. Louis and St. Louis Public Radio constructed Public Media Commons on the site of a former parking lot that sits between the public television and radio stations. The goal of the project was to develop a new kind of public space that included traditional plaza components as well as features that could respond to media programming at the two stations. A perforated metal scrim was designed to allow for digital projection and contains digital screens. Source: asla.org



Illustration by Atul Sharma

3

URBAN PARK TYPES DESIGN ELEMENTS

“...public spaces matter, that people can be mobilized to save and expand them, and that there is always hope for the future...especially when people learn to cherish and work to preserve the rich variety of public spaces in their own often rapidly-changing, modernizing, noisy, tumultuous and colourful city.”

From the book: “Public Spaces: How They Humanize Cities”.

CIVIC GREEN

PLAZA

**URBAN
GREENWAY**

**URBAN
RECREATIONAL
PARK**

**NEIGHBORHOOD
GREEN**

**POCKET
GREEN**

**URBAN
RECREATIONAL
PARKLET**

**TEMPORARY/
INTERIM PARK**

3.1 Urban Park Types

Montgomery County parks are classified into two broad categories - Countywide Parks and Community Use Parks, with several park types in each category to serve the residents, workers and visitors of the County. The urban park typology was identified in the *2017 PROS Plan* with a park hierarchy based on each park's major function, service area, programs and key community features. These parks should be incorporated into the County's network of streets and public open spaces.

The *2017 PROS Plan* recommends that for each urban area, a unique open space system be planned to serve the projected neighborhood demographics. The urban design vision developed in future master plans or sector plans will help guide the neighborhood service area, program, key features, size and design of these open spaces. If an urban park can accommodate a range of amenities that correlate with multiple park types, the predominant function, program, features and context will determine the assigned park type within the hierarchy of open spaces.

COUNTYWIDE

The *2017 PROS Plan* defines four types of Countywide Urban Parks. These park types serve a larger urban high-density transit-oriented development area. They are programmed with numerous activities to have a regional draw within the County. Parking should be located within structures, underground or in nearby public parking lots, or along adjoining streets, rather than on-site. Parks may be lighted at night along major circulation routes, and/or at event or sports venues.

3.1.1 Civic Green

These spaces are formally planned, flexible, and programmed open spaces that serve as places for informal gathering, quiet contemplation, or large special events. Depending on size, they may support open air markets, concerts, festivals, and/or special events but are not often used for programmed recreational purposes. A large central lawn is often the main focus, with adjacent spaces providing complementary uses such as gardens, water features and/or shade structures.

3.1.2 Plaza

Plazas align with and complement the Civic Green park type. Plazas are formally planned, predominantly hardscaped open spaces for pedestrian traffic near transit stops and/or commercial and higher density residential areas. Depending on size, plazas may support activities including open air markets, concerts, festivals, and special events, but are not often used for active recreational purposes. They should face streets and building frontages to maximize pedestrian use and exposure and have access to sunlight.

3.1.3 Urban Recreational Park

Oriented to the recreational needs of surrounding neighborhoods and districts, this type of park provides space for many activities. Athletic fields, playing courts, picnic areas, dog parks, sitting areas and flexible grassy open spaces can all be common in this park type. Temporary programming can include farmer's markets, outdoor exercise classes, and/or community yard sales, etc. There should be space for safe drop-offs and integrated accessible parking for those who cannot walk to the park.

3.1.4 Urban Greenway

This is a linear park that provides trails or wide landscaped walkways and bikeways that may include other recreational and natural amenities such as playgrounds, seating and other furnishings, fitness stations and large trees. This type should specifically link to other green spaces, trails, natural systems, walkways, and bikeways, with extra space for vegetative ground cover and trees. Amenities may occur along road rights-of-way or public easements.

COMMUNITY USE

The 2017 PROS Plan defines three types of Community Use Urban Parks. Many of the County's developed Community Use Urban Parks are in the down-County with concentrations in the Bethesda and Silver Spring areas. They serve an important role as gathering places for the community and accommodate activities such as concerts, celebrations and festivals. They also offer outdoor places for area employees to have lunch. These parks may be programmed for more localized events and parking should not be provided on park property.

3.1.5 Neighborhood Green

This park type is formally planned, yet flexible to serve informal gatherings, lunchtime relaxation, or small special event gatherings. A major lawn area, shaded seating and pathways are typical facilities, with additional play areas, skating and/or community gardens also encouraged.

3.1.6 Urban Recreational Parklet

These park types serve the immediate neighborhood with active recreation. Typical facilities include sport courts, skating areas, and may include lawns, playgrounds or similar neighborhood recreation facilities.

3.1.7 Pocket Green

Also typically referred to as Pocket Park, Pocket Greens will play an important role in the formation of a public space network through higher density areas. These smaller park types will allow for "pauses" with a landscaped setting along the streets between larger open spaces within the open space network.

Pocket Greens are particularly important in areas where commercial activities are taking place. They are highly

visible and allow workers to take a lunch or coffee break while enjoying a contemplative environment with pedestrians strolling by. They can provide seating, areas to eat or read, and small play areas or game areas. This park type will serve residents, workers and visitors from the nearby blocks.

Research has suggested that smaller breaks during the work schedule increases productivity and health, especially mental health. Due to its small scale, the space should be highly visible from the street and include protection from the wind, traffic and noise.

3.1.8 Temporary and/or Interim Park

This document is introducing a new urban park type: the Temporary and/or Interim Park.

A Temporary park is a type of park created for a certain period of time in a location that is not currently planned as future public space. There is generally a beginning and an end time established.

An Interim park is a type of park created to bridge the time gap between design, funding and construction of a permanent public space and can accommodate temporary uses until resources for permanent uses become available. (e.g. turf area of Veterans Plaza at

Silver Spring prior to the Civic Center and Ice Rink being built).

Parks and public spaces sometimes take a long time to be constructed due to the significant amount of investment and resources required. Temporary/Interim Parks can be implemented faster and at a lower cost as a temporary commitment to respond to the community's immediate needs. Owners and/or county staff can use these temporary facilities to collect information on programming and functions that will serve a future permanent public space.

Urban Park Matrix

Table 3.1 consolidates the main elements of each urban park type side-by-side to better understand the different roles they each play within the network of public and privately-owned public spaces.

Unless stated, there is no hierarchy to these elements, and compliance with the guidelines does not guarantee approval from staff or the Planning Board. Design proposals will be evaluated based on a combination of adherence to these guidelines, staff review and input,

and Planning Board approval. The Planning Board can approve alternative design approaches that deliver truly exceptional solutions.



The White Flint Placemaking Festival, Montgomery County, Maryland was a community-led event at the Randolph Hills Shopping Center parking lot and turned the venue into a buzzing hub of activities. Events included music by local performers, food booths by vendors and restaurants from the area, lots of games and recreational activities for young and old, and even s'mores made over the fire pits. This community-led event was organized by M-NCPPC together with the Better Block Foundation and neighbors. The sector plan identifies a park within this site if redevelopment occurs. Source: M-NCPPC.

		CIVIC GREEN	PLAZA	URBAN GREENWAY
KEY DESIGN ELEMENTS	FUNCTION/ SERVICE AREA	COMMUNITY GATHERING OPEN SPACE REGIONAL DESTINATION SERVES SECTOR PLAN AREAS ACCOMMODATES LOCALS DAILY USES	COMMUNITY GATHERING PLACE REGIONAL DESTINATION SERVES SECTOR PLAN AREAS IN HIGH PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC ZONES ACCOMMODATES LOCALS DAILY USES	NETWORK CONNECTOR REGIONAL DESTINATION SERVES SECTOR PLAN AREAS OPEN SPACES NETWORK CONNECTOR: LINEAR AND CONTINUOUS PARKS AND OPEN SPACES ACCOMMODATES LOCALS DAILY USES
	MAIN PROGRAM	FOCUS ON SOCIAL GATHERING FLEXIBLE PROGRAM INFORMAL GATHERING UNSTRUCTURED RECREATION LARGE COMMUNITY GATHERINGS CAN ALSO ACCOMMODATE PLACES FOR QUIET CONTEMPLATION		ACTIVE PROGRAMMING AND EXPOSURE TO NATURE ALONG WIDE LANDSCAPED WALKWAYS AND BIKEWAYS, COMMUTING, RECREATIONAL TRAVEL (BIKING, WALKING, JOGGING, ETC.)
	KEY FEATURES	LARGE CENTRAL LAWN AS FOCAL POINT ABUNDANCE OF SEATING (SUNNY AND SHADED OPTIONS) PUBLIC ART: EXPLORE INTERACTIVE INSTALLATIONS WITH EDUCATION COMPONENT VISITOR AMENITIES	LARGE CENTRAL HARDSCAPE AS FOCAL POINT ABUNDANCE OF SEATING (SUNNY AND SHADED OPTIONS) PUBLIC ART: EXPLORE INTERACTIVE INSTALLATIONS WITH EDUCATION COMPONENT VISITOR AMENITIES	TRAILS WITH WALKWAYS AND BIKEWAYS LINED BY VEGETATIVE GROUND COVER AND TREES GOOD WAYFINDING SIGNAGE WITH CLEAR ENTRIES TO TRAILHEADS
	SITE PLACEMENT	AT THE CENTER OF MIXED USE AREAS CLEAR DELINEATION BETWEEN THE PUBLIC SPACE AND ADJACENT PRIVATE REALM MAXIMIZE BUILDING ENTRANCES AND WINDOWS FACING ONTO THE PARK: STOREFRONTS, MULTIPLE TOWNHOUSE OR APARTMENT STOOPS AND PORCHES, AND PRIMARY BUILDING ENTRANCES SEAMLESS TRANSITION BETWEEN THE PARK AND THE STREET SIDEWALK BORDERED BY AT LEAST ONE STREET, IDEALLY FOUR STREETS SURROUNDED BY ACTIVATING USES SHOULD NOT BE LOCATED BEHIND USES MUST NEVER BE LOCATED IN RESIDUAL/SURPLUS/LEFT-OVER SPACE		CONNECTOR TO OTHER PUBLIC SPACES AND NATURAL AREAS MAY FOLLOW NATURAL RESOURCES & RECREATIONAL AREAS ALONG ROAD R.O.W.S ENOUGH SETBACK FROM BUILDINGS TO PRESERVE CONTINUITY OF PATH/TRAIL AS PUBLIC ACCESSIBLE SPACE TRAIL ENTRANCES SHOULD BE VISIBLE AND ACCESSIBLE
	SIZE	½ ACRE MINIMUM; 1 ½ ACRES IDEAL	½ ACRE MINIMUM; 1 ACRE IDEAL	WIDTH = MINIMUM 10-FT TRAIL PLUS BUFFER VEGETATION (AASHTO) ENOUGH SETBACK FROM BUILDINGS TO PRESERVE CONTINUITY OF PATH/TRAIL AS PUBLIC ACCESSIBLE SPACE

Table 3.1 - Urban Parks Types Matrix: Comparison on Key Design Elements

URBAN RECREATIONAL PARK	URBAN RECREATIONAL PARKLET	NEIGHBORHOOD GREEN	POCKET GREEN	TEMPORARY/ INTERIM PARK
PLACE FOCUS ON ACTIVE PLAY REGIONAL DESTINATION SERVES SECTOR PLAN AREAS ACCOMMODATES LOCALS DAILY USES ACCOMMODATES LARGER GROUP RECREATION (TEAM SPORTS)	PLACE FOCUS ON ACTIVE PLAY LOCAL DESTINATION SERVES NEIGHBORHOOD/DISTRICT CONNECTED TO PUBLIC SPACES NETWORK ACCOMMODATES SMALLER GROUPS/INDIVIDUAL RECREATION	NEIGHBORHOOD GATHERING PLACE LOCAL DESTINATION SERVES NEIGHBORHOOD/DISTRICT	PLACE FOR PAUSE LOCAL DESTINATION SERVES NEIGHBORHOOD/DISTRICT CONNECTED TO PUBLIC SPACES NETWORK	EXPERIMENTAL PLACE REGIONAL & LOCAL DESTINATION ASSOCIATED TO THE FUNCTION OF ONE OF THE URBAN PARK TYPES DEFINED IN COLLABORATION WITH THE COMMUNITY
PRIMARILY RECREATIONAL PROGRAM FOCUSED ON ACTIVE RECREATION SUPPORTED BY CONTEMPLATIVE SETTING AND SOCIAL GATHERING SPACES ACTIVITIES TO ACCOMMODATE ALL AGE GROUPS		MIX OF SOCIAL GATHERING, ACTIVE RECREATION & CONTEMPLATIVE AREAS FLEXIBLE PROGRAM INFORMAL GATHERING PLACES FOR QUIET CONTEMPLATION UNSTRUCTURED RECREATION LOCAL COMMUNITY GATHERINGS	CONTEMPLATIVE AREAS SUPPORTED BY SOCIAL GATHERING AND ACTIVE RECREATION IN SMALLER SCALE FLEXIBLE PROGRAM PLACES FOR QUIET CONTEMPLATION UNSTRUCTURED RECREATION CONTACT WITH NATURE	VARIES FLEXIBLE PROGRAM BASED ON SELECTED URBAN PARK TYPE
PLAYING COURTS AND FIELDS MIX OF HARDSCAPE AND GRASSY OPEN SPACES MIX OF RESERVED AND UNRESERVED RECREATION SPACES CONSIDER CENTRAL LAWN AS THE FOCAL POINT WITH SUNNY AND SHADED AREAS AND SURROUNDED BY ACTIVATING USES MULTI-FUNCTIONAL STRUCTURES, INCLUDING PARK FURNITURE		LAWN AREA SURROUNDED BY COMPLEMENTARY USES SHADED SEATING AND SUNNY AREAS FLEXIBLE PLAY AREAS CONSIDER PUBLIC ART	SUNLIT SMALL GATHERING AREAS WITH A MIX OF SHADED AND SUNNY SEATING SMALL SCALE GREEN AREAS SMALL PLAY AREAS	PILOT ACTIVITIES FOR FUTURE PARK/PUBLIC SPACE ACTIVITIES/STRUCTURES= INCLUSIVE AND EASY TO PARTICIPATE
WITHIN WALKING DISTANCE OF HIGH DENSITY RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL AREAS PLACEMENT FACING ADJACENT COMMUNITY-ORIENTED USES: RECREATION CENTERS, LIBRARIES, ETC. BUILDING ENTRANCES FACING THE PARK - VISUALLY AND PHYSICALLY ACCESSIBLE FOR PARKLET: FACE MAJOR SIDEWALK ALONGSIDE STOREFRONTS		CENTER OF HIGH RESIDENTIAL USE PLACEMENT FACING ADJACENT COMMUNITY-ORIENTED USES: RECREATION CENTERS, LIBRARIES, ETC. BUILDING ENTRANCES FACING THE PARK - VISUALLY AND PHYSICALLY ACCESSIBLE	MAXIMIZE SUN EXPOSURE IN LOCATIONS IN-BETWEEN TALL BUILDINGS PROVIDE CONNECTIVITY TO OTHER PUBLIC SPACES AND TRANSIT	VARIES BASED ON SELECTED URBAN PARK TYPE PROVIDE ADA ACCESS SHOULD BE PLACED IN A VISIBLE LOCATION
VARIES BASED ON COMMUNITY SERVED	1/10 ACRE MINIMUM	1/4 ACRE MINIMUM	1/10 - 1/4 ACRE AVERAGE SIZE	VARIES BASED ON AVAILABLE LAND

3.1.1 Civic Green



Crown Park, Gaithersburg, Maryland.

Source: smarturbanliving.com

A centrally located common green within an active, mixed-use community. The public space is framed by two streets, mixed-use buildings, retail stores and townhomes. Restaurants offer outdoor seating and community-focused events, festivals and public markets.

Size: 0.68 acres; lawn area: ~0.23 acres.

FUNCTION/SERVICE AREA

- Community gathering open space
- Regional destination
- Serves sector plan areas
- Accommodates local daily uses

MAIN PROGRAM

- Focus on social gathering
- Flexible program
- Informal gathering
- Unstructured recreation
- Large community gatherings
- Can also accommodate places for quiet contemplation

KEY FEATURES

- Large central lawn as focal point
- Abundance of seating options (sunny and shaded options)
- Public art: explore interactive installations with education component
- Visitor amenities

SITE PLACEMENT

- At the center of mixed use areas
- Clear delineation between the public space and adjacent private realm
- Maximize building entrances and windows facing onto the park: storefronts, multiple townhouse or apartment stoops and porches, primary building entrances

- Seamless transitions between the park and the street sidewalk
- Bordered by at least one street, ideally four streets
- Surrounded by activating uses
- Should not be located behind uses
- Must never be located in residual/surplus/left-over space

SIZE

- ½ acre minimum; 1 ½ acres ideal



Schenley Plaza, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Source: Sasaki

This former parking lot was transformed into a gateway and green “heart” of the city. Key features: central lawn area surrounded by institutional buildings and streets on four sides. The introduction of food kiosks and a restaurant makes the space a destination even without a major event. The seasonal shade structure and trees along major pathways provide shade for those who want to escape the sun. A major bosque area in front of one of the institutional buildings offers an extension of shaded area to the place. Road closures for special events (as shown in this picture), integrates the plaza with its neighboring public spaces. The presence of smaller courtyards and formal gardens along the main streets helps the transition from busy traffic to an inviting green lawn and provides a buffer during events. Size: 3.4 acres; lawn area: ~1.0 acre

Bryant Park, New York, New York.

Source: Bryant Park Corporation, Wikipedia

Right: Southwest Terrace Cafe - food kiosks make Bryant Park a daily destination for workers while also serving visitors during major holidays and the vacation season.

Further right: The Lawn - this central open space offers a variety of uses from people watching to group conversations to major events such as movie nights and concerts. Movable seating provides flexibility to accommodate different types of gatherings.

Size: ~5.6 acres; lawn area: ~ 1.0 acre.



3.1.2 Plaza



Union Square, San Francisco, California. Source: resaconvention.com

Left: The main plaza overview with a large central hardscape as the focus is surrounded by activating uses of a hotel, commercial and retail buildings. In addition, the plaza paving eases congestion on sidewalks from surrounding commercial uses. Transit stops and a parking garage are located at the plaza. Center: The edge of the plaza faces storefronts across the streets and offers seating options for people watching. Right: The flexible central hardscape offers opportunities for large community events such as movies at night. Size: 2.6 acres.

FUNCTION/ SERVICE AREA:

- Community gathering place
- Regional destination
- Serves sector plan areas in high pedestrian traffic zones
- Accommodates local daily uses

MAIN PROGRAM:

- Focus on social gathering
- Flexible program
- Informal gathering
- Unstructured recreation
- Large community gatherings
- Can also accommodate places for quiet contemplation

KEY FEATURES

- Large central hardscape as focal point
- Abundance of seating options (sunny and shaded options)
- Public art: explore interactive installations with education component
- Visitor amenities

SITE PLACEMENT

- At the center of mixed use areas
- Clear delineation between the public space and adjacent private realm
- Maximize building entrances and windows facing onto the park: storefronts, multiple townhouse or apartment stoops and porches, primary building entrances

- Seamless transitions between the park and the street sidewalk
- Bordered by at least one street, ideally four streets
- Surrounded by activating uses
- Should not be located behind uses
- Must never be located in residual/surplus/left-over space

SIZE

- ½ acre minimum; 1 ½ acres ideal



Sundance Square Plaza, Fort Worth, Texas. Source: sundancesquare.com; www.pps.org, landscapeperformance.org

Left: This plaza is framed by two streets (3rd and 4th streets) with Main St. visually passing through its center. The unified hardscape pavement features a pavilion at one end and a dynamic, interactive spray fountain and permanent stage at the other. Public art installations create a spectacular display both day and night. The umbrellas offer shade in the summer. Center: To accommodate a variety of uses, the interactive fountains can be deactivated so the plaza can be used for other activities such as yoga, outdoor movies, seasonal festivals, or a weekend farmer's market. Right: A before picture when this area was a former parking lot. Size: 1.26 acres



Veterans Plaza, Silver Spring, Maryland. Source: Silver Spring Civic Building

Left: The large open hardscape and covered structure offer flexibility to host events such as Jazz festivals. The Civic Building structure and facade are designed to accommodate a temporary stage and related infrastructure. Center: On regular days, the plaza lighting, permanent seating and adjacent commercial uses invite the community to use the space during the night. Right: An Ice-rink brings a seasonal use for the covered area. Solar panels on top of the Civic Center Building provide energy for the ice rink chillers. Size: ~0.6 acres

3.1.3 Urban Greenway



Swamp Rabbit Trail, Greenville, South Carolina. Source: 10best.com. (left), visitgreenvillesc.com (middle), spicysouthernkitchen.com (right).

Left: The trail is integrated into the existing urban fabric, creating an amenity for residents and providing commuters with an alternative way to get to and from work. Middle and Right: The trail creates opportunities for views of nature within urban settings. Additionally, the trail's alignment connects several urban areas and educational campuses to one another, providing alternative commuting options that are fostering development partnerships where none previously existed. Length: 20 miles point-to-point

FUNCTION/ SERVICE AREA:

- Network connector
- Regional destination
- Serves sector plan areas
- Open spaces network connector: linear and continuous parks and open spaces
- Accommodates local daily uses

MAIN PROGRAM

- Active programming and exposure to nature along wide landscaped walkways and bikeways, commuting, recreational travel (biking, walking, jogging, etc.)

KEY FEATURES

- Trails with walkways and bikeways
- Lined by vegetative ground cover and trees
- Good wayfinding signage with clear entries to trailheads

SITE PLACEMENT

- Connector to other public spaces and natural areas
- May follow natural resources & recreational areas along road R.O.W.s
- Enough setback from buildings to preserve continuity of path/trail as public accessible space
- Trail entrances should be visible and accessible

SIZE

- Width = minimum 10-ft trail plus buffer vegetation (AASHTO)
- Enough setback from buildings to preserve continuity of path/trail as a linear public space



Crescent Park Trail, New Orleans, Louisiana. Source: Hargreaves Associates (left), Hargreaves Associates (middle), moveyabrass.com (right).
 Left: The conversion of this abandoned railroad into a park opened expansive views of the Mississippi River and New Orleans skyline. Middle: Furnishings recall the site's former industrial and shipping uses and provide contemplative areas throughout the park. Right: Former warehouse spaces along the linear park were restored and converted into event spaces that open up to views of the river and skyline. Size: 1.4 miles point-to-point, 20 acres



Thornton Creek Water Quality Channel, Seattle, Washington. Source: Walsh Construction Co. (left), M-NCPPC (top-middle), SvR (top-right)
 Left: The design and grading of this narrow day-lighted stream site addresses significant topographic changes between the channel and street. The new park is a former regional mall parking lot and is the driver for new market rate and senior housing at its edges. Overlooks and bridges allow pedestrians to enjoy the channel habitat and wildlife. Middle: Sculptures serve as markers for the public entry to the park. Right: Bridges, trails and walkways provide connections through this large block, as well as spaces to stroll, bike and skate. Size: 2.7 acres

3.1.4 Urban Recreational Park



Joe DiMaggio North Beach Playground, San Francisco, California. Source: San Francisco Public Works (left), baumanland.com (top-middle), baumanland.com (top-right).

Left: The park's interior is visible from surrounding streets with adjacent public transit opportunities easily accessible. Top Middle: Open court areas provide opportunities for a variety of flexible recreation uses. Top Right: Site topography is used as an opportunity for amenities. Size: 2.5 acres

FUNCTION/ SERVICE AREA:

- Focus on active play
- Regional destination
- Serves sector plan areas
- Accommodates local daily uses
- Accommodates larger group recreation (team sports)

MAIN PROGRAM

- Primarily recreational program focused on active recreation
- Supported by contemplative setting and social gathering spaces
- Activities to accommodate all age groups

KEY FEATURES

- Playing courts and fields
- Mix of hardscape and grassy open spaces
- Mix of reserved and unreserved recreation spaces
- Consider central lawn as the focal point with sunny and shaded areas and surrounded by activating uses
- Multi-functional structures, including park furniture

SITE PLACEMENT

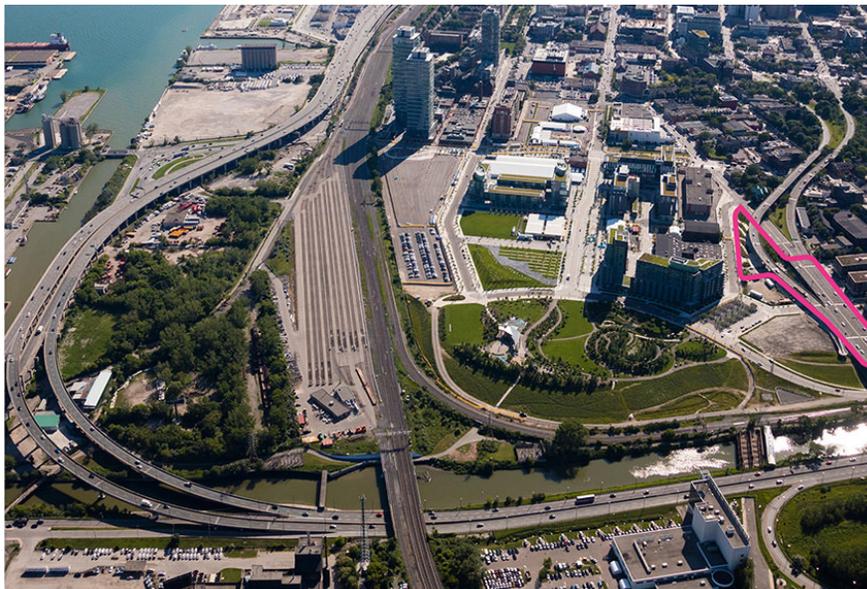
- Within walking distance of high density residential and commercial areas
- Placement facing adjacent community-oriented uses: recreation centers, libraries, etc.
- Building entrances facing the park - visually and physically accessible

SIZE

- Varies - based on community served



Soma West Dog Park and Skate Park, San Francisco, California. Source: wescover.com (left), San Francisco Department of Public Works (top-middle), yelp.com (top-right).
 Left: The skate park was built on a former surface parking lot beneath US-101, activating an otherwise neglected space. Top Middle: The dog park utilizes adjacent building walls and guardrails to create part of its enclosure. Artificial turf is a low-maintenance surfacing solution for a dog park. Top Right: Site lighting allows for safe night time use. Size: 1 acre



Underpass Park, Toronto, Canada. Source: asla.org (left), asla.org/Tom Arban (top-middle), asla.org/Tom Arban (top-right).
 Left: The park knits together surrounding neighborhoods making a connector through the underpass and not a barrier. Top Middle: Underutilized space converts to valuable recreation areas where land is limited. Top Right: Children's play structures serve as both functional equipment and sculptural objects in the park. Plants were selected for their ability to withstand harsh urban conditions while providing a layer of fine texture and ephemerality to the site. Size: 2.5 acres

3.1.5 Neighborhood Green



Lakelands Clubhouse Park, Lakelands, Maryland. Source: M-NCPPC

Left: Large lawn area provides flexible uses central to the community. The park is fronted along a street and surrounded by townhomes and a clubhouse on three sides.

Size: 1 acre; lawn area: ~1/4 acre

FUNCTION/ SERVICE AREA:

- Neighborhood gathering place
- Local destination
- Serves neighborhood/district

MAIN PROGRAM:

- Mix of social gathering, active recreation & contemplative areas
- Flexible program
- Informal gathering
- Places for quiet contemplation
- Unstructured recreation
- Local community gatherings

KEY FEATURES

- Lawn area surrounded by complementary uses
- Shaded seating and sunny areas
- Flexible play areas
- Consider public art

SITE PLACEMENT

- Center of high residential use
- Placement facing adjacent community-oriented uses: recreation centers, libraries, etc.
- Building entrances facing the park - visually and physically accessible

SIZE

- 1/4 acre minimum



Teardrop Park, New York, New York. Source: Michael van Valkenburgh, Inc.
 Left: A central lawn provides a space for small community gatherings. Top Middle: Natural play opportunities are provided for children. Top Right: A rock wall is abstract art in the summer, and creates an ice sculpture in the winter. Size: 2 acres



Canal Park, Washington District of Columbia. Source: Olin (left), Capitol Riverfront (top-middle), Olin (top-right).
 Left: A movie in the park is one of many seasonal events to activate this park at the “heart” of the newly developed neighborhood. Middle: Grassy areas provide space for informal play and relaxation. Right: Shaded benches create comfortable spaces for rest and contemplation. Size: 3 acres

3.1.6 Pocket Green



John F. Collins Park, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
Source: centercityphila.org & www.phillymag.com
Left: This privately-owned public space is a mid-block pocket park in the heart of Center City inspired by the design of Paley Park in New York City. The cascade fountain is the focal point of this linear space framed by vine-covered walls with mature, and native shade trees. The enclosed space allows it to be reserved for private events such as weddings or wine tastings.
Right: This park is a popular lunch and meeting spot. In the winter, the colorful movable chairs and tables make the space more inviting and attractive. This park is located near bus and transit stops.
Size: 0.09 acres

FUNCTION/ SERVICE AREA:

- Place for pause
- Local destination
- Serves neighborhood/district
- Connected to public spaces network

MAIN PROGRAM:

- Contemplative areas supported by social gathering and active recreation in smaller scale
- Flexible program
- Places for quiet contemplation
- Unstructured recreation
- Contact with nature

KEY FEATURES

- Sunlit small gathering areas with a mix of shaded and sunny seating
- Small scale green areas
- Small play areas

SITE PLACEMENT

- Maximize sun exposure in locations in-between tall buildings
- Provide connectivity to other public spaces and transit

SIZE

- 1/10 - 1/4 acre average size

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Consider the use of “green walls” whenever possible



Paley Park, New York, New York. Source: M-NCPPC.

Left: One of the most well-known and successful pocket parks in Manhattan, this space is an inviting mid-block privately-owned public space framed by walls on three sides with a gate and a food kiosk at the front. Two of the walls are covered with vines and the third features a 20-foot tall backlit waterfall. The sculptural waterfall creates a visual focal point and helps insulate the space from traffic and street noises. The high tree canopy offers a balance of shade and light to this peaceful oasis in dense Midtown Manhattan – making it a very popular lunch spot for the busy New Yorkers. This park is located adjacent to a subway station and bus stops. Size: 1/10 acre



685 Third Avenue Pocket Park, Manhattan, New York. Source: Gensler.com

A pocket park with food and beverage offerings. This Park features a 30-foot living wall and a water wall that echoes New York City’s renowned Paley Park. Wood and concrete paver decking, infinity pools, seasonal trees and a bistro are located within. Movable seating allows users to interact with the space. An underutilized entrance court was turned into a unique asset for the building owner and a vibrant place for the public in the heart of Manhattan. Size: ~1/10 acre

3.1.7 Urban Recreational Parklet



76th Street Park, Los Angeles, California.

Source: www.laparks.org; City Parks Alliance

Left: This park provides access to open space and fitness facilities within a densely populated and park-poor setting. The site was a previous foreclosed property. The park includes a playground and outdoor fitness equipment.

Size: ~1/8 acres

FUNCTION/ SERVICE AREA:

- Place focus on active play
- Local destination
- Serves neighborhood/district
- Connected to public spaces network
- Accommodates smaller groups/ individual recreation

MAIN PROGRAM

- Primarily recreational program focused on active recreation
- Supported by contemplative setting and social gathering spaces
- Activities to accommodate all age groups

KEY FEATURES

- Playing courts and fields
- Mix of hardscape and grassy open spaces
- Mix of reserved and unreserved recreation spaces
- Consider central lawn as the focal point with sunny and shaded areas and surrounded by activating uses
- Multi-functional structures, including park furniture

SITE PLACEMENT

- Within walking distance of high density residential and commercial areas
- Placement facing adjacent community-oriented uses: recreation centers, libraries, etc.
- Building entrances facing the park - visually and physically accessible
- Face major sidewalk alongside storefronts

SIZE

- 1/10 acre minimum



Climbmax Climbing Center, Asheville, North Carolina. Source: Google Street View, & Climbmaxnc.com
 Left and above: An outdoor climbing wall allows both activation and recreational opportunities in the public courtyard spaces adjacent to the business.
 Size: Courtyard area ~ 1/4 acre, 10' x 10' (200 sq ft) climbing area



Basketball Hoops and Ping Pong, Sao Paulo, Brazil and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Source: www.torcedores.com and Google Map
 Left: Half-Basketball courts are among the top 5 most popular activities in the Villa Lobos Park.
 Above: A ping pong table feature at the Market Square Park entertains residents and visitors during Market Plaza's farmer market. Features such as a ping pong tables and backyard half-basketball courts could create opportunities for active recreation within constrained available spaces in parklets.
 Sizes: Half-Basketball Area: ~1/8 acre (4 courts side-by-side), Ping Pong Table: ~0.01 acre

3.1.8 Temporary/ Interim Park



Wunder Garten, Washington, D.C. Source: wundergartendc.com

A temporary park uses current vacant lots (developed in a later phase) in a visible location at the heart of the NOMA neighborhood, only one block away from the NOMA Gallaudet University Metro Station. When the site is ultimately developed, the current uses and program will shift to an adjacent plaza constructed concurrently with new the building.

Program: A year-round beer garden with movable seating, picnic tables, yard games, restrooms, and food and drink sales makes it a family and dog friendly place. As a model for an urban park, Wunder Garten operates in conjunction with partners to furnish, maintain and program the space. Size: 1 acre

FUNCTION/ SERVICE AREA:

- Experimental place
- Regional & local destination
- Associated to the function of one of the urban park types defined in collaboration with the community

MAIN PROGRAM:

- Varies
- Flexible program based on selected urban park type

KEY FEATURES

- Pilot activities for future park/public space
- Activities/structures= inclusive and easy to participate

SITE PLACEMENT

- Varies
- Based on selected urban park type
- Provide ADA access
- Should be placed in a visible location

SIZE

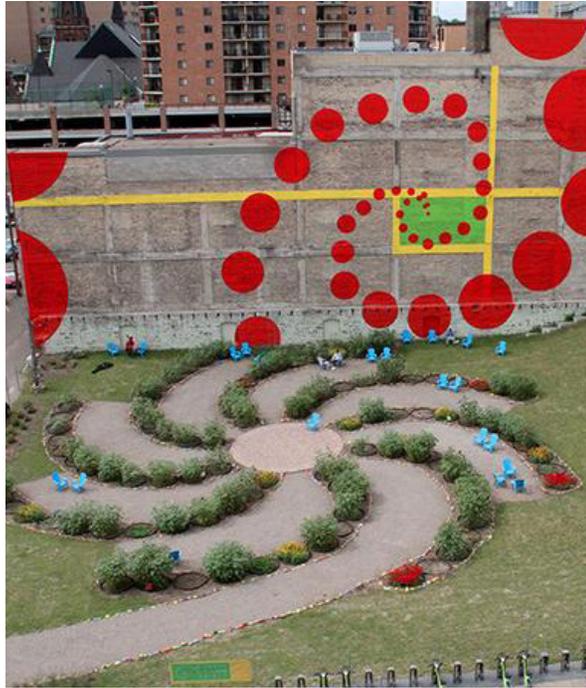
- Varies
- Based on available land

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Great venue to create and/or consolidate partnerships with adjacent business and non-profit organizations to engage with the community in creative ways to deliver places for social gathering, active and contemplative recreation while building a sense of community and belonging.



Quicken Loans Sport Zone, Cadillac Square - Detroit, Michigan. Source: jessekassel.com
 Temporary Park - Basketball and volleyball courts are temporarily built along streets adjacent to Cadillac Square in downtown Detroit during the summer. Hosted by Downtown Detroit Partnership, it involves local artists, non-profits, and private sponsors. Expansion of active recreation into areas that lack that type of recreation bring players and observers into the city. Temporary seating and basketball/volleyball courts transform this space and offer the community of residents and workers a way to interact with each other in a central location. Established retail and commercial uses also benefit from the extra hours of activities during the night.
 Size: Half-Basketball Area: ~1/8 acre (4 courts side-by-side)



Urban Flower Field, St. Paul, Minnesota. Source: City of St. Paul
 Interim Park - The location of the future Pedro Park in downtown St. Paul, combines art and science through installation of 96 flower pots containing wildflowers planted in various types of urban soils (monitoring the performance of the plants in taking up heavy metals), and a mural echoing the pattern of the flower pots. This combination creates a community focal point where learning and events promotes social gathering for the future park. Movable furniture allows flexibility in events layout for movie nights, concerts and other community gatherings. Size: 0.5 acres



The Porch at 30th Street Station, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Source: universitycity.org
 Interim Park - This site was once a congested parking lane and barren sidewalk. As an interim park, it tested uses to see what would and wouldn't work for the space. This park hosted an array of programming from yoga classes to flea markets to food trucks. Temporary and movable furnishings, including different tiered platforms with decks, turf, planters, chairs and swings helped create unique, individual spaces throughout the Porch. A permanent plaza design with elevated planters, integrated skylights, a panoramic pavilion, and food truck areas is under development for the site. Size: 0.68 acres

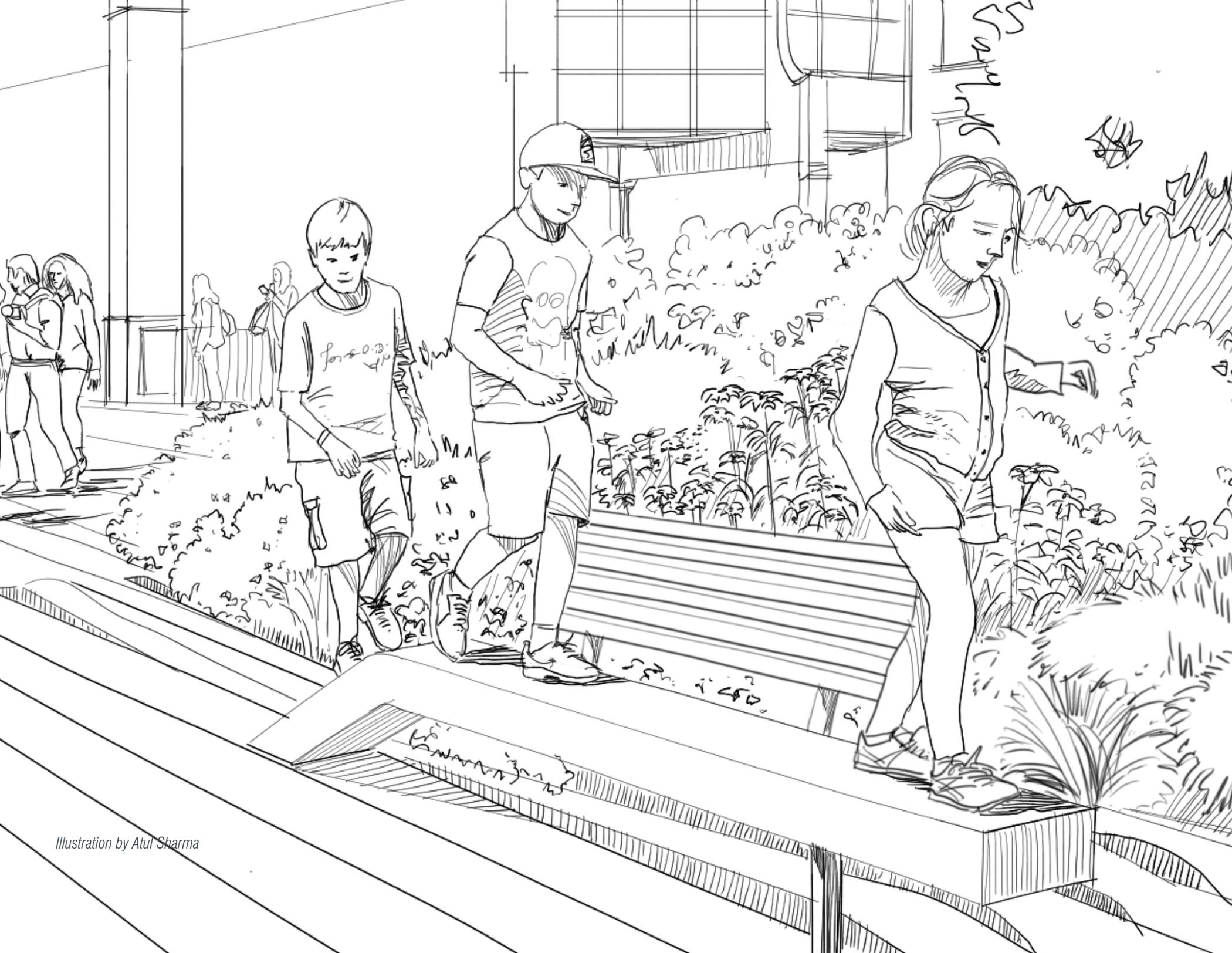


Illustration by Atul Sharma

APPENDICES

App.1 Case Studies by Park Types

Appendix 1 was separated into an online library to allow staff to update case studies more efficiently without changing the main report document. The online library will house several case studies illustrating the urban parks types as shown below.

CIVIC GREEN

PLAZA

**URBAN
GREENWAY**

**URBAN
RECREATIONAL
PARK**

**NEIGHBORHOOD
GREEN**

**POCKET
GREEN**

**URBAN
RECREATIONAL
PARKLET**

**TEMPORARY/
INTERIM PARK**

App.2 Public Spaces System and Hierarchy

App 2.1 System

The 2017 PROS Plan recommended that for each urban area, a unique open space system should be planned to serve the projected demographics of residents, workers, and visitors. The urban design vision developed during the master plan or sector plan process for an area will help guide the amount, pattern, location, siting, and design of open spaces.

The type and pattern of parks and open spaces best suited to urban populations is different from the suburban model of large tracts of land filled with fixed, single-use facilities. The 2017 PROS Plan recognized that urban areas change the way in which we provide, build, and manage park and recreation resources in those areas. There are distinct challenges, such as the potential to provide park and recreation resources in different ways that create different opportunities to incorporate those resources as urbanizing areas redevelop. The 2017 PROS Plan recommended a system of parks and open spaces at the core of every urban area, provided through a combination of public and private efforts. The new open space system

should support a vibrant and sustainable urban center by including open spaces that will be comfortable, attractive, easily accessible, safe, and provide a range of experiences, up to and including festival and outdoor event spaces. Those open spaces that rise to the level of serving as a focal point of community life for the planning area, are typically recommended to be publicly owned and managed parks, while those open spaces serving a smaller district, neighborhood, or block are often recommended as public use spaces owned or managed by the private sector.

The 2017 PROS Plan recommended that every urban area should have a system of parks and open spaces that include the following attributes:

- **Active recreation** - places to exercise outdoors, alone or in groups
- **Social interaction** - comfortable seating areas, large public spaces for formal or informal gathering, community gardens
- **Access to green space** - ample areas of grass, trees, and other landscaping
- **Relaxation and stress relief** - areas away from traffic and urban noise
- **Public accessibility** - where anyone can gather or sit or talk
- **Educational experiences** - programs to learn from natural or cultural/historic resources
- **Walkability** - every residence should have a park or open space within 1/2 mile. Major roads can be barriers that add to the walking time and must be calculated into the minimum distance formula
- **Connectivity** - walking and biking systems to link all proposed urban open spaces, and to provide pleasant walking routes from residences and businesses to open space destinations throughout the planning area, and to connect to regional trail and bikeway systems
- **Flexibility** - space that can be used for a variety of spontaneous activities and gatherings, and to respond to the changing needs of urban populations
- **Activating Uses** - nearby shops, restaurants, and residences, attractions, entertainment, as well as places within the park for relaxation, getting work done (Wi-Fi), spontaneous play, education, recreation, etc.

App 2.2 Park Types Hierarchy

The 2017 PROS Plan recommends that each area master/sector plan include a system of public spaces based on the different roles of each type of space. The amount and size of open spaces may vary from plan to plan but should be directly proportional to the projected density. Each park and public space should respond to the character of existing public spaces and other neighborhood needs. The following hierarchy should be applied to the Energized Public Spaces Plan Study Area:

Within the Sector Plan:

- Social gathering spaces
- Active recreation destinations
- Contemplative places
- An interconnected network of sidewalks, trails, parks and public spaces
- Civic Green, Plaza, Urban Greenway, Urban Recreational Park

Within Neighborhoods:

- Neighborhood Parks or Neighborhood Greens

Within Blocks:

- Pocket Greens, or Urban Recreational Parklets

For Buildings and Residences

- Private or communal outdoor spaces

Figure App.1 illustrates a hierarchy for parks and public spaces from the approved Greater *Lyttonsville Sector Plan*.

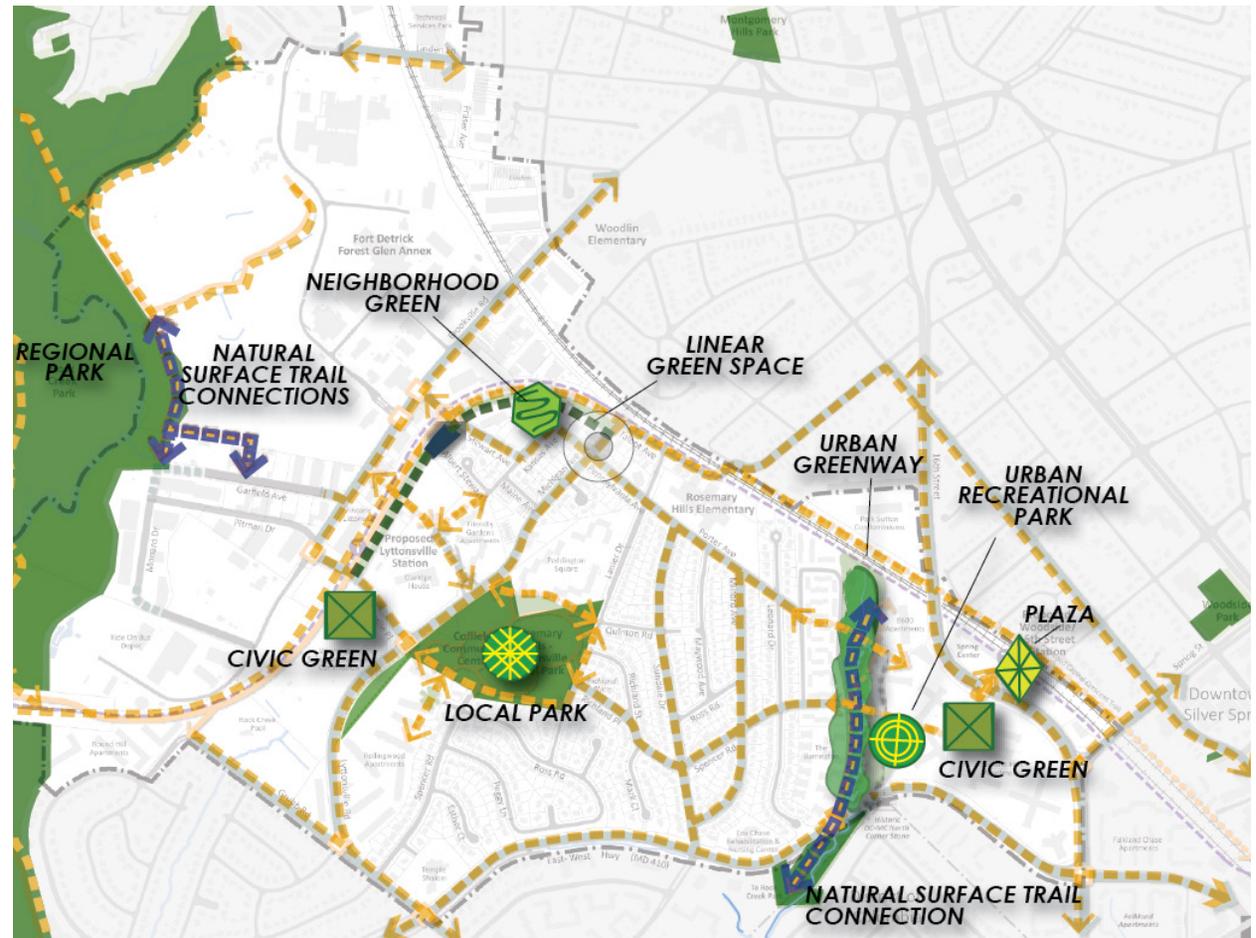


Figure App.1 - Park Hierarchy example - Lyttonsville Sector Plan

App 2.3 Public Space Site Selection

The public spaces site selection guidelines will be applied in the absence of a sector plan, or the existence of an older sector plan which did not designate public spaces locations. Coordination with the M-NCPPC Planning and Parks Departments will be required. These guidelines are just the initial reference for the process.

Site Selection Guidelines

- **Central Location/Focal Point:** Place public spaces in a central and/or strategic location within the community and/or neighborhood that terminates a vista, or is on axis to a primary building, street, trail, and/or on a prominent corner.
- **Mixed Use:** Provide complementary and mixed land uses surrounding a central public space to make it a destination. Concentrating the location of complementary land uses encourages walking, increases human interaction, and encourages synergy and livability at the public realm.
- **Minimize Development in Greenfields:** Locate projects within developed areas, if possible, where infrastructure already is in place.
- **Enclosure:** Public spaces should be framed and linked to open spaces and primary street networks. They should be bordered by at least one street. Ideally, public spaces in urban areas are best located surrounded on four sides by streets, street trees and sidewalks with high intensity uses and at least one public building facing onto the park.



Union Square, San Francisco - A centrally located plaza surrounded by shopping, hotels and a theater district. The public plaza provides underground parking and its location near public transit captures workers, residents and tourists with its several events throughout the year. The ice rink and holiday market are examples of seasonal events hosted by both commercial and nonprofit entities. Source: unionsquareicerink.com

Designing Public Spaces

Energized Public Spaces Design Guidelines

Approved February 2019

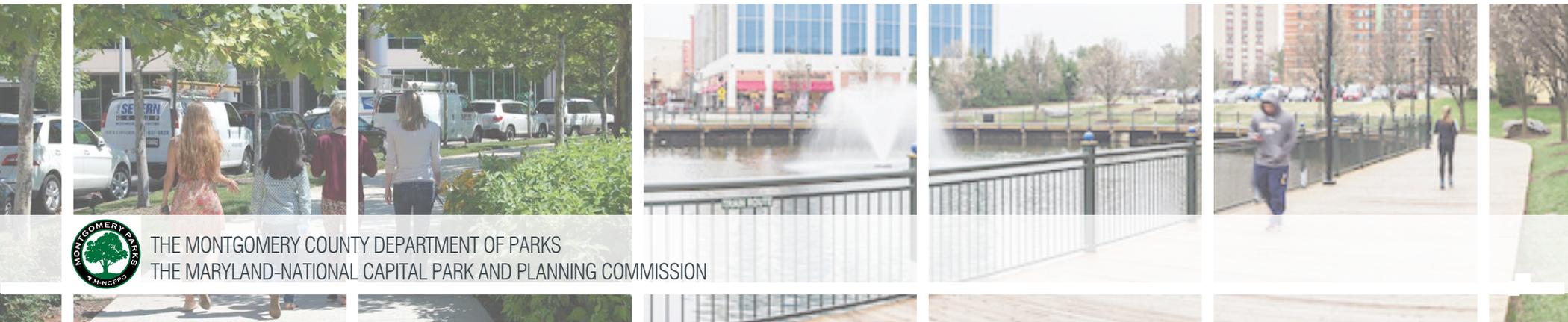




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THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION