“...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”.
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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. 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 street and public open space.

The 2017 PROS Plan recommends that for each urban area, a unique open space system be planned to serve the projected demographics of residents, workers, and visitors. The urban design vision developed in future master plan or sector plans will help guide the service area, program, key features, size and design of these open spaces. If an urban park accommodates the functions of one or more park types, the predominant function, program, features and context will determine the park type within the hierarchy of open spaces.

### COUNTYWIDE

The 2017 PROS Plan defines four types of Countywide Urban Parks. These park types serve residents, visitors, and workers in 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, event venues and/or at sports courts.

#### 3.1.1 Civic Green

These spaces are formally planned, flexible, programmable 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 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 uses. 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 densely populated 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 space are all common in this park type. Programming can include farmer’s markets, outdoor exercise classes, and/or community yard sales, etc. There should be space for safe drop-offs and 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 “paper” streets.

COMMUNITY USE

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 and performances, celebrations, fairs, and 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

Neighborhood Greens serve residents and workers from the surrounding neighborhood. 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 residents and workers from the immediate neighborhood and are designed for 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, the Pocket Green 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” in a landscaped setting along the route between major and larger open spaces within the 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, 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 connect to the public space network and include access to sunlight, important view corridors, connection to the network of public spaces, and protection from the wind, traffic and noise.

3.1.8 Temporary/Interim Park

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 current needs. Owners and/or county staff can use these temporary facilities to collect information on the potential programming and functions that might occur in a future permanent park or public space. The term temporary is used for spaces that are not currently planned for parks or public space,
but can accommodate the function for a certain period of time. The term interim is used for spaces that will become a park or public space in the future, but likely cannot be implemented in the short-term.

**Urban Park Matrix**

Table 3.1 consolidates the main unique elements of each urban park type, side-by-side to better understand the different roles that each urban park plays 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 factors, including these guidelines. The Planning Board may suggest and approve alternative design approaches that deliver truly exceptional solutions.

*White Flint Placemaking Festival, Montgomery County, MD. Community-led event at the Randolph Hills Shopping Center parking lot turned 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. The sector plan identifies a park within this site if redevelopment occurs. Source: M-NCPPC.*
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key Design Elements</th>
<th>Civic Green</th>
<th>Plaza</th>
<th>Urban Greenway</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Function/Service Area</strong></td>
<td>Community gathering open space, regional destination, serves sector plan areas, accommodates local daily uses</td>
<td>Community gathering place, regional destination, serves sector plan areas in high pedestrian traffic zones, accommodates local daily uses</td>
<td>Network connector, regional destination, serves sector plan areas, open spaces network connector: linear and continuous parks and open spaces, accommodates local daily uses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Main Program</strong></td>
<td>Focus on social gathering, flexible program, informal gathering, places for quiet contemplation, unstructured recreation, large community gatherings</td>
<td>Large central hardscape as focal point, abundance of seating options (sunny and shaded options), public art: explore interactive installations with education component, visitor amenities</td>
<td>Active programming and exposure to nature along wide landscaped walkways and bikeways, commuting, recreational travel (biking, walking, jogging, etc.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Key Features</strong></td>
<td>Large central lawn as focal point, abundance of seating options (sunny and shaded options), public art: explore interactive installations with education component, visitor amenities</td>
<td>Large central hardscape as focal point, abundance of seating options (sunny and shaded options), public art: explore interactive installations with education component, visitor amenities</td>
<td>Trails with walkways and bikeways lined by vegetative ground cover and trees, good wayfinding signage with clear entries to trailheads</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Site Placement</strong></td>
<td>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 transition between the park and the street sidewalk surrounded by minimum of two streets, ideally four streets surrounded by activating uses should not be located behind uses, must never be located in residual/surplus/left-over space</td>
<td>Connector to other public spaces and natural areas may follow natural resources &amp; recreational areas along road rows enough setback from buildings to preserve continuity of path/trail as public accessible space, trail entrances should be visible and accessible</td>
<td>Width = minimum 10-ft trail plus buffer vegetation (AASHTO) enough setback from buildings to preserve continuity of path/trail as a linear public space</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Size</strong></td>
<td>½ acre minimum; 1 ½ acre ideal</td>
<td>½ acre minimum; 1 acre ideal</td>
<td>Width = minimum 10-ft trail plus buffer vegetation (AASHTO) enough setback from buildings to preserve continuity of path/trail as a linear public space</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 3.1 - Urban Parks Types Matrix: Comparison on Key Design Elements
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>URBAN RECREATIONAL PARK</th>
<th>URBAN RECREATIONAL PARKLET</th>
<th>NEIGHBORHOOD GREEN</th>
<th>POCKET GREEN</th>
<th>TEMPORARY/ INTERIM PARK</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FOCUS ON ACTIVE PLAY REGIONAL DESTINATION</td>
<td>PLACE FOCUS ON ACTIVE PLAY LOCAL DESTINATION</td>
<td>NEIGHBORHOOD GATHERING PLACE</td>
<td>PLACE FOR PAUSE</td>
<td>EXPERIMENTAL PLACE REGIONAL &amp; LOCAL DESTINATION ASSOCIATED TO THE FUNCTION OF ONE OF THE URBAN PARK TYPES DEFINED IN COLLABORATION WITH THE COMMUNITY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SERVES SECTOR PLAN AREAS ACCOMMODATES LOCAL DAILY USES ACCOMMODATES LARGER GROUP RECREATION (TEAM SPORTS)</td>
<td>SERVES NEIGHBORHOOD/DISTRICT CONNECTED TO PUBLIC SPACES NETWORK</td>
<td>LOCAL DESTINATION</td>
<td>LOCAL DESTINATION SERVES NEIGHBORHOOD/DISTRICT CONNECTED TO PUBLIC SPACES NETWORK</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRIMARILY RECREATIONAL PROGRAM FOCUSED ON ACTIVE RECREATION SUPPORTED BY CONTEMPLATIVE SETTING AND SOCIAL GATHERING SPACES ACTIVITIES TO ACCOMMODATE ALL AGE GROUPS</td>
<td>MIX OF SOCIAL GATHERING, ACTIVE RECREATION &amp; CONTEMPLATIVE AREAS FLEXIBLE PROGRAM INFORMAL GATHERING PLACES FOR QUIET CONTEMPLATION UNSTRUCTURED RECREATION LOCAL COMMUNITY GATHERINGS</td>
<td>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</td>
<td>CONTEMPLATIVE AREAS SUPPORTED BY SOCIAL GATHERING AND ACTIVE RECREATION IN SMALLER SCALE FLEXIBLE PROGRAM PLACES FOR QUIET CONTEMPLATION UNSTRUCTURED RECREATION CONTACT WITH NATURE</td>
<td>VARIIES FLEXIBLE PROGRAM BASED ON SELECTED URBAN PARK TYPE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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</td>
<td>LAWN AREA SURROUNDED BY COMPANIONARY USES SHADED SEATING AND SUNNY AREAS FLEXIBLE PLAY AREAS CONSIDER PUBLIC ART</td>
<td>SUNLIT SMALL GATHERING AREAS WITH A MIX OF SHADeD AND SUNNY SEATING SMALL SCALE GREEN AREAS SMALL PLAY AREAS</td>
<td>PILOT ACTIVITIES FOR FUTURE PARK/PUBLIC SPACE ACTIVITIES/STRUCTURES— INCLUSIVE AND EASY TO PARTICIPATE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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</td>
<td>CENTER OF HIGH RESIDENTIAL USE PLACEMENT FACING ADJACENT COMMUNITY-ORIENTED USES: RECREATION CENTERS, LIBRARIES, ETC. BUILDING ENTRANCES FACING THE PARK - VISUALLY AND PHYSICALLY ACCESSIBLE</td>
<td>CENTER OF HIGH RESIDENTIAL USE BETWEEN TALL BUILDINGS PROVIDE CONNECTIVITY TO OTHER PUBLIC SPACES AND TRANSIT</td>
<td>MAXIMIZE SUN EXPOSURE IN LOCATIONS IN-BETWEEN TALL BUILDINGS PROVIDE CONNECTIVITY TO OTHER PUBLIC SPACES AND TRANSIT</td>
<td>VARIIES BASED ON SELECTED URBAN PARK TYPE PROVIDE ADA ACCESS SHOULD BE PLACED IN A VISIBLE LOCATION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VARIIES BASED ON COMMUNITY SERVED</td>
<td>1/10 ACRE MINIMUM</td>
<td>1/4 ACRE MINIMUM</td>
<td>1/10 - 1/4 ACRE AVERAGE SIZE</td>
<td>VARIIES BASED ON AVAILABLE LAND</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3.1.1 Civic Green

**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
- Places for quiet contemplation
- Unstructured recreation
- Large community gatherings
- Can also accommodate places for quiet contemplation

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

**SITE PLACEMENT**
- 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

**SIZE**
- ½ acre minimum; 1 ½ acres ideal

*Crown Park, Gaithersburg, MD.*  
Source: smarturbanliving.com  
Centrally located common green within active, mixed-use community. The public space is framed by two streets, mixed-use buildings, retail stores and townhomes, all facing towards the green space. Restaurants offer outdoor seating integrated with the public realm and community-focused events, festivals and public markets.  
Size: 0.68 acres; lawn area: ~0.23 acres.
**Schenley Plaza, Pittsburgh, PA.** Source: Sasaki
Former parking lot transformed into a gateway and green heart of the city. Key features: central lawn area surrounded by institutional buildings facing the space 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 circulation routes provide shade for those who want to escape the sunny areas. The adjacent bosque area in front of one of the institutional buildings offers a great extension of shaded area to the place. Road closure for special events like the one shown in this picture, integrates the plaza with its neighboring public spaces. The presence of smaller courtyards and formal gardens along the main street 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

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**Bryant Park, 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. Source: resaconvention.com

Left: Main plaza overview with large central hardscape as focal point & surrounded by activating uses: hotel, commercial and retail buildings facing the space. In addition, the plaza paving eases congestion on sidewalks from surrounding commercial uses, transit stops and parking garage located at the plaza. Center: edge of the plaza faces storefronts across the streets and offer seating options for pausing and people watching. Right: flexible central hardscape offers opportunities for large community events such as movie nights. 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
- Places for quiet contemplation
- Unstructured recreation
- Large community gatherings

**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**
- 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 between the park and the street sidewalk
- Surrounded by minimum of two streets, 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 acre ideal
**Sundance Square Plaza**, Fort Worth, TX. 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: before picture - former parking lot. Size: 1.26 acres

**Veterans Plaza**, Silver Spring, MD. 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, its 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.
3.1.3 Urban Greenway

Swamp Rabbit Trail, Greenville, SC. 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 brings users through a variety of natural and urban settings, even creating 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 opportunities and 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 a linear public 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
- Buffer vegetation

LENGTH: 20 miles point-to-point
Crescent Park Trail, New Orleans, LA. Source: Hargreaves Associates (left), Hargreaves Associates (middle), moveyabgrass.com (right).
Left: The conversion of this disused 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 individual 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, WA. Source: Walsh Construction Co. (left), M-NCPCC (top-middle), SvR (top-right)
Left: The design and grading of this narrow site addresses significant topographic changes between the channel and street. Overlooks and bridges allow pedestrians to enjoy the channel habitat and wildlife. Middle: Sculptures serve as markers for the public entry to the water channel. 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

**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**
- 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

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Joe DiMaggio North Beach Playground, San Francisco, CA. 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. Perimeter fencing provides site security while visitors are directed to clearly marked entrances. Top Middle: Open court areas provide opportunities for a variety of recreation types and flexibility in use. Top Right: Site topography is used as an opportunity for amenities. Size: 2.5 acres
CHAPTER 3 - URBAN PARK TYPES

Soma West Dog Park and Skate Park, San Francisco, CA. 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 the underpass a connector 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, MD. Source: M-NCPPC

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

*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

**SIZE**
- 1/4 acre minimum

**SITE PLACEMENT**
- Placement facing adjacent community-oriented uses: recreation centers, libraries, etc.
- Building entrances facing the park - visually and physically accessible
Teardrop Park, New York, NY. Source: Michael van Valkenburgh, Inc.
Left: Central lawn provides a space for small community gatherings. Top Middle: Nature play opportunities for children. Top Right: Public art appears to be a rock wall in summer, but creates an ice sculpture in winter. Size: 2 acres

Left: A movie in the park is one of many seasonal events to activate the park. Top Middle: Grassy areas provide space for informal play and relaxation. Top Right: Shaded benches create comfortable spaces for rest and contemplation. Size: 3 acres
3.1.6 Pocket Green


*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 NYC. The cascade fountain is the focal point of this linear park framed by vine-covered walls with mature, native shade trees dispersed throughout the space. The enclosed nature of the 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

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**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
Paley Park, New York, NY. Source: M-NCPPC.
Left: One of the most well-known and successful pocket parks, 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 vine and the third features a 20-ft tall backlit waterfall. The sculptural waterfall creates a visual focal point and helps insulate the space from the traffic and street noises. The tree canopy offers a balance of shade and light to this peaceful oasis in the dense environment of Midtown Manhattan - making 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, NY. Source: Gensler.com
Pocket park with food and beverage offering. 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. Movable seating allows users to interact with the space. An underutilized entrance 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

**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**
- 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

*76th Street Park, Los Angeles, CA. Source: www.laparks.org; City Parks Alliance*

*Left: This park achieves better 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*
Climbmax Climbing Center, Asheville, NC. Source: Google Street View, & Climbmaxnc.com

Left and above: An outdoor climbing wall like this could allow both activation and recreation opportunities in the public spaces adjacent to the business.

Ping Pong Table and Half-Basketball Court Source: M-NCPPC; sportcourt.squarehook.com

Left: A ping pong table feature at the Market Square Park, Pittsburgh, PA. Above: Backyard half basketball court design. Features such as a ping pong table and backyard half-basketball court could create opportunities for active recreation within the constrained available space in parklets.
3.1.8 Temporary/Interim Park

**Wunder Garten, Washington, D.C. Source:** wundergartendc.com
Temporary Park - use of current vacant lots that will be developed in a later phase - visible location at the heart of NOMA neighborhood and 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 the building.
Program: Year-round beer garden with movable seating, picnic tables, yard games, restrooms, and food and drink sales - 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**
- 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. 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. Temporary seating furniture 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. Near established retail and commercial uses also benefit from the extra hours of additional activities during the night.

Urban Flower Field, St. Paul. Source: City of St. Paul
Interim Park - location of future Pedro Park in downtown St. Paul. This project combined art and science by installing 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 establish this location as a social gathering place for the future park. Movable furniture allows flexibility in events layout: movie nights, concerts and other community gatherings. Size: 0.5 acres

The Porch at 30th Street Station, Philadelphia, PA
Source: universitycity.org
Interim Park - the site was once a congested parking lane and barren sidewalk. As an interim park, it tested experiments throughout the first few years of use to see what would and wouldn’t work for the space, hosting an array of programming from yoga classes to flea markets to food trucks. Temporary and movable furnishings, including different tiered platforms with decking, turf, planters, chairs and swings help to 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