

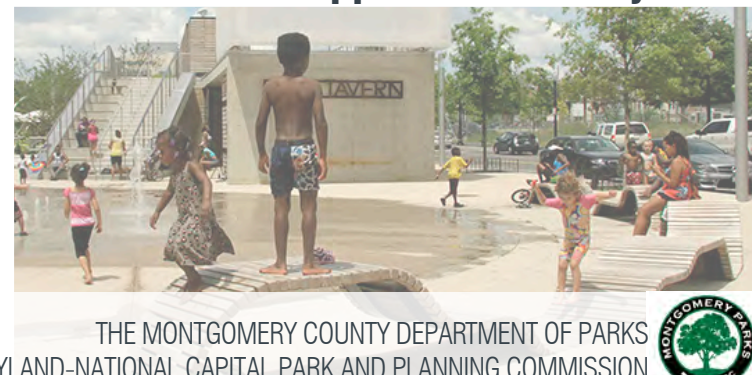
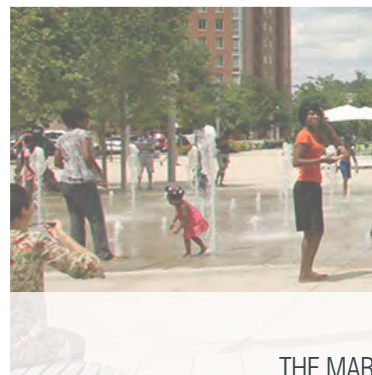
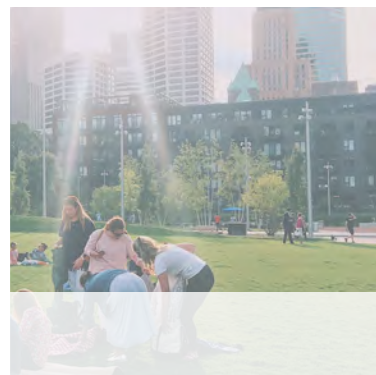


Designing Public Spaces

Energized Public Spaces Design Guidelines

APPENDIX 1. Case Studies by Park Types - Online Library

Approved February 2019



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



Appendix 1 was separated into an online library to allow staff to update case studies more efficiently without changing the main report document - *Designing Public Spaces, Energized Public Spaces Design Guidelines*.

CIVIC GREEN

PLAZA

**URBAN
GREENWAY**

**URBAN
RECREATIONAL
PARK**

**NEIGHBORHOOD
GREEN**

**POCKET
GREEN**

**URBAN
RECREATIONAL
PARKLET**

**TEMPORARY/
INTERIM PARK**

Appendix.1 Case Studies by Park Types

This library shows a compendium of case studies illustrating the urban parks types established in the *2017 Parks and Recreation Open Space (PROS) Plan*. They highlight some of the major elements of each urban park type described in Chapter 3 (where other case studies are featured) of the *Designing Public Spaces, Energized Public Spaces Design Guidelines* document.

CIVIC GREEN

- **Bryant Park**, New York City, New York
- **Monroe Park**, Richmond, Virginia
- **Schenley Plaza**, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
- **The Commons**, Minneapolis, Minnesota

PLAZA

- **Schouwburgplein**, Rotterdam, The Netherlands
- **Union Square**, San Francisco, California

CIVIC GREEN/ PLAZA

- **Mears Park**, St. Paul, Minnesota
- **Rockville Town Square**, Rockville, Maryland

URBAN GREENWAY

- **Crescent Park Trail**, New Orleans, Louisiana
- **Indianapolis Cultural Trail**, Indianapolis, Indiana
- **Swamp Rabbit Trail**, Greenville, South Carolina
- **The Goods Line**, Sydney, Australia
- **Thornton Creek Channel**, Seattle, Washington

URBAN RECREATIONAL PARK

- **Joe DiMaggio North Beach Playground**, San Francisco, California
- **Long Bridge Park**, Arlington, Virginia
- **Mission Dolores Park**, San Francisco, California
- **Soma West Dog Park and Skate Park**, San Francisco, California
- **Underpass Park**, Toronto, Canada

URBAN RECREATIONAL PARKLET

- **76th Street Park**, Los Angeles, California
- **Climbmax Climbing Center**, Asheville, North Carolina
- **Silver Towers Playground**, New York City, New York

NEIGHBORHOOD GREEN

- **Canal Park**, Washington, District of Columbia
- **Constitution Gardens Park**, Gaithersburg, Maryland
- **Lincoln Park**, Washington, District of Columbia

- **Rittenhouse Square**, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- **Swampoodle Park**, Washington, District of Columbia
- **Tear Drop Park**, New York City, New York

POCKET GREEN

- **John F. Collins Park**, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- **Public Media Commons**, St. Louis, Missouri

TEMPORARY/INTERIM PARK

- **The Lawn on D**, Boston, Massachusetts
- **The Porch at 30th Street Station**, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- **Urban Flower Field**, St. Paul, Minneapolis
- **Wunder Garten**, Washington, District of Columbia

		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

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

Civic Green

Bryant Park, New York City, New York

Development/Operation/Management:

A public park since 1847, the park's current configuration dates back to the 1930s and was most recently renovated in 1988. Although part of the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation, Bryant Park is managed by the Bryant Park Corporation and accepts no public funds. Instead, the park's operations and maintenance budget comes from assessments on surrounding property, fees from concessionaires and revenue generated from paid public events.

Programming and amenities such as wifi are provided through corporate sponsorships and are largely free to the public. Bryant Park hosts over 1,000 free activities, classes and events annually.



Source: mcatlas.org

FUNCTION/SERVICE AREA:

- Community gathering open space
- Regional destination
- Accommodates local daily uses
- Accommodates large planned events
- Social gathering on a variety of scales

MAIN PROGRAM

- Flexible program
- Informal gathering
- Places for quiet contemplation
- Unstructured recreation
- Small gatherings
- Large community gatherings
- Corporate sponsored events

KEY FEATURES:

- Large central lawn as focal point
- Movable tables and chairs
- Seating options in sun and shade
- Visitor amenities: public restrooms and concessions
- Shaded walks and seating
- Changeable seasonal installations: farmers market stalls, ice rink

SIZE:

- 9.6 Acres

SITE PLACEMENT:

- Surrounded by three streets
- Surrounded by dense residential, institutional and commercial uses
- Surrounded by high-rise development
- Creates "second front door" for adjacent institutional use (library)

References: Bryant Park Corporation, Wikipedia



Moveable seating allows visitors to choose whether they want to be in sun or shade, alone or in a large group. Source: Wikipedia



High-rise development encloses the park. Source: Wikipedia



Open paved areas are located at the entrances and used as meeting places. Source: Bryant Park Corporation



Petanque courts, built into the park's fabric, provide organized recreation and encourage social interaction. Source: Bryant Park Corporation



Concessionaires are housed in moveable structures affording flexibility in retail type and configuration. Source: Bryant Park Corporation

Civic Green

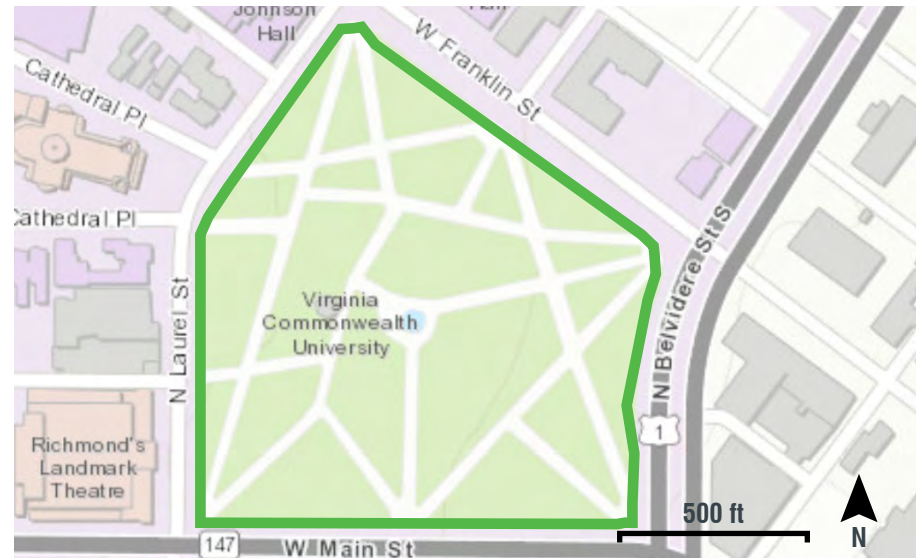
Monroe Park, Richmond, Virginia

Development/Operation/Management:

The city of Richmond acquired the property that was to become Monroe Park in 1851. Prior to its development as a public park in 1872, the site served as an agricultural fairgrounds and Civil War military encampment. Today, the National Register of Historic Places-listed site contains several memorials, plaques, monuments and statues commemorating people and events throughout Richmond's history.

Although still owned by the city of Richmond, the Monroe Park Conservancy holds a 30-year lease on the property and is responsible for financing and overseeing the restoration, enhancement and operation of the park. Through a contract with the Monroe Park Conservancy, Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) maintains the park.

A complete renovation of the park began in November 2016 and was completed in September 2018.



Source: mcatlas.org

FUNCTION/SERVICE AREA:

- Community gathering open space
- Regional destination
- Accommodates local daily uses
- Accommodates large planned events
- Social gathering on a variety of scales

MAIN PROGRAM

- Flexible program
- Informal gathering
- Places for quiet contemplation
- Unstructured recreation
- Small scale structured recreation (petanque, ping pong, etc.)
- Small gatherings
- Large community gatherings

KEY FEATURES:

- Large central fountain as focal point
- Broad play lawns bisected by pathways
- Movable tables and chairs
- Game areas
- Visitor amenities: park house with public restrooms
- Shaded walks and seating
- Public art: historic monuments and memorials

SIZE:

- 7.3 Acres

SITE PLACEMENT:

- Located at the confluence of several neighborhoods
- Surrounded by four streets
- Surrounded by dense residential and institutional uses
- Commercial areas within walking distance
- Mix of high-rise and low-rise buildings
- Site configuration responds to surrounding monumental buildings

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- Renovated park preserves and restores historic site design.

References: Monroe Park Conservancy, Rhodeside & Harwell, Wikipedia

*“Scene in Monroe Park, Richmond, VA.” c. 1920. The 2018 renovation preserves the park’s axial geometry and restores many of the iconic, historic elements such as the fountain, tree canopy, memorials and monuments. Elements such as the petanque courts, ping pong table and park house have been introduced or updated to reflect the needs of the community surrounding the park, which has changed from single family residences to primarily students of Virginia Commonwealth University
Source: VCU Libraries, Special Collections and Archives*



Monroe Park during renovation. A variety of spaces are provided in both sun and shade for various sized groups. Source: Kieran McQuilkin, Richmond Biz Sense



Pathways, seating areas and landmarks are situated to respond to and highlight surrounding streets and buildings. Source: Kieran McQuilkin, Richmond Biz Sense



Vegetation consists primarily of large trees and lawn, providing clear visual access to park features and improving safety and security. Source: Richmond Times-Dispatch

Civic Green

Schenley Plaza, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Development/Operation/Management:

In the early 1900s Schenley Plaza was a tree-lined green space but by the 1930s, the majority of the site was paved with asphalt becoming an enormous parking lot that would remain for the rest of the century. In the mid-2000s, the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy began a design process with members of the community, city government and the design firm Sasaki Associates to revitalize Schenley Plaza as a community-gathering spot and grand entrance into the larger Schenley Park.

The Parks Conservancy operates the plaza and provides programming offering several hundred events each year that are chosen for their creativity, inclusiveness and ability to both appeal to the almost 500,000 people who pass through the space and to attract new park-goers.



Source: mcatlas.org

FUNCTION/SERVICE AREA:

- Community gathering open space
- Regional Destination
- Accommodates Locals Daily Uses

MAIN PROGRAM

- Flexible Program
- Informal Gathering
- Places for Quiet Contemplation
- Unstructured Recreation
- Large Community Gatherings

KEY FEATURES:

- Large Central Lawn
- Hardscape Areas
- Gardens
- Dining Kiosks
- Carousel

SITE PLACEMENT:

- At the center of a mixed use area
- Complementary mixed use

SIZE:

- 5 acres

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- Surrounding institutional uses do not provide active ground floors. However, dining kiosks and the full-service restaurant in the park provide this activation.

Reference: Sasaki Associates



Ornamental gardens, and landscaping featuring plants native to western Pennsylvania. Source: Sasaki



The flexible one-acre central lawn space accommodates a range of events and informal activities. Source: Sasaki



Dining kiosks and a full-service restaurant operate throughout the day to attract more visitors to the park. Source: Sasaki



The image on the left shows the surface parking lot that occupied the site prior to the plaza revitalization shown on the right. Source: Sasaki

Civic Green

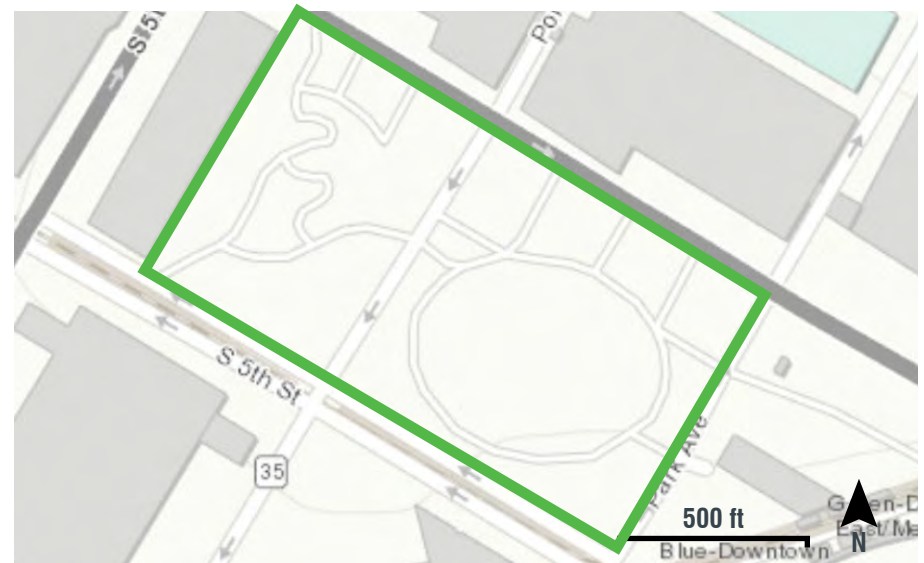
The Commons, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Development/Operation/Management:

The land of The Commons is owned by the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, but the City of Minneapolis has a 50 year lease on the property to operate the park. The Commons is operated, managed and programmed by Green Minneapolis, a not-for-profit conservancy.

The Commons was developed in conjunction with the construction of US Bank Stadium, home to the Minnesota Vikings. US Bank Stadium regularly leases space from The Commons to use the park as an extension of the stadium grounds for large events such as the Super Bowl.

In addition to hosting events associated with US Bank Stadium, The Commons hosts several small and large public programs, both paid and free, throughout the year.



Source: mcatlas.org

FUNCTION/SERVICE AREA:

- Community gathering open space
- Regional destination
- Accommodates local daily uses
- Accommodates large planned events
- Social gathering on a variety of scales

MAIN PROGRAM

- Flexible program
- Informal gathering
- Unstructured recreation
- Small gatherings
- Large community gatherings
- Large regional gatherings

KEY FEATURES:

- Large central lawn with stage
- Smaller ancillary lawns
- Movable tables and chairs
- Visitor amenities: public restrooms
- Splash pad
- Childrens' play area

SIZE:

- 4.2 Acres

SITE PLACEMENT:

- Surrounded by three streets
- Surrounded by dense residential, institutional and commercial uses
- Park serves as entry sequence for adjacent stadium
- Clear delineation between public space and adjacent private or access controlled spaces
- Minimal barriers between park and bisecting city streets

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- Construction of park served as driver for development of surrounding residential and commercial uses
- Park is used as an extension of adjacent stadium during large events

Reference: Greener Minneapolis



US Bank stadium serves as a backdrop for the park. In turn, the park serves as a grand entrance into the stadium, with events often spilling into the park. Source: blog.cushwake.com



Lower residential and commercial development surrounding the park frames views of Minneapolis' skyline beyond. Source: Greener Minneapolis



Moveable seating located in a series of smaller enclosures, offering contemplative spaces. Source: Visit Twin Cities



Sculptural play element is attractive to a wide range of children. Source: Minnesota Monthly



Wide sidewalks and seat walls make for an inviting transition from street to park. Source: Hargreaves Associates

Plaza

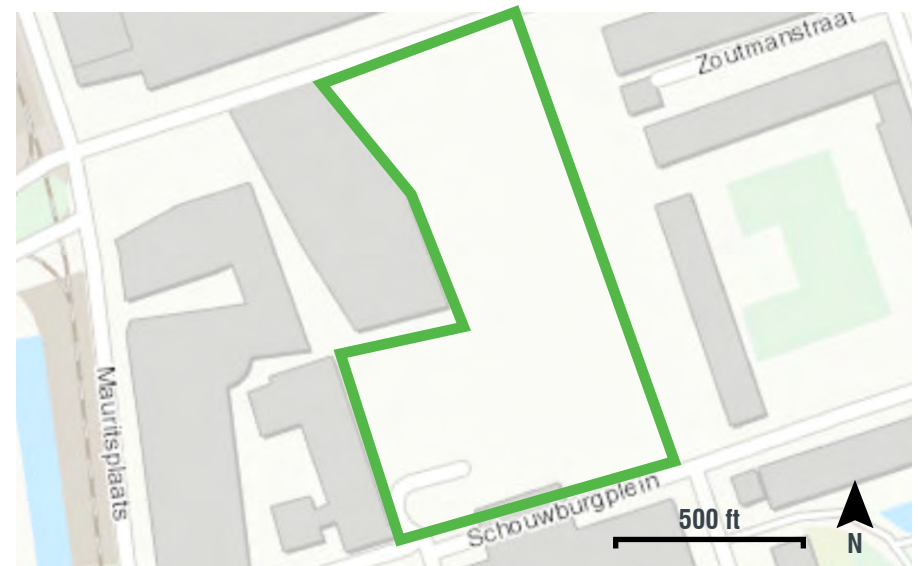
Schouwburgplein, Rotterdam, The Netherlands

Development/Operation/Management:

Dutch for “Theater Square,” Schouwburgplein is surrounded by the city of Rotterdam’s cultural institutions. The space itself can be characterized as an urban stage, a vast, versatile open space that changes its character based on time of day and relationship to the sun.

The park’s main vertical elements are three 45-foot tall ventilation towers from the parking garage below the square and four crane-like lights. The towers contain LED displays that form a digital clock. The lights can be operated by park users to illuminate different portions of the square at night.

The main square serves as a stage for both planned events and impromptu performances by park visitors. The square is operated and managed by the City of Rotterdam.



Source: mcatlas.org

FUNCTION/SERVICE AREA:

- Community gathering open space
- Serves high pedestrian traffic
- Accommodates large planned events
- Social gathering on a variety of scales

MAIN PROGRAM

- Flexible program
- Informal gathering
- Unstructured recreation
- Small gatherings
- Large community gatherings
- Temporary installations
- Program changes based on time of day

KEY FEATURES:

- Large central hardscape as focal point
- Seating options along perimeter of space
- Public art: interactive crane lights

SIZE:

- 3 Acres

SITE PLACEMENT:

- Surrounded by institutional and commercial uses (theaters, cinemas, restaurants and cafes).
- Surrounded by dense development all around
- Surrounded by three streets
- Seamless transition from plaza to surrounding urban fabric

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- Space serves as an extension of surrounding arts district, allowing for temporary or impromptu performances or installations.

References: West8, Wikipedia



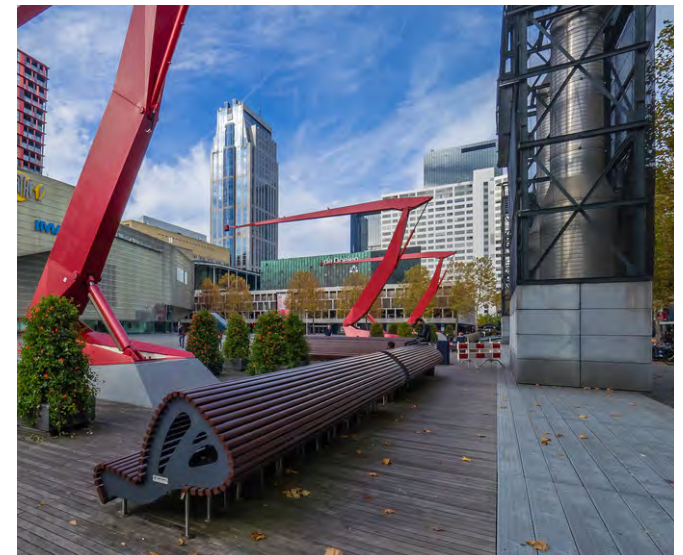
Ample site lighting provides a safe environment for theater or concert goers. Interactive crane lights change the quality of the space at night. Source: West8



Large, unprogrammed open space allows for temporary installations. Source: flyinggrasscarpet.org



Interactive crane lights reflect Rotterdam's history as a hub of shipping and industry. Rows of benches allow visitors to be spectators while the adjacent open space serves as a stage. Source: melk-nyc.com



Site has minimal furnishings that are very well-detailed, such as custom benches. Source: fiveprime.com

Plaza

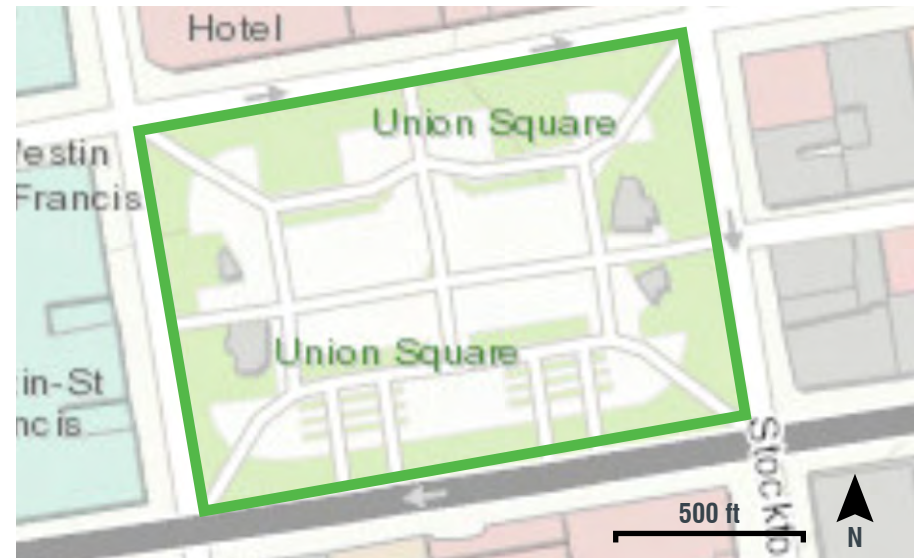
Union Square, San Francisco, California

Development/Operation/Management:

Originally built in 1850, the square got its name from the pro-Union rallies that happened in the park before and during the Civil War. Today, 'Union Square' refers both to the central shopping, hotel and theater district of San Francisco and the one square block public plaza at the center of the district.

The plaza is owned and operated by the San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department, and is the site of several events hosted by both commercial and non-profit entities throughout the year.

In 1998, the plaza was renovated, removing most of the lawn panels in favor of paving to accommodate a variety of uses and to discourage homeless encampments.



Source: mcatlas.org

FUNCTION/SERVICE AREA:

- Community gathering open space
- Serves high pedestrian traffic
- Accommodates large planned events
- Accommodates local daily uses
- Social gathering on a variety of scales

MAIN PROGRAM

- Flexible program
- Informal gathering
- Unstructured recreation
- Small gatherings
- Large regional gatherings
- Temporary installations

KEY FEATURES:

- Large central hardscape as focal point
- Moveable seating along perimeter of space
- Central monument serves as landmark
- Permanent stage for planned or impromptu performances

SIZE:

- 2.6 Acres

SITE PLACEMENT:

- Surrounded by institutional and commercial uses
- Serves as anchor for surrounding shopping, hotel and theater district
- Surrounded by high rise development all around
- Surrounded by four streets
- Public access is directed to clearly delineated entrances
- Storefronts and building entrances facing the park are maximized

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- Space serves as an extension of surrounding arts district, allowing for temporary or impromptu performances or installations.

References: San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department, Wikipedia



Vertical transitions between street and plaza provide seating areas and gradual transitions from street to plaza. Source: travelingwithsweeney.com



Adjacent buildings open onto the plaza, enhancing visibility throughout. Grade changes within the plaza are expressed through a stage and seating opportunities. Source: resaconvention.com



The open, unprogrammed plaza can accommodate large, regional gatherings and provides opportunities for sponsored events. Source: sfuncheap.com



The plaza serves as an anchor for surrounding commercial development, where surrounding businesses often sponsor events in the plaza. Source: unionsquareicerink.com

Civic Green / Plaza Mears Park, St. Paul, Minnesota

Development/Operation/Management:

Originally too steep to accommodate any type of structure, the land that would become Mears Park was flattened out in the 19th century to accommodate the construction of a Baptist church three blocks to the north. Today, it anchors the Lowertown neighborhood of St. Paul, surrounded by a mix of residential and retail uses. A rock-lined stream runs diagonally through the park, and a large band shell provides the setting for several concerts, events and festivals throughout the year.

The park is owned and operated by the City of St. Paul, and a volunteer group assists with maintenance of the gardens that run throughout the park.



Source: mcatlas.org

FUNCTION/SERVICE AREA:

- Community gathering open space
- Regional destination
- Accommodates local daily uses
- Accommodates large planned events
- Social gathering on a variety of scales

MAIN PROGRAM

- Flexible program
- Informal gathering
- Small gatherings
- Large community gatherings
- Places for quiet contemplation

KEY FEATURES:

- Small central plaza with band shell
- Large open lawns
- Rock-lined stream
- Variety of seating areas
- Visitor amenities: public restrooms

SIZE:

- 2.25 Acres

SITE PLACEMENT:

- Surrounded by four streets
- Surrounded by dense residential, institutional and commercial uses
- Adjacent development faces onto park
- Open visual access from surrounding streets and sidewalks into park

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- Rock-lined stream brings nature into urban fabric.

References: Friends of Mears Park, Wikipedia



While they are the park's main attraction during performances, the band shell and paved plaza are a easily recognizable meeting point when the stage is empty. Source: Brad J. Goldberg



The park's flat ground plane and wide walkways make it inviting to walk through. The variety of seating options provide a comfortable outdoor space for the park's neighbors. Source: Brad J. Goldberg



The artificial stream is an attractive play element for children. The movement of water drowns out traffic noise from adjacent streets. Source: Mapquest



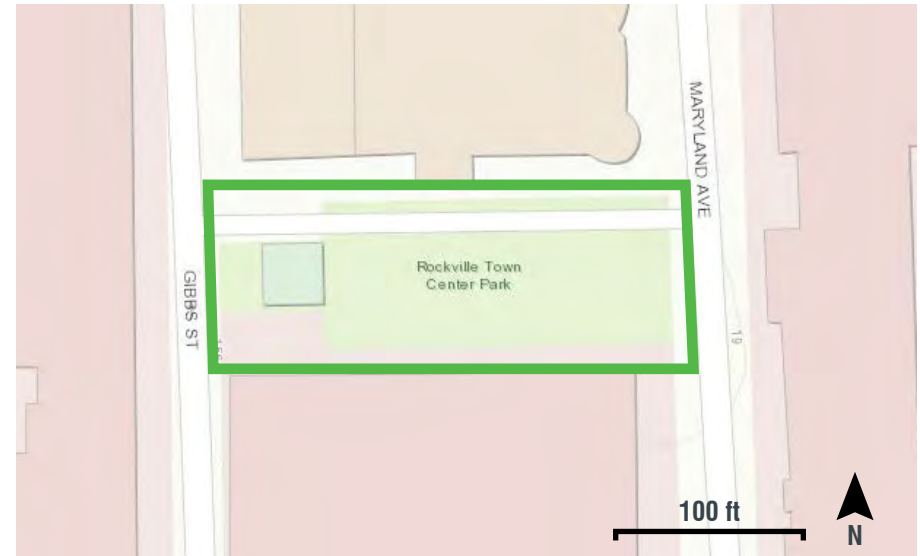
Despite the obstructed view of the stage, the large boulders that line the artificial stream in the park are among the most popular places to sit during concerts. Source: Jim Gehrz, Star Tribune

Civic Green / Plaza

Rockville Town Square, Rockville, Maryland

Development/Operation/Management:

Rockville Town Square is the comprehensive redevelopment of downtown Rockville on the site of the Rockville Mall built in 1972. The City of Rockville sought to revive this underutilized shopping center through a carefully executed master plan. The centerpiece of the mall redevelopment, is the privately owned public town square opened in 2000. The Town Square is owned and operated by Federal Realty and one of the reasons it is considered a success is because of the concerted efforts to bring in regular events and make the project an integrated part of the city.



Source: mcatlas.org

FUNCTION/SERVICE AREA:

- Regional destination
- Accommodates local daily uses
- Social gathering

MAIN PROGRAM

- Flexible program
- Informal gathering
- Places for quiet contemplation
- Unstructured recreation
- Large community gatherings and events

KEY FEATURES:

- Central Lawn
- Hardscape plaza
- Seating areas
- Pavilion/Stage
- Splash Pad
- Skating rink

SIZE:

- 0.64 acre (28,000 sf)

SITE PLACEMENT:

- At the center of a mixed use area
- Adjacent to the local library building

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- Lined by restaurants with entrances and outdoor seating opening onto the square

References: www.terrain.org, rockvilletownsquare.com



Movable furniture allows flexibility for social gathering.
 Source: M-NCPPC



The space is used for public events and activities all year round including this winter ice skating rink.
 Source: towncourier.com



The central turf lawn and plaza surrounded by active ground floor uses provide space for dining, relaxing, people-watching, reading and general enjoyment. Source: M-NCPPC

Urban Greenway

Crescent Park Trail, New Orleans, Louisiana

Development/Operation/Management:

Crescent Park is an effort to reconnect the burgeoning New Orleans' neighborhoods of Bywater and The Marigny with the Mississippi riverfront, long ago cut off by railroad tracks, warehouses and wharves. An initiative of the New Orleans Building Corporation, the park transforms surplus Port of New Orleans wharves and abandoned railroad sidings into open greens, event spaces and recreation areas. Two iconic bridges traverse the railroad tracks, bringing park visitors in from adjacent neighborhoods. Openings in the floodwall provide additional access to the park.

The park is operated by the French Market District, a public benefits corporation chartered by the City of New Orleans.



Source: mcatlas.org

FUNCTION/SERVICE AREA:

- Neighborhood connector
- Regional connector
- Connects recreation areas and open spaces
- Accommodates local daily uses

MAIN PROGRAM

- Flexible program
- Informal gathering
- Commuting
- Active recreation
- Contemplative uses

KEY FEATURES:

- Trail
- Bike racks
- Seating areas
- Dog park
- Concert venues
- Restrooms
- Open Lawn

SIZE:

- 1.4 miles point-to-point
- 20 acres

SITE PLACEMENT:

- Clear delineation between public space and adjacent private realm
- Repurposed industrial site
- Connects developed areas to riverfront
- Ample access points from high traffic areas

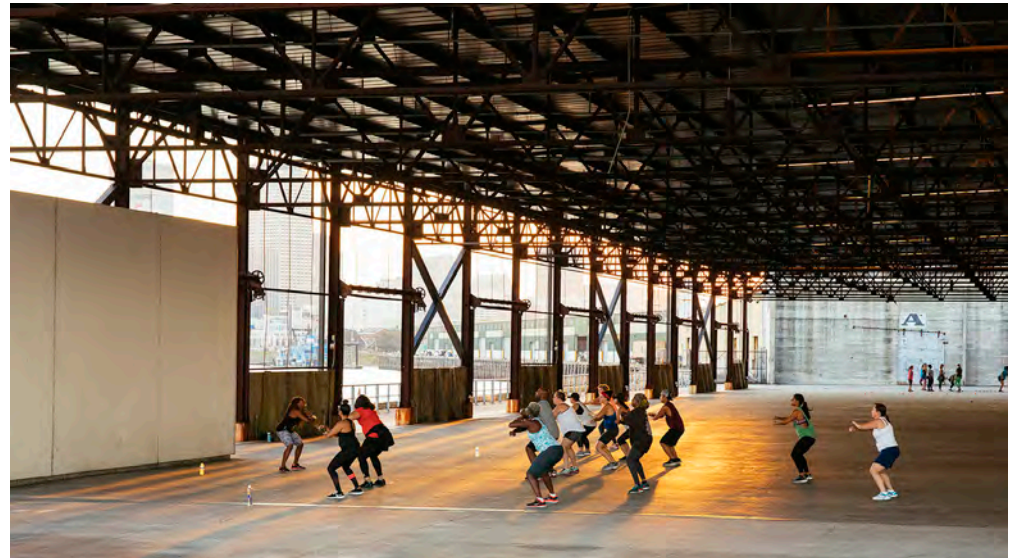
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- Adaptive reuse of disused industrial facilities (bridges, sidings, warehouses).
- Railroad creates a buffer between park and adjacent industrial uses

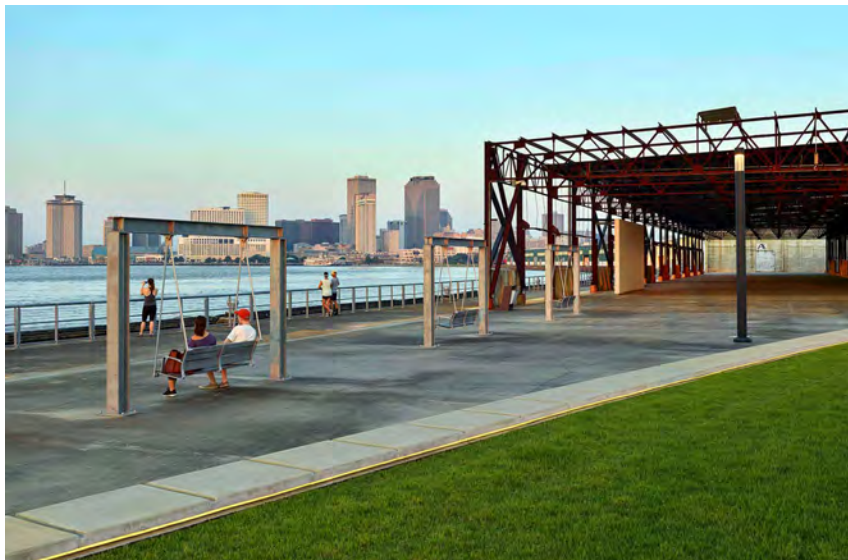
References: French Market Corporation, Hargreaves Associates, Wikipedia



The conversion of this disused railroad siding into a park opened expansive views of the Mississippi River and New Orleans skyline. Source: Hargreaves Associates



Former warehouse spaces along the linear park were restored and converted into event spaces that open up to views of the river and skyline. Source: Claire Bangser, moveyabrass.com



Furnishings recall the site's former industrial and shipping uses and provide individual contemplative areas throughout the park. Source: Hargreaves Associates



Sculptural bridges recall the site's industrial past and provide access over the adjacent railroad into residential neighborhoods beyond. Source: Mark Bienvenu

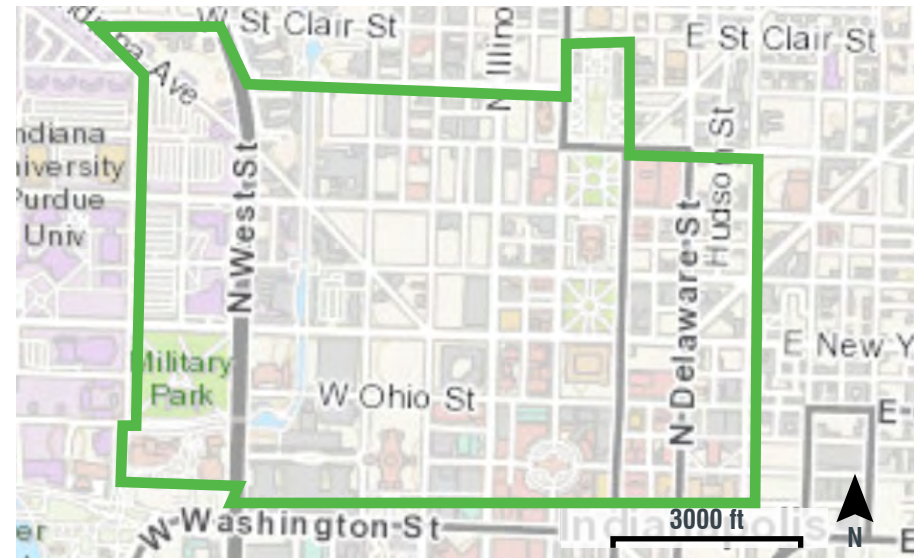
Urban Greenway

Indianapolis Cultural Trail, Indianapolis, Indiana

Development/Operation/Management:

The Indianapolis Cultural Trail is an eight-mile-long linear park and trail that connects Indianapolis' six cultural districts. The trail is protected from vehicular traffic and provides connections to parks, art projects and city landmarks. Since the trail's construction, bike sharing was introduced in the city, and several stations are located immediately adjacent to the trail.

Construction of the trail was funded with a combination of private donations, federal grants and municipal dollars. The trail is managed by the Indianapolis Cultural Trail, Inc., a nonprofit organization, and operates through private donations and public funding.



Source: mcatlas.org

FUNCTION/SERVICE AREA:

- Neighborhood connector
- Regional destination
- Connects recreation areas and open spaces
- Accommodates local daily uses

MAIN PROGRAM

- Flexible program
- Informal gathering
- Commuting
- Active recreation
- Contemplative uses

KEY FEATURES:

- Trail
- Public art along trail
- Bike racks
- Seating areas
- Waypoints

SIZE:

- 8-mile loop

SITE PLACEMENT:

- Clear delineation between public space and adjacent private realm
- Located along road rights-of-way
- Ample access points from high traffic areas
- Utilizes existing road right of way

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- Trail installed in conjunction with streetscape and stormwater enhancements.

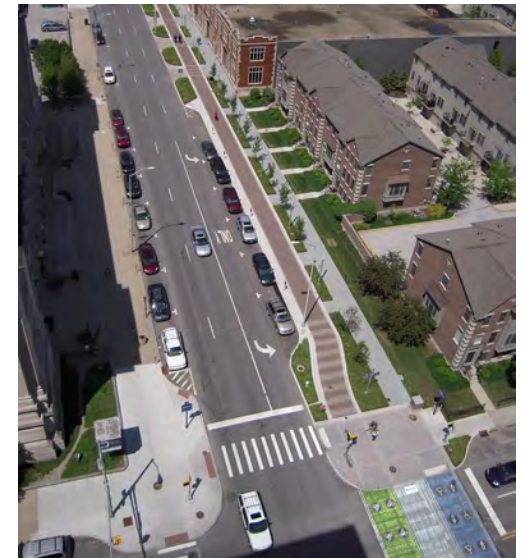
Reference: Indianapolis Cultural Trail, Inc.



The trail utilizes a consistent paver pattern to differentiate it from standard city sidewalks. Bike racks and other amenities buffer the trail from the street. Source: walkindianapolis.org



Colorful crosswalks designate the trail to motorists. Source: gaytravelherald.com



The trail makes use of existing rights-of-way. Source: pedbikeinfo.org



Stormwater management improvements were installed in conjunction with the trail, providing both environmental and cultural benefits. Source: nacto.org



Public art attracts additional user groups onto the trail and lighting provides for safe trail use at night. Source: visitindiana.com

Urban Greenway

Swamp Rabbit Trail, Greenville, South Carolina

Development/Operation/Management:

This 20 mile multi-use trail largely follows a former railroad bed and links two college campuses (Greenville Technical College and Furman University), several public parks and the town of Travelers Rest with downtown Greenville. The roadbed of the Greenville & Northern Railway was purchased by the Greenville Economic Development Corporation in 1999 for use as a greenway and light rail passenger line. Instead, the roadbed was turned into a hiker-biker trail. The trail is used for commuting and recreation. It also draws considerable attention as a tourist attraction.

The trail is owned and maintained by the Greenville County Recreation District with support from the Greenville Health System. The two agencies partnered with Edible Upcountry magazine to create a food guide for the trail, identifying retail, restaurants, cafes, grocery stores, ice cream shops, community gardens and convenient restrooms and parking.



Source: mcatlas.org

FUNCTION/SERVICE AREA:

- Neighborhood connector
- Regional connector
- Regional destination
- Connects recreation areas and open spaces
- Accommodates local daily uses
- Connects residential areas with commercial areas

MAIN PROGRAM

- Flexible program
- Informal gathering
- Commuting
- Active recreation
- Contemplative uses

KEY FEATURES:

- Trail
- Bike racks
- Seating areas
- Waypoints
- Overlooks
- Parking

SIZE:

- 20 miles point-to-point

SITE PLACEMENT:

- Clear delineation between public space and adjacent private realm
- Located along an abandoned railroad bed
- Connects developed areas to natural features/waterways
- Ample access points from high traffic areas

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- Partnerships with businesses along trail draws additional traffic to trail and to commercial areas.

References: Greenville County Rec, Greenville Health System, Wikipedia



Waypoints at retail developments allow businesses to have a presence along the trail, drawing users in and increasing business. Source: visitgreenville.com



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. Source: 10best.com



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. Source: *Architect Magazine* (left), spicysouthernkitchen.com (right).

Urban Greenway

The Goods Line, Sydney, Australia

Development/Operation/Management:

Commissioned by the Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority, The Goods Line transforms a former elevated rail corridor into a creative and connected public destination that enhances the public life of Sydney.

A steering committee chaired by the landowner body including representation from other key landowners along its length was established prior to commencing the design process. Key decisions regarding funding, ongoing curation of programming and design resolution were presented to the steering committee in an ongoing process which ensured co-ownership of ideas and efficiency of the process.

A site specific governance model was developed for The Goods Line to ensure that the commitment to ongoing activation is an embedded and enduring part of the project and provides a best-practice example of multi-agency management.



Source: mcatlas.org

FUNCTION/SERVICE AREA:

- Network connector
- Regional destination
- Linear and continuous
- Parks and open spaces
- Accommodates local daily uses

MAIN PROGRAM

- Flexible program
- Informal gathering
- Places for quiet contemplation
- Unstructured recreation
- Large community gatherings

KEY FEATURES:

- Wide walkways and bikeways
- Activity and green space platforms
- Amphitheater
- Children's water playground
- Adult fitness stations
- Interpretive signage and historic objects

SITE PLACEMENT:

- Connector to cultural and education institutions
- Bordered by institutional uses that open onto the linear park

SIZE:

- 0.31 mile (approx 1640 ft)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- Parts of the old train track have been preserved, which you can clearly see as you walk along the Goods Line

References: thegoodslines.aspect.net.au, property.nsw.gov.au, andezine-award.com



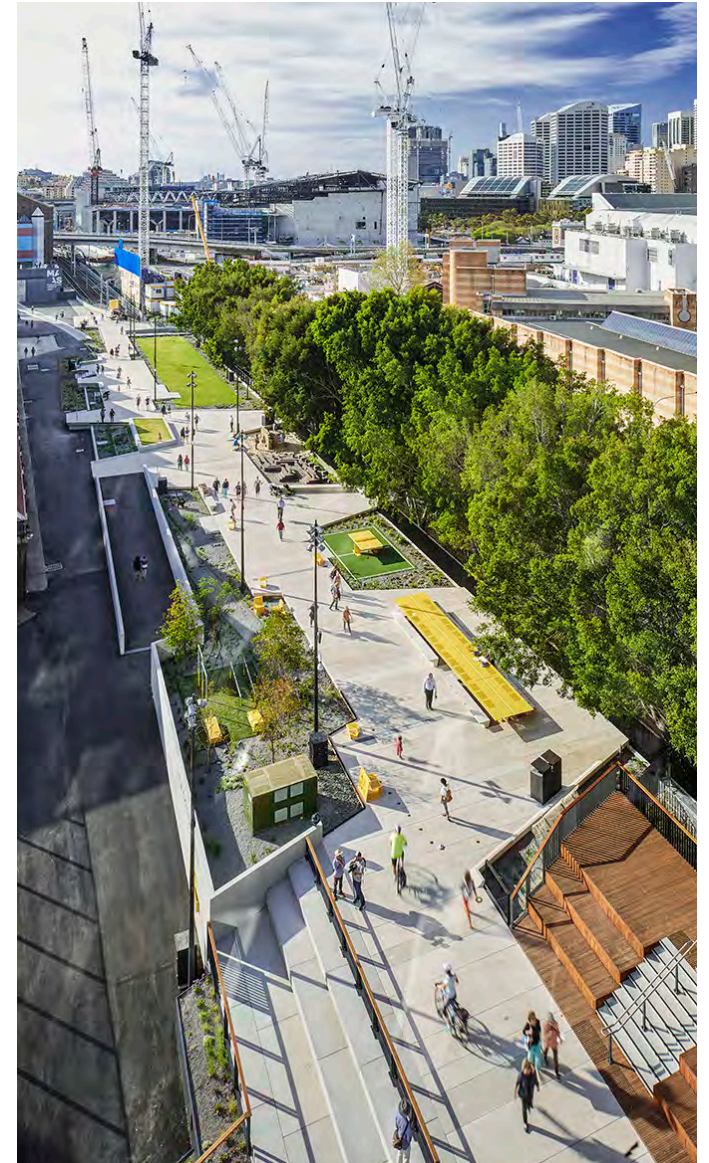
The former freight railway line, tram depot and power station, now a museum.
Source: Wikipedia/NSWGR Archives



Adult fitness stations in addition to playground areas make the space attractive for all ages.
Source: ASPECT Studios



The series of 'event platforms' along the Goods Line provide space for a variety of activities, seating and places to relax. Source: ASPECT Studios



The Goods Line connects more than 80,000 students, locals and visitors to the many major area attractions.
Source: ASPECT Studios

Urban Greenway

Thornton Creek Water Quality Channel, Seattle, Washington

Development/Operation/Management:

Carved out of an abandoned parking lot, the Thornton Creek Water Quality Channel is a water treatment facility and public open space that connects the surrounding community while restoring the environment. The greenway sits at the heart of a mixed-use development that features condominiums, apartments, restaurants, retailers and a movie theater.

Community involvement was instrumental in making the channel successful. A stakeholder group, made up of community, environmental and business interests, helped drive the design, which resulted in a design that integrates environmental and commercial concerns. The public open space and pedestrian connectivity to the regional transit hub has assisted in revitalizing economic development in the neighborhood, setting the stage for Northgate Urban Center to become an important urban hub within Seattle. The channel was constructed by Seattle Public Utilities with funding support from Washington State Department of Ecology.

FUNCTION/SERVICE AREA:

- Regional Destination
- Linear and Continuous Parks and Open Spaces
- Open Spaces Network Connector
- Accommodates Locals Daily Uses
- Active Recreation Supported by Contemplative Setting

MAIN PROGRAM

- Active Programming and Exposure to Nature Along Wide Landscaped Walkways and Bikeways

KEY FEATURES:

- Trails with Walkways and Bikeways
- Vegetative Ground Cover and Trees
- Connectors to Other Green Spaces and Trails
- Water Treatment Facility
- Public Art Sculptures

SITE PLACEMENT:

- Connector to Other Public Spaces and Natural Areas
- May Follow Natural Resources and Recreational Areas
- Along Road R.O.W.S.
- Enough Setback from Buildings to Preserve Continuity of Path/Trail as Public Accessible Space



Source: mcatlas.org

SIZE:

- 2.7 acres

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- This open space treats runoff from 680 acres

References: svrdesign.com, seattle.gov



Sculptures serve as markers for the public entry to the water channel. Source: M-NCPPC



Bridges, trails and walkways provide connections through this large block and spaces to stroll, bike and skate. Source: SvR



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. Source: Walsh Construction Co.

Urban Recreational Park

Joe DiMaggio North Beach Playground, San Francisco, California

Development/Operation/Management:

Built in 1907, the North Beach Playground was one of the first two neighborhood playgrounds ever constructed by the City of San Francisco. Two community pools (one for boys and one for girls) were built in 1910, using funds allocated for fire department cisterns. The park was renamed in 2000 in honor of hall-of-fame baseball player Joe DiMaggio, who grew up playing in the park in the 1920s.

The pools and clubhouse were renovated in 2005-2006. While the pools retained their historic configuration, the clubhouse was expanded into a 2,200 square-foot multi-use community building. The renovated playground opened in 2015. The site also includes tennis, bocce and basketball courts. The park is maintained and managed by the San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department, and a friends group operates through the San Francisco Parks Alliance.



Source: mcatlas.org

FUNCTION/SERVICE AREA:

- Focus on active recreation
- Local destination
- Regional destination
- Connected to public spaces network

MAIN PROGRAM

- Active recreation
- Informal social gathering
- Small community gatherings

KEY FEATURES:

- Playground
- Courts
- Swimming pool
- Library
- Community Center

SIZE:

- 2.5 acres

SITE PLACEMENT:

- Center of high-density residential development
- Adjacent to other institutional and recreation uses
- Connection to street grid and public transit opportunities
- Surrounded by four streets

References: San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department, dimaggioplayground.org



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. Source: San Francisco Public Works



Site topography is used as an opportunity for amenities. Source: baumanland.com



Tennis court with pickleball overlay allows for flexibility of use. Source: San Francisco Public Works



Open court areas provide opportunities for a variety of recreation types and flexibility in use. Source: baumanland.com

Urban Recreational Park

Long Bridge Park, Arlington, Virginia

Development/Operation/Management:

Formerly a light industrial site, Arlington County has decontaminated this 30-acre site along the Potomac River and is redeveloping it into a recreational park to serve county residents. Two phases of the park have already been constructed, comprising most of the park's outdoor amenities and environmental enhancements. The park will ultimately contain an aquatics and fitness center.

The park is operated, managed and programmed by Arlington County. Funding for one of the park's three lit, artificial turf rectangular fields was provided by Marymount University, in exchange for priority use as their home field for lacrosse and soccer. A friends group was formed during design of the park to advocate for improved facilities on behalf of park users.



Source: mcatlas.org

FUNCTION/SERVICE AREA:

- Focus on active recreation
- Local destination
- Regional destination
- Connected to public spaces network

MAIN PROGRAM

- Active recreation
- Informal social gathering
- Large community gatherings

KEY FEATURES:

- Rectangular recreational fields
- Contemplative seating areas
- Playground
- Spray park
- Public art
- Public facilities: restrooms

SIZE:

- 30 acres

SITE PLACEMENT:

- Edge of high density residential and commercial development
- Walking distance to residences
- Connections to street grid and public transit opportunities
- Buffer between residential development and train tracks

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- Adaptive reuse of former industrial area
- Partnership with local universities for field use and maintenance

References: Arlington County Parks and Recreation



The park occupies a former industrial site wedged between an elevated freeway (left) and railroad tracks (right), that would be unsuitable for residential or commercial development. Source: Arlington County



Low vegetation allows views into and out of site while stabilizing slopes. Source: Hargreaves Associates



Public art is integrated into the park's fabric (sculpture provides shade for viewing areas). Source: Arlington County



A spray park provides cooling for users of all ages on hot days. Source: Arlington County



Play areas adjacent to the fields make the park a destination for all ages of users. Source: Arlington County

Urban Recreational Park

Mission Dolores Park, San Francisco, California

Development/Operation/Management:

As the City of San Francisco surveyed and auctioned off land, almost no provision was made for public open space or parks. In the official survey of 1849 only four parks were provided, each a block or portion of a block within the city grid. Once the City Beautiful Movement became popular in San Francisco, the City eventually bought the property in 1905 and transformed a former cemetery into Mission Dolores Park.

The park is currently operated by the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department. Because of the park's success at attracting large crowds, trash is one of the primary concerns for maintenance of the park. The City launched seasonal pop-up recycling and composting spots, also known as Eco Pop-ups, that have staff stationed on-site to encourage park constituents to recycle and compost waste generated during their visits at the Park. This initiative has diverted 48.8% of the total waste from the landfill as compared to 2% before the program.



Source: mcatlas.org

FUNCTION/SERVICE AREA:

- Place focus on active play
- Regional destination
- Accommodates locals daily uses

MAIN PROGRAM

- Primarily recreational program focused on active recreation supported by contemplative setting and social gathering spaces

KEY FEATURES:

- Playing Courts and Fields
- Mix of Hardscape and Grassy Open Spaces
- Off-leash dog play areas
- Mix of Scheduled and Unscheduled Recreation

SITE PLACEMENT:

- Within Walking Distance of High Density Residential and Commercial Areas
- Adjacent to High School
- Building entrances facing the park - visually and physically accessible

SIZE:

- 16 acres

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- Sunny days can bring thousands of people to gather in the park

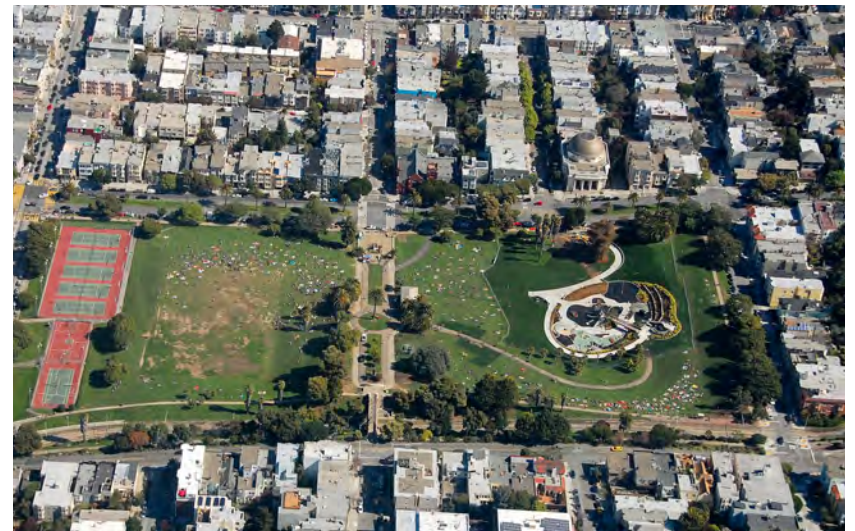
References: sfrecpark.org, doloresparkworks.org



The playground was renovated in 2012 and provides a range of activities for different age groups. Funds for the renovations came from public sources and a \$1.6 million private donation. Source: kochla.com



View of the flexible lawn area which provides ample space for the typically large crowd of users to gather and relax on sunny days. Source: sf.curbed.com



The location in a vibrant mixed-use and culturally diverse neighborhood makes the park a popular destination. Source: Todd Lapin

Urban Recreational Park

Soma West Dog Park and Skate Park, San Francisco, California

Development/Operation/Management:

Located on a former surface parking lot beneath the Central Freeway (US-101), this dog park and skate park are operated and maintained by the San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department through a lease with Caltrans, who owns the property and the freeway above.

The project is part of a larger effort to provide recreation opportunities beneath portions of elevated freeways. In order to keep graffiti at a minimum, most surfaces have been painted in colorful murals.



Source: mcatlas.org

FUNCTION/SERVICE AREA:

- Focus on active recreation
- Local destination
- Serves neighborhood
- Connected to public spaces network

MAIN PROGRAM

- Active recreation
- Informal social gathering

KEY FEATURES:

- Dog park
- Skate park
- Public art

SIZE:

- 1 acre
- Dog park is 20,000 sf
- Skate park is 17,000 sf

SITE PLACEMENT:

- Activation of an underutilized open space (surface parking beneath a freeway)
- Building entrances facing the park
- Visually and physically accessible from sidewalk

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- Public art used to discourage graffiti

References: San Francisco Department of Public Works, curbed.sf.com,



The skate park was built on a former surface parking lot beneath US-101, activating an otherwise neglected space. Source: wescover.com



Vertical surfaces are covered with a mural that pays tribute to other famous skateboarding spots in the city. The mural also discourages graffiti. Source: 7x7.com



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. Source: San Francisco Department of Public Works



Site lighting allows for safe night time use. Source: yelp.com

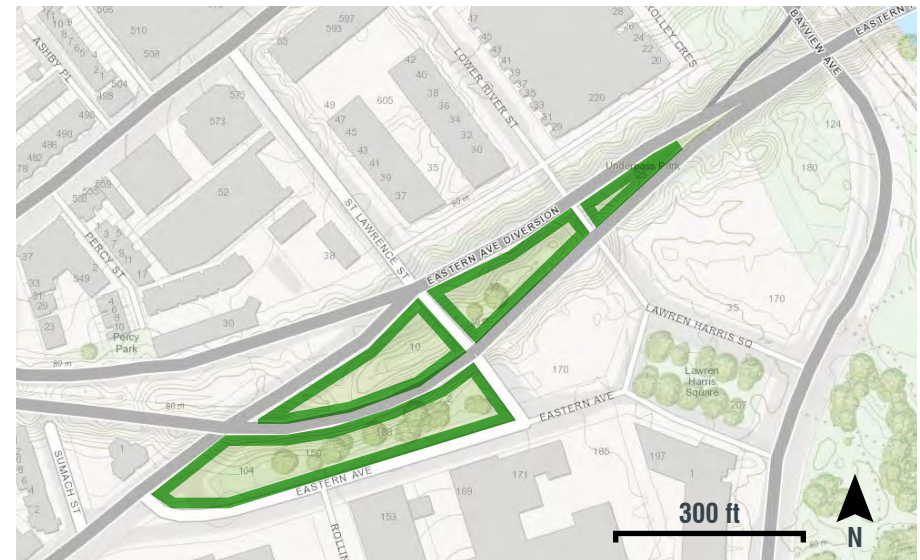
Urban Recreational Park

Underpass Park, Toronto, Canada

Development/Operation/Management:

Underpass Park is located beneath a complex of existing highway overpasses in Toronto's downtown, an otherwise forgotten and derelict remnant has been transformed into an active public park providing diverse recreational and social opportunities while connecting new and existing local neighborhoods and nearby parks. This unique public space is part of Waterfront Toronto's revitalization efforts. It serves to link Corktown Common, River Square and the neighborhoods on both sides of the overpass complex through the provision of safe and animated public realm design.

At a time when urban open-space resources continue to dwindle, and city populations and densities increase, taking advantage of unexpected opportunities, such as the underbelly of an overpass, has proven to be both visionary and essential for the overall health and vibrancy of this area of the city.



Source: mcatlas.org

FUNCTION/SERVICE AREA:

- Regional destination
- Formally planned
- Accommodates locals daily uses
- Active recreation supported by contemplative setting and social gathering spaces

MAIN PROGRAM

- Primarily recreational program focused on active recreation supported by contemplative setting and social gathering spaces

KEY FEATURES:

- Playing courts and playgrounds
- Mix of hardscape and grassy open spaces
- Mix of scheduled and unscheduled recreation

SITE PLACEMENT:

- Beneath highway overpasses
- Within walking distance of high density residential and commercial areas

SIZE:

- 2.5 acres

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- Light plays both an artistic and functional role at the park. Existing column archways are uplit to reinvent the space at night providing an animated night experience and aiding in wayfinding and a sense of safety. Various in-ground LED lights are programmed to create ever-changing visual interest.

References: asla.org, pfsstudio.com



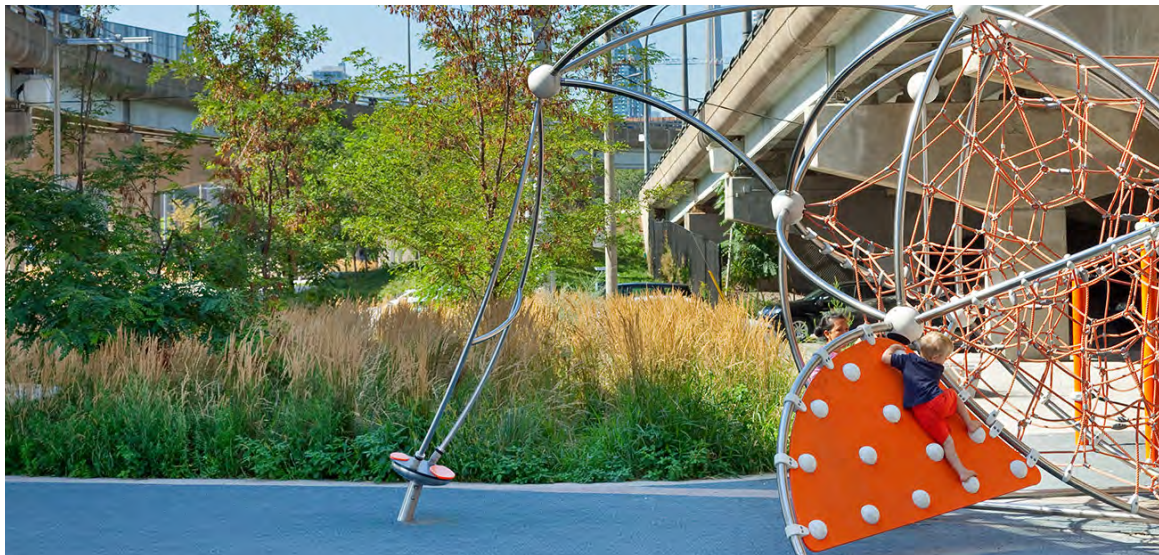
The park knits together surrounding neighborhoods making the underpass a connector and not a barrier. Source: asla.org



Colorful lighting and mirrored panels make this an inviting space at night. Source: asla.org/Tom Arban



Underutilized space converts to valuable recreation areas where land is limited. Source: asla.org/Tom Arban



Children's play structures serve as both functional equipment and sculptural objects in the park. Plants were selected for their ruggedness and ability to withstand harsh urban conditions while providing a layer of fine texture and ephemerality to the site. Source: asla.org/Tom Arban



Urban Recreational Parklet

76th Street Park, Los Angeles, California

Development/Operation/Management:

The 76th Street Park is a successful example of creating better access to open space and fitness facilities within a densely populated and park-poor setting through creative use of sustainable design principles in park design. The project was part of City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks' 50 Parks Initiative. The public-private partnership identified various funding sources, and also helped in engaging the community during the planning process.

Built on a foreclosed property, the park was built using sustainable design and safety features to minimize the maintenance and energy costs, and to create a safe environment. Design features include playground, fitness equipment, large capacity solar-powered waste bins, drought tolerant plants, automatic fence locks, motion-activated cameras, smart irrigation, and LED lighting. The new park has led to increase in the property values in the surrounding neighborhood, and reduced the occurrence of children playing on the streets and driveways. Residents now function as community groups to activate the park through exercise and arts programming.

FUNCTION/SERVICE AREA:

- Local destination
- Serves neighborhood
- Accommodates local daily uses

MAIN PROGRAM

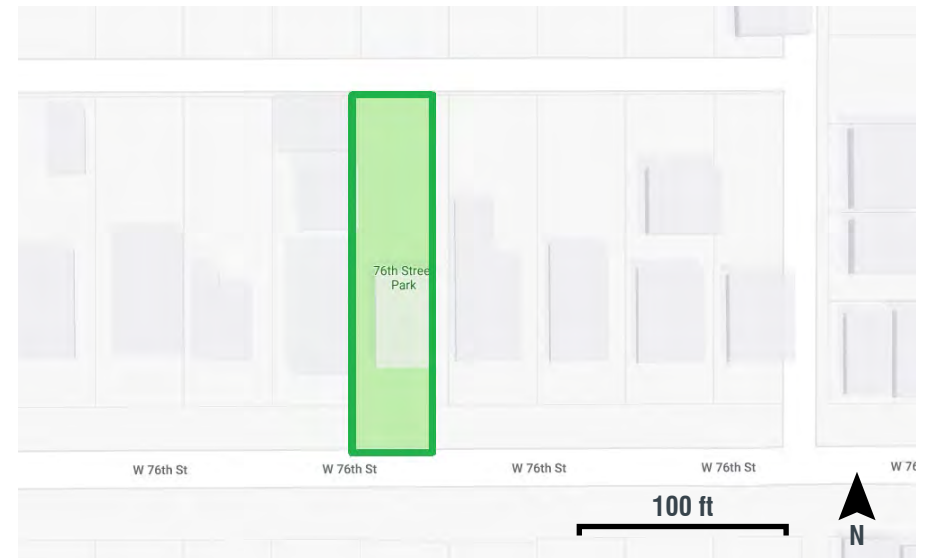
- Active recreation
- Informal social gathering

KEY FEATURES:

- Playground
- Fitness equipment
- Shaded seating and sunny areas

SITE PLACEMENT:

- Within Walking Distance of High Density Residential Area
- Mid-block through connection
- Sustainable design features



Source: Google Maps

SIZE:

- 1/8 acre

References: City Parks Alliance



Shaded playground with accessible surfacing allows kids and their parents to use the space at all times of the day. Source: City Parks Alliance



Fitness equipment is a great feature to create opportunities for active recreation in dense settings where space is a constraint. Source: City Parks Alliance

Urban Recreational Parklet Climbmax Climbing Center, Asheville, North Carolina

Development/Operation/Management:

Climbmax Climbing Center's iconic outdoor climbing wall is located on the Wall St, is a 4 stories tall, rising with the surrounding skyline of downtown Asheville. Being the brain child of Stuart Cowles who is one of the greatest adventure advocate in Asheville, and the "downtown location was specifically chosen to help promote Asheville and give users a unique chance at a memorable adventure in the middle of town!" - Steven Reinhold, Rootsrated.com

the outdoor climbing wall creates opportunities for outdoor recreation in the urban context where space is a constraint. Operated in partnership with the adjacent business, and climbing area fits well within the small plaza, allowing both recreation and activation. This landmark feature creates a unique identity and destination for the downtown Asheville. The wall seamlessly merges with the exterior facade and it's context. Various pop-up events allow activation and serves other adjacent businesses well.



Source: *mcatlas.org*

FUNCTION/SERVICE AREA:

- Local destination
- Formally planned
- Social gathering
- Active recreation
- Contemplative areas

MAIN PROGRAM

- Active recreation
- Informal social gathering

KEY FEATURES:

- Climbing wall
- Shaded seating and sunny areas
- Visitor amenities: restrooms, bike racks

SITE PLACEMENT:

- Within Walking Distance of High Density Downtown Areas
- Adjacent to Indoor Climbmax Climbing Center
- Building entrances facing the plaza - visually and physically accessible

SIZE:

- 1/4 acre
- 10' x 10' (200 sq ft) climbing area (excluding the circulation area required for pedestrian movement)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- Various pop-up events allow activation and serves other adjacent businesses well

References: *Rootsrated.com; Climbmax Climbing Center; mcatlas.org*



Climbmax Climbing Center's outdoor climbing wall allows both activation and recreation opportunities in the public spaces adjacent to this business. Source: Google Street View



Various pop-up events allows activation of the plaza. Source: Climbmax Climbing Center



Various age groups use the climbing wall for active recreation. Source: Climbmax Climbing Center

Urban Recreational Parklet

Silver Towers Playground, New York City, New York

Development/Operation/Management:

Situated between two high-rise apartment complexes, this space is dominated by a 24.5-foot-tall, 30-foot-long reclining bronze figure that doubles as a piece of custom play equipment. This whimsical character by artist Tom Otterness attracts passersby into this privately-owned public space as much as it serves as open space for the apartment's 2200 residents. The space was constructed as an amenity for the residents of the Silver Towers apartment complex, but is open to the public. The Silver Towers apartment complex is responsible for maintenance of the space.



Source: mcatlas.org

FUNCTION/SERVICE AREA:

- Place focus on active play
- Local destination
- Serves neighborhood
- Accommodates local daily uses

MAIN PROGRAM

- Primarily active recreation
- Informal social gathering
- Small community gatherings
- Supports contemplative setting

KEY FEATURES:

- Multi-functional structure: public art and playground
- Spray park
- Moveable seating
- Dog run
- Small lawn

SIZE:

- 1/4 acre

SITE PLACEMENT:

- Surrounded by two streets facing major sidewalks
- Surrounded by high rise residential development with windows facing the park
- Maximizes sun exposure between tall buildings
- Provides connectivity to other spaces
- Clear distinction between public and private spaces

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- Anchored by public art/play feature
- Clear signage at both entries: "Open to Public"

References: *New York Times*



The spray park is an attraction for children in the summer and serves as a plaza for moveable seating in cooler months. Source: apartmentfinder.com



This piece of public art is attractive to adults and provides a high degree of play value for children, promoting users of all ages to visit the park. Source: babyccinokids.com



Situated between two high rise residential buildings, the park serves as the front yard for its residents, but its openness to the adjacent street signifies it as a public space available to all users. The site's shade trees and moveable seating allow for a variety of seating options in contemplative or large group settings. The artificial turf playground safety surface provides the illusion of green space while still meeting playground safety standards. Source: chelseanow.com

Neighborhood Green

Canal Park, Washington, District of Columbia

Development/Operation/Management:

Canal Park is a neighborhood-centric park sited along the historic former Washington Canal system, on a site which had previously served as a parking lot for school buses. In 2000, developer WC Smith formed a nonprofit organization to secure the site and oversee development of the park. The developer and District commissioned a design competition that shaped several initial elements of the park. Today, the Capitol Riverfront Business Improvement District is contracted to manage the park and provide community programming.



Source: mcatlas.org

FUNCTION/SERVICE AREA:

- Local destination
- Formally planned
- Social gathering
- Active recreation
- Contemplative areas

MAIN PROGRAM

- Flexible program
- Informal gathering
- Places for quiet contemplation
- Unstructured recreation
- Large community gatherings

KEY FEATURES:

- Lawn area
- Surrounded by complementary uses
- Shaded seating and sunny areas

SITE PLACEMENT:

- Center of high residential use
- Streets line all sides of the parks

SIZE:

- 3 acres

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- Canal Park's linear rain garden is an integrated stormwater system satisfying up to 95 percent of the park's water needs and saving 1.5 million gallons of potable water annually. 28 geothermal wells provide a highly efficient energy supply for utilities, reducing Canal Park's overall energy use by 37 percent.

References: theolinstudio.com, capitolriverfront.org



Dancing fountains attract children in the warmer months. Source: Olin



A movie in the park is one of many seasonal events to activate the park. Source: Olin



The Canal Park Ice Rink in the winter helps make the park a year-round recreation destination. Source: Olin



Shaded benches create comfortable spaces for rest and contemplation. Source: Olin



Grassy areas provide space for informal play and relaxation. Source: Capitol Riverfront

Neighborhood Green Constitution Gardens Park, Gaithersburg, Maryland

Development/Operation/Management:

Owned, operated and maintained by the City of Gaithersburg, the park takes advantage of reclaimed natural materials and themes to provide unique nature play experiences. The park is divided into several small outdoor rooms, separating passive and active recreation opportunities as well as carving out individual spaces for older and younger children to safely play.



Source: mcatlas.org

FUNCTION/SERVICE AREA:

- Neighborhood gathering space
- Local destination
- Serves neighborhood

MAIN PROGRAM

- Active recreation
- Informal social gathering
- Small community gatherings
- Contemplative uses

KEY FEATURES:

- Nature play areas
- Story circle
- Small group gathering
- Seating areas

SIZE:

- 1/2 acre

SITE PLACEMENT:

- Surrounded by two streets
- Adjacent to community oriented uses
- Site entrances facing streets

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- Site design was informed by community participation.

References: City of Gaithersburg



Sand and wood encourage interaction with nature in an urban setting. Source: City of Gaithersburg



Grade changes are treated as an amenity. Source: Maryland Department of Natural Resources



Little libraries and reading circle encourages community and multi-generational interaction Source: Nancy Striniste, via Early Space



Community driven design resulted in community taking ownership of the park (herb garden is maintained by neighbors). Source: Nancy Striniste, via Early Space



Park entrances are marked by iconic structures to separate public and private space and create sense of arrival. Source: gatherhouseapartments.com

Neighborhood Green

Lincoln Park, Washington, District of Columbia

Development/Operation/Management:

The largest park in the Capitol Hill neighborhood of Washington DC, the space that is now Lincoln Park was included in Pierre L'Enfant's original plan for the District of Columbia. Although the park is primarily used by neighborhood residents for active and passive recreation, The park is also a regional destination. The 1876 statue of Abraham Lincoln and the 1974 Mary McLeod Bethune memorial are a popular tourist stop. The park also serves as a rallying point for demonstrators coming into the city from the east, on their way to the Capitol or National Mall.

The park is owned and operated by the National Park Service with volunteer assistance from various neighborhood groups and volunteer organizations.



Source: mcatlas.org

FUNCTION/SERVICE AREA:

- Neighborhood gathering space
- Local destination
- Regional destination
- Serves neighborhood
- Accommodates local daily uses

MAIN PROGRAM

- Active recreation
- Informal social gathering
- Small community gatherings
- Contemplative uses

KEY FEATURES:

- Open lawn areas
- Playgrounds (2)
- Variety of seating areas
- Public art (sculptures)
- Walking paths

SIZE:

- 7.5 acres

SITE PLACEMENT:

- Surrounded by four streets
- Surrounded by attached single family residences
- Formal entrances align with street grid
- Axial relationship with urban fabric

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- Serves as rallying point for large groups of pedestrians travelling elsewhere.

References: National Park Service, Wikipedia

The Emancipation Memorial (left) and the Mary McLeod Bethune Memorial (right) anchor the east and west ends of the park and are tourist attractions of regional importance. Placed on axis with the US Capitol building, the sculptures and overall park geometry reinforce the iconic street grid of Washington DC. Source: washington.org



The central lawn panel allows for a variety of simultaneous uses including pickup sports and off-leash dog play. Source: New York Times



The park's mature tree canopy allows continuous views through the park while providing shade and plenty of areas for contemplative use. Source: capitolhillcorner.org

Neighborhood Green

Rittenhouse Square, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Development/Operation/Management:

One of the five original squares laid out by William Penn in his plan for the City of Philadelphia, the configuration and setting of Rittenhouse Square has largely remained intact since it was formally designed in 1913. Although the park is internationally known for its success as an urban public space, it remains primarily a destination for members of the surrounding community, which bears the same name as the park.

Rittenhouse Square is owned and operated by the Philadelphia Parks and Recreation Department. The park receives considerable financial support, volunteer assistance and advocacy from the Friends of Rittenhouse Square, a public-private partnership with the Parks and Recreation Department.



Source: mcatlas.org

FUNCTION/SERVICE AREA:

- Neighborhood gathering space
- Local destination
- Regional destination
- Serves neighborhood
- Accommodates local daily uses

MAIN PROGRAM

- Informal social gathering
- Small community gatherings
- Contemplative uses
- Seasonal uses

KEY FEATURES:

- Open lawn areas
- Water feature
- Variety of seating areas
- Public art (statues)
- Walking paths

SIZE:

- 7 acres

SITE PLACEMENT:

- Surrounded by four streets
- High rise residential and commercial
- Formal entrances align with street grid
- Placement facing adjacent community-oriented uses
- Building entrances facing the park

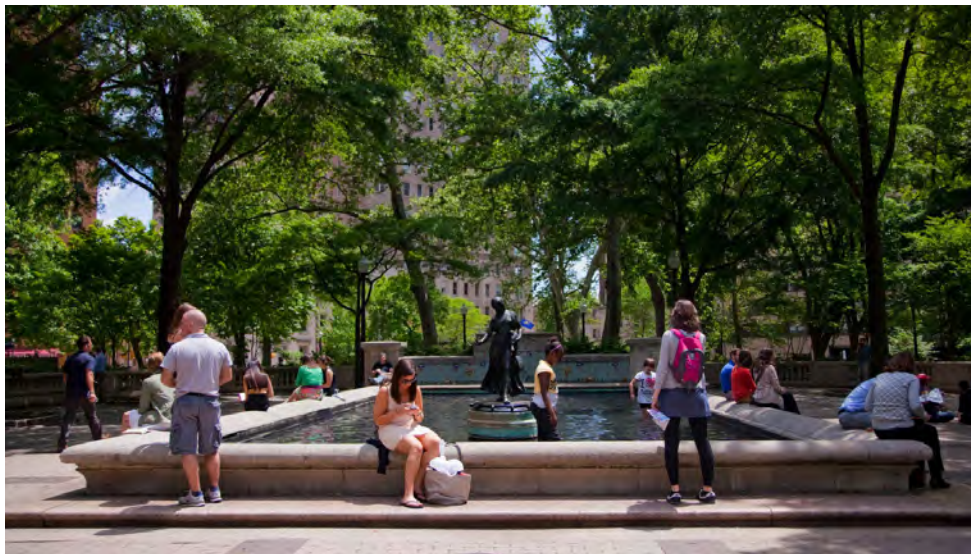
References: *Wikipedia*



The central lawn provides for a variety of group sizes to gather and use simultaneously for passive recreation. Source: Jim Saksa



Central paved area allows for seasonal or temporary installations and serves as a landmark for gatherings. Source: 10best.com



The fountain is a unique site feature, giving identity to the space. The sound of water and perception of coolness attracts visitors, especially on hot days. Source: visitphilly.com



Adjacent sidewalks are wide and inviting. Park is enclosed by an attractive perimeter fence adding security while directing users to clearly marked entrances. Source: icon1616.com

Neighborhood Green

Swampoodle Park, Washington, District of Columbia

Development/Operation/Management:

Swampoodle Park represents the first publicly owned public space in the rapidly developing NoMa (North of Massachusetts Avenue) neighborhood of Washington DC. The park was acquired by the NoMa Parks Foundation, a non-profit organization that receives funding from the District of Columbia government to acquire and improve parks and public spaces in the NoMa neighborhood. The foundation also receives support from the NoMa Business Improvement District.

The park, including its name, was designed with significant community input. The park includes an enclosed, linear play structure that requires little safety surface or use zones beyond the limits of its enclosure.



Source: mcatlas.org

FUNCTION/SERVICE AREA:

- Neighborhood gathering space
- Local destination
- Serves neighborhood

MAIN PROGRAM

- Active recreation
- Informal social gathering
- Small community gatherings
- Contemplative uses

KEY FEATURES:

- Playground
- Dog park
- Seating areas

SIZE:

- 0.18 acre
- Dog park is 5,000 sf

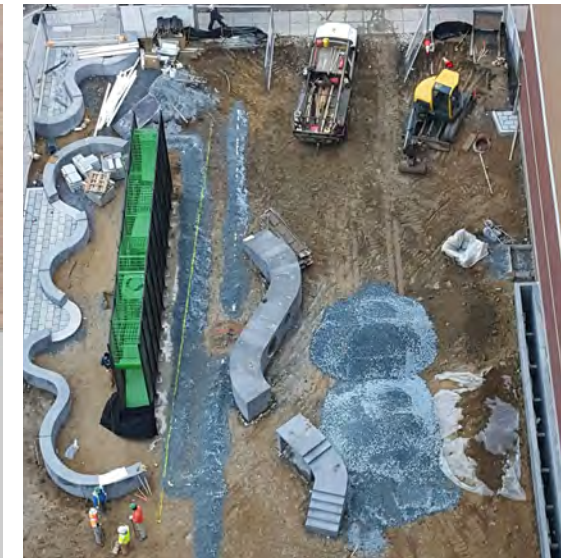
SITE PLACEMENT:

- Surrounded by three streets
- Adjacent to community oriented uses
- Site entrances facing streets

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- Public art changes seasonally, affecting site utilization throughout the year

References: NoMa Parks Foundation, Greater Greater Washington, The Hill Rag



All of the park elements, including its name, were the result of input from the community. Serpentine seat walls define the edges of the park while creating seating areas and contemplative spaces for passersby. Source: NoMa Parks Foundation

Several uses efficiently occupy a small, urban footprint. Source: NoMa Parks Foundation



Because the play structure is entirely enclosed, the use zone does not extend very far beyond the structure. This increases efficiency in a tight site. Source: carve.nl



The park is defined by adjacent, complementary uses. The wall of the adjoining structure encloses the dog park and buffers sound escaping to the surrounding community. Source: NoMa Parks Foundation

Neighborhood Green

Tear Drop Park, New York City, New York

Development/Operation/Management:

This two-acre park brings nature into the dense urban fabric of Battery Park City, on the southern tip of Manhattan. Densely planted vegetation, dramatic elevation changes, boulder outcroppings and water play areas combine to promote nature play in a protected space, enclosed by four high rise buildings.

Teardrop Park is maintained, operated and programmed by the Battery Park City Parks Conservancy, a not-for-profit corporation created by the Battery Park City Authority. The Authority's mission is to develop real estate for the benefit of the citizens of the state of New York. In an effort to stimulate real estate sales, the Authority focused their effort on creating parks before constructing buildings.



Source: mcatlas.org

FUNCTION/SERVICE AREA:

- Neighborhood gathering space
- Local destination
- Serves neighborhood

MAIN PROGRAM

- Active recreation
- Informal social gathering
- Small community gatherings
- Contemplative uses

KEY FEATURES:

- Playground
- Nature play areas
- Public art
- Central lawn
- Visitor amenities: restrooms

SIZE:

- 2 acres

SITE PLACEMENT:

- Surrounded on four sides by high rise residential
- Adjacent to institutional uses
- Site entrances facing streets

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- Public art changes seasonally, affecting site utilization throughout the year

References: Michael van Valkenburgh, Inc., Wikipedia



Ground-mounted spray features create a splash park in summer and seating area in cooler months. Source: Michael van Valkenburgh, Inc.



Natural materials contrast with surrounding urban fabric. Source: Michael van Valkenburgh, Inc.



Public art appears to be a rock wall in summer, but creates an ice sculpture in winter. Source: Michael van Valkenburgh, Inc.



Topography and natural materials contrast with surrounding urban fabric and provide interaction with nature for users. Source: Michael van Valkenburgh, Inc.



Central lawn provides a space for small community gatherings. Source: Michael van Valkenburgh, Inc.



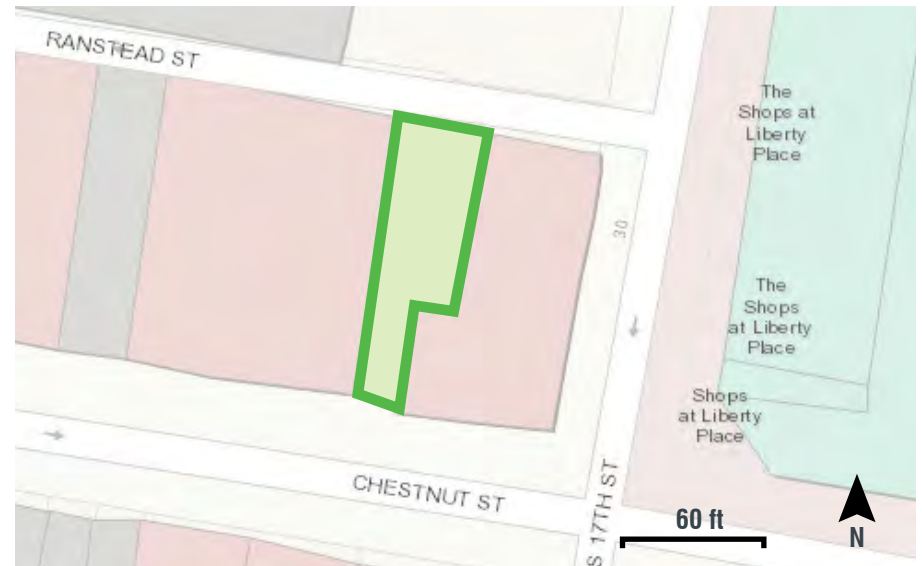
Nature play opportunities for children. Source: Michael van Valkenburgh, Inc.

Pocket Green

John F. Collins Park, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Development/Operation/Management:

In 1979, the park opened as Chestnut Park. After its renovation in 2011, the park re-opened as John F. Collins Park, honoring its designer. Located at mid-block in the heart of Center City, this landscaped hideaway was designed to reference the region's native landscape and indigenous people with its cascading fountains abstracting the image of Native American totems and its gates referencing the flora and fauna of the Wissahickon Valley and tidal landscapes. William Penn Foundation funded its development and construction. Center City District Foundation owns the land and Center City District maintains and operates the park.



Source: mcatlas.org

FUNCTION/SERVICE AREA:

- Place for pause
- Local destination
- Serves the district

MAIN PROGRAM

- Contemplative areas supported by smaller scale social gathering
- Flexible program
- Places for quiet contemplation
- Contact with nature

KEY FEATURES:

- Sunlit small gathering areas
- Small scale green areas
- Shaded seating
- Ornamental iron gates
- Flexible seating

SITE PLACEMENT:

- In spaces between buildings
- Protected from wind, noise, traffic
- Access to sunlight and shade
- Located near bus and transit stops

SIZE:

- ~1/10 acre

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- The space is rented for private and public events.

References: tclf.org, centercityphila.org



The cascade fountain is the focal point of this linear space framed by vine-covered walls with mature, and native shade trees. Source: centercityphila.org, tclf.org



The enclosed space allows it to be reserved for private events such as weddings. Source: partyspace.com



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. Source: www.phillymag.com



Placement of food carts at the entrance of the park invite people to stop and discover this little gem. Source: wolfescott.com



A wine garden partnership event makes this place a popular destination among locals and generates revenue towards its maintenance. Source: centercityphila.org

Pocket Green

Public Media Commons, St. Louis, Missouri

Development/Operation/Management:

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.

The project's \$5.2 million cost was privately financed by individuals and foundations. The partnership continues to actively program the space for public events and rent the space for a fee to support ongoing maintenance and operations.



Source: mcatlas.org

FUNCTION/SERVICE AREA:

- Place for pause
- Local destination
- Serves the district

MAIN PROGRAM

- Contemplative areas supported by smaller scale social gathering
- Flexible program
- Contact with nature

KEY FEATURES:

- Large video walls
- Sunlit small gathering areas
- Small scale green areas
- Shaded seating
- Small play areas

SITE PLACEMENT:

- In spaces between buildings
- Protected from wind, noise, traffic
- Access to sunlight and shade
- Complementary media office uses

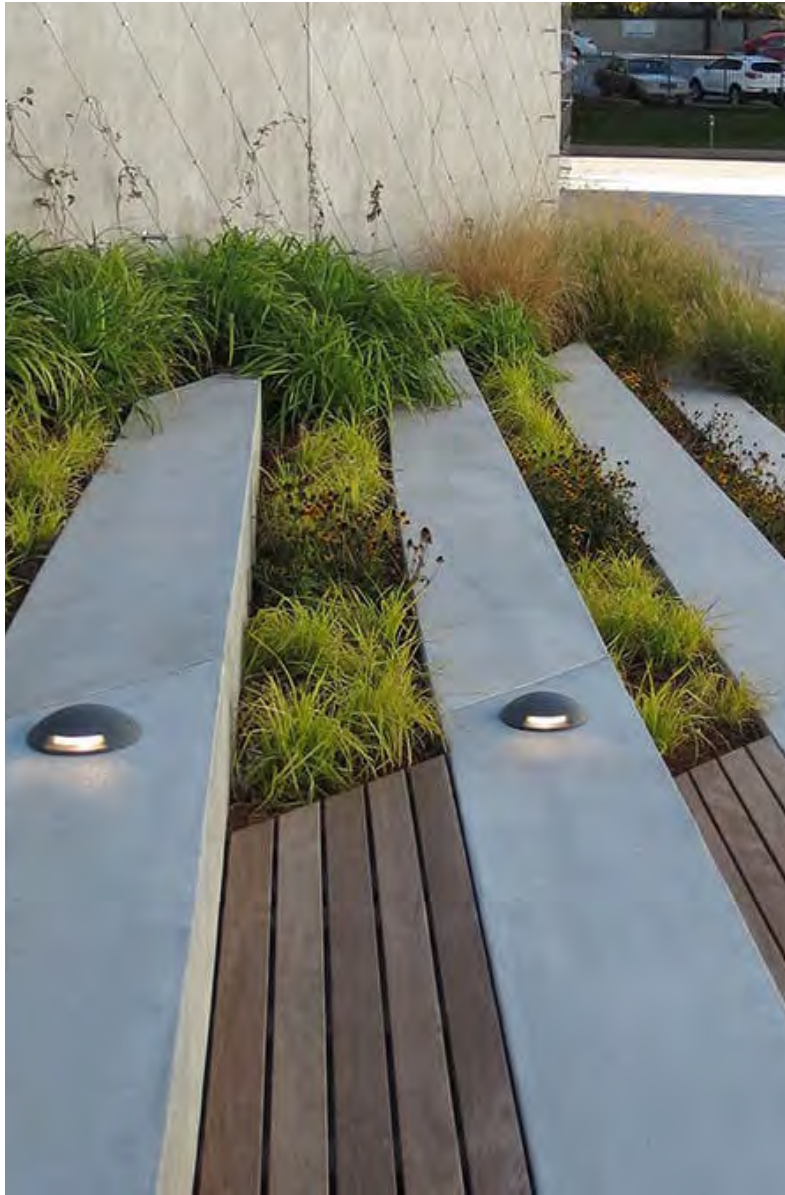
SIZE:

- ~0.21 acre

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- This unique open-air media environment is intended to bring people together for experiences that stimulate creative thinking and serve the community as an incubator of arts and ideas

References: publicmediacommons.org, asla.org



Plant species were selected based on their seasonal qualities to complement the ever changing news and media cycles of the networks. Source: asla.org



A perforated metal scrim was designed to allow for digital projection and contains digital screens. Source: asla.org



The amphitheater provides seating for events, gathering and contemplation. Source: asla.org

Temporary/Interim Park

The Lawn on D, Boston, Massachusetts

Development/Operation/Management:

D Street was mostly vacant lots, aged industrial buildings, and surface parking. The vision for the new district, anchored by the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center, aspires to be interactive, flexible, technologically advanced, inspired by art and events, and inclusive of many constituents (residents, workers, conventioners, tourists). The Lawn on D demonstrates and pilots these ambitions, testing spatial configurations and programming that will eventually be deployed to a future event space that will become the heart and focus of the new district along D Street.

Knowing that the Lawn on D would operate in an interim condition, the client and design team developed a low-cost, high-impact scheme. A construction budget under \$1.5 million was achieved by concentrating investment in a small and intimate area within the landscape and by making use of low-cost materials such as painted asphalt and using signature furniture and fixtures to set a playful, flexible tone.



Source: mcatlas.org

FUNCTION/SERVICE AREA:

- Experimental place
- Regional and local destination
- Types defined in collaboration with the community

MAIN PROGRAM

- Flexible program

KEY FEATURES:

- Public seating and lounge chairs
- Interactive art exhibitions
- Food truck areas
- Picnic tables
- Two pavilions

SITE PLACEMENT:

- Site of proposed park
- Underutilized area
- Complementary to final park type program

SIZE:

- 2.7 acres

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- The Lawn on D tests spatial configurations and programming that will eventually be deployed to a future event space that will become the heart and focus of the new district along D Street

References: sasaki.com, signatureboston.com, citylab.com



*The plaza has a bright orange path that connects to the convention center front door.
Source: Sasaki*



*The lawn area provides space for informal play and gathering with moveable furniture and games.
Source: Sasaki*



*Swing Time is composed of 20 illuminated swings that activate the park day and night.
Source: Höweler + Yoon*



*Tent pavilions are used as event space.
Source: Sasaki*



*The Lawn on D is composed of two parts, the plaza and the lawn. Each are flexible spaces that accommodate community gathering and events. Longer term development is beginning to take shape around this temporary space.
Source: Sasaki*

Temporary/Interim Park

The Porch at 30th Street Station, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Development/Operation/Management:

The Porch sits between 30th Street Station and four lanes of traffic on Market Street on a site that was once a congested parking lane and barren sidewalk. In 2008, University City District (UCD), a partnership of area institutions, small businesses and residents, began brainstorming ideas of a more inviting public space. PennDOT agreed to build a 55'x500' stretch of sidewalk, which became the foundation for the Porch and UCD completed the redesign of the space in 2011, at a cost of \$375,000. The Porch quickly became an animated public place destination in Philadelphia.

UCD conducted 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. Porch 2.0 debuted in the spring of 2015, with the help of Groundswell Design Group and Gehl Studio. The new look kept the modular furniture, while adding in permanent bench swings, new plantings, and more seating. The changes brought 33 percent more visitors to the Porch.



Source: mcatlas.org

FUNCTION/SERVICE AREA:

- Experimental place
- Regional and local destination
- Types defined in collaboration with the community

MAIN PROGRAM

- Flexible program

KEY FEATURES:

- Pilot activities for future park/public space
- Activities/structure are inclusive and easy to participate

SITE PLACEMENT:

- Site of proposed park
- Underutilized area
- Complementary to final park type program

SIZE:

- ~0.69 acre (30,000 sf)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- A permanent plaza design with elevated planters, integrated skylights, panoramic pavilion and food truck areas is under development for the site

References: groundswelldesigngroup.com, universitycity.org, philly.curbed.com



Brightly colored swings and plantings create an inviting space for relaxation. Source: universitycity.org



Flexible areas for games and programming allow the space to change regularly. Source: universitycity.org



Different tiered platforms with decking, turf, planters, umbrellas, chairs, tables and swings help to create unique, individual spaces throughout the Porch. Source: universitycity.org

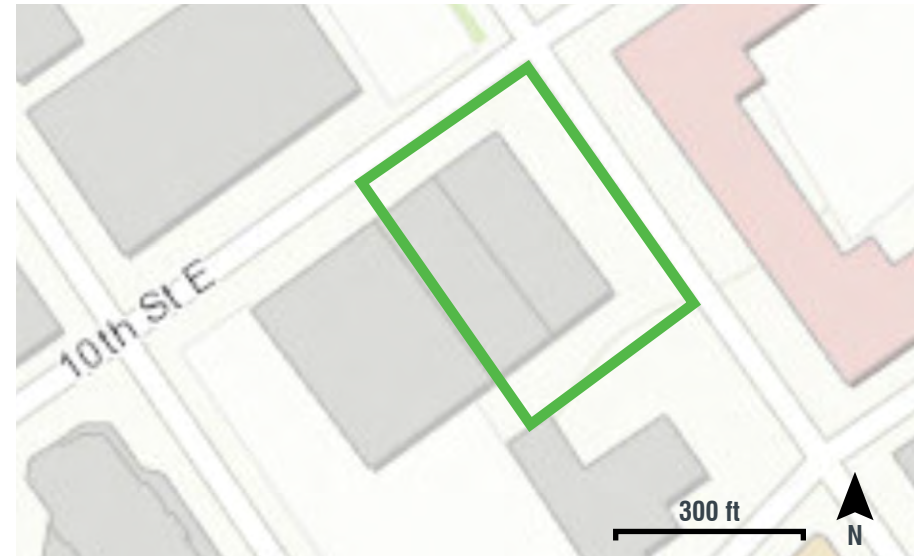
Temporary/Interim Park

Urban Flower Field, St. Paul, Minneapolis

Development/Operation/Management:

Located on the site of the future Pedro Park in downtown St. Paul, the Urban Flower Field project combines art and science to create a temporary public space in a dense urban neighborhood. The centerpiece of the park is a spiraling set of 96 flower pots containing wildflowers planted in various types of urban soils. Each pot is being monitored to determine the wildflowers' success in taking up heavy metals from the soils they are planted in. A four-story mural echoing the pattern of the flower pots serves as a backdrop to the space, attracting visitors from afar. Movable seating is placed in the gravel pathways between the pots.

The park is a collaboration between the City of St. Paul Parks and Recreation Department, Public Art Saint Paul, the University of St. Thomas, Minneapolis College of Art and Design and Neighborhood Volunteers, and will remain in place while a permanent park is planned and designed.



Source: mcatlas.org

FUNCTION/SERVICE AREA:

- Experimental place
- Local destination
- Serves neighborhood
- Accommodates local daily uses
- Associated to the function of a pocket urban green

MAIN PROGRAM

- Contemplative uses
- Flexible programming
- Scientific research

KEY FEATURES:

- Moveable seating
- Public art
- Test fit for future park uses

SIZE:

- 1/2 acre

SITE PLACEMENT:

- Surrounded by two streets
- Surrounded by residential and commercial development
- Edges are open to adjacent sidewalks

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- Research will inform future site utilization and design

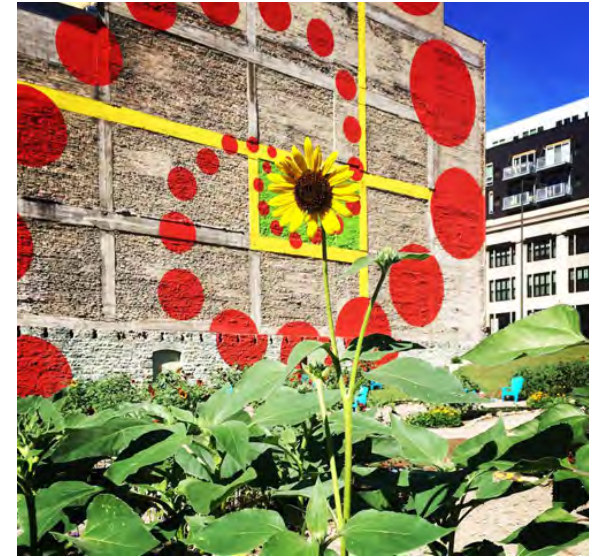
References: *Public Art Saint Paul, St. Paul Parks and Recreation Department*



The iconic spiral pattern is mimicked on the adjacent building wall, giving the park a unique, consistent identity. Source: City of St. Paul



Movable seating allows for a variety of contemplative uses. Source: Amanda Lovelee via Twitter



Wildflower test plots bring science and nature into an urban setting. Source: University of St. Thomas



The central gathering space encourages social gathering. Source: Minneapolis College of Art and Design



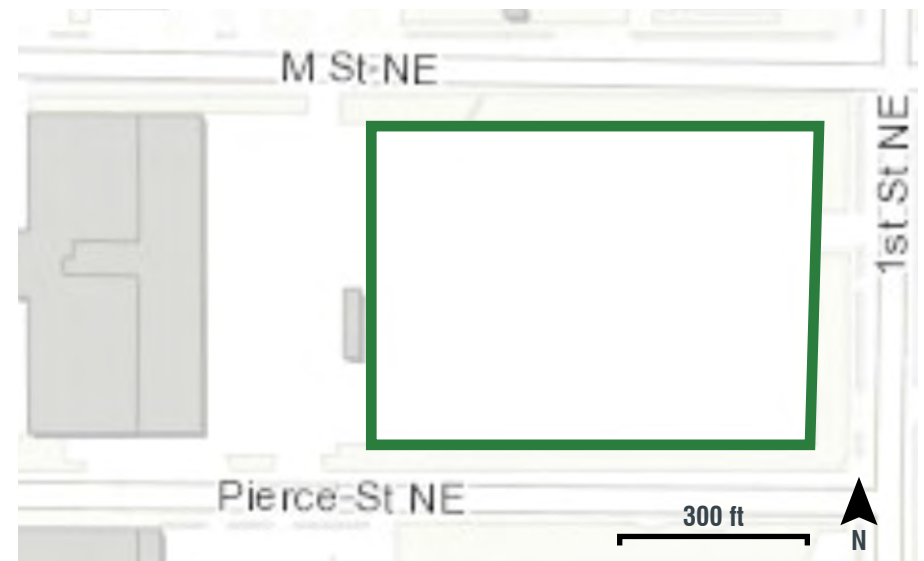
Creative site design inspires context-related performances. The park has become an iconic anchor for the community. Source: Prairie Fire Lady Choir

Temporary/Interim Park Wunder Garten, Washington, District of Columbia

Development/Operation/Management:

With limited public space in the rapidly growing NoMa (North of Massachusetts Avenue) neighborhood of Washington DC, the business improvement district has turned to encouraging temporary public uses of vacant lots until they are ultimately developed. The Wunder Garten is a year-round family and dog friendly beer garden that operates under a lease agreement with the landowner and with the support of the NoMa BID.

Wunder Garten operates in conjunction with partners such as REI, the NoMa BID and local artists, garden centers and food providers to furnish, maintain and program the space. Drink sales support rental of portable restroom facilities and climate controlled tent.



Source: mcatlas.org

FUNCTION/SERVICE AREA:

- Experimental place
- Local destination
- Serves neighborhood
- Accommodates local daily uses
- Associated to the function of a pocket urban green

MAIN PROGRAM

- Contemplative uses
- Flexible programming
- Social gathering

KEY FEATURES:

- Moveable seating
- Yard games
- Restrooms
- Concessions

SIZE:

- 1 acre

SITE PLACEMENT:

- Surrounded by three streets
- Surrounded by residential and commercial development

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- Facility is moveable and can occupy any undeveloped lot. It has moved multiple times as development occurs.

References: NoMa Parks Foundation, Wikipedia, Wunder Garten



Seating is provided in a number of configurations and locations to provide users with variety and flexibility in group sizes and seating arrangements. Source: wundergartenc.com



An indoor seating area allows the site to operate year-round. The space is also available for rent. Source: Mark Raker, ontaponline.com



Lawn games such as an oversize chess set encourage socialization and community interaction. Source: optoro.com



The site can be modified to accommodate seasonal uses such as fire pits and Christmas Tree sales. Source: onlyinyourstate.com

Designing Public Spaces

Energized Public Spaces Design Guidelines

APPENDIX 1. Case Studies by Park Types - Online Library

Approved February 2019





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