

Appendix 4

North American Green Space Comparison



Green Space Guidelines for the Silver Spring Central Business District

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Green Space/City		Lawn Area vs. Hardscape		Activities/Uses	Activation/Context	Transit Access	Density
Square Feet/Acres							
1	Bryant Park, New York, NY	lawn = 45,500 s.f /1.04 acres bed = 86,020 s.f. /1.97 acres = 111,980 s.f./ 2.57 acres	planting hardscape	Large green lawn surrounded by shade trees, bocce ball courts, a large fountain, perennial gardens maintained by a garden club, food kiosks, library with seating terrace at one end. Includes movable seating.	Surrounded by dense city life on all four sides, including retail, office and residential uses that generate pedestrian traffic. The lawn area is bounded by london plane trees that create an arcaded edge to the lawn that bounds the space.	Served by local subway stations adjacent to park.	104 persons per acre (Manhattan)
	243,000 s.f./5.6 acres	54% green and 46% hardscape/amenity					
2	Farragut Square, Wash. D.C.	lawn = 47,775 s.f /1.10 acres = 12, 345 s.f./ .28 acres	hardscape	Large, green, tree-shaded open space with a statue marking middle of space. Popular as a meeting and lunch place.	Surrounded by mostly office uses, with retail such as banks, restaurants, and hotels on the ground floors. It serves as meeting place for tour groups visiting White House and Smithsonian, and is programmed with live music.	Served by two metro subway stops	29.3 persons per acre
	60,120 s.f./1.38 acres	79% Lawn and 21% hardscape/amenity					
3	Post Office Square, Boston, MA	lawn = 19580+/- s.f / .45 acres planting bed = 29,362 s.f. / .67 acres hardscape = 25,110 s.f./ .58 acres <i>Central Lawn is approx. .25 acres</i>	The	Built over a parking garage, park features a 143' long vine-covered pergola, two gazebos housing an all-season café and the garage escalators. There is an interactive fountain, seating on benches or seatwalls, shady areas, areas for people watching, and lawn area raised above surrounding walks by a granite curb.	The focal point and reference point for the city's financial district, provides a green oasis in the hard enviroment of downtown. The parking lot serves 2,000 people a day. School age children as well as office workers visit the park. Its context is largely single-use office space. "Post Office Square Park is intended to be a passive park. Yet it has a 24-seat café that leases its space from the park and expands outdoors in good weather ... Twice a week Friends provide live music by local musicians, more as 'background music' than entertainment; at Christmas time, a brass quintet also performs in the park." PPS	A major bus stop and a subway station 2 blocks away.	
	74,052 s.f./1.7 acres	66% Green and 34% hardscape/amenity/serv.					
4	Union Square, San Francisco, CA	lawn l = 19580+/- s.f / .45 acres planting bed = 29,362 s.f. / .67 acres hardscape = 25,110 s.f./ .58 acres <i>Central Lawn Areas approx. .25 acres</i>	The	This mostly hardscaped plaza features an outdoor café, a symphony-sized stage for concerts and theater, as well as terraced lawn seating facing the street for people watching.	In the heart of San Francisco's shopping, hotel, and theatre district, the square is surrounded by upscale restaurants and fashionable boutiques and shops.	A subway station located at one corner of the park (at Geary and Stockton)	
	96,750 s.f./2.22 acres						
5	Market Square, Alexandria, VA			Large, hardscape plaza with landscape planters filled with mature trees with a parking garage i beneath. This square has served as a farmers market since the 18th century. It has a large fountain in the center and is fronted on the north by the city hall and on the south by King Street.	The square is surrounded by hotels, restaurants, offices and residences; a truly mixed use area.	Served by several local bus routes and a regional bike trail	
	50,965 s.f./1.17 acres						
6	Rittenhouse Square, Philadelphia, PA			This green oasis in the middle of Philadelphia provides a gathering place for local residents. Park contains sculpture, fountains, benches, gazebos, and hosts a farmers' market.	Surrounded by a mix of commercial and residential uses. Architecturally notable buildings line the park and there a nearby upscale shops and restaurants.	Rail, bus and trolley service within 2 blocks of the Square	27 persons per acre
	225,625 s.f./5.18 acres						

7	Jackson Square, New Orleans, LA 82,500 s.f./1.90 acres	Formal, tree-shaded square in the French quarter between the St. Louis Cathedral and Mississippi River. Square has ample lawns and brick walks.	Square surrounded by sidewalk cafes, restaurants and coffee shops a that provide a rich street life around the square. Its location in the heart of the French quarter also provides character and ambience.	
8	Mount Vernon Square, Baltimore, MD 82,770 s.f./1.90 acres	Composed of 4 smaller squares between .33 and .64 acres each, in the form of a Greek cross. The park is graced by several sculptures and a large fountain.	A quiet, tree shaded park surrounded by swank townhouses, churches and several cultural institutions.	8,058 people per square mile (city wide)
9	Santa Fe Plaza, Santa Fe, NM 31,775 s.f./0.73 acres	A formal, tree-lined grassy square with paths, benches, and a central monument.	Located in the heart of Santa Fe, NM, Surrounded on four sides by historic structures, it is activated by restaurants, markets and public ceremonies and festivals.	
10	Washington Square, New York, NY 342,000 s.f./7.85 acres	A large formal square, with mature shade trees, extensive paving, a large formal fountain, and a commemorative arch and statues. Includes benches, chess tables, a playground, and a dog run.	Located in the heart of Greenwich Village, serves as a neighborhood gathering place and informal spot for musical performances. It is close to NY University, residential neighborhoods and the stores and clubs of Greenwich Village.	Served by subway stations adjacent to park
11	Squares of Savannah, Savannah, GA 20,000 .s.f to 60,000 s.f./ .46 to 1.3 acres	Twenty-two 18th and 19th century squares that vary from .46 to 1.3 acres and form a series of shaded and garden squares within the city's grid street pattern. All the squares have seating, gazebos, mature live oaks, and ample green space with flowering shrubs and lawns. Some have monuments, fountains, and public art.	Each square is easily accessible on foot and via automobile. Most of the squares are surrounded by mixed use such as residential, office, institutional, commercial and retail. Many churches and squares also front onto the squares, in mostly beautiful architectural structures.	Served by local bus routes
12	Campus Martius, Detroit, MI 61,900 s.f./ 1.4 acres	The space is characterized by lawns, fountains, an ice rink, shaded dining areas, a bandstand, and a small restaurant. Programmed with concerts and outdoor movies.	A main intersection of downtown Detroit has been transformed into a green public square. Surrounded by retail and office use such as the Hard Rock Café, and corporate headquarters. There are also residential units nearby.	Served by local bus routes
13	St. Louis Square, Montreal, Canada 141,750 s.f./ 3.25 acres	A Victorian-style fountain within a shallow pool is centrally located in the park. Features include a gazebo that sells snacks, benches, mature shade trees, and extensive lawns--approximately 85% greenscape.	A European-style square in the city's Latin Quarter. The context is small townhouses and a nearby university. On sunny days the park is filled with neighborhood people, making this space a true town square. Rue St. Denis on its northern border has several restaurants , as well as 3 hotels within a 4-5 minute walk.	

References: Urban Parks and Open Space, ULI; PPS Project for Public Space, www.pps.org

Avg. = 2.45 Acres