

4. DEVELOPMENT CODE

4.16. PARK, PLAZA, AND OPEN SPACE DESIGN STANDARDS

A. Purpose. This Section provides standards for the design of parks, plazas, and open spaces that are safe, accessible from adjacent public streets and transit, conveniently-located, and are compatible with the urban form of adjacent buildings and land uses.

B. Applicability. All new public open spaces, including parks and plazas, shall comply with the applicable requirements of this section and with the general open space locations identified in Figure 7-1 (Public Realm Plan) and the applicable requirements of this Section 4.16.

C. Park and Plaza Design Standards

1. Location and Size

- a. Parks, plazas, and open spaces shall be provided per the general locations shown in requirements Figure 7-1 (Public Realm Plan).
- b. Parks, plazas, and open spaces shall remain open to the public year-round and in perpetuity, and shall be accessible to pedestrians. All such spaces shall comply with ADA accessibility standards.
- c. Parks, plazas, and open spaces shall have a minimum width of 40 ft. and a minimum length of 125 ft.
- d. The size and location of parks, plazas, and open spaces may deviate per the requirements of Section 4.1.2.C (Minor Deviations).

2. Access from Public Streets

- a. Access shall be provided from the adjacent sidewalk(s) by accessible paths that are consistent with the design theme for the particular park, plaza, or open space.
- b. Adjacent pedestrian crossings shall coordinate with the access points of the park, plaza, or open space.

3. Frontage

- a. Parks, plazas, and open spaces shall front at least one (1) public street.
- b. Visibility from one side of the plaza, park, or open space to the other is required. Hedges and low walls shall not exceed 36 inches in height.
- c. Adjacent buildings shall front the plaza with windows, doors, and appropriate frontage types.

4. Parking

- a. On-street parking is permitted along park, plaza, or open space street frontages.
- b. On-site parking is strongly discouraged.

5. Landscape and Lighting

- a. Variations of landscape, hardscape, and public art elements in coordination with the City's "Art in Public Places" program should be used to improve the quality of public parks, plazas, and open spaces.
- b. The majority of plant materials shall consist of drought tolerant and/or native plants with minimum water requirements. Ease of maintenance should also be considered.
- c. The use of canopy trees for shading and cooling is encouraged to mitigate the urban heat island effect. Sufficiently sized tree pits or planting beds and appropriate planting medium to provide for healthy tree growth should be provided.
- d. Artificial trees, shrubs, turf, or plants are prohibited.
- e. Pedestrian scaled light fixtures are required along paths within all parks, plazas, and open spaces.
- f. Paving materials.
 - i. Paving materials shall be permanent in nature (such as brick, stone, permeable pavers, and scored concrete).
 - ii. Asphalt is not permitted.
 - iii. Unnecessarily complicated and distracting paving patterns are discouraged.
- g. Decorative water features shall use re-circulating water and, where available, shall use recycled water.
- h. Public art, in coordination with the City's "Art in Public Places" program, is encouraged as an integral part of the design approach to these spaces.

6. Interactive Elements. Tables, chairs, umbrellas, trellises, water features, etc.

7. Building and Improvements

- a. Commercial Plazas:
 - i. Permitted amenities: pedestrian and bicycle amenities such as benches, tables, garbage cans, drinking fountains, bike racks, public art or a water features.
 - ii. Permitted buildings and structures: kiosks, a bandstand, an informal stage (a raised area that could be used as a stage).
- b. Parks:
 - i. Amenities: Pedestrian amenities (benches, tables, drinking fountains, etc.), bike racks, playground equipment, informal athletic courts, water features that provide a focus to the park may be provided.
 - ii. Buildings and structures: pergolas, picnic shelters may be provided.



Neighborhood Park.



A small neighborhood park.