

(2) Village Center Square

The Village Center Square is the visual event that marks arrival at the Village Center District. It is surrounded by retail establishments and anchors the pedestrian mall. The Village Center Square is among the most important public spaces in the community.

Organizing Principles

- Design of spaces in the square should accommodate a significant volume of pedestrians, a variety of activities, at all seasons. Conversely, the square should be a place of intimate scale that will feel activated by the presence of just a few people.
- Spaces should be formed at the edge of the square that will allow visitors to view others. Shade trees and seat walls are primary space-forming devices. In general, provide one linear foot of seating for each perimeter linear foot of the square. *See* Figure 10: Town Square Example
- Design should allow flexibility of uses at different times of day and year.
- Simple, attractive, ornamental treatment of paved spaces in the Square is encouraged. Treatments may consist of cement concrete with interesting scoring patterns or unit pavers in important locations. Paved areas should be adequate for the volumes of visitors expected for village events and should anticipate future pedestrian routes.
- Paved surfaces should be no less than forty percent and no more than seventy percent of the square area. A minimum of thirty percent (30%) of the landscaped area should be planted with trees and shrubs. Shrubs should be provided at a ratio of one shrub for every thirty (30) square feet of the shrub planting zone.
- One (1) tree shall be provided per 2,500 square feet of ground area. Shade tree and ornamental tree species should include those listed for Village Center Square in Appendix A: Approved Plant List.
- The design of Main Street as it approaches the square should be considered with the design of the square to create a coordinated arrival sequence. Spaces in the square should be oriented to accommodate pedestrian flows generated in the surrounding district.



NOTE:
1. EXHIBIT FOR ILLUSTRATIVE PURPOSES ONLY.

Landscape Plan — Figure 10

Town Square Example

The square should exhibit a transparency that allows the structure of the pedestrian street beyond, to be apparent.

- The park should provide shade, water, seating and a reason to linger at key locations. The park should include a variety of smaller “places” within it to attract different user groups and ages. Spaces may include accommodations for a café, vendor carts and a performance space. *See Figure 11: Town Square Seating Example*
- Wind shelter and seats facing the spring/autumn sun should be provided to extend the outdoor season.
- The incorporation of elements with historical or cultural significance should be considered for the square. A kiosk with community announcements can anchor an entry area.
- Lighting should be simple, robust and should reflect the scale and character of the location and surrounding architecture.

(3) Linear Parks

Linear parks are located within certain neighborhoods and are an important open space connection between recreation facilities and other open space resources. They share some characteristics with neighborhood/pocket parks and pedestrian mews.

- The park program should be oriented to the needs of the adjoining neighborhood and should include children’s play areas, open grass areas, seating areas and trees and landscaping.
- Spatial ‘events’ such as small plazas or seating areas should be programmed for locations where streets end at or cross the linear park. These spaces will provide a local destination and a landmark that anchors the views from those intersecting streets. Trees and shrubs should be planted to reinforce the spatial definition of these important nodes.
- Spaces along the length of the park should be linked so that locations connect to each other in a visual, as well as a spatial, sense creating a feeling of progress to a destination. The alignment of trees can provide this sense of visual continuity as one moves through the park.
- Landscape treatment should be primarily lawn and trees to allow flexibility of use and to insure visual transparency. The park should have excellent visibility from adjacent streets for security purposes.

No shrubs with a mature height of more than thirty (30) inches shall be planted.

- Tree and shrub species should include those listed for Neighborhood Parks and Pedestrian Connections in Appendix A: Approved Plant List.
- Adequate lighting should be provided to enhance a feeling of security for pedestrians and to create an attractive public realm in front of the abutting homes. Lighting fixtures should respect the human scale of the spaces neighborhood and should be lower than street lights and more closely spaced.



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(4) Pocket Parks

Pocket parks share some characteristics with linear parks, but are distinct in that they do not allow through passage. They should project a feeling of a public neighborhood space.

- The park space should be oriented to the passive recreation needs of the adjoining neighborhood and should include generous seating areas, some paved plaza treatments, trees, shrubs and landscaping.
- Pocket parks should feel like an extension of the adjacent parkway or street space while a well-defined edge should provide a sense of departure from the larger public realm and entry to an intimate neighborhood space.
- The park should include an element that creates a visual focus for the space and its visitors.
- The public edge treatment should maintain the street wall, but should be “light” and visually permeable to appear inviting. Solid fencing should be avoided. Architectural or landscape elements such as ‘green’ columns, trellises or planters should be utilized as gateway events.
- Landscape treatment should be a combination of paved surfaces, lawn and trees to allow flexibility of use and to insure visual transparency. Hard-scaping may constitute up to thirty-five percent (35%) of the pocket park area. Sixty percent (60%) of the landscape zone should be shade trees and shrubs.
- Tree and shrub species should include those listed for Neighborhood Parks in Appendix A: Approved Plant List.
- The park should have excellent visibility from adjacent streets for security purposes. No shrubs with a mature height of more than thirty (30) inches should be planted. *See* Figure 12: Pocket Park Concept.
- Long, unbroken building side walls may be fitted with rust-proof, vandal-resistant, vertical screens, lattice or wire fabric suitable for the training of vines. Openings should not be more than two (2) inches by two (2) inches to prevent climbing. Screens should be divided into discreet panels at a minimum of twelve (12) inches from the wall to prevent creation of an animal habitat. Appropriate vines may include *Clematis paniculata*, *Parthenocissus quinquefolia*, *Parthenocissus tricuspidata*.

- Adequate lighting should be provided to enhance a feeling of security for pedestrians and to create an attractive public realm in front of the abutting homes. Lighting fixtures should respect the human scale of the space and should be lower than street lights and more closely spaced.

