

APPENDIX 2: PUBLIC OPEN SPACE ANALYSIS

The following information is intended to clarify and support discussions of public open space within the Downtown Precise Plan.

Shadow Sensitive Public Open Spaces

Of the 23 public open spaces serving the Downtown area, 10 are designated as “Shadow Sensitive.” Shadow sensitive public open spaces are shown on the Height Regulations Map in Section 2.7 of this plan. Maximum permitted building heights have been reduced near these spaces in order to ensure that they maintain an appropriate level of sunshine, helping to keep them usable and enjoyable throughout the year. Shadow impacts on these spaces were assessed in Section 6 (Aesthetics) of the Downtown Precise Plan Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

Public open spaces which were not classified as shadow sensitive were excluded for the following reasons:

- Outside of the area regulated by the Downtown Precise Plan
- Not owned or operated by the City of Redwood City
- Planned to be removed in the future
- Less than 1/10 of an acre in size
- Located in the interior of a block

Public Open Space Inventory

A complete inventory of public open spaces was conducted as part of the preparation of this plan. In order to have a full understanding of public open spaces which will be accessible to future Downtown development, this inventory included spaces within the DTPP area, as well as those outside but within an easy walk of DTPP Area properties. This inventory took into account the Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment inventory which was conducted in May of 2008 for the entire city, but includes addition public open spaces which were excluded from that report. This data is shown in the upper table (right).

An analysis, using Redwood City Geographic Information Systems (GIS), was conducted to understand how far each Downtown parcel was from a public open space. In particular, walking distances were used as a measure to determine proximity of existing and future development to public open spaces. This data is shown in the table at bottom right.

Public Open Space Definitions

Public Open Space Inventory

Name	Facilities Description	Controlling Agency	Estimated Size in Acres
Courthouse Square	Plaza, fountains, removable stage, permanent food vendor kiosks, movable tables and chairs.	City / County	0.59
Arguello Plaza (May be Removed)	Plaza, benches.	City	0.19
Brewster / Arch Parklet	Lawn with large tree, benches.	City	0.13
Broadway / Arguello Parklet	Lawn with shade trees and benches.	City	0.06
Broadway / Spring Parklet	Lawn with shade trees.	City	0.03
City Center Plaza	Plaza with shade trees and outdoor cafe.	City	0.25
City Hall Courtyard	Garden with large trees and seating walls.	City	0.27
County Center Plaza	Plaza with fountain.	County	0.34
County Parklet	Lawn with benches and shade trees.	County	0.11
Depot Plaza (Proposed)	Plaza with shade trees and outdoor cafe.	City	0.23
Franklin Park (Proposed)	Lawn with shade trees and benches.	City	0.19
Hamilton Green (Proposed)	Lawn with fountains and benches.	City	0.44
Library Plaza	Plaza with seating walls and movable tables and chairs.	City	0.17
Little River Park	Lawn, picnic tables, and creek.	City / SamTrans	0.27
Main Street Park	Lawn with shade trees.	City	0.23
Orien Elementary School Playground	Playground and lawn.	RC School District	0.79
Post Office Paseo	Plaza, lawn, stormwater management demonstration site, shade trees, and benches.	City / Post Office	0.19
Redwood Creek Park (Proposed)	Lawn, shade trees, creek, creekside walking paths, and benches.	City	1.17
Roselli Mini-Park	Lawn and shade trees.	City	0.44
Sequoia High School Open Space	Lawn, ballfield, large grove of trees.	Seq. Union H. Sch. Dist.	7.10
Spring / Marshall Parklet (May be Removed)	Lawn with large trees.	City	0.22
Theatre Way	Shared-space street with one auto lane, wide sidewalks, dining terrace, outdoor cafes, benches, ornamental light fixtures, and removable bollards for occasional traffic closures.	City	0.54
Theatre Way Parklet	Lawn.	City	0.04

Proximity Analysis

Measure	Current	Proposed
Total Public Open Space Acres Accessible to DTPP Pedestrians	11.96	13.47
Total Public Open Space Acres Within DTPP Boundary	3.72	5.04
Public Open Space Acres Outside DTPP, but Walkable to DTPP	8.24	8.43
Total Hardscape Acres Accessible to DTPP	2.61	2.41
Total Softscape Acres Accessible to DTPP	9.36	11.06
Parcel Acres Within a 1 Minute Walk of Public Open Space	60.7%	67.2%
Parcel Acres Within a 3 Minute Walk of Public Open Space	96.2%	99.2%
Parcel Acres Within a 5 Minute Walk of Public Open Space	100%	100%

The following terms were used to describe public open spaces in the Downtown Precise Plan, and are defined here for reference:

- Hardscape – A landscaped area treated primarily with pavers, stone, brick, or concrete.
- Garden – A space occupied primarily by flowers and other ornamental plantings.
- Paseo – A narrow, linear space used primarily as a passage for pedestrians.
- Parklet – A small park-like public open space which is less than a quarter of an acre in size and which has no formal park programming or park facilities.
- Playground – A space used primarily for children’s play.
- Plaza – A hardscaped space used primarily for public gathering and civic events.
- Softscape – A landscaped area treated primarily with lawn, flowers, plants, and shrubs.