



COMPARING URBAN SPACE: A REFERENCE GUIDE



MONTGOMERY COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT

8787 Georgia Avenue Silver Spring, MD 20910 www.montgomeryplanning.org

INTRODUCTION

This booklet is intended to provide a compilation of urban park precedents that can be used by Planning Department and Parks Department staff, the development community and Montgomery County residents in the evaluation of park sizes in future master plans and in development review. These urban spaces are primarily from the DC-Maryland-Virginia region, with a few nationally and internationally recognized spaces for comparison. All plans are presented at a uniform scale and graphic convention to allow for easy comparison of size and space. All buildings in gray include a number which represents the basic height of the adjacent building to the space. In addition to the plan drawings, information on each space is provided for a quick summary of the quality and character of each park and the role it plays in its respective urban context. A sample table is shown below.

The park “Type” nomenclature has been coordinated with the county’s Parks, Recreation, and Open Spaces (PROS) plan and are also listed below.

The two area sizes listed for each park include the area of the park proper, and the area of the space between adjacent building faces. The park proper includes all lawns, hardscape, and sidewalks of the park itself, while the area of the space includes adjacent streets and sidewalks that enclose the volume of space defined by surrounding buildings.

Each park is defined by the experience of being contemplative, social, active, or some combination of these three to better coincide with the 2017 Urban Parks Functional Plan classifications. These categories, in tandem with photos, brief descriptions and key elements of the park design, provide a strong sense of the general character of the park within its context. A comprehensive list of elements is provided on this page while specific elements to each space are listed with the corresponding images.

TYPICAL TABLE

TYPE	PROS space type
AREA	Area of park proper/ Area to building faces
ACCESS	Public or private
OWNERSHIP	Public or private
TRANSIT	Availability of public transportation within walking distance
EXPERIENCE	Contemplative/ Social/Active
ELEMENTS	Key elements of the space

PROS SPACE TYPOLOGIES

Pocket Park:
Pocket parks are typically small urban open spaces of 4,000 to 10,000sf and used for seating, people watching and low intensity recreation. These mini parks are designed for casual use and serve people working nearby. They are frequently located in places with high-volumes of pedestrian traffic and visibility next to streets. These spaces are often privately owned and/or maintained by a property owner, association, or neighborhood group and they create a brief oasis in urbanized areas.

Plaza:
These are paved areas of ¼ to 1 acre that may include some landscape and accommodate larger groups of visitors. Depending on size, plazas may support activities including open air markets, kiosk retail, concerts, festivals, and special and/or political events but are not often used for active recreational purposes. Plazas should be framed by streets and are often located at transit stops or other important central nodes and serve as the focal point for community activities.

Common/Green:
Commons and greens are often flexible open spaces of ¼ to 2 acres that serve as a recreational and/or social focus of a mixed-use neighborhood. Active uses, like residential and retail are complementary and support the activities occurring at a common or green. The space is often framed on at least two sides by streets and used for a variety of public gatherings including markets, performances, and special events.

Squares:
Squares are key public gathering spaces that include flexible, programmable open spaces and typically include larger paved areas. Squares are always centrally located, consist of approximately ½ to 2 acres, are framed by streets and tend to serve a regional population. They are used for public events and celebrations that appeal to a broad audience.

Neighborhood Park:
Neighborhood parks serve the informal recreational needs of the surrounding community and generally consist of passive spaces as well as active recreation spaces that cater to family and children. Neighborhood parks are approximately 2 to 3 acres and often front adjoining streets, providing visibility and enhanced security. The service area is generally a 5–10-minute walk (a quarter to a half mile) from the park.

Community Park:
In an urban setting, community parks serve several adjoining neighborhoods, attracting residents from a large area. They are approximately 2 acres or more and less formal than neighborhood parks. These facilities offer a range of formal and informal programmed recreational opportunities in one location. Community parks are often staffed.

URBAN SPACE ELEMENTS

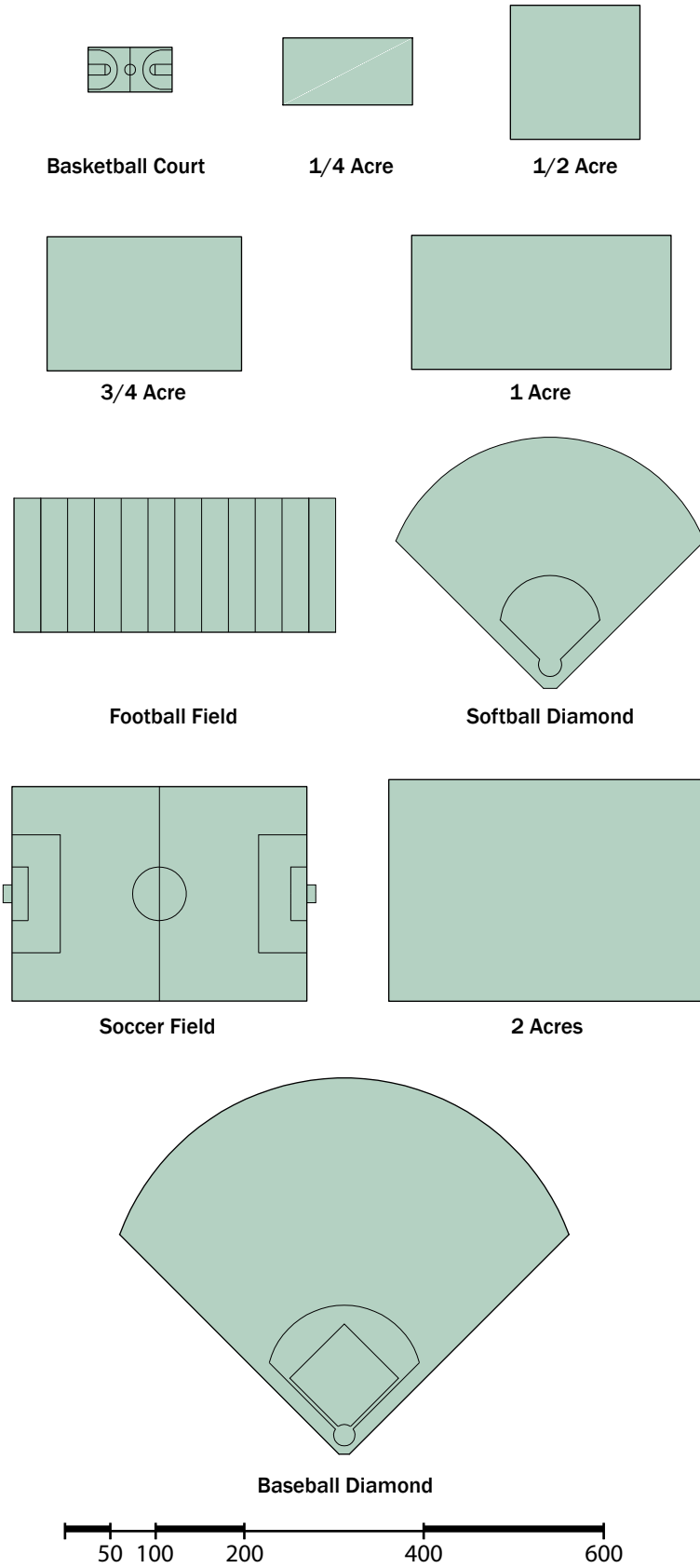
Passive Fountain	Seating
Active Fountain	Movable Seating
Lawns	Public Art
Hardscape Paving	Recreation
Market Space	Walking Paths
Festival Space	Pavilion
Playground	Stage
Sculpture	Food Vendors

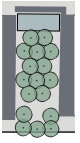
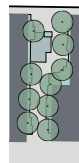
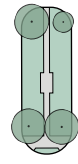
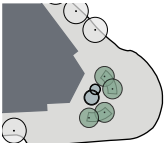
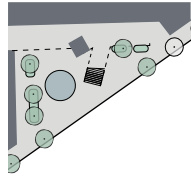
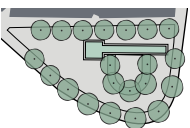
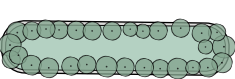
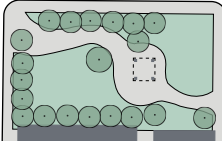
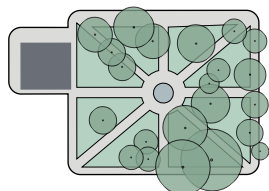
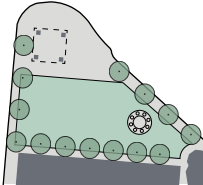
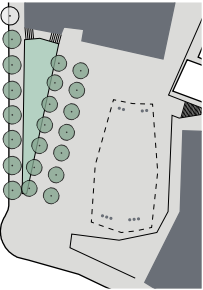
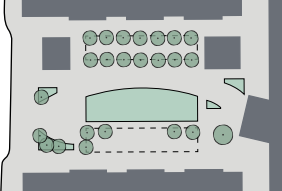
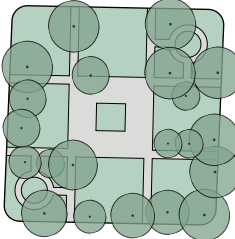
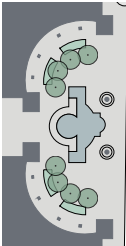
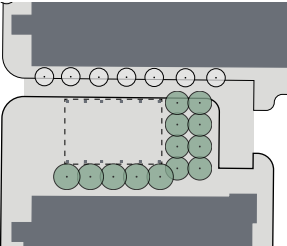
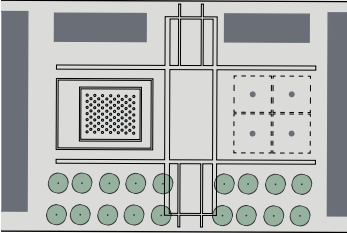
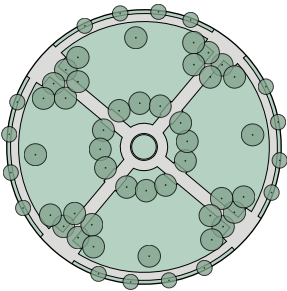
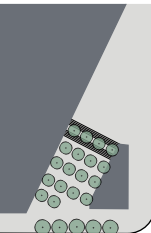
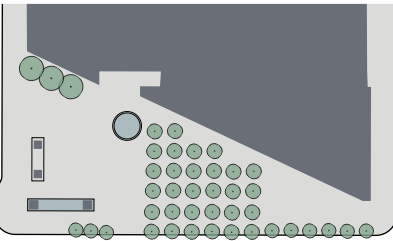
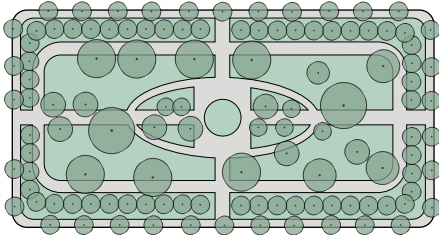
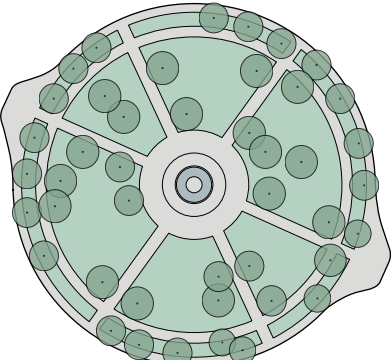
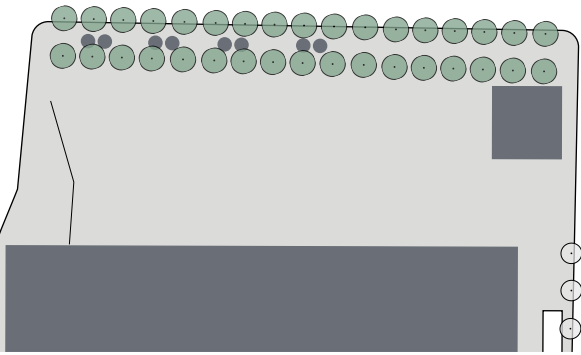
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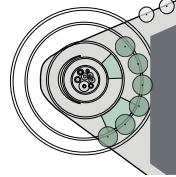

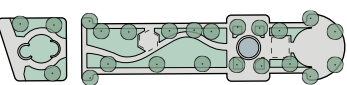
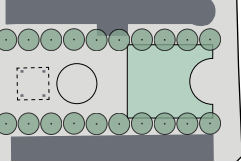
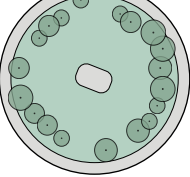
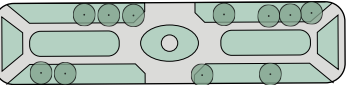
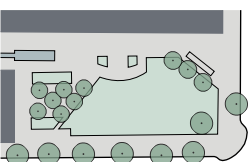
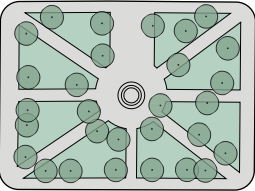
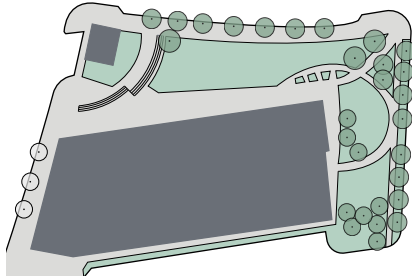
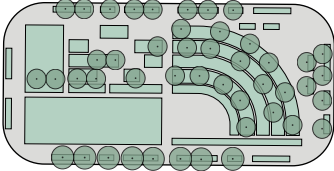
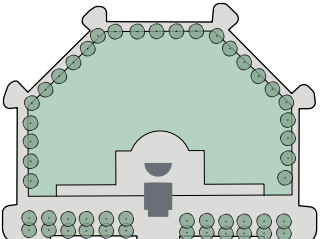
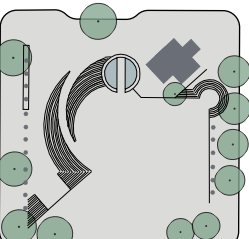
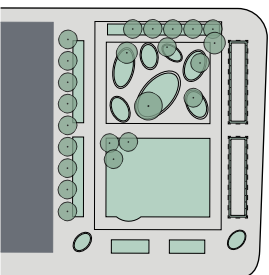
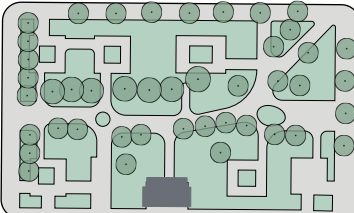
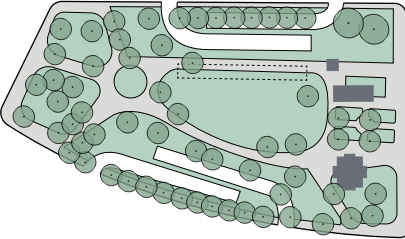
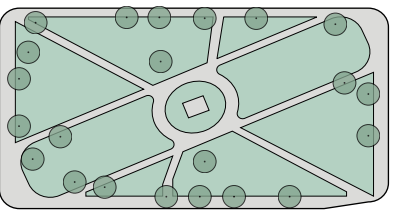
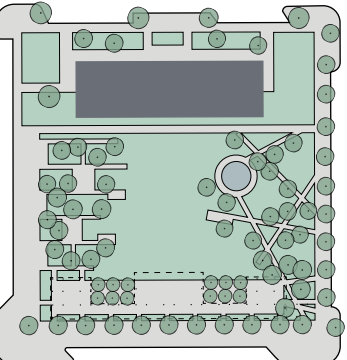
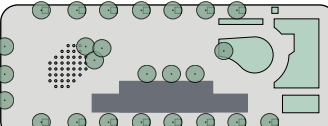
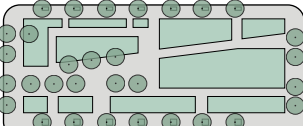
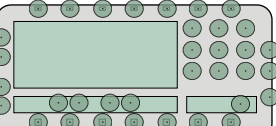
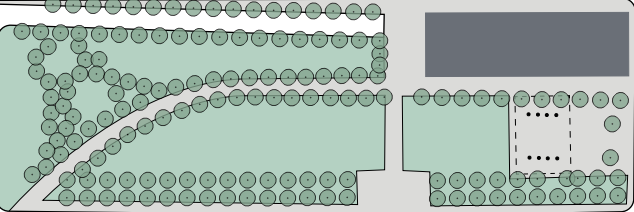
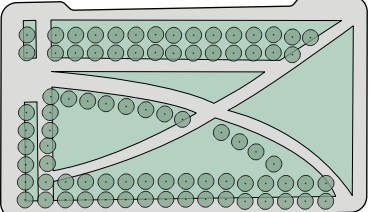
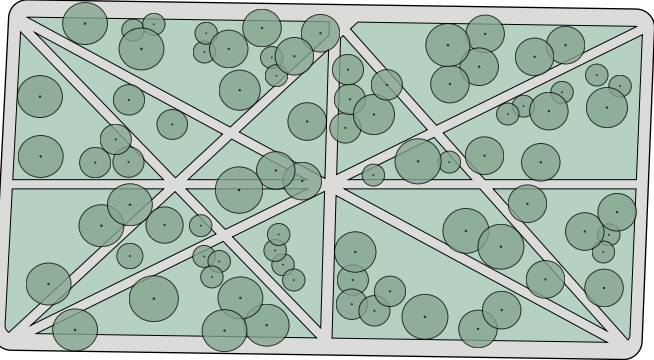
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COMPARING SPACES

Spaces drawn at 1":200'

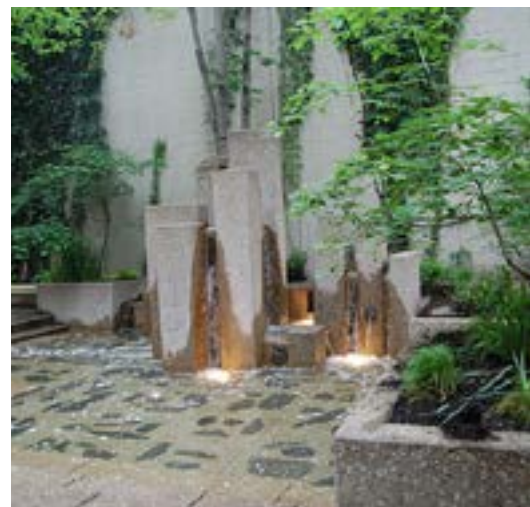
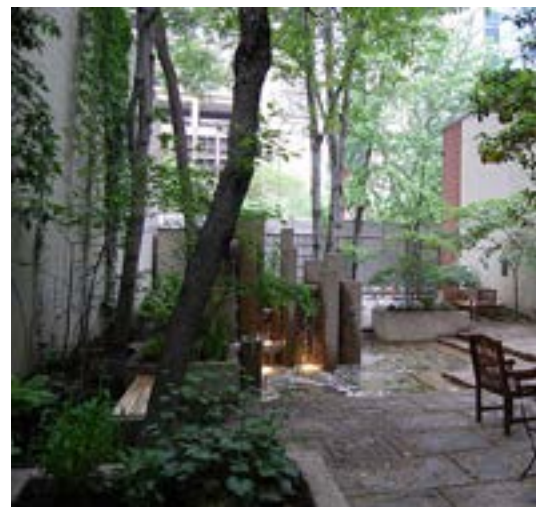


						
Paley Park New York, NY	Collins Park Philadelphia, PA	Palmer Square Princeton, NJ	Bethesda Row Bethesda, MD	Ellsworth Plaza Silver Spring, MD	Davis Square Somerville, MA	Louisburg Square Boston, MA
						
Thames Street Park Baltimore, MD	Fountain Park Chestertown, MD	Main Street Park Gaithersburg, MD	Veterans Plaza Silver Spring, MD	Pentagon Row Park Arlington, VA	Madison Square Savannah, GA	
						
Market Street Plaza Reston, VA	Sundance Square Fort Worth, TX	Pleasant Park Rockville, MD	Westlake Plaza Seattle, WA			
						
Gramercy Park New York, NY	DuPont Circle Washington, DC	Place Georges Pompidou Paris, France				

						
Columbia Heights Plaza Washington, DC	Bethesda Lane Bethesda, MD	Market Commons Arlington, VA	Rockville Town Center Rockville, MD	Sheridan Circle Washington, DC	O'Donnell Square Park Baltimore, MD	Crown Park Gaithersburg, MD
						
Santa Fe Square Santa Fe, NM	Strawberry Park Santa Fe, NM	Town Center Park Reston, VA	Seaside Amphitheater Seaside, FL	Pioneer Courthouse Square Portland, OR	Perk Plaza Cleveland, OH	
						
University Square Park Baltimore, MD	Post Office Square Boston, MA	Farragut Square Washington, DC	Guthrie Green Tulsa, OK			
						
Canal Park Washington, DC	Klyde Warren Park Dallas, TX	Klyde Warren Park Dallas, TX	Klyde Warren Park Dallas, TX	Klyde Warren Park Dallas, TX	Wooster Square New Haven, CT	

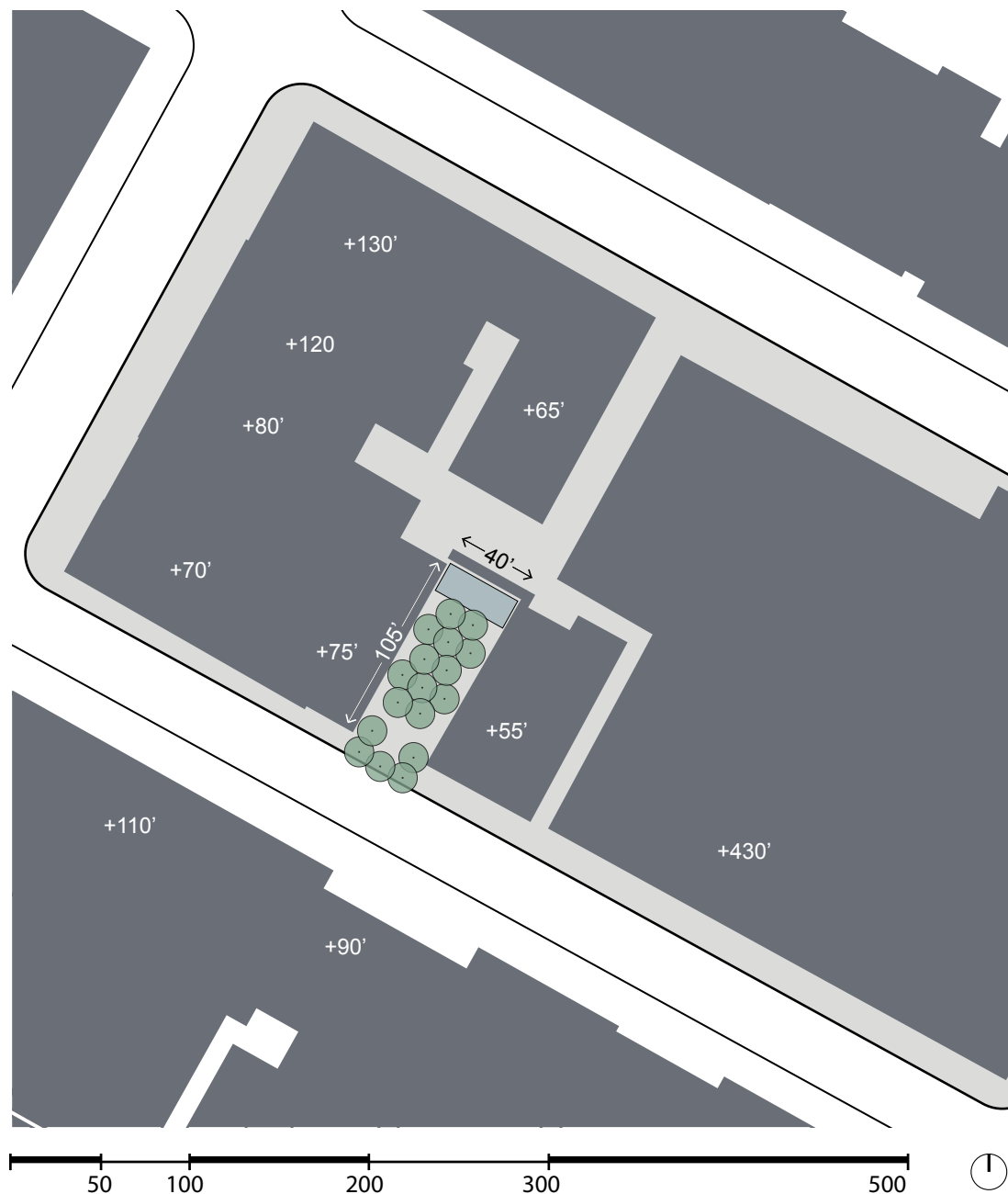
Philadelphia, PA

TYPE	Pocket Park
AREA	.09 acres
ACCESS	Public
OWNERSHIP	Private
TRANSIT	Served by adjacent local bus stops and nearby train station
EXPERIENCE	Contemplative
ELEMENTS	Passive Fountain Moveable Seating Sculpture Hardscape



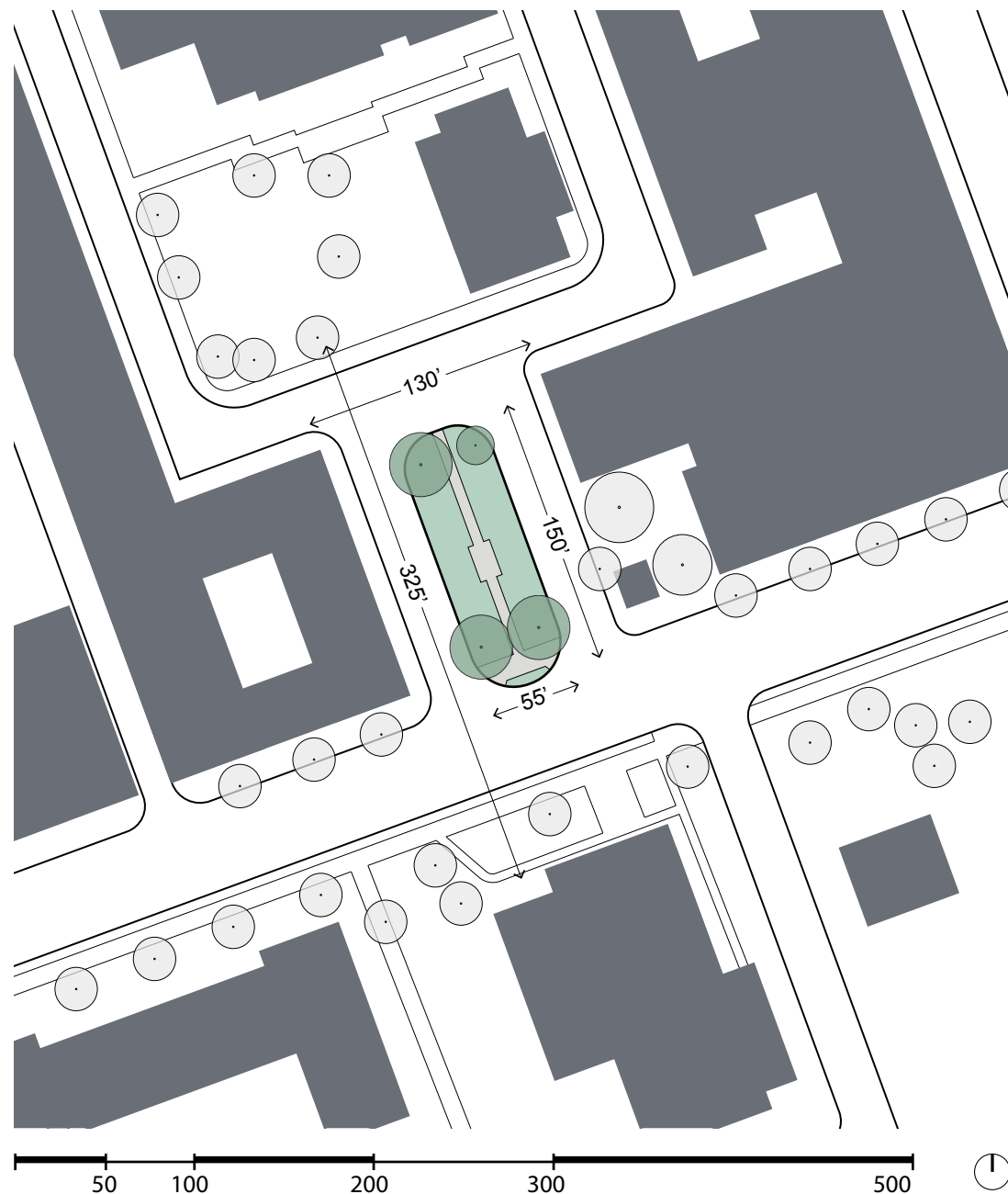
New York, NY

TYPE	Pocket Park
AREA	.10 acres
ACCESS	Public
OWNERSHIP	Private
TRANSIT	Adjacent subway station and nearby bus stops
EXPERIENCE ELEMENTS	Contemplative Passive Fountain Moveable Seating Food Vendor Hardscape



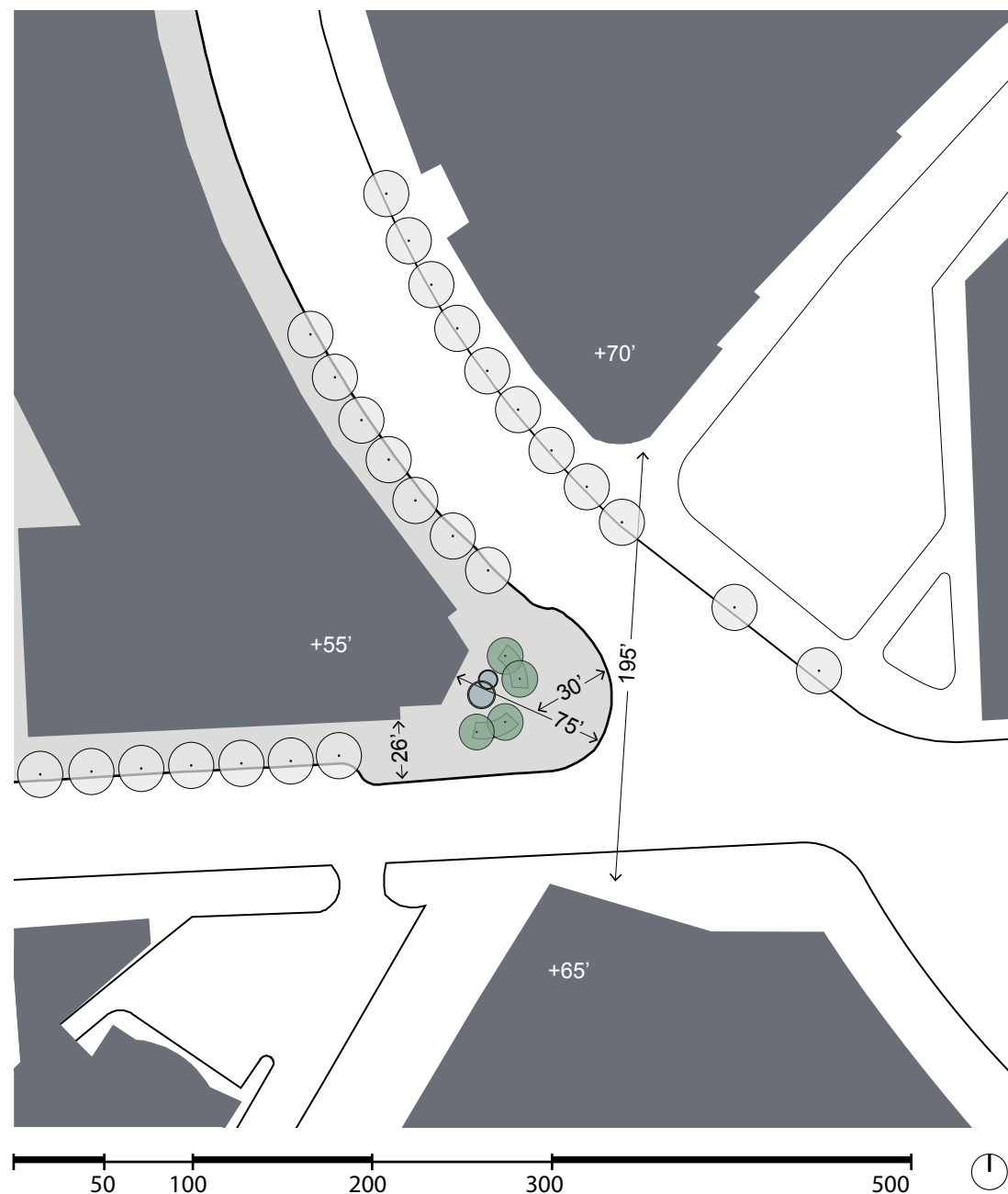
Princeton, New Jersey

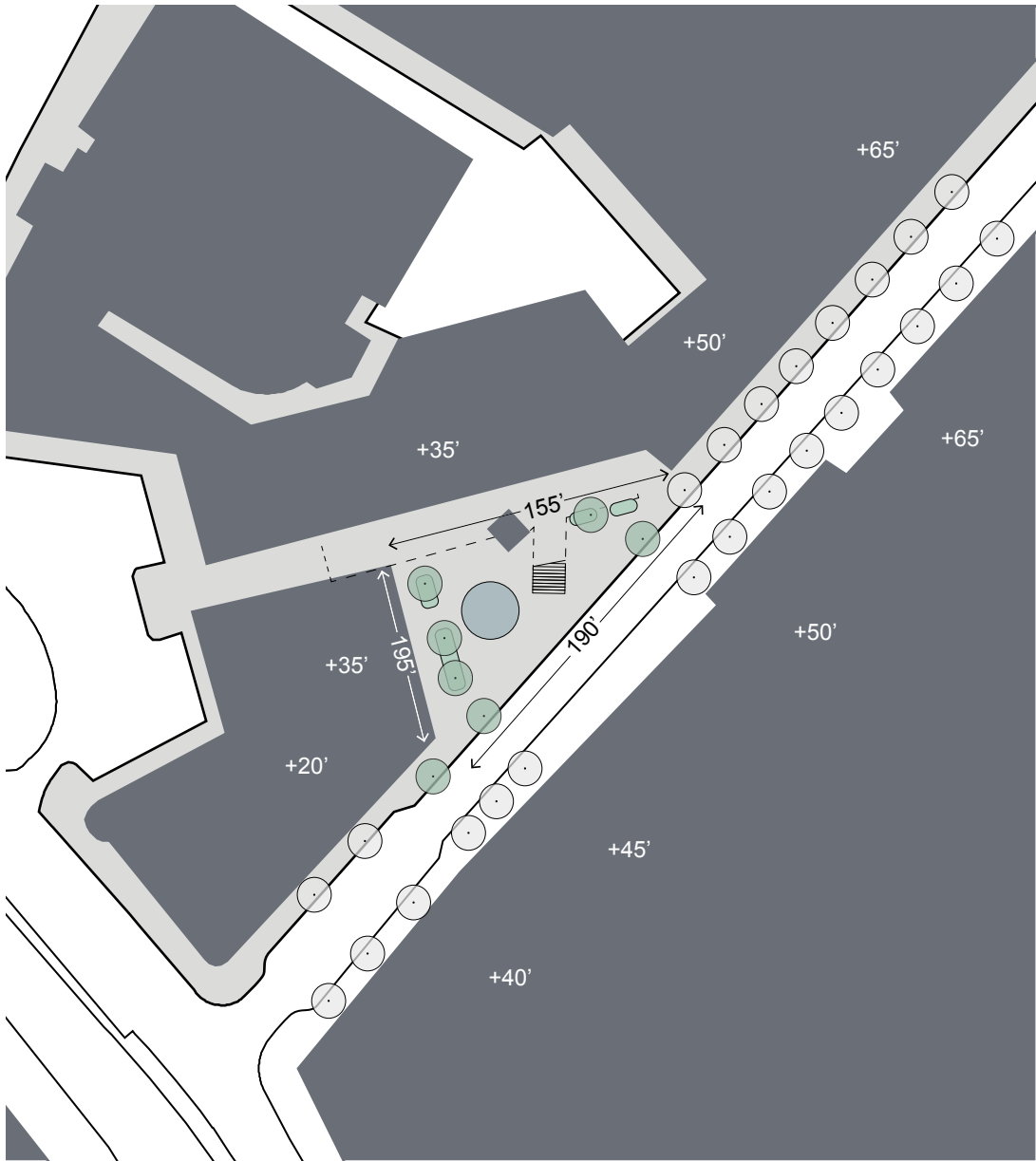
TYPE	Community Park
AREA	.18 acres 1.00 acre
ACCESS	Public
OWNERSHIP	Private
TRANSIT	Adjacent local bus stop
EXPERIENCE	Contemplative
ELEMENTS	Sculpture Seating Lawn



Bethesda, MD

TYPE	Plaza
AREA	.19 acres 1.28 acres
ACCESS	Public
OWNERSHIP	Private
TRANSIT	Served by adjacent local bus stops and nearby metro station
EXPERIENCE	Social
ELEMENTS	Passive Fountain Seating Hardscape





ELLSWORTH SQUARE

Silver Spring, MD

Silver Spring’s Ellsworth Plaza is a privately owned public space nestled between mixed-use buildings along Ellsworth Drive and framed by storefronts and restaurants. Additional elements defining the space include an artistic monumental stair and elevator tower, and water spray jets that entertain children and parents alike during the summer months. The balconies, walkways and restaurants with outdoor seating contribute to the lively street scene throughout the day and into the evening.

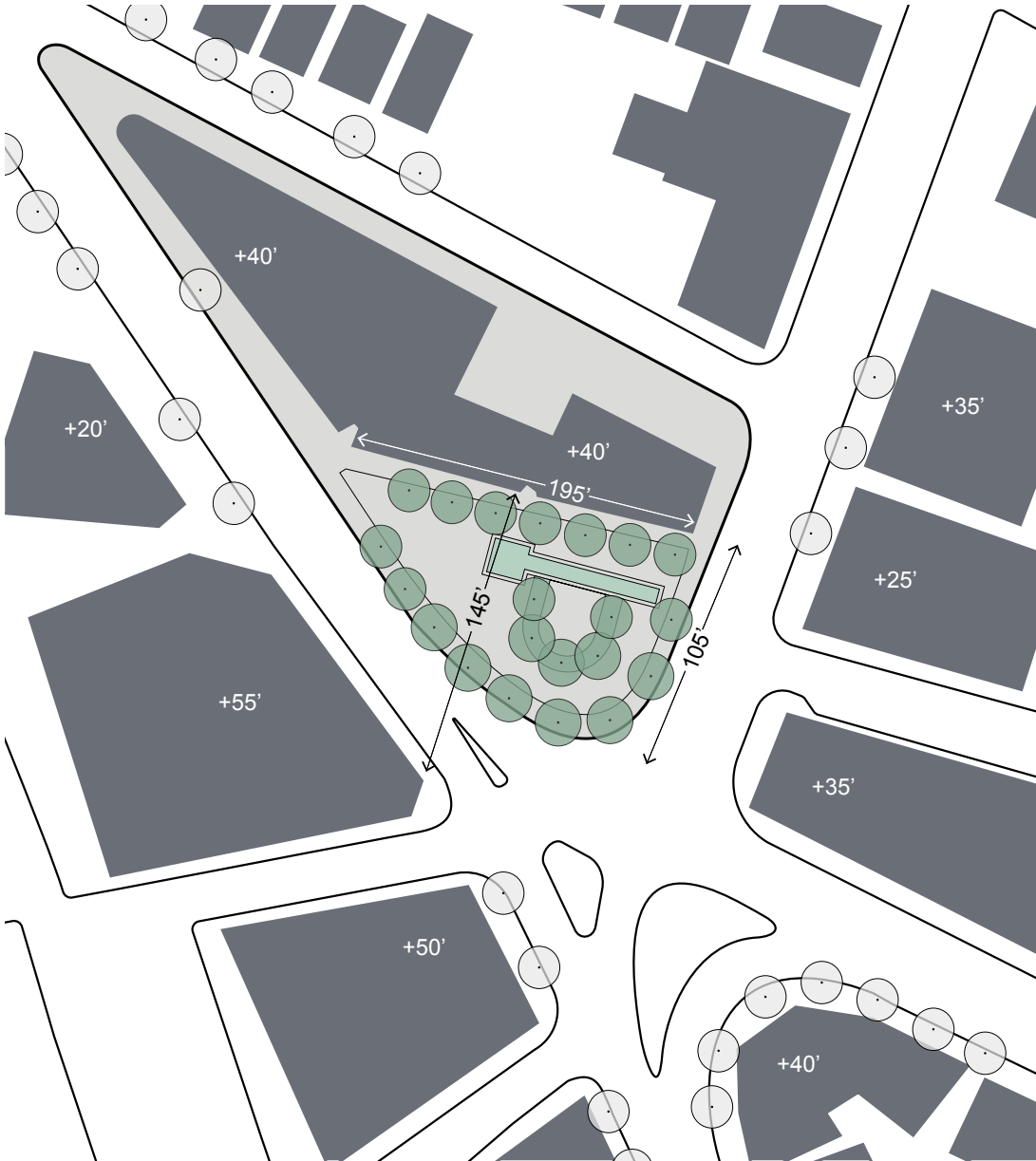


TYPE	Plaza
AREA	.21 acres .47 acres
ACCESS	Public
OWNERSHIP	Private
TRANSIT	Served by adjacent bus stop
EXPERIENCE	Social/Active
ELEMENTS	Hardscape Active Fountain Seating Food Vendors

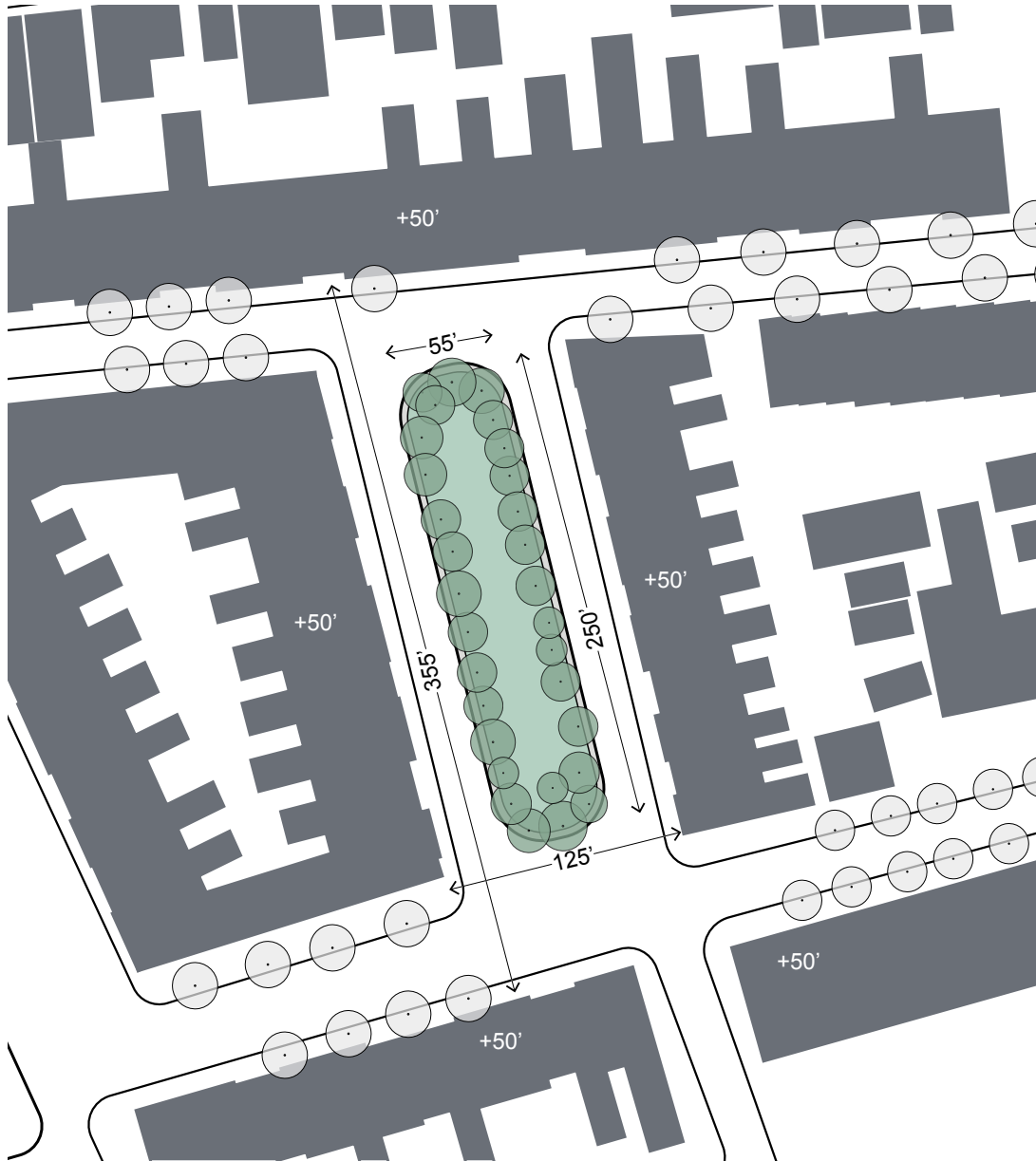
DAVIS SQUARE

Somerville, MA

Davis Square in the Boston suburb of Somerville is the town’s primary civic center, as well as a transit hub for both bus routes and the Red Line of Boston’s subway system. The paved plaza at the northern edge of the square features a calming water feature and a tree-covered place to sit and gather. The square primarily serves the surrounding commercial area, with the plaza often full of shoppers and commuters. It is a frequent site for outdoor concerts drawing large crowds, as well as impromptu performances by local street musicians.



TYPE	Plaza
AREA	.27 acres 1.14 acres
ACCESS	Public
OWNERSHIP	Public
TRANSIT	Adjacent subway station and local bus stops
EXPERIENCE	Social
ELEMENTS	Hardscape Seating Sculpture Food Vendors



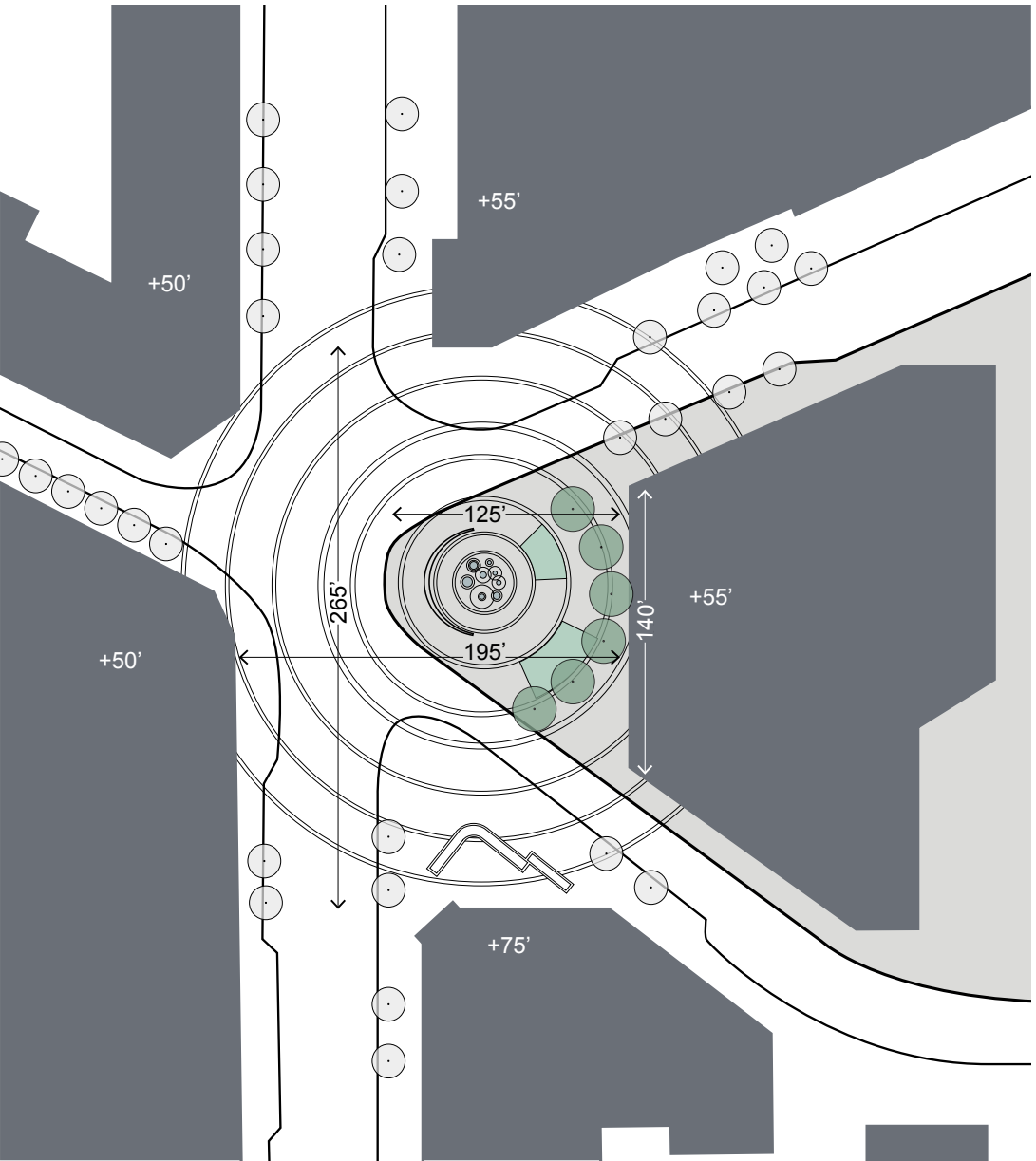
LOUISBURG SQUARE

Boston, MA

Louisburg Square is a private, residents-owned square on Beacon Hill in Boston, Massachusetts. Located in one of the wealthiest neighborhoods in the nation, the space is bordered by stately, 19th-century row houses that have been converted into condominiums. Although the beauty of Louisburg Square can be appreciated by owners and visitors alike, only surrounding residents can access the interior of the wrought-iron fenced park. The narrow lawn is framed with gardens at each end and is well shaded by a canopy of trees, a landscape that matches the quality of the historic brownstones and brick sidewalks surrounding the square.



TYPE	Neighborhood Park
AREA	.29 acres 1.00 acre
ACCESS	Private
OWNERSHIP	Private
TRANSIT	Four blocks from local bus stop and subway station
EXPERIENCE	Contemplative
ELEMENTS	Lawn Sculpture



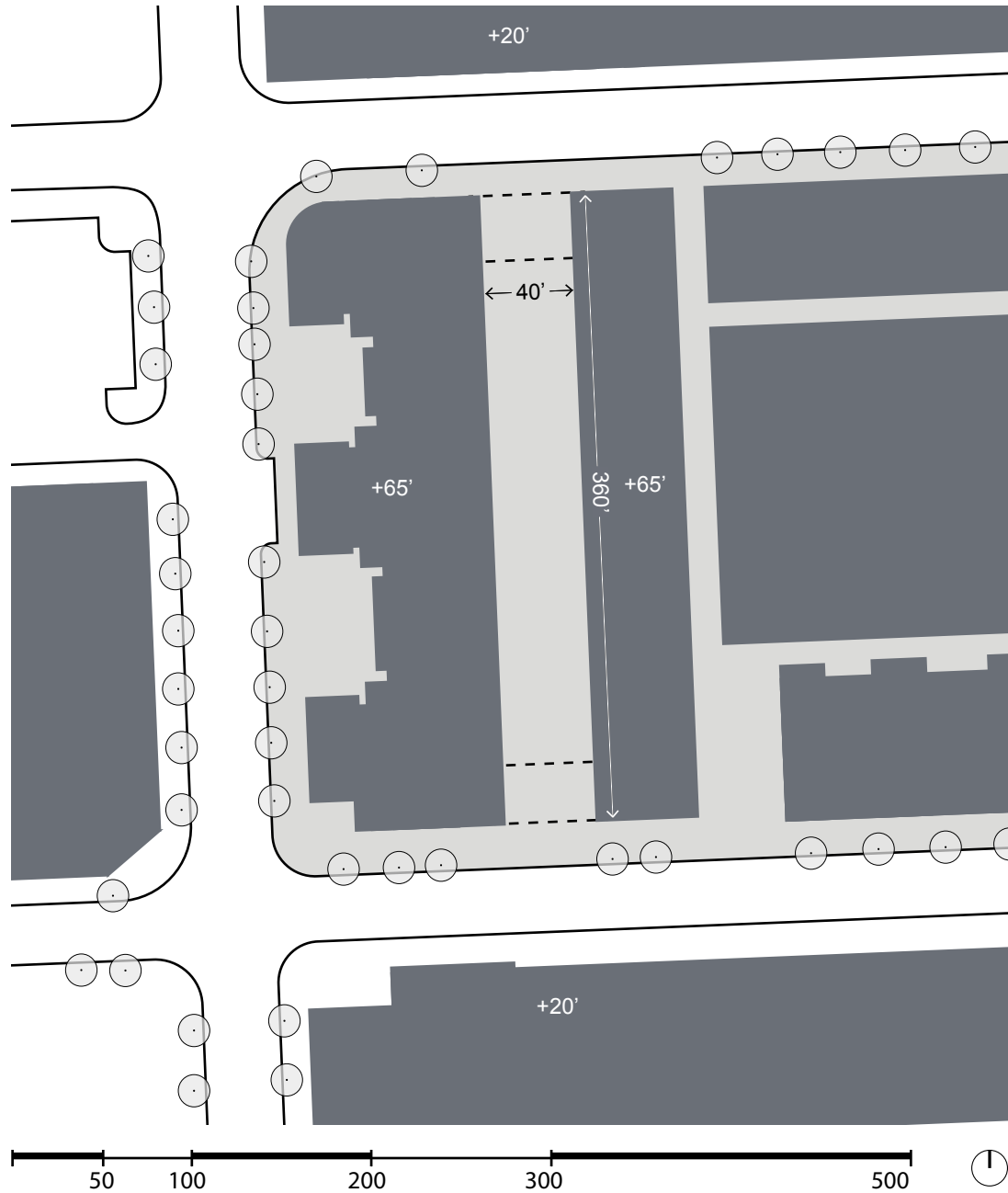
COLUMBIA HEIGHTS PLAZA

Washington, DC

This triangular plaza occupies the mixed-use center of the revitalized Columbia Heights neighborhood in Washington, DC. It was designed as part of a massive redevelopment of this urban core, beginning in 1999. The Plaza, completed in 2009, reinvigorated the major intersection at 14th Street, Park Road and Kenyon Street after years of neglect. The plaza serves as a gathering place for the community and is used to host farmer markets and festivals. The simple, open design of circular paving patterns, built-in seating, landscaped planting beds and artistic shade structures contributes to the urban character of the space.



Plaza
.58 acres 1.20 acres
Public
Public
Adjacent local bus stops and nearby metro station
Social/Active
Active Fountain Seating Hardscape Canopies



BETHESDA LANE

Bethesda, MD

Bethesda Lane is an enclosed, internal, privately owned, publicly accessible alley framed by buildings with ground-floor retail and restaurants, and residential apartments situated on the upper stories. The narrow lane, part of Bethesda Row, is similar to a traditional commercial streetscape in an historic town center and brings the activity of the restaurants and shops into the public realm. Illuminated at night, the space hosts abundant strolling, café seating, exhibits, concerts, fashion shows and holiday celebrations.

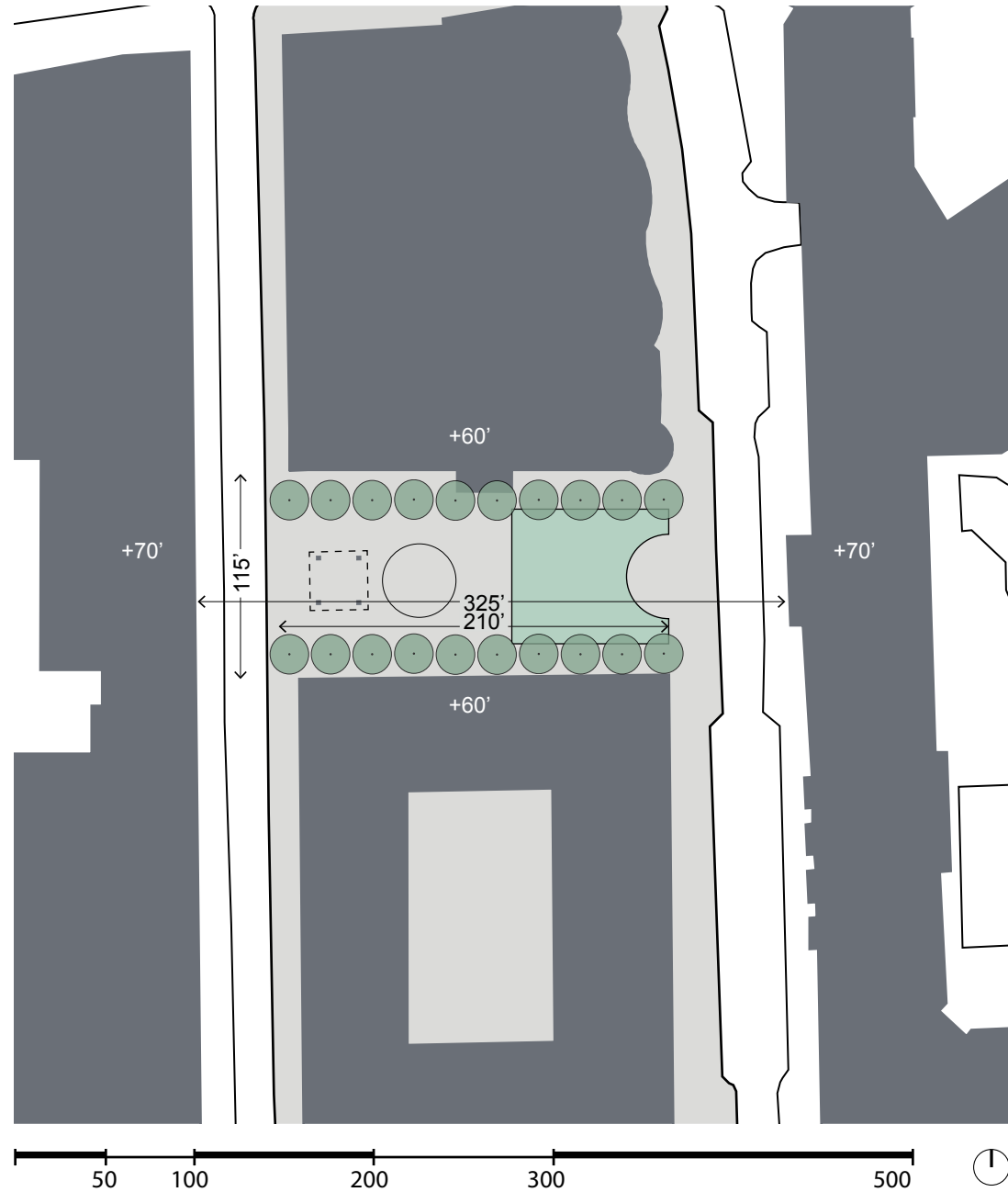
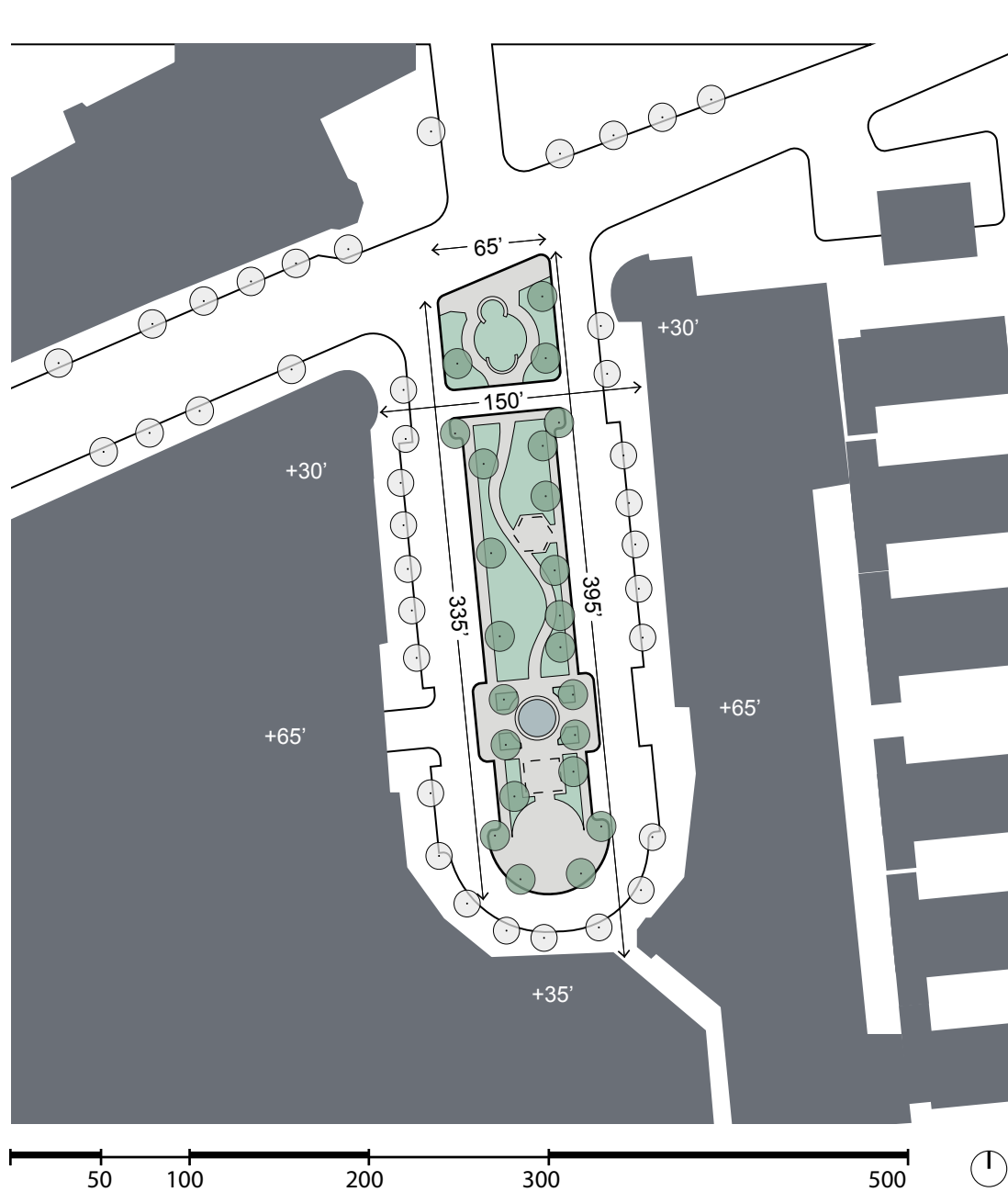
TYPE	Plaza
AREA	.33 acres
ACCESS	Public
OWNERSHIP	Private
TRANSIT	Served by adjacent local bus stops and nearby metro station
EXPERIENCE	Social
ELEMENTS	Hardscape Moveable Seating Food Vendors

MARKET COMMONS

Arlington, VA

This landscaped space lies at the heart of the Market Common mixed-use development in the Clarendon area of Arlington, VA. The square is framed by a street-oriented retail mall which is fronted by Clarendon Avenue to the north and by apartments and townhouses to the east, west and south.

TYPE	Community Park
AREA	.40 acres 1.35 acres
ACCESS	Public
OWNERSHIP	Private
TRANSIT	No public transit
EXPERIENCE	Contemplative/ Social
ELEMENTS	Pavilion Passive Fountain Seating



ROCKVILLE TOWN SQUARE

Rockville, MD

The centerpiece of the Rockville Mall redevelopment, this privately owned public town square opened in 2000. It features a central lawn, winter skating rink, a pavilion, retail kiosks and is surrounded by several shops and restaurants, as well as the public Rockville Library and the VisArts Community Arts Center. The turf lawn and plaza provide space for dining, relaxing, people-watching, reading and general enjoyment. A spray feature within the plaza provides a cooling amenity in the summer and the space is used for public events and concerts all year round.

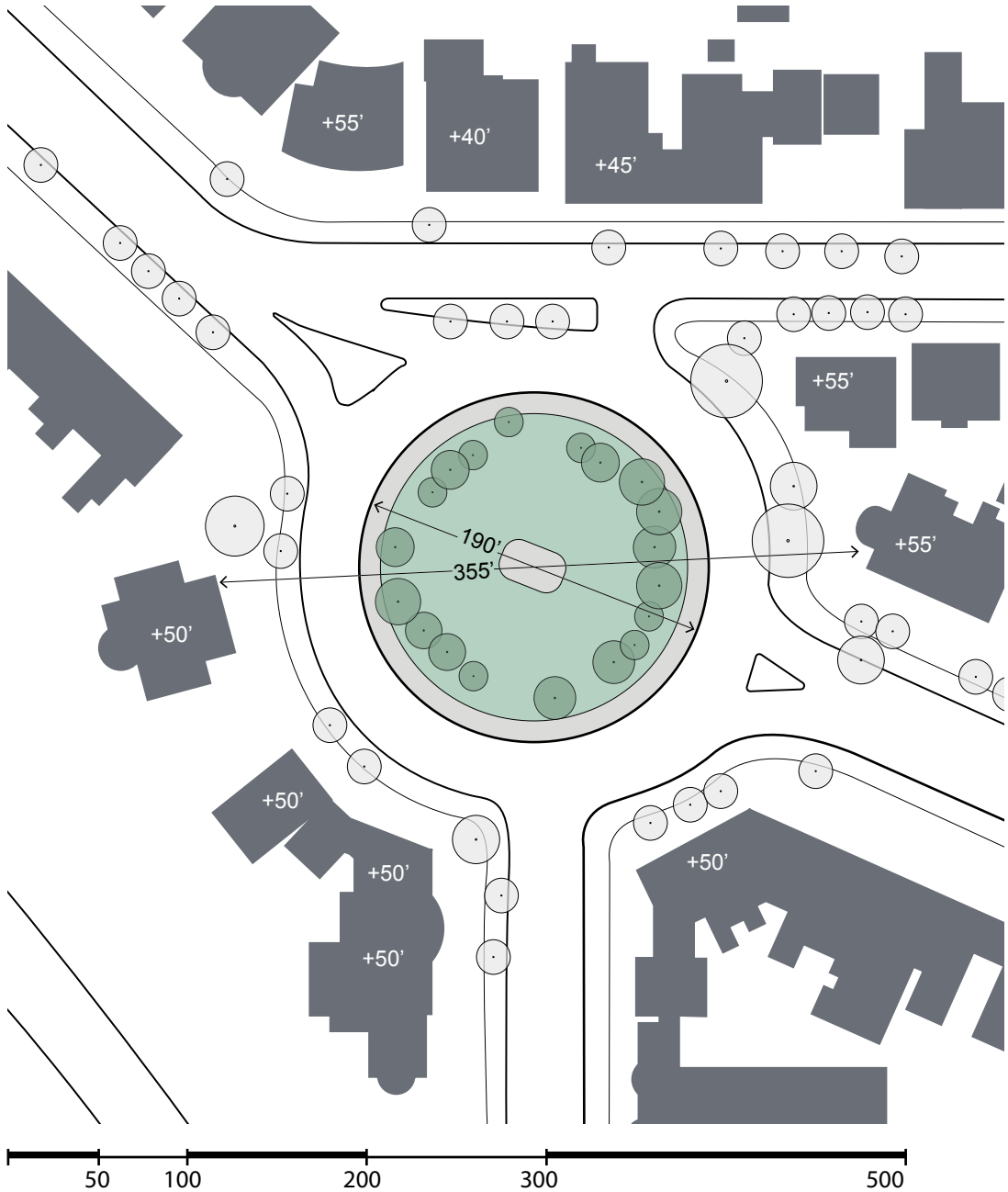
TYPE	Plaza
AREA	.57 acres .89 acres
ACCESS	Public
OWNERSHIP	Private
TRANSIT	Served by adjacent local bus stops
EXPERIENCE	Social
ELEMENTS	Lawn Pavilion Moveable Seating Food Vendors

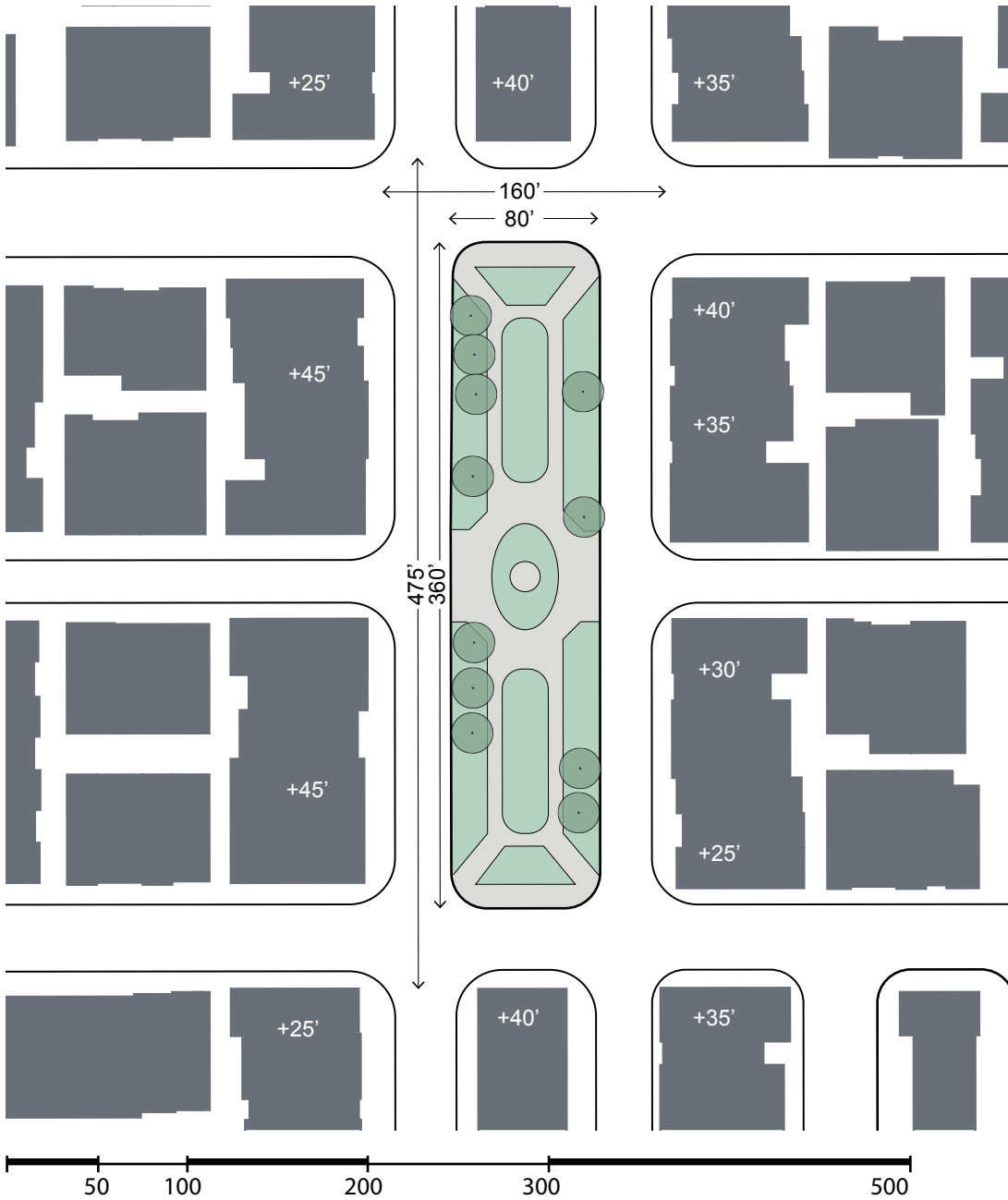
SHERIDAN CIRCLE

Washington, DC

Sheridan Circle in Washington, D.C., is situated on Embassy Row at the intersection of Massachusetts Avenue, 23rd Street and R Street, and just west of the larger Dupont Circle. It is used to host diplomatic and other official gatherings, but more frequently serves local residents as place for dog-walking and other types of quiet relaxation. At the center of the circle is a statue of Philip Sheridan, Union general of the American Civil War, on horseback.

TYPE	Community Park
AREA	.65 acres 2.3 acres
ACCESS	Public
OWNERSHIP	Public
TRANSIT	Served by two adjacent local bus stops
EXPERIENCE	Contemplative
ELEMENTS	Lawn Sculpture





O'DONNELL SQUARE PARK

Baltimore, MD

O'Donnell Square Park in the Canton neighborhood of Baltimore is the primary green space and traditional heart of the neighborhood. The linear park is flanked at its ends by a stone church and an historic fire station converted into a bank, and has become a popular site for neighborhood residents to walk dogs, stroll and socialize. The park features a central garden with a statue of local seaman Captain John O'Donnell, several benches, two long lawns and plantings at each end. It is immediately surrounded by restaurants and ground-floor retail, and at a greater distance by rowhouses and apartments. O'Donnell Square is especially active in afternoons and evenings as restaurant-goers filter through the neighborhood.

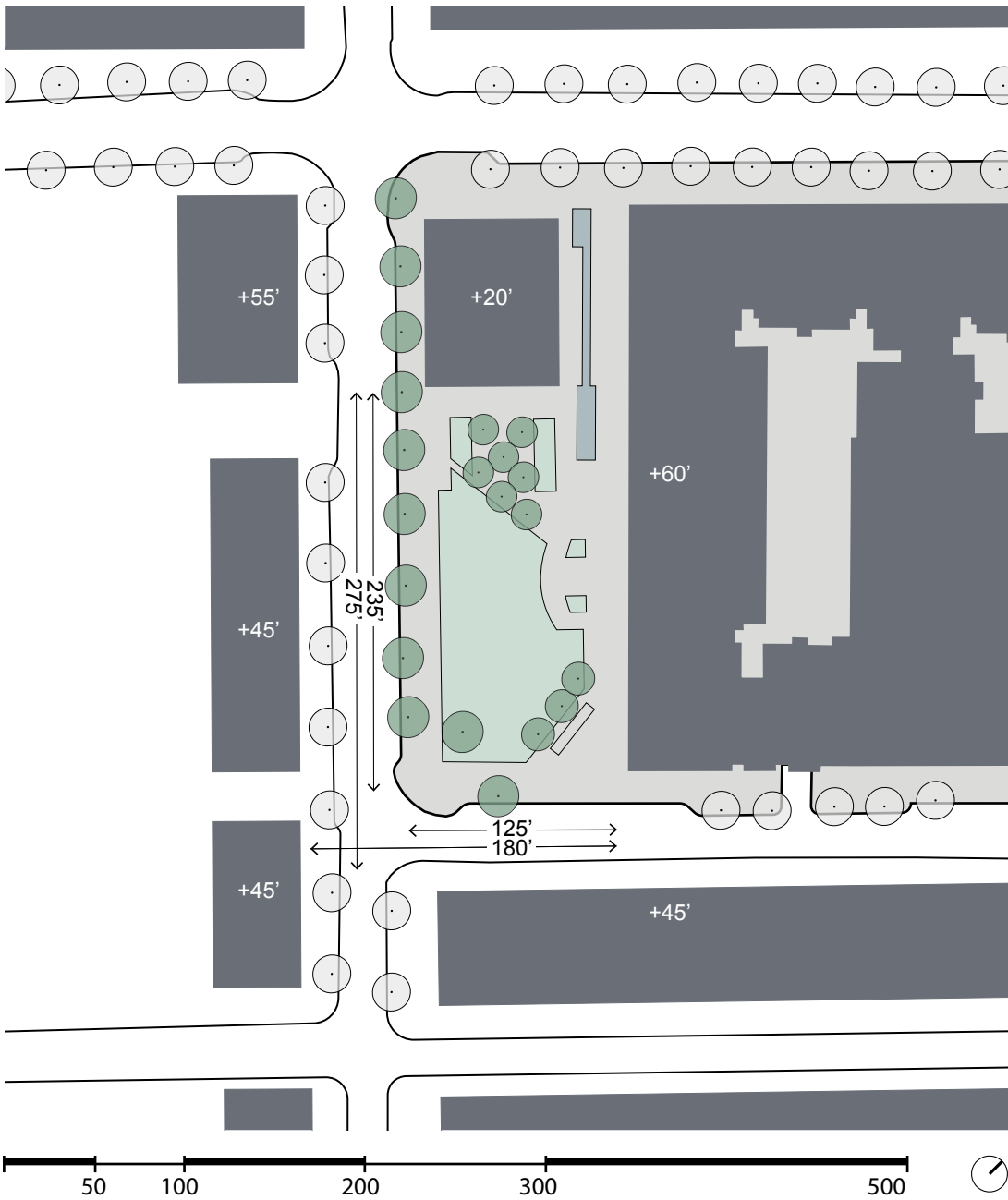
TYPE	Community Park
AREA	.66 acres 1.68 acres
ACCESS	Public
OWNERSHIP	Public
TRANSIT	Several blocks from two local bus stops
EXPERIENCE	Social
ELEMENTS	Sculpture Seating

CROWN PARK

Gaithersburg, MD

Crown Park is centrally located at the main crossroads of the Crown development in Gaithersburg to provide a common green space for residents in this active, mixed-use community. The community was begun in 2012 and the park is framed by five-story, mixed-use buildings, one- and two-story retail uses and three to four-story townhouses. The space provides for active recreation, people watching, café seating and community-focused events, festivals and public markets.

TYPE	Green
AREA	.68 acres 1.14 acres
ACCESS	Public
OWNERSHIP	Private
TRANSIT	No public transit
EXPERIENCE	Social
ELEMENTS	Lawn Seating Food Vendors



THAMES STREET PARK

Baltimore, MD

Thames Street Park is a neighborhood space for the historic Thames Street neighborhood in Baltimore. The small community park, with a gazebo and small playground, is popular with parents and kids and is an active green space among the cobblestone streets. The park is further activated from its proximity to major Baltimore destinations: it is one block from the harbor waterfront and two blocks from the Fells Point restaurant district.

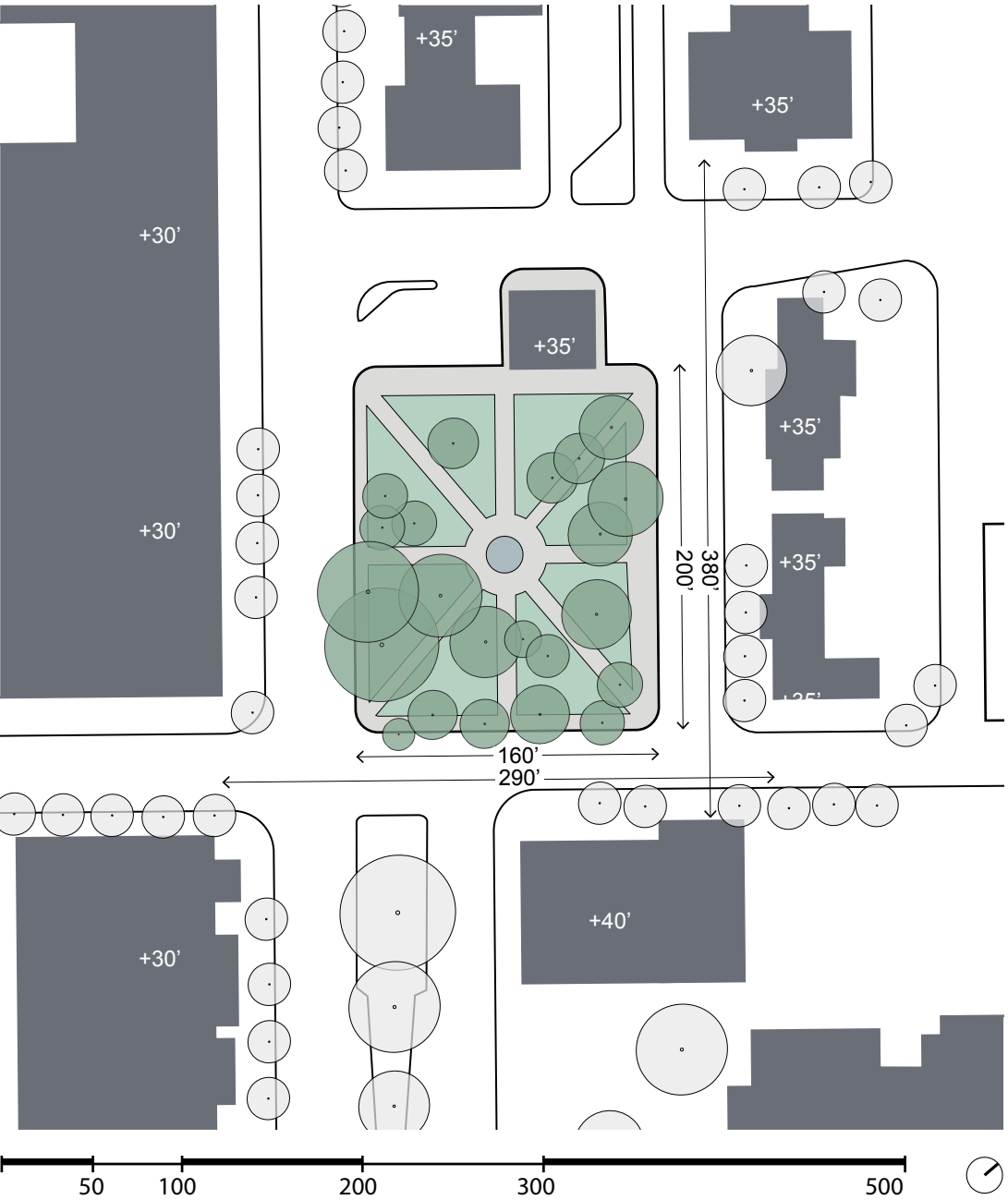


TYPE	Neighborhood Park
AREA	.72 acres 1.35 acres
ACCESS	Public
OWNERSHIP	Public
TRANSIT	No public transit
EXPERIENCE	Active
ELEMENTS	Playground Pavilion Seating

FOUNTAIN PARK

Chestertown, MD

Fountain Park is the primary green space of Chestertown, a small, historic community on Maryland's Eastern Shore. The park is located within the town's historic district at the primary commercial intersection of High and Cross Streets, near the town hall and county courthouse. The centerpiece of the park is the large, cast-iron fountain from which the park gets its name. Surrounding the park are low-rise, mixed-use buildings, churches, narrow streets with parking and a plaza adjacent to Emmanuel Church. Fountain Park is home to a summer concert series, weekly farmer markets and casual social gatherings.



TYPE	Community Park
AREA	.73 acres 2.53 acres
ACCESS	Public
OWNERSHIP	Public
TRANSIT	No public transit

EXPERIENCE	Contemplative/ Social
ELEMENTS	Passive Fountain Seating



MAIN STREET PARK

Gaithersburg, MD

Kentlands is a pioneering development of the Neo-Urbanist movement, centered on residential districts, vibrant mixed-use streetscapes and public spaces. The town was developed by noted New Urbanist architects Andres Duany and Elizabeth Plater-Zyberk through a series of community workshops beginning in 1988. Main Street Park and the adjacent market plaza have become prominent gathering places for concerts, farmer markets and many community family events. They are located in the heart of the main commercial district along Main Street that also features a variety of office and residential uses above street-level retail.

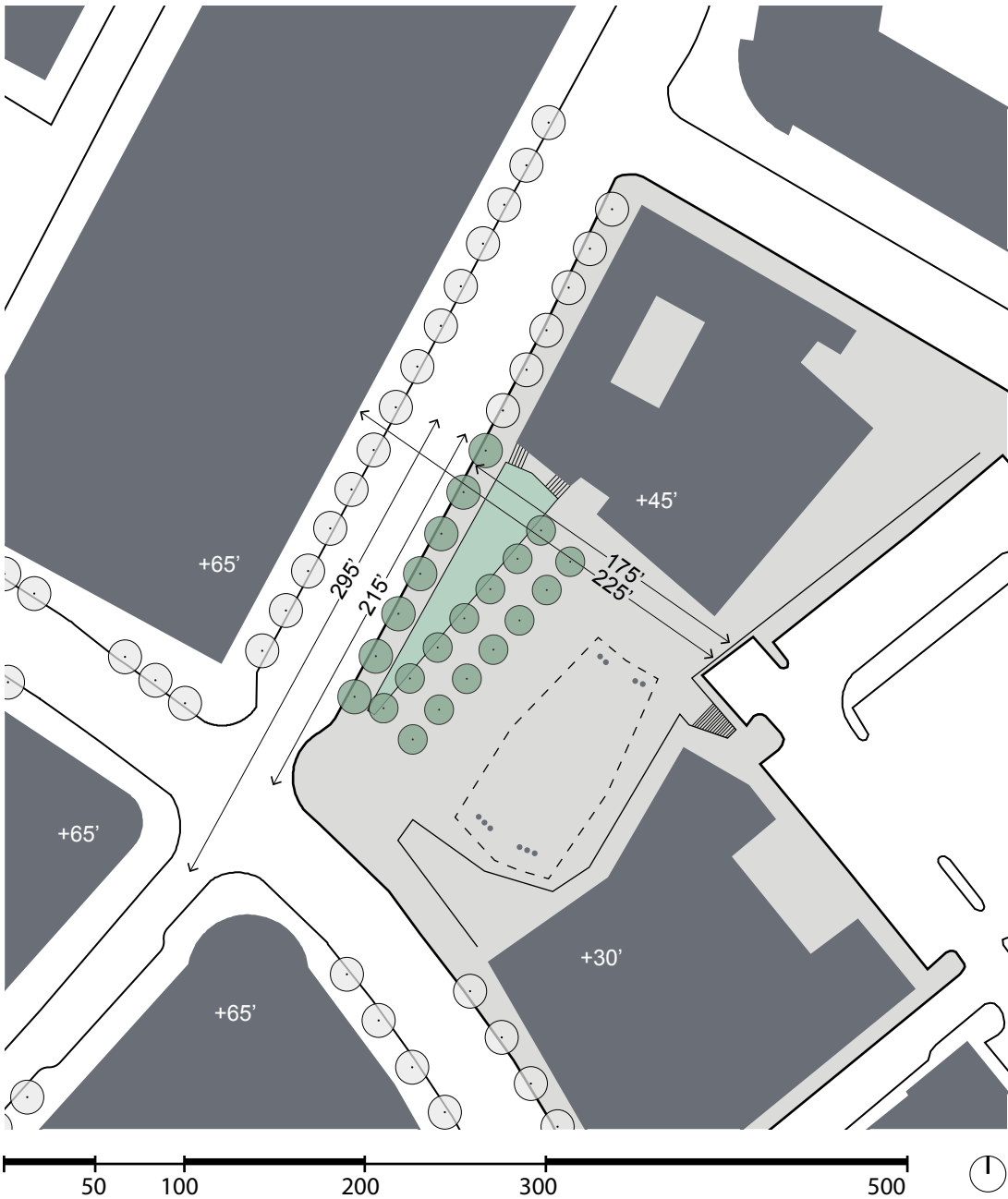


TYPE	Community Park
AREA	.76 acres 1.2 acres
ACCESS	Public
OWNERSHIP	Public
TRANSIT	No public transit
EXPERIENCE	Social
ELEMENTS	Lawn Pavilion Seating

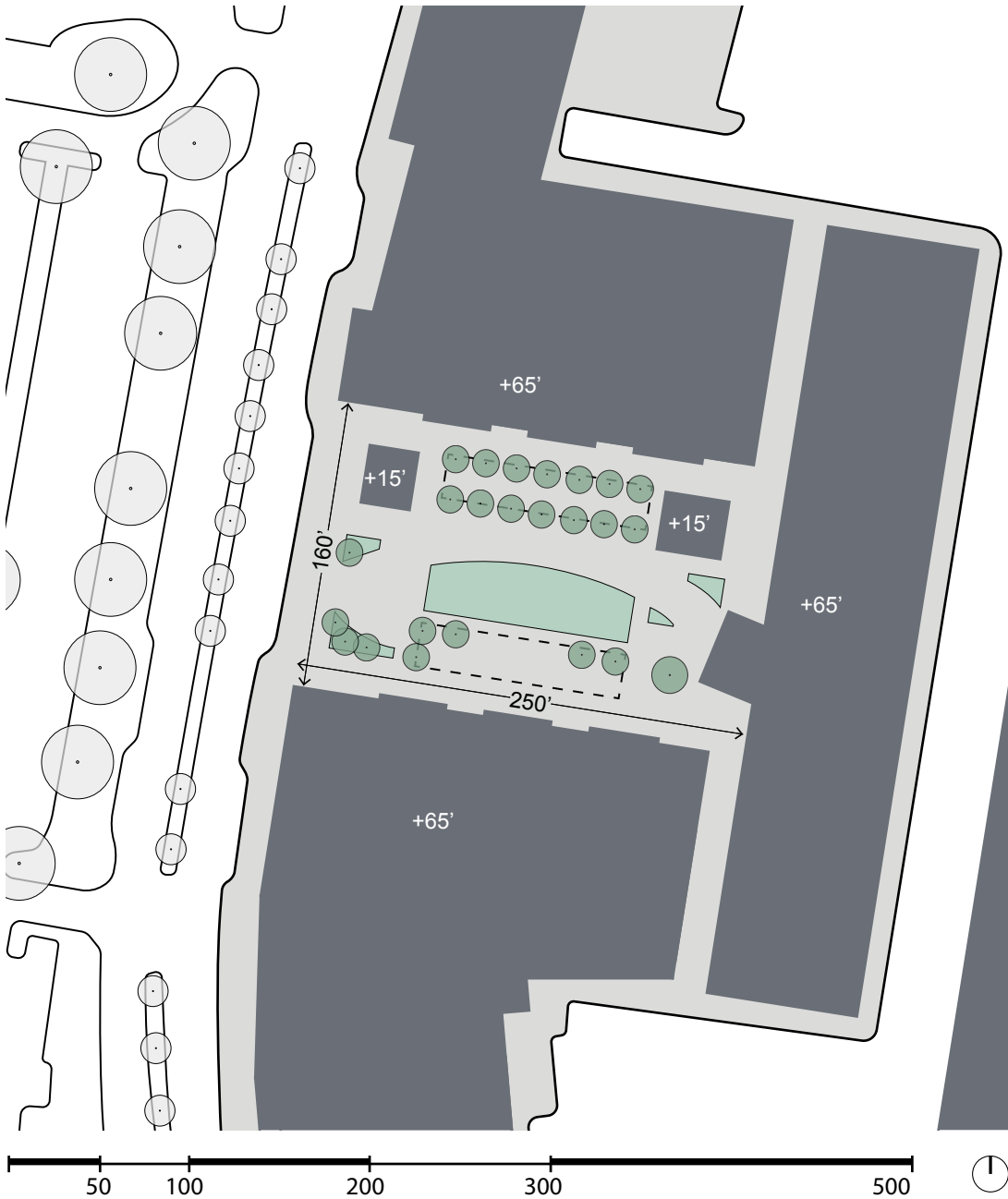
VETERAN'S PLAZA

Silver Spring, MD

Veterans Plaza fronts the Silver Spring Civic Building at the intersection of Ellsworth Drive and Fenton Street in downtown Silver Spring. Opened in 2010, the plaza and building are designed by Boston-based Machado Silvetti Architects. The plaza mediates between the civic building and the downtown shopping district at Ellsworth Place. The plaza is used for concerts, festivals, ethnic and farmer markets, and features a highly popular ice skating rink during winter months. The plaza is particularly scenic at night when the building is illuminated and the pavilion roof is lit with multi-colored lights.



TYPE	Plaza
AREA	.84 acres 1.55 acres
ACCESS	Public
OWNERSHIP	Public
TRANSIT	Served by adjacent bus stop
EXPERIENCE	Social/Active
ELEMENTS	Pavilion Hardscape Seating



PENTAGON ROW PLAZA

Arlington, VA

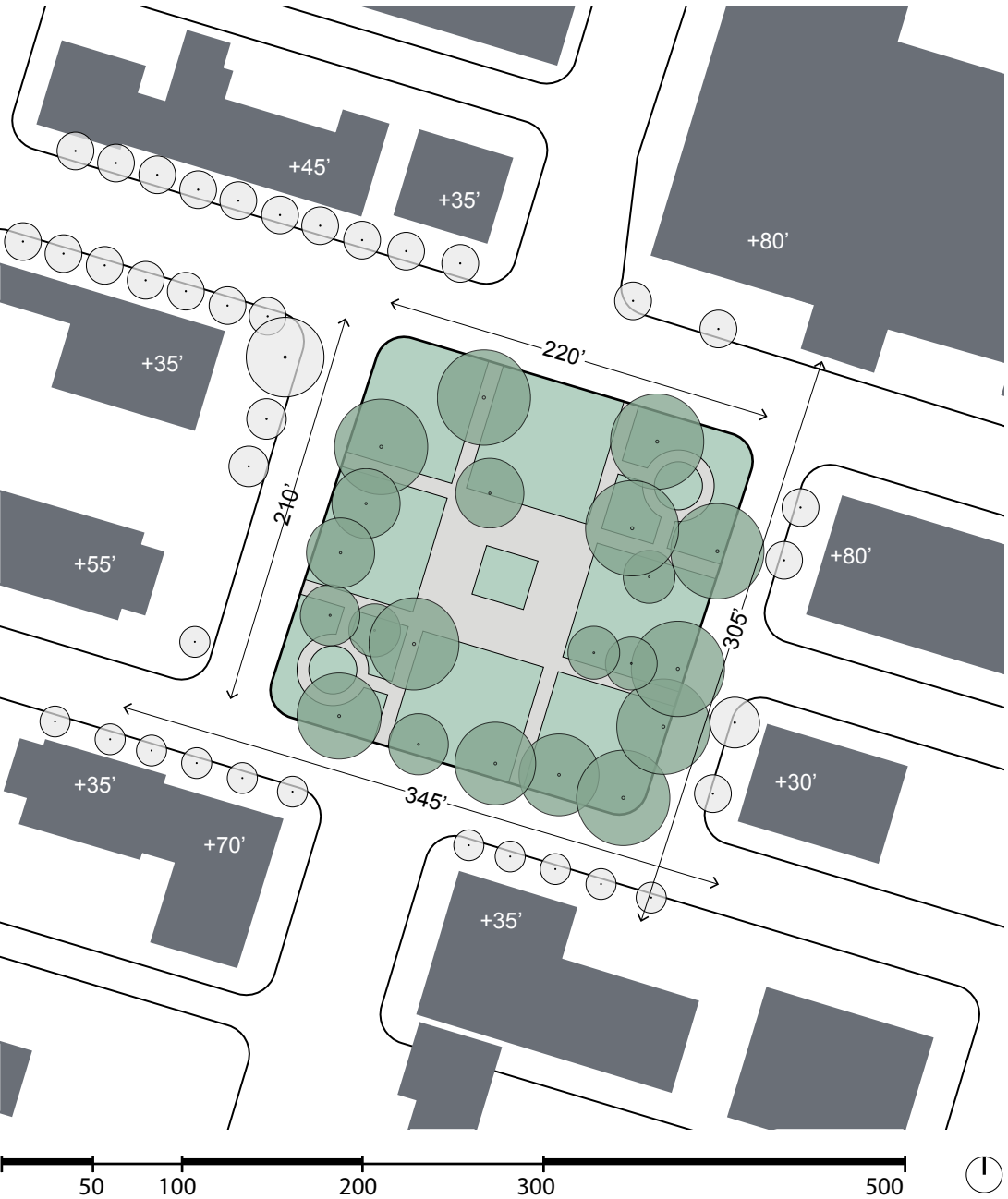
The plaza and buildings of Pentagon Row were originally built in 2002. A renovation of the plaza was completed in 2013 to introduce a turf lawn, winter skating rink, fountains, outdoor dining area and additional retail spaces. This revitalization has breathed new life to the space and attracted a broad group of new patrons. The plaza continues to foster mixed-use development and has become the social center of this community.

TYPE	Plaza
AREA	.92 acres 1.3 acres
ACCESS	Public
OWNERSHIP	Private
TRANSIT	Adjacent local bus stops and nearby subway station
EXPERIENCE	Social
ELEMENTS	Seating Pavilion Food Vendors Passive Fountains

MADISON SQUARE

Savannah, GA

Madison Square is one of the 24 public squares in historic downtown Savannah, GA. It was laid out in 1839 and, like all the city's squares, features large shade trees covered in hanging moss, lawns, benches, flower beds and a monument named for a local hero. The centerpiece of this park is a statue of Sergeant William Jasper who died in the battle for Savannah during the Revolutionary War. Tall, old trees shade the whole square to cast dappled light onto visitors. As a tourist destination, the square is used for private parties and weddings, and calm retreats for reading a book or chatting with a neighbor.



TYPE	Community Park
AREA	1.06 acres 2.46 acres
ACCESS	Public
OWNERSHIP	Public
TRANSIT	One block from bus stop
EXPERIENCE	Contemplative/ Social
ELEMENTS	Sculpture Seating

SANTA FE SQUARE
Santa Fe, NM

The plaza lies at the center of historic Santa Fe, on the site of the city's original fort dating to the early 1600s. Its design, following the Laws of the Indies codifying city planning in the Spanish colonies, evokes a timeless quality and a sense of historic significance. The park is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is surrounded by historically significant sites and one- to two-story arcaded structures. The plaza features an American Indian War Memorial, hardscape and manicured lawn areas, abundant seating and a concert stage offering daily performances during summer months.

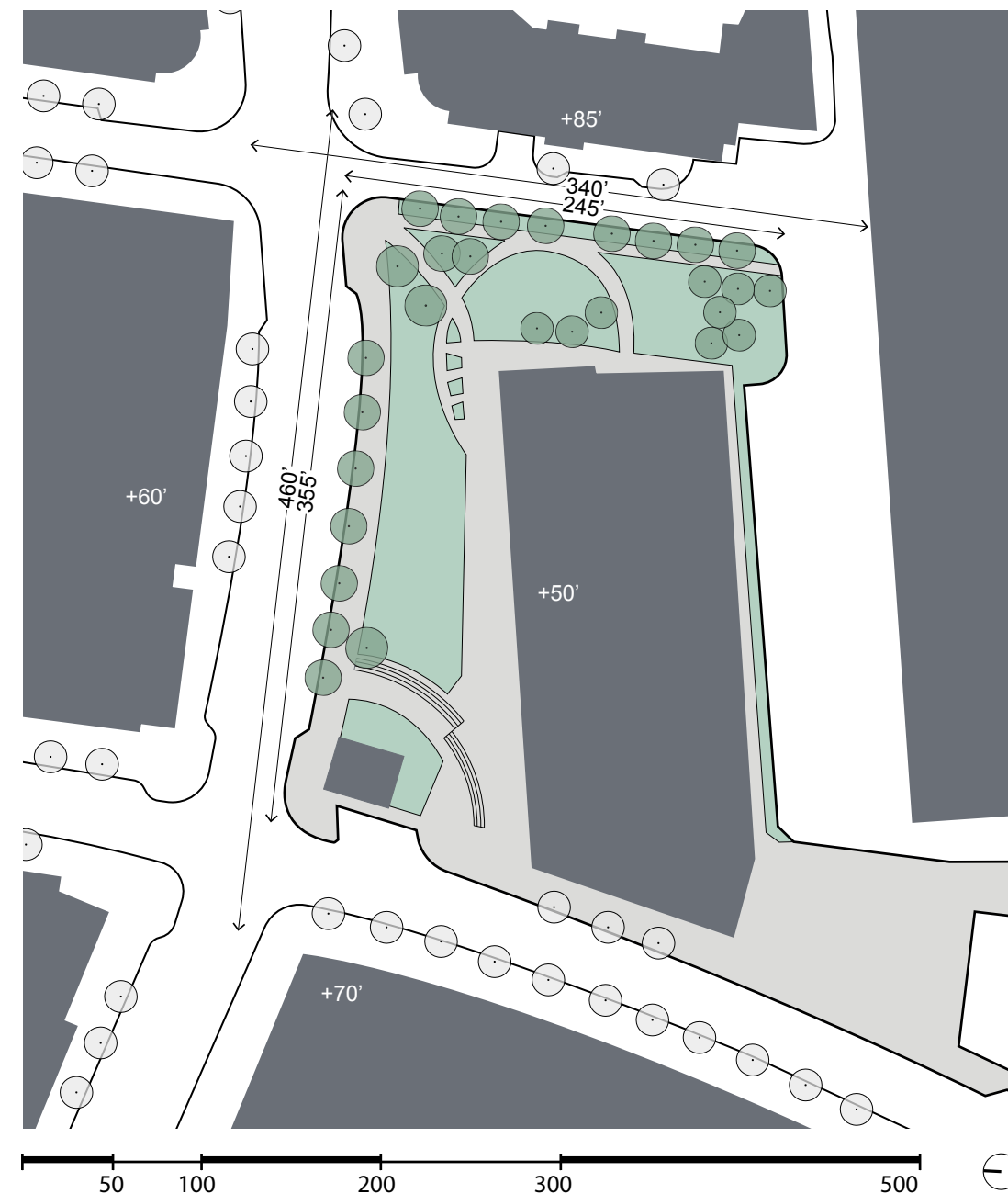


TYPE	Community Park
AREA	1.11 acres 2.01 acres
ACCESS	Public
OWNERSHIP	Public
TRANSIT	No public transit
EXPERIENCE	Social
ELEMENTS	Sculpture Seating Lawn Food Vendors

**STRAWBERRY
PARK**

Merrifield, VA

Once a dilapidated suburban strip mall with a theater, drive-through retail and acres of asphalt parking lots, the Mosaic District in Merrifield, VA has become an urban destination with narrow, tree and building-lined streets, and the central Strawberry Park. The park is located immediately adjacent to the Angelika Film Center and has quickly become the social and cultural center of this new community. Surrounding the space are four- to six-story mixed-use buildings, street-facing retail and restaurants, and the three-story film center. The park is used to host farmer markets, group fitness events, film nights and community events on the lawn. A large viewing screen mounted on the film center turns the park into an outdoor movie theater on summer nights.



TYPE	Green
AREA	1.16 acres 2.24 acres
ACCESS	Public
OWNERSHIP	Private
TRANSIT	Served by nearby local bus stops
EXPERIENCE	Social
ELEMENTS	Lawn Food Vendors

RESTON TOWN SQUARE PARK

Reston, VA

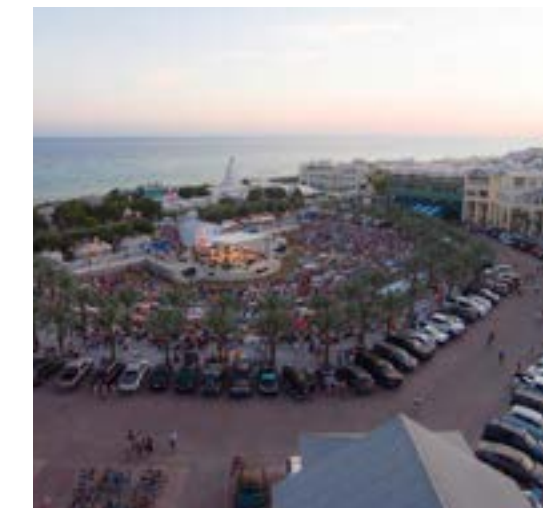
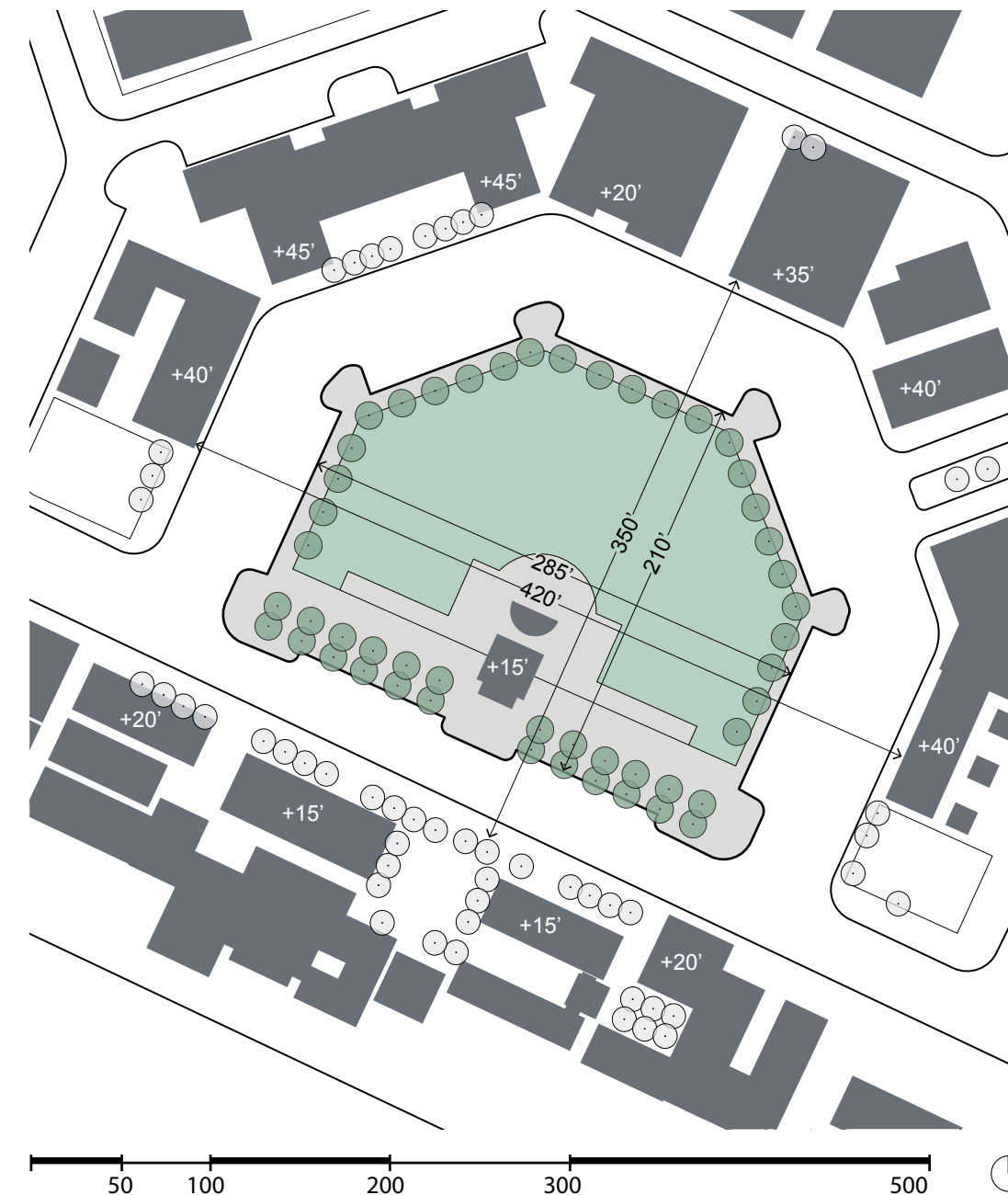
The Town Square Park is a contemplative, lush space in the heart of downtown Reston, VA and fronts two of the largest residential towers in the city. Amphitheater seating on half of the park provides seating for concerts and performances, while an interactive fountain is part of an engaging space for children and parents. This landscaped square is the complement to the Reston Town Plaza and fountain at the opposite end of Market Street.



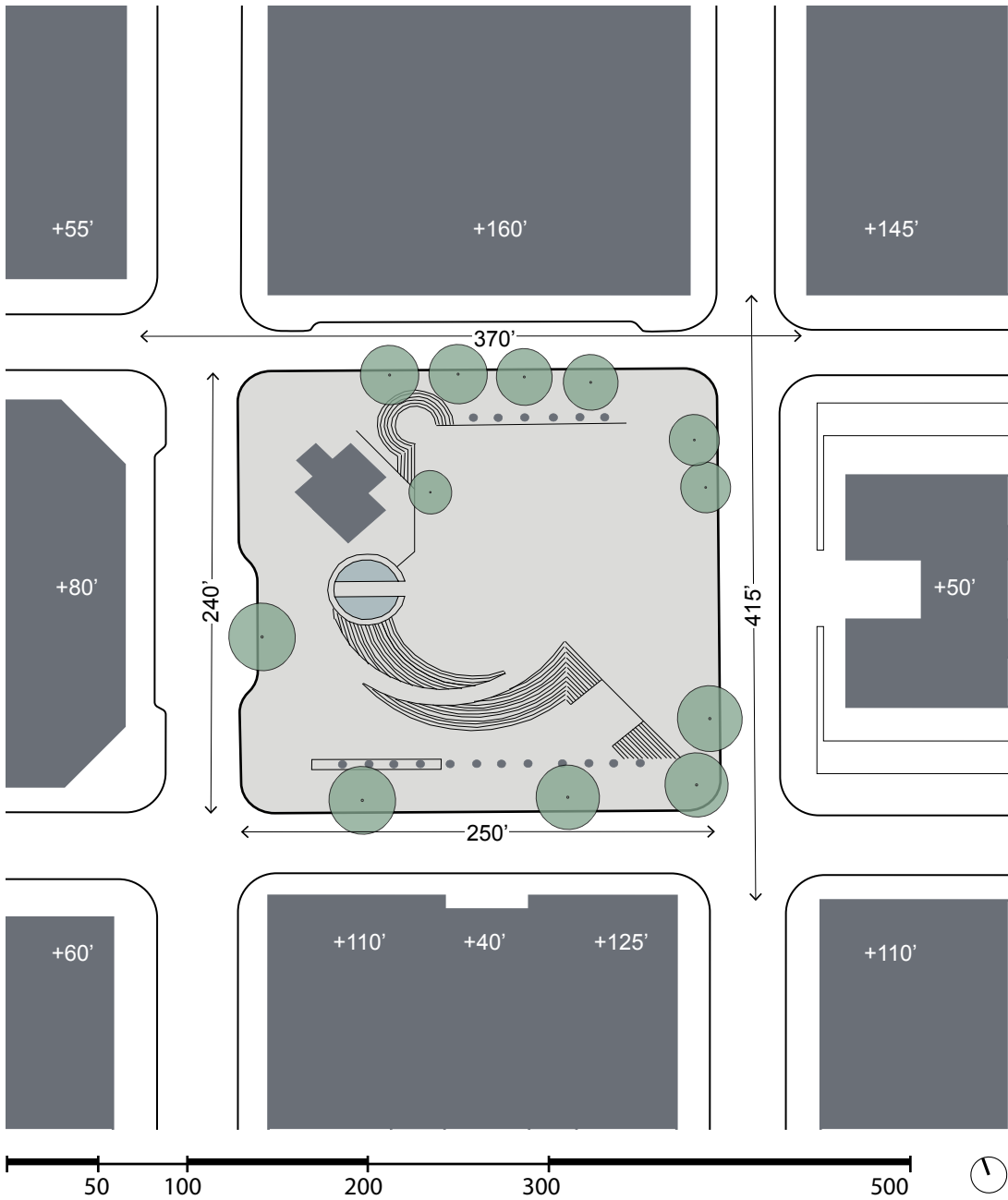
TYPE	Community Park
AREA	1.25 acres 2.93 acres
ACCESS	Public
OWNERSHIP	Public
TRANSIT	No public transit
EXPERIENCE ELEMENTS	Contemplative/ Social Active Fountain Lawn Moveable Seating

**SEASIDE
AMPHITHEATER**
Seaside, FL

This square is at the center of the New Urbanist town of Seaside and designed by Miami architects Andres Duany and Elizabeth Plater-Zyberk. It is framed by the coastal highway connecting all the beachfront towns along the Florida panhandle and located one block from the Gulf of Mexico. The space centers on an amphitheater and is surrounded by a mix of retail, office and apartments. It is used year-round for festivals, markets, movies and concerts.



TYPE	Green
AREA	1.28 acres 3.14 acres
ACCESS	Public
OWNERSHIP	Public
TRANSIT	No Public Transit
EXPERIENCE ELEMENTS	Contemplative/ Social Stage Lawn Seating



PIONEER COURTHOUSE SQUARE

Portland, OR

Pioneer Courthouse Square is considered Portland, OR's living room and was opened in 1984 after a national design competition won by local architect Willard Martin and his team. The design was inspired by a Greek agora and serves as a space for both casual and formal uses. The large amphitheater is popular for relaxing during the day but is easily transformed into seating around a central stage for concerts and other events. The square hosts more than 300 programmed events each year that reflect its civic role in the heart of Portland. A renovation of the square was completed in 2017.

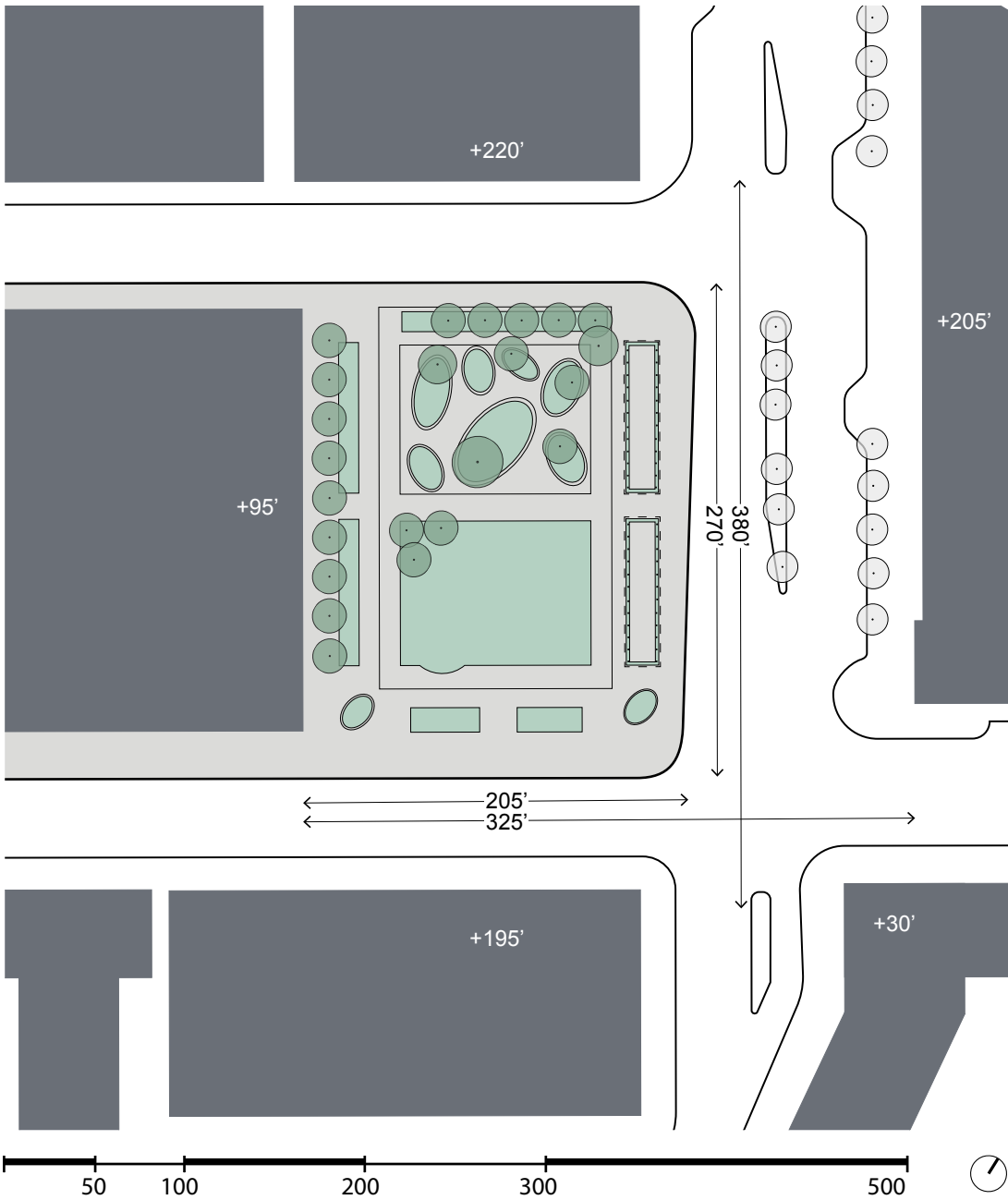


TYPE	Plaza
AREA	1.32 acres 2.8 acres
ACCESS	Public
OWNERSHIP	Public
TRANSIT	Served by two adjacent trolley stops
EXPERIENCE	Social
ELEMENTS	Hardscape Fountain Sculpture Seating

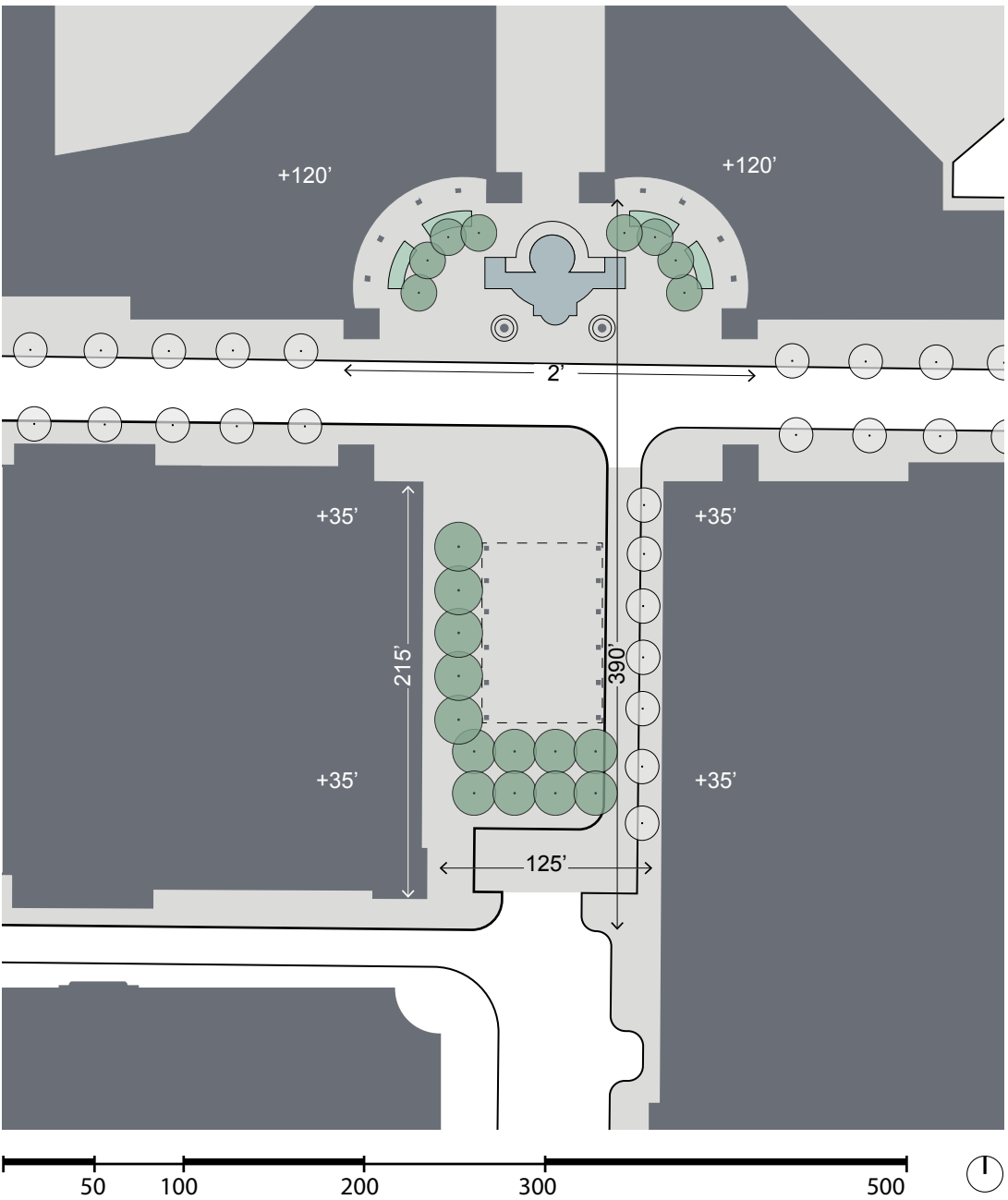
PERK PLAZA

Cleveland, OH

The renovation of the Ralph J. Perk Plaza in downtown Cleveland, OH was part of a citywide master planning effort to. This plaza is located several blocks south of Lake Erie and was redesigned in 2012 by landscape architects Thomas Balsey Associates and SWA. The park is surrounded by existing office towers and has spurred the dramatic increase of restaurants and retail in the area. In summer months, the park hosts community events with food trucks parked at its northern border. It is separated into three zones: the tree-filled northern half for relaxation and quiet seating; the sunny lawn on the southern half for festivals and semi-active recreation; and the social area with a bright red pergola and benches and tables along the eastern edge.



TYPE	Community Park
AREA	1.33 acres 3.19 acres
ACCESS	Public
OWNERSHIP	Public
TRANSIT	Served by adjacent local bus stops
EXPERIENCE	Social
ELEMENTS	Lawn Seating Pavilion



MARKET STREET PLAZA

Reston, VA

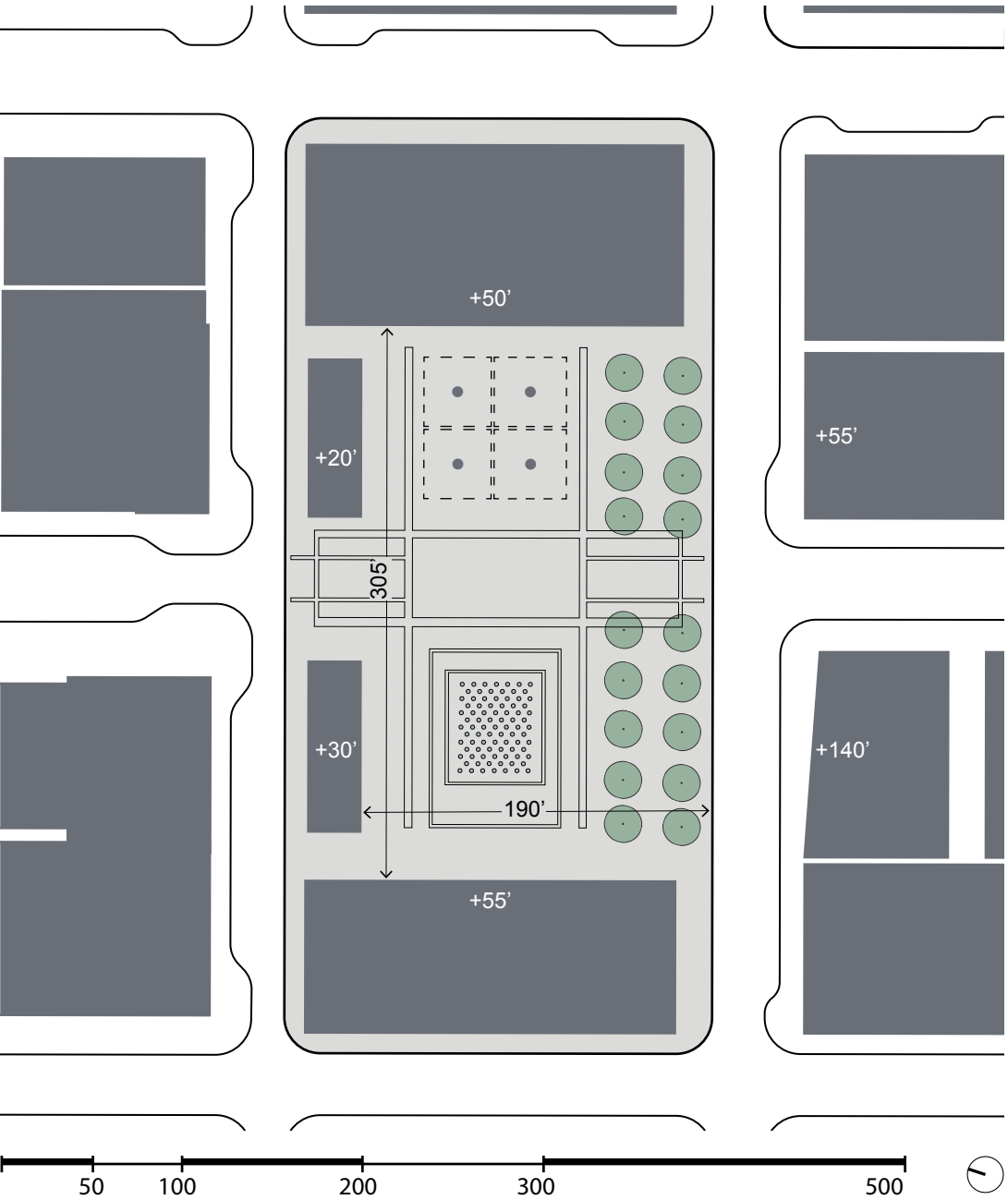
A central gathering space within the new town center of Reston, VA, the T-shaped brick plaza is marked on one end by a monumental fountain and on the other by a large, multi-functional, glass-enclosed pavilion, which features a skating rink in the winter. The square hosts weekly summer concerts, markets, community events and major winter holiday celebrations. The brick-paved hardscape addresses the required functions of the space, while permitting vehicles to pass through the space when needed.

TYPE	Plaza
AREA	1.35 acres
ACCESS	Public
OWNERSHIP	Public
TRANSIT	No public transit
EXPERIENCE	Social
ELEMENTS	Pavilion Passive Fountain Hardscape Sculpture

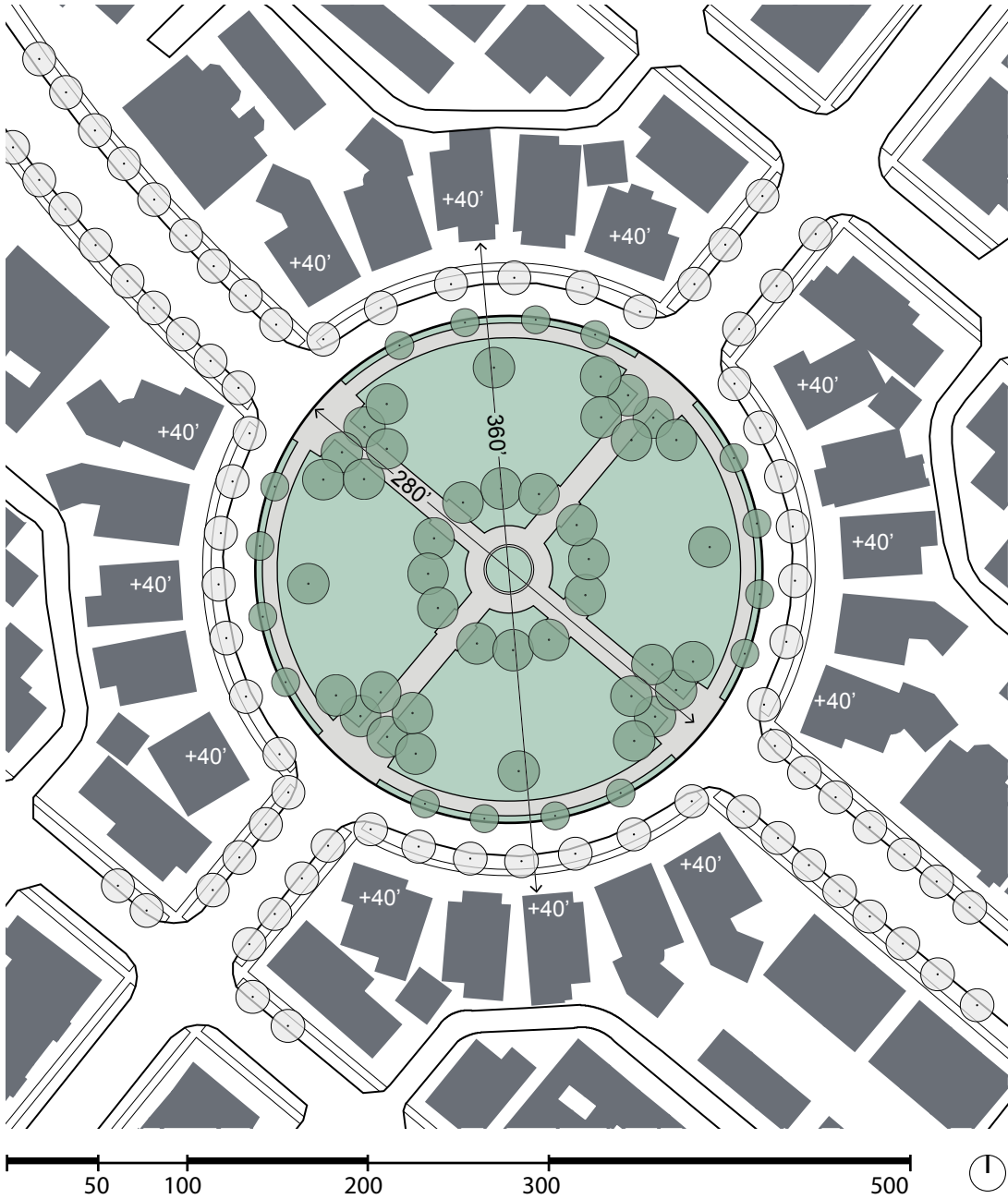
SUNDANCE SQUARE

Fort Worth, TX

Designed by David Schwartz Architects and completed in 2013, Sundance Square in Fort Worth, TX was constructed to complement an adjacent office building. The paved space features a pavilion at one end and a dynamic, inviting spray fountain at the other. The plaza is framed by East 3rd and 4th Streets and negotiates Main Street, which visually passes through the center. This central location brings people through the plaza throughout the day. Large murals and vibrant, sculptural lights create a spectacular display both day and night.



TYPE	Plaza
AREA	1.35 acres 1.84 acres
ACCESS	Public
OWNERSHIP	Private
TRANSIT	Served by nearby local bus stops
EXPERIENCE	Social/Active
ELEMENTS	Active Fountains Pavilion Hardscape Public Art



PLEASANT PARK
Rockville, MD

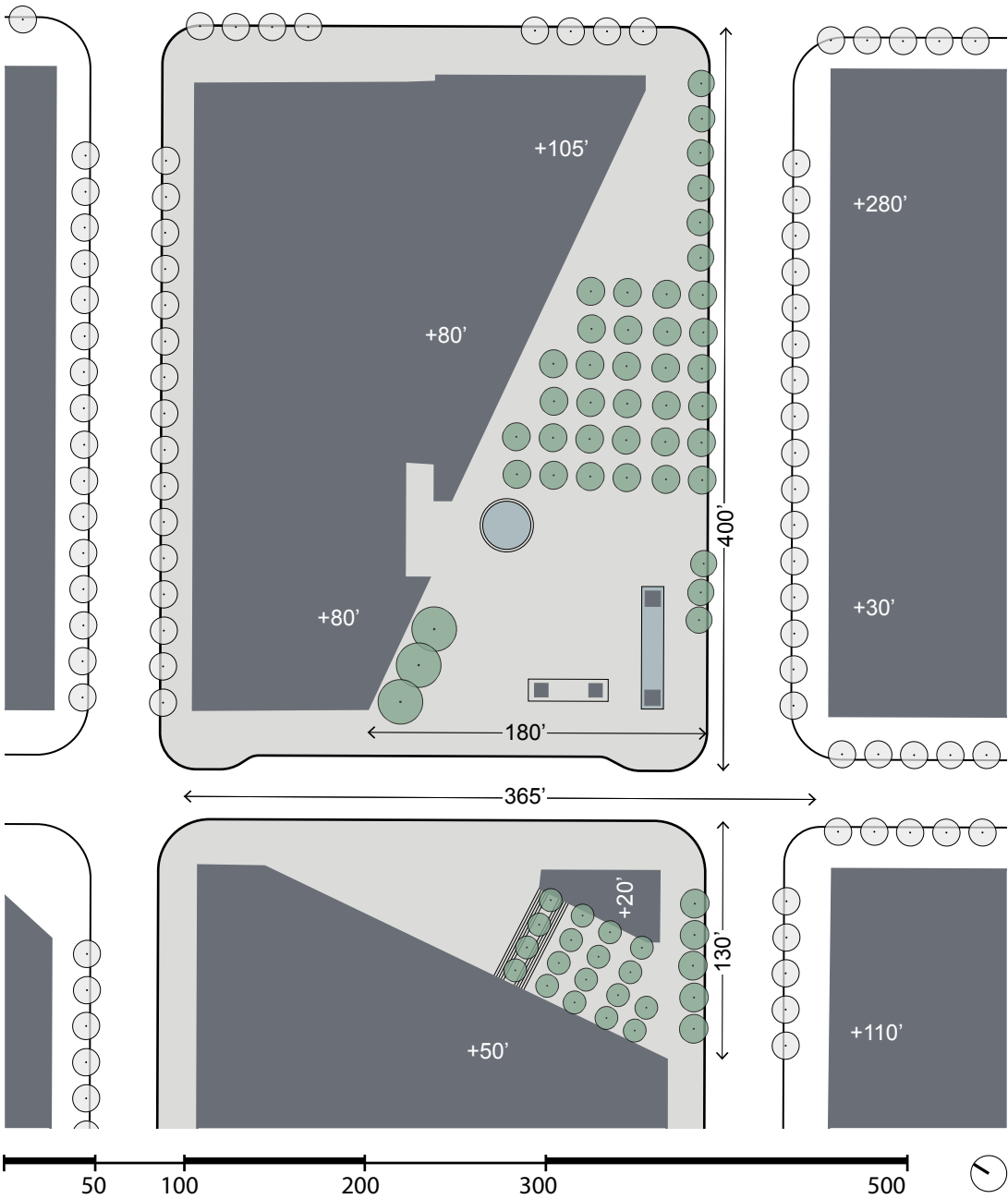
Pleasant Park is a circular park framed by single-family homes, picket fences and street trees in the middle of Rockville’s King Farm mixed-use development, which was begun in the late 1990s. The central park at the intersection of Ridgemont Avenue and Pleasant Drive is a focal point for the entire neighborhood and features wide open lawns with trees around the outer edges. The King Farm neighborhood association oversees the maintenance of the park.



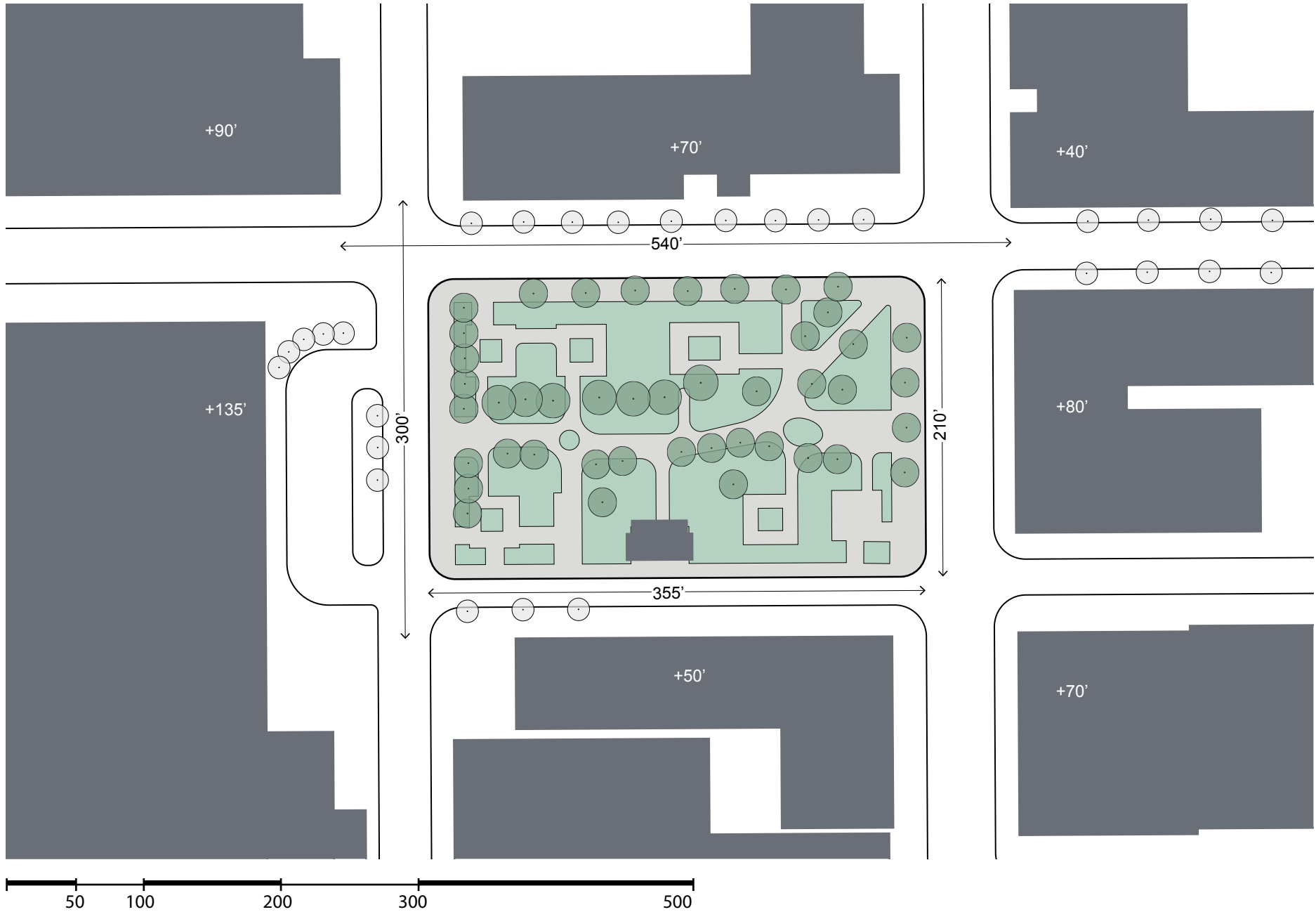
TYPE	Neighborhood Park
AREA	1.47 acres 2.39 acres
ACCESS	Public
OWNERSHIP	Private
TRANSIT	No public transit
EXPERIENCE	Contemplative
ELEMENTS	Lawn Seating

WESTLAKE PLAZA
Seattle, WA

This urban plaza is located in central Seattle at the core of the shopping district and at the end of the iconic Monorail transit line and Lake Union light rail line. Considered the city’s town square and a forum for political demonstrations and civic events, the paved space was designed by Philadelphia landscape architect Olin Partners and opened in 1988. The plaza traverses Pine Street and its geometry and intricate paving patterns reflect the shifting street grids in this part of the city. Since 2015, the Downtown Seattle Association has funded a successful revitalization effort that has introduced new street furniture, game boards, Zumba classes, a speaker’s podium and food trucks.



TYPE	Plaza
AREA	1.57 acres 2.83 acres
ACCESS	Public
OWNERSHIP	Public
TRANSIT	Served by adjacent bus stops and monorail station
EXPERIENCE	Social
ELEMENTS	Hardscape Passive Fountain Moveable Seating Public Art

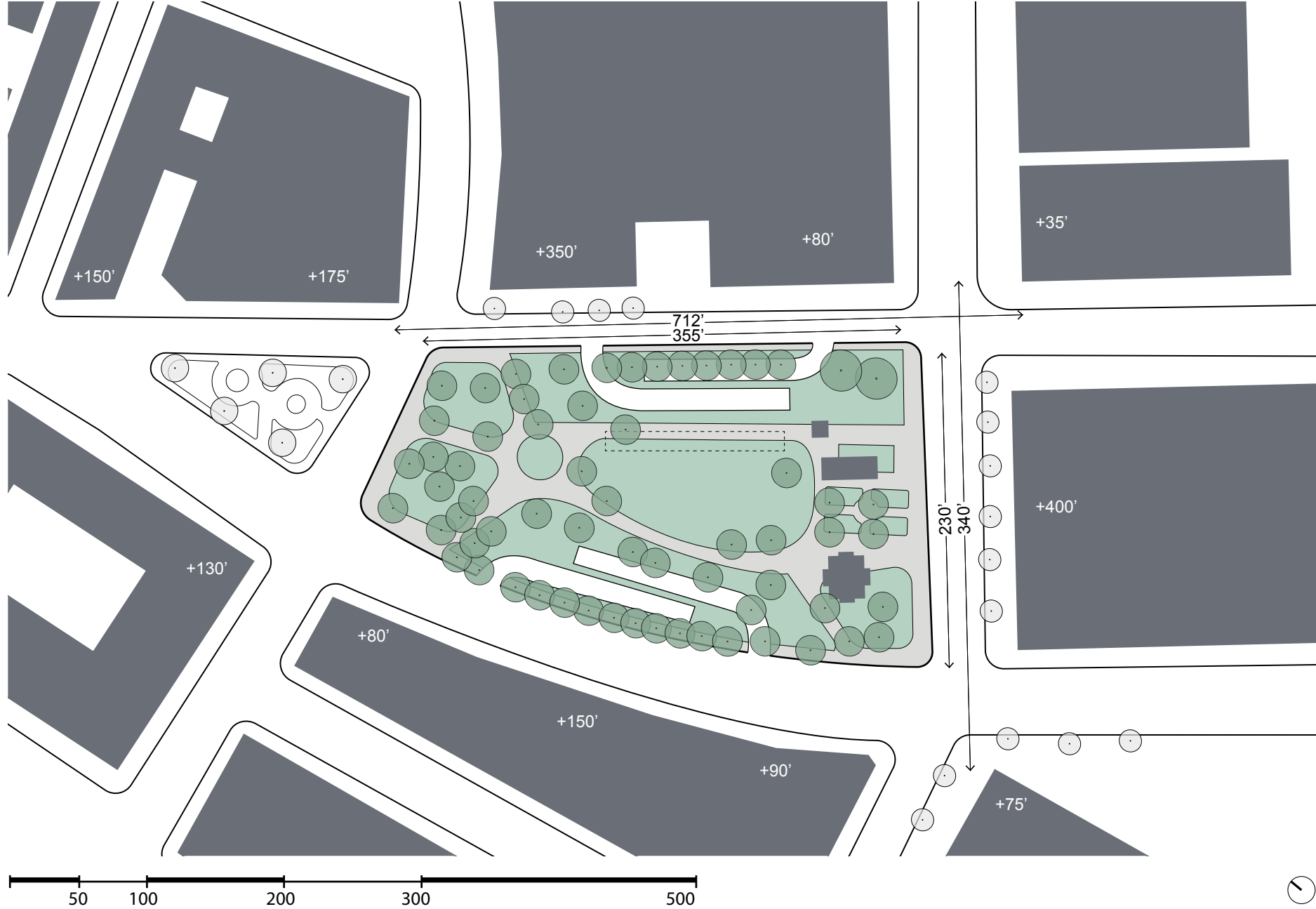


UNIVERSITY SQUARE PARK
Baltimore, MD

TYPE	Community Park
AREA	1.7 acres 3.7 acres
ACCESS	Public
OWNERSHIP	Private
TRANSIT	Served by two adjacent local bus stops
EXPERIENCE	Social
ELEMENTS	Seating Hardscape Plazas Food Vendors

University Square Park lies adjacent to the University of Maryland’s Baltimore campus and several blocks northwest of the Inner Harbor. The park is framed by four- and five-story institutional buildings, and is a popular lunch spot for office and medical staff who work nearby. Its landscape features many different raised flower beds and seasonal flowers, shrubs and trees. The public space is used to host food trucks and other vendors around its periphery, and is within walking distance of Baltimore’s central business district and several residential neighborhoods.



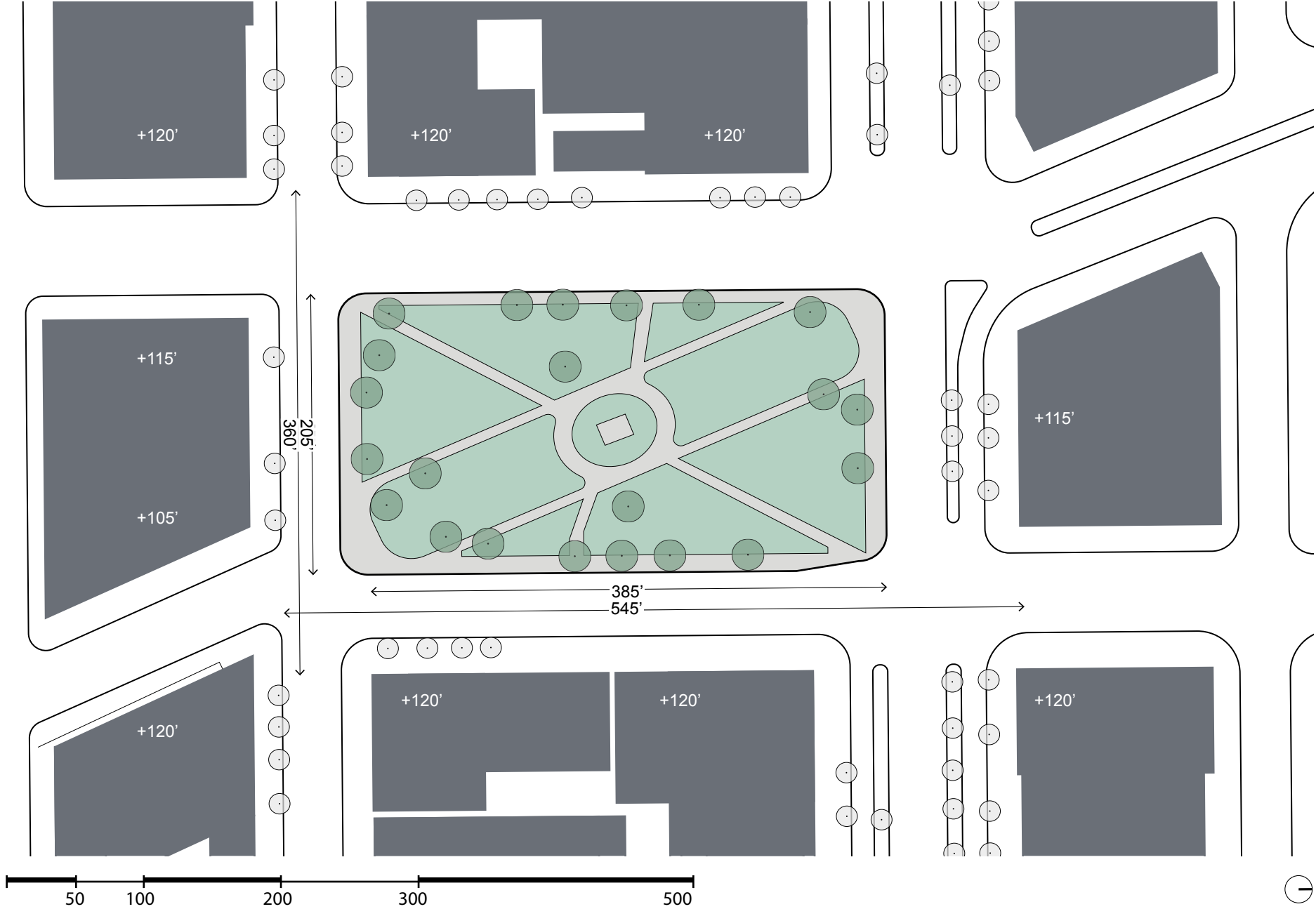


POST OFFICE SQUARE

Boston, MA

TYPE	Community Park	TRANSIT	Served by one adjacent bus stop and several more nearby
AREA	1.6 acres 3.1 acres	EXPERIENCE	Social
ACCESS	Public	ELEMENTS	Lawn Passive Fountain Pavilion Food Vendor
OWNERSHIP	Private		

The historic Post Office Square, now called Norman Leventhal Park, sits in the heart of Boston's financial district over a subterranean parking lot capable of accommodating more than 2,000 cars. Prior to 1988, an above-grade parking garage occupied the entire space. Today, the park is privately managed by the Friends of Post Office Square and maintained with funds from the garage for public use. The passive green park is framed by a long vine-covered pergola running along the eastern edge and focuses on a water fountain within a central lawn that is used as a lunch destination and for concerts and public events throughout warm months.



FARRAGUT SQUARE

Washington, D.C.

TYPE	Community Park	TRANSIT	Served by adjacent subway and local bus stops
AREA	1.85 acres 4.52 acres	EXPERIENCE	Contemplative/ Social
ACCESS	Public	ELEMENTS	Lawn Seating Sculpture
OWNERSHIP	Public		

This public square with its statue of David Farragut, a Union admiral in the Civil War, was originally established as an open space in Pierre Charles L'Enfant's 1791 urban plan for Washington, DC. It was formally developed as a park in the 1870s. Located in the heart of downtown Washington on K Street, the grassy space with paths and benches is used to host yoga classes, movie nights, Friday picnics and has become an outdoor workspace in good weather.





TYPE	Regional Park	TRANSIT	Served by nearby local bus stops
AREA	1.96 acres 3.07 acres	EXPERIENCE	Social/Active
ACCESS	Public	ELEMENTS	Stage
OWNERSHIP	Private		Lawn Pavilion Food Vendor Active Fountain

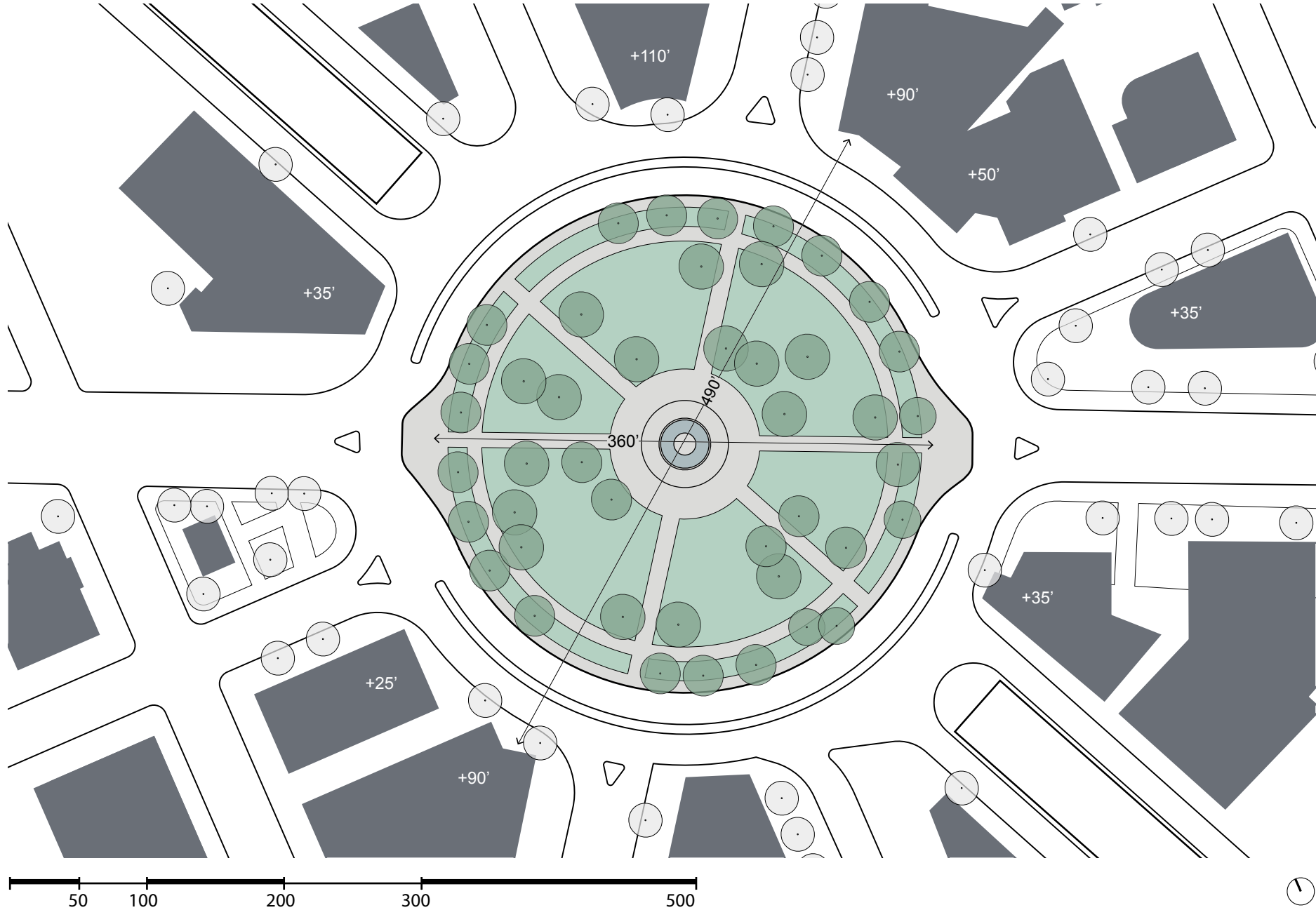
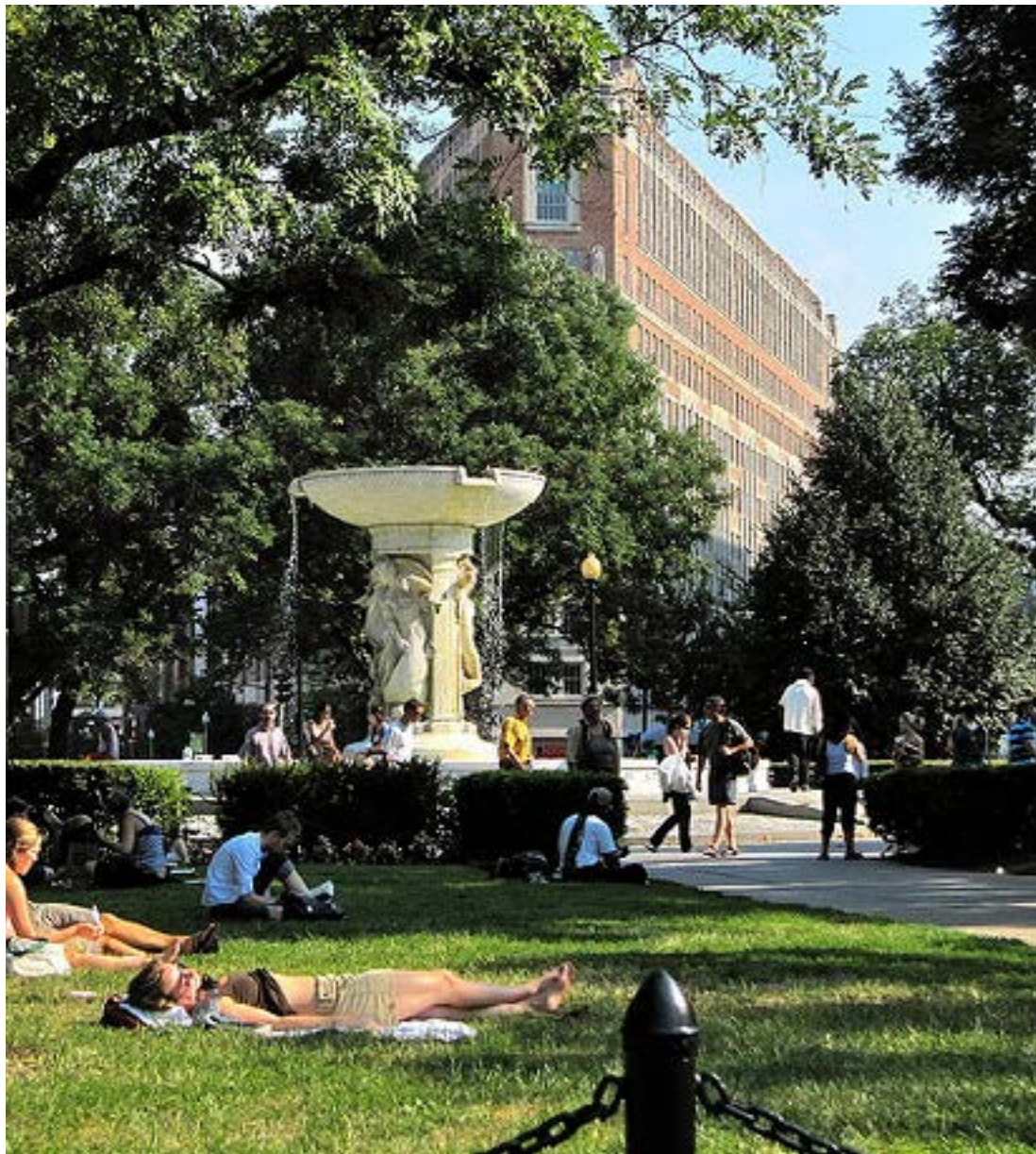
Guthrie Green was created from a polluted freight yard and designed by landscape architect SWA in the heart of the Brady Arts District in Tulsa, OK. Named for folksinger and native son Woody Guthrie, the park opened to the public in 2012. It features a wide variety of spaces, including a pavilion and a cafe, a performance stage, a children's fountain, shady paths and large lawn to allow for a range of activities. A summer concert series, yoga classes, children's events and food trucks all draw residents to the space.



TYPE	Neighborhood Park	TRANSIT	Served by nearby local bus stops
AREA	1.98 acres 3.54 acres	EXPERIENCE	Contemplative
ACCESS	Private	ELEMENTS	Seating Sculpture Walking Paths
OWNERSHIP	Private		

Gramercy Park is one of the best-known parks in New York City and gives its name to the surrounding neighborhood. This private, green amenity was originally purchased and designed by Samuel Ruggles in 1832 to stimulate future development around it. By 1839, trees were planted and the wrought iron fence erected around the park with access only granted to residents of the adjacent townhouses, a condition that remains today. Located between East 20th and 21st Streets near Park Avenue, the gated park is listed on the National Historic Register and is still an important symbol of the neighborhood and city.



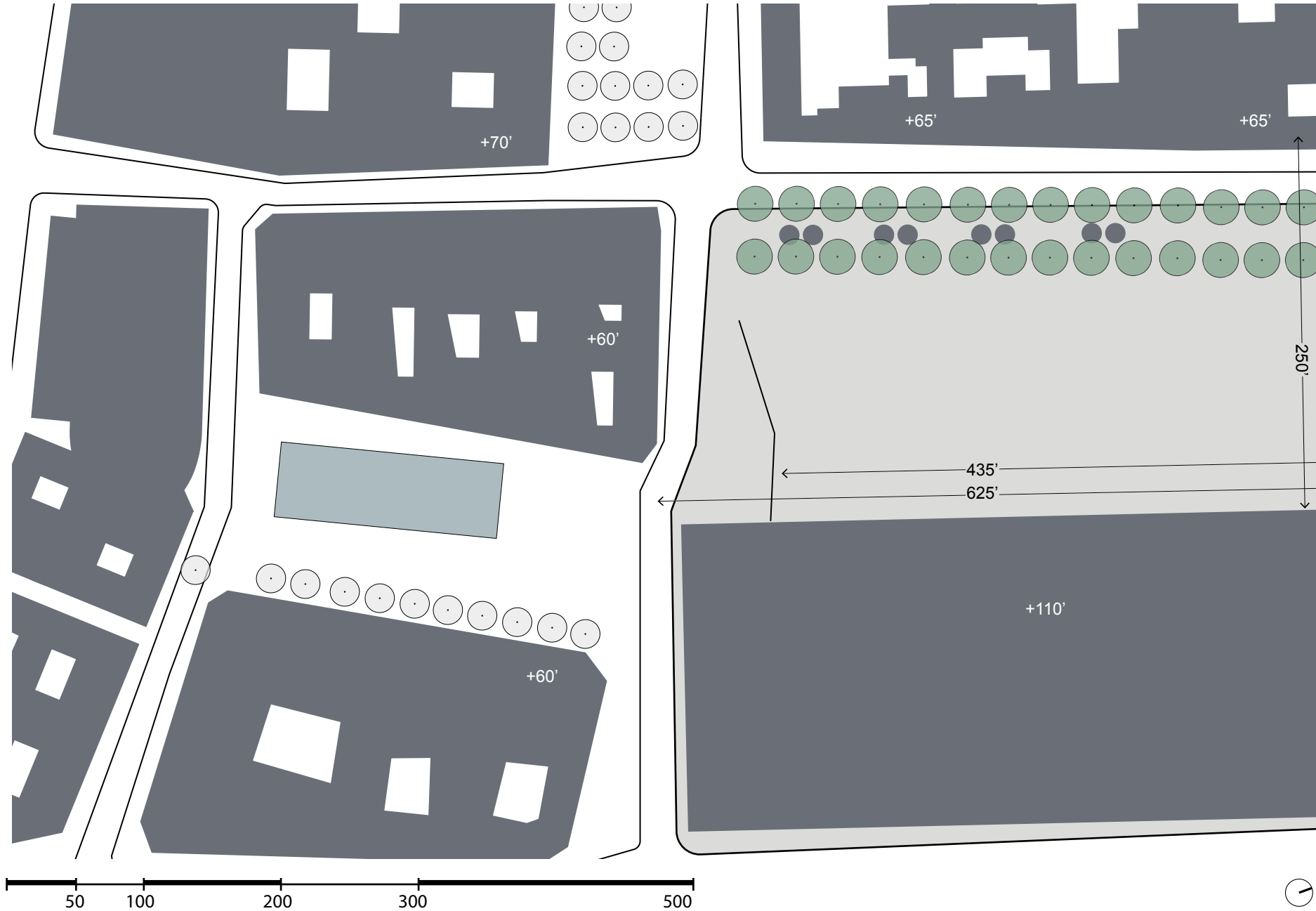


DUPONT CIRCLE

Washington, DC

TYPE	Regional Park	TRANSIT	Adjacent subway and local bus stops
AREA	2.39 acres 4.47 acres	EXPERIENCE	Contemplative/ Social
ACCESS	Public	ELEMENTS	Passive Fountain Lawn
OWNERSHIP	Public		

DuPont Circle is one of the most popular public spaces in Washington, DC and anchors a busy neighborhood of residences, retail, restaurants, art galleries, government offices and cultural institutions. The bench-encircled park is sited within a traffic circle at the intersection of Massachusetts and Connecticut Avenues, two of the busiest streets in the city, and near a Metrorail station that contribute to an active pedestrian scene. The famous circle is filled with lawns and trees and a central fountain designed by Henry Bacon with sculptures by Daniel Chester French. The park is frequented by cyclists, joggers, and walkers, as well as people reading, napping and socializing.



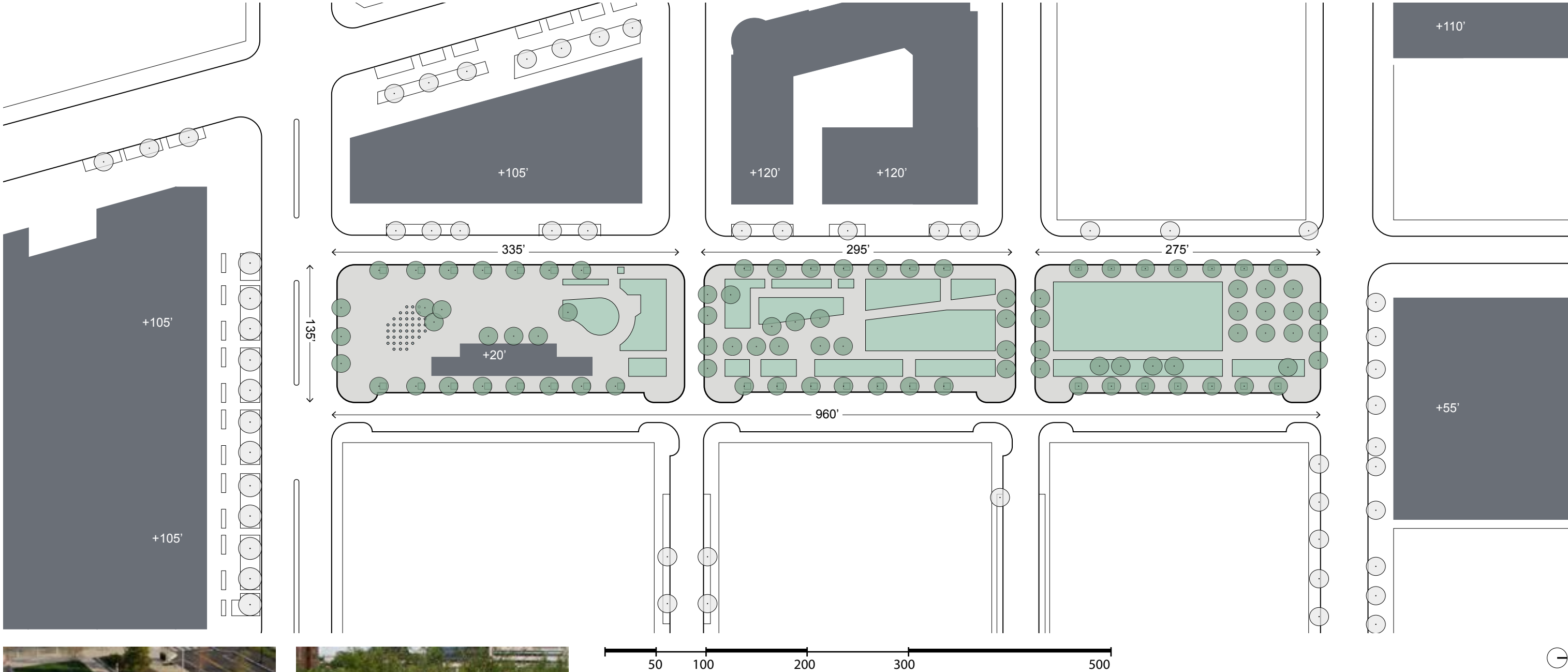
PLACE GEORGES POMPIDOU

Paris, France

TYPE	Regional Park	TRANSIT	Served by nearby local bus stop and subway stations
AREA	2.72 acres 3.8 acres	EXPERIENCE	Social
ACCESS	Public	ELEMENTS	Hardscape Seating Festival Space
OWNERSHIP	Public		

Place Georges Pompidou was developed with the Centre Pompidou in 1977 by architects Richard Rogers and Renzo Piano as a major, contemporary urban space in the dense fabric of Paris, France. This open, paved space is the site of near-daily festivals, concerts, exhibitions, markets and events in the busy Les Halles neighborhood. It is a culturally significant place within the city and, despite initial skepticism, has been fully embraced by Parisians and tourists alike. The plaza remains active through fall and spring, and only slows down in the coldest weeks of winter.



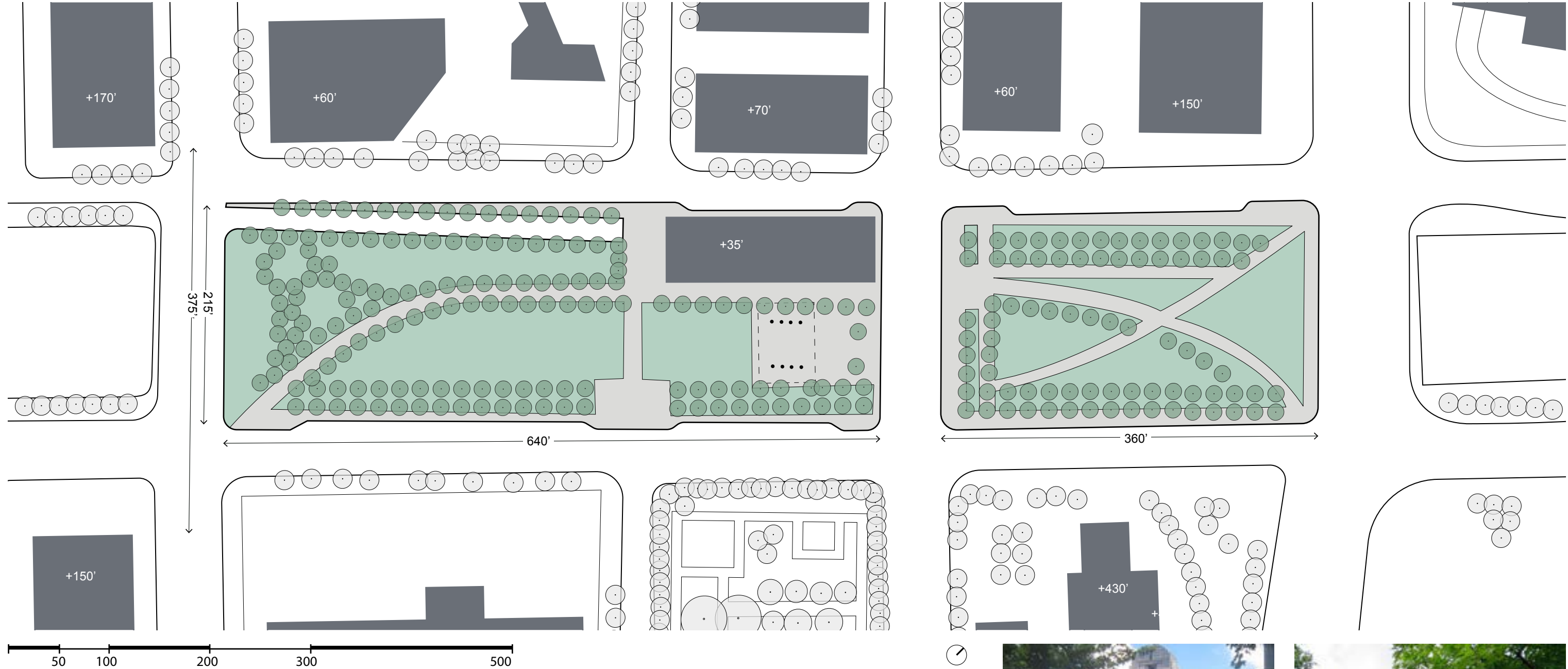


CANAL PARK

Washington, D.C.

TYPE	Community Park	TRANSIT	Adjacent to subway station and local bus stops
AREA	2.8 acres 6.39 acres	EXPERIENCE	Social/Active
ACCESS	Public	ELEMENTS	Active Fountain Lawn Hardscape Market Space
OWNERSHIP	Private		

The site was once a canal but was paved in the 1870s, and prior to construction was a school bus parking lot. The park was designed by OLIN, with a pavilion done by STUDIOS Architects, and opened in 2012 as the first park in D.C.'s Anacostia Waterfront Initiative and the Sustainable Sites (SITES) Initiative. The rain gardens running the length of the three blocks are planted with native species, and collect and store 80,000 gallons and can supply 95% of the parks water needs. Twenty eight geothermal wells below ground supply much of the park's energy demand. The park is a popular site for social and cultural events, festivals, and markets.



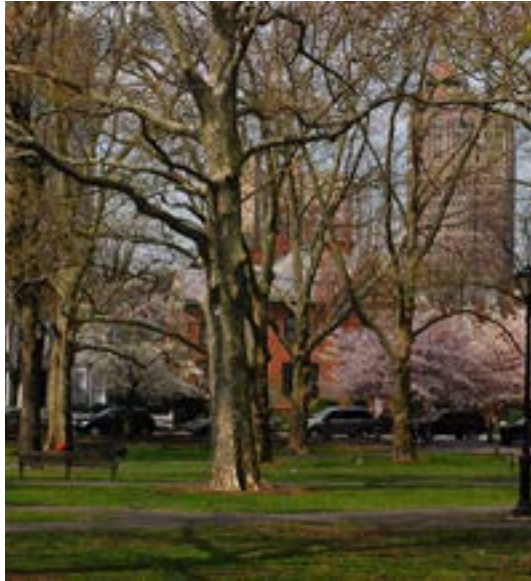
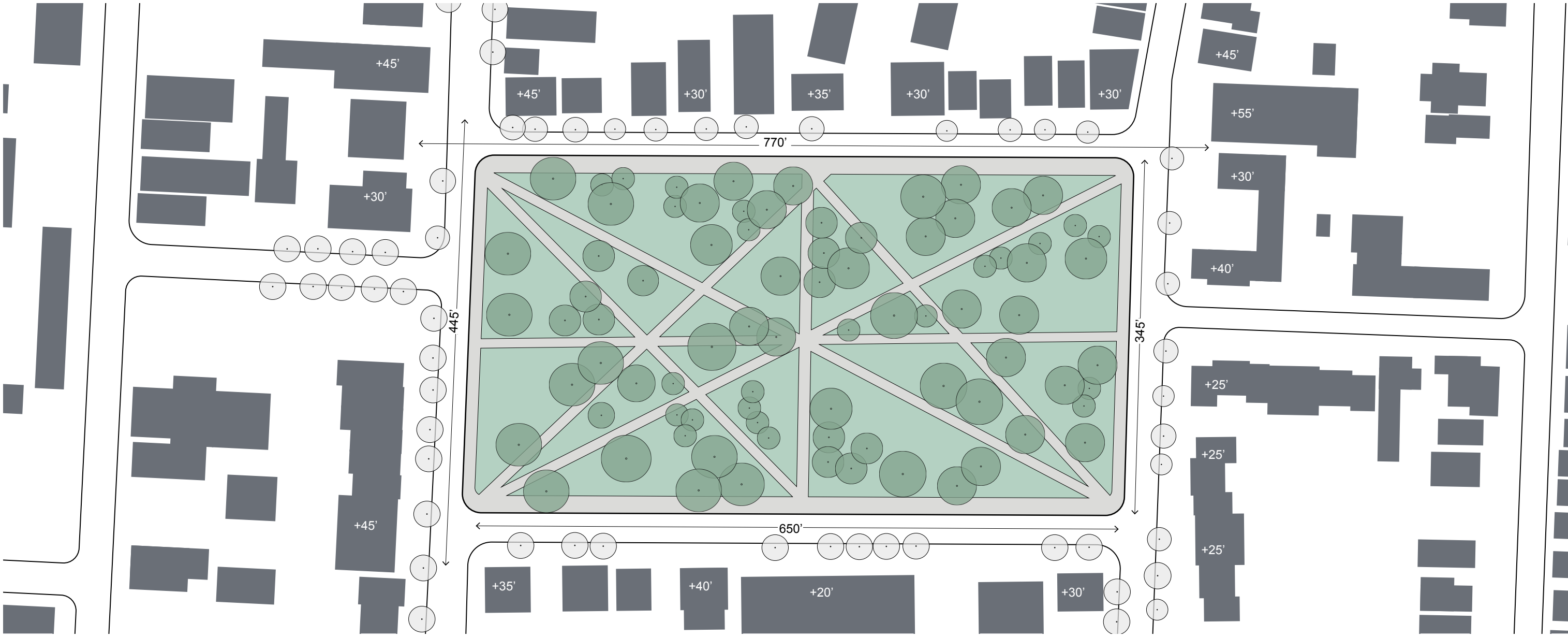
KLYDE WARREN PARK

Dallas, TX

TYPE	Regional Park	TRANSIT	Served by two adjacent bus stops
AREA	5.17 acres 10.06 acres	EXPERIENCE	Social/Active
ACCESS	Public	ELEMENTS	Lawn Pavilion Active Fountain Moveable Seating Stage
OWNERSHIP	Private		

Located in Dallas, Texas, this park sits above the Woodall Rodgers Freeway and connects the Uptown neighborhood to the Dallas Arts District and downtown. The park was designed by OJB Landscape Architects in 2012. The central pavilion is a stage for the warm-weather concert series that draws crowds large enough to fill the length of grassy lawn with beach chairs and blankets. Fountains and wading pools are popular features with families, while shady pathways with chess tables and benches provide a more intimate, relaxed environment. The park is situated near the Dallas Museum of Art, with which it is closely associated.





WOOSTER SQUARE
New Haven, CT

TYPE	Regional Park	TRANSIT	Two adjacent bus stops
AREA	5.25 acres 7.84 acres	EXPERIENCE	Contemplative
ACCESS	Public	ELEMENTS	Walking Paths Lawn Seating
OWNERSHIP	Private		

Located in the Wooster Square neighborhood of New Haven, CT, the park is framed by a beautifully sculpted iron fence and is lined with more than 73 cherry trees. Single-family homes frame the narrow streets that border the square, which is truly the back yard to the entire neighborhood and used for walking and play. Each year, the Wooster Square Association hosts an annual cherry blossom festival that attracts more than 10,000 people to the park. The square is named for Revolutionary War General David Wooster and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

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MONTGOMERY COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT

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