

NS Prerequisite: Green Spaces

Required

This prerequisite applies to

- ▶ Cities
- ▶ Communities

Intent

To provide accessible green spaces to positively impact physical, mental and psychological health and well-being of the community while also enhancing the environmental quality.

Requirements

CITIES, COMMUNITIES

Meet all of the following requirements:

- ▶ Provide a minimum of 121 square feet per person (11.25 square meter per person) of green space within the city.
- ▶ Minimum area of each parcel of green space must be no less than 7212 square feet (670 square meters).
- ▶ 90% of the dwelling units must have a green space within 1/2 mile (800 meters) walkable distance. Adopt either or combination of both of the following criteria to meet the requirement.
 - Walkable access to a public park.
 - Adopt building ordinance to the effect that residential areas which are not within walkable distance of a public park should provide an equivalent of 121 square feet per person (11.25 square meter per person) of green space within walkable distance.

Green space is defined as land that is partly or completely covered with trees, shrubs, grass or other vegetation. This includes urban parks, trails and community farms or gardens⁶ including roof top gardens. This does not include schoolyards, playgrounds, public seating areas, public plazas or vacant lots.

Areas allocated for urban agriculture under *QL Credit: Public Health* may be included to meet the requirements of this credit.

References:

LEED v4 ND NPD Credit: Access to Civic and Public Space
STAR Communities V2 BE-6: Public Parkland, Outcome 2: Proximity

Guidance

Behind the Intent

⁶ Adopted from United States Environmental Protection Agency's 'What is Open Space / Green Space?' retrieved from <https://www3.epa.gov/region1/eco/uep/openspace.html>, accessed on December 17, 2018.

Green spaces provide important community-building space for people to gather, play, exercise, celebrate, learn, relax, reflect, and enjoy nature and city life. Recent estimates show that physical inactivity, linked to poor walkability and lack of access to recreational areas, accounts for 3.3% of global deaths.⁷ Green spaces also are important to mental health. Having access to green spaces can reduce health inequalities, improve well-being, and support mental wellness. Some analysis suggests that physical activity in a natural environment can help remedy mild depression and reduce physiological stress indicators.⁸

Further Explanation

Required Documentation

Documentation	All cities and communities
Master Plan with mapping of green spaces and schedule and/or table listing the green spaces along with area of each.	X
Calculations demonstrating achievement of prerequisite threshold	X
Narrative describing how the requirement for 90% of the dwelling units having a green space within 1/2 mile (800 meters) walkable distance is met.	X
Policy, regulation or building ordinance to the effect that residential areas which are not within walkable distance of a public park should provide an equivalent of 121 square feet per person (if any of the residential areas which are not within walkable distance of a public park)	X

Exemplary Performance

This prerequisite is not eligible for exemplary performance.

⁷ <https://www.who.int/sustainable-development/cities/health-risks/urban-green-space/en/> Accessed on March 23, 2019

⁸ <https://www.who.int/sustainable-development/cities/health-risks/urban-green-space/en/> Accessed on March 23, 2019