

## Open Space Definitions

A Planners Dictionary:

1. open space: Any land or area, the preservation of which in its present use would: (1) conserve and enhance natural or scenic resources; or (2) protect streams or water supply; or (3) promote conservation of soils, wetlands, beaches, or tidal marshes; or (4) enhance the value to the public of abutting or neighboring parks, forests, wildlife preserves, nature reservations, or sanctuaries; or (5) enhance recreation opportunities. (Redmond, Wash.)
2. open space: Land and water areas retained for use as active or passive recreation areas or for resource protection in an essentially undeveloped state. (Cecil County, Md.)
3. open space: Land used for recreation, resource protection, amenity, and/or bufferyards. In no event shall any area of a lot constituting the minimum lot area of said lot nor any part of an existing or future road or right- of-way be counted as constituting open space except that bufferyard areas may be included in the area of a lot constituting the minimum lot area. (Lake County, Ill.)
4. open space: That area suitable for passive recreational use or which provides visual relief to developed areas, exclusive of typical trapezoidal type flood-control channel rights- of-way, area devoted to parking, vehicular traffic, or private use, and any other area which does not significantly lend itself to the overall benefit of either the particular development or surrounding environment. (Santa Rosa, Calif.)
5. open space: Those areas of a lot which except as provided by this zoning bylaw are to remain unbuilt and which shall not be used for parking, storage, or display. (Maynard, Mass.)
6. open space: An area or portion of land, either landscaped or essentially unimproved and which is used to meet human recreational or spatial needs, or to protect water, air, or plant areas. (Clarkdale, Ariz.)
7. open space, active: Open space that may be improved and set aside, dedicated, designated, or reserved for recreational facilities such as swimming pools, play equipment for children, ball fields, court games, picnic tables, etc. (Redmond, Wash.)
8. open space, developed: Open space substantially free of structures but

possibly containing improvements that are part of a development plan or are appropriate for the residents of any residential development. (Palm Desert, Calif.)

9. open space district: A zoning classification that limits the allowable uses to agriculture, recreation, parks, reservoirs, and water supply lands. Open Land Districts are most commonly used for publicly owned lands, but are also used in areas subject to flooding (floodplain zones) and other natural hazards. (Handbook for Planning Commissioners in Missouri)

10. open space, improved: Landscaped areas, turf areas, parks, golf course and recreation areas constructed on the parcel, but shall not include associated buildings. (Concord, N.C.)

11. open space, livable: Open space on a building site, exclusive of space devoted to vehicular streets, drives, and parking areas, and including pedestrian ways, space for active and passive recreation, and landscaping. (Johnstown, Colo.)

12. open space, natural (See also **heath**; **preserve**): Any parcel of land or water that is essentially unimproved and devoted to an open space use. (Palm Desert, Calif.)

13. open space, natural: An open space area not occupied by any structure or impervious surface. (Siskiyou County, Calif.)

14. open space, passive (See also **heath**) : Open space that is essentially unimproved and set aside, dedicated, designated, or reserved for public or private use or for the use and enjoyment of owners or occupants. (Redmond, Wash.)

15. open space, private: A usable open space adjoining and directly accessible to a dwelling unit, reserved for the exclusive use of residents of the dwelling unit and their guests. (Newport Beach, Calif.)

16. open space, private: The outdoor living area directly adjoining a dwelling unit or building, intended for the private enjoyment of the residents or occupants of the dwelling unit or building and defined in such a manner that its boundaries are evident. (Washoe County, Nev.)

17. open space, private: Open space, the use of which is normally limited to the occupants of a single dwelling unit or building; yard areas for detached single-family dwelling units, or private patios or courtyards for attached housing units.

(Clarkdale, Ariz.)

18. open space, private: A fenced or otherwise screened area designated for a specific tenant or resident and which is devoid of structures and improvements other than patio covers or those structures or improvements intended for landscape or recreational purposes. (Lake Elsinore, Calif.)

19. open space, private: Areas of the lot which are not designed for use as the building site, parking or loading areas, or utility sites [and] which are designated for the use of a particular family. (Hopkins, Minn.)

20. open space, private: Areas intended for the private use by residents of an individual dwelling unit, designed for outdoor living and recreation or the retention of an area in its natural state. Private open spaces may include patios and landscaped areas but does not include off-street parking, maneuvering, loading, or delivery areas. (Sandy, Ore.)

21. open space, private: An outdoor area either at ground level or on a balcony which is appurtenant to a dwelling unit and designed for the exclusive use of the occupants of that dwelling unit. (Santa Rosa, Calif.)

22. open space, public (See also **park, public; public space**): Open space owned and maintained by a public agency for the use and benefit of the general public. (Clarkdale, Ariz.)

23. Open space, public: Open space maintained for the use and enjoyment of the general public. (Lake Elsinore, Calif.)

24. James City County, Williamsburg, Virginia:

Park, Public, or semi-public open space: large, undeveloped areas owned by institutions or the public and used for recreation or open space are included in this category. These areas serve as buffers to historic sites, as educational resources, and as areas for public recreation and enjoyment.

25. Dublin, Ohio: Parks/Open Space

Land used for public or privately owned parks and recreational uses, or lands that are to be preserved in its natural state.

26. New York State Conservation Plan: **Definition of Open Space**

Open space may be defined as an area of land or water that either remains in its natural state or is used for agriculture, free from intensive development for

residential, commercial, industrial or institutional use. Open space can be publicly or privately owned. It includes agricultural and forest land, undeveloped coastal and estuarine lands, undeveloped scenic lands, public parks and preserves. It also includes water bodies such as lakes and bays. The definition of open space depends on the context. In a big city, a vacant lot or a small marsh can be open space. A small park or a narrow corridor for walking or bicycling is open space, though it may be surrounded by developed areas. Cultural and historic resources are part of the heritage of New York State and are often protected along with open space.