

**Appendix G**

**Parks and Recreation Areas**

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## **Appendix G: Parks and Recreation Areas**

### **G.1 INTRODUCTION**

The data provided in this appendix regarding open space ratios in the ½-mile Study Area for parks and recreation areas is for informational purposes, to represent how well the Study Area is served by open space relative to *CEQR Technical Manual* criteria and guidance. It is not used by FRA for the identification of potential impacts to parks and recreation areas.

As shown in **Tables G-1 and G-2**, with a residential population of 29,752 and a worker population of 76,203, the Study Area has a total open space ratio of 1.32 acres per 1,000 residents and a passive open space ratio of 0.52 acres per 1,000 workers. New York City’s planning goal is 2.5 total acres of open space per 1,000 residents, with 2.0 acres of active open space and 0.5 acres of passive open space per 1,000 residents, and for non-residential (worker) populations, 0.15 acres of passive open space per 1,000 non-residents is typically considered adequate. Therefore, the total residential open space ratio for the Study Area is slightly lower than New York City’s median of 1.5 acres per 1,000 residents and less than the planning goal of 2.5 total acres of open space per 1,000 residents, but the existing worker open space ratio is higher than the planning goal of 0.15 acres of passive open space per 1,000 non-residents. The *CEQR Technical Manual* notes that achieving the planning goal open space ratios may not be attainable for some areas of the City and do not constitute an impact threshold; rather, the ratios are benchmarks that represent how well an area is served by its open space.

**Table G-1  
Study Area Population**

<b>Census Tract</b>	<b>Residential Population</b>	<b>Worker Population</b>
93	5,894	2,120
97	4,965	742
99	5,759	25,130
103	1,990	14,252
111	4,838	18,704
115	2,064	13,930
117	4,242	1,325
<b>Study Area Total</b>	<b>29,752</b>	<b>76,203</b>
<p><b>Note:</b> Census tracts with at least 50 percent of their area within the Study Area are included in this analysis.</p> <p><b>Source:</b> U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 2014–2018 5-Year Estimates and OnTheMap Application and LEHD Origin-Destination Employment Statistics (Beginning of Quarter Employment, 2nd Quarter of 2002–2017)</p>		

**Table G-2**  
**Adequacy of Open Space Resources: Existing Conditions**

	Population	Open Space Acreage			Open Space Ratios per 1,000 Persons			CEQR Technical Manual Open Space Guidelines		
		Total	Passive	Active	Total	Passive	Active	Total	Passive	Active
Residents	29,752	39.31	24.78	15.02	1.32	0.83	0.51	2.50	0.50	2.00
Workers	76,203	39.31	24.78	15.02	N/A	0.33	N/A	N/A	0.15	N/A

As detailed in Chapter 4, “Analysis Framework,” there are numerous development projects that are reasonably anticipated to occur in the Study Area by 2026, independent of the No Action Alternative or the Preferred Alternative. FRA has projected that these projects will add approximately 8,170 new residents and approximately 43,613 workers to the ½-mile Study Area. The development projects are also anticipated to introduce two new open spaces to the Study Area: a 1.68-acre extension to Bella Abzug Park, and two acres of open space at Manhattan West Plaza. It is also possible that improvements to the area of Hudson River Park between West 29th and 34th Streets, and to the High Line Tenth Avenue Spur, could be made by 2026. **Table G-3** identifies the open space ratios projected for the Study Area in 2026.

**Table G-3**  
**Adequacy of Open Space Resources: 2026**

	Population	Open Space Acreage			Open Space Ratios per 1,000 Persons			CEQR Technical Manual Open Space Guidelines		
		Total	Passive	Active	Total	Passive	Active	Total	Passive	Active
Residents	37,559	42.99	28.13	15.35	1.15	0.75	0.41	2.50	0.50	2.00
Workers	113,963	42.99	28.13	15.35	N/A	0.25	N/A	N/A	0.15	N/A

With the No Action Alternative, the Project Site would remain unchanged. The Project Site would continue to be used as an active rail yard operated by LIRR, specifically as a commuter railroad storage yard and maintenance facility, and the Tunnel Encasement and Platform would not be constructed. The No Action Alternative would not result in any changes to open space ratios in the Study Area.

During the construction period, FRA has determined that the Preferred Alternative would generate approximately 100 to 200 workers per day, spread across two work shifts, who may choose to use the parks and recreational areas in close proximity to the Project Site. Upon completion of construction, the Tunnel Encasement and Platform would not generate any new residents or workers. Therefore, the utilization of parks, open spaces, and recreation areas in the Study Area in the future with the Preferred Alternative is anticipated to be similar to the No Action Alternative, and the Preferred Alternative would not affect the Study Area’s open space ratios. \*