





• Much starker and less inviting when there is not an upper shelter of tree canopies or something that protects against too much sun and creates a safe nook.

• In places not suited to comfortable dwelling there is a constant and close hum of traffic and no sounds of people. It is a vast, empty space created to hold community but failing to do so.

All Open Space are Not Created Equal



The prevailing belief that land reserved for parks or recreational spaces is unquestionably a positive addition to a place is as mistaken as treating every illness with the same remedy. There are no immediate solutions or easy answers for creating towns that are alive. To be sure, there exist parks and open, public spaces in many areas that have become dangerous, untended, or simply unpleasant places to be. Parks or open places that offer diverse activities for individuals, families, or couples are likely to succeed because they bring together diverse people with diverse needs. However, they are not “automatic repositories of virtue or uplift”⁸ in themselves. Parks or green fields can add great attraction to an already desirable place, but they can also exaggerate the problems of an unattractive, unsafe neighborhood.