

Open Spaces and Green Zones in Mumbai

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Public open space is vital to the quality of life desired by people living in cities. A city should be livable and safe and must include an accessible public area viz that part of the city composed of open spaces and streets. These areas however should be accessible to all. Open spaces shape the life of the city as much as buildings do¹.

The total area of Greater Mumbai is 482.74 sq.km. Open spaces in Mumbai are tabulated below. Though the total area of open spaces available is 187.87 sq.km, around 2% (10 sq.km) is encroached while nearly 14% area (69 sq.km) is under mangroves and wetlands (which include salt pans) (Refer table below²). MCGM needs to free the encroached open spaces, while the mangroves and salt pans could be developed as eco-tourist centres.

	Numbers	Area (sq.km)	%
Gardens (G) and Parks (P)	318	2.49	0.52
Playgrounds (PG)	631	4.01	0.83
Recreation Grounds (RG)	603	7.18	1.62
Encroached open space (on G, PG, RG)	501	5.3	1.09
No Development Zone (NDZ) (excluding hills, mangroves, wetlands)		39.50	8.18
Encroached space in NDZ		4.8	1.0
Hills, Forests and National Park		53.6	11.1
Mangroves		61.42	12.7
Beaches	10	1.44	0.29
Promenade	6	0.12	0.02
Wetlands (includes salt pans)		8.01	1.66
Total	2069	187.87	39.01

The per capita open space available in Mumbai is **15 sq.meter (0.000015 sq.km)** in 2011. Population of Mumbai as per Census 2011 (12,478,447) is considered.

¹http://www.seattle.gov/dpd/cms/groups/pan/@pan/@plan/@citydesign/documents/web_informational/dpds_006516.pdf

² Mumbai's Open Spaces-Map & A Preliminary Listing Document; Prepared by PK Das & Associates

The table below presents a summary of the open spaces and gardens maintained by the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai³.

Sl.	Description	Island City Area		Western Suburbs		Eastern Suburbs		Total	
		No. of plots	Area in Sq.m	No. of Plots	Area in Sq.m	No. of plots	Area in Sq.m	No. of Plots	Area in Sq.m
1	Neighborhood Park/Garden R.G. Upto 5000 Sq.m	115	193,160	126	703,925	72	186,785	313	1,083,870
2	Theme Park/Garden/R.G. 5000 to 20,000 Sq.m	5	174,741	17	180,167	4	132,944	26	487,852
3	Non Theme Park Garden/R.G. 5000 to 20,000 Sq.m	36	307,435	32	331,586	22	206,973	90	845,994
3A	Non Theme Park Garden/R.G. more than 20000 Sq.m	-	-	10	209,417	5	155,661	15	365,078
4	City Level Park above 20,000 Sq.m (VJB Udyan including proposed extension)	1	216,945	-	-	-	-	1	216,945
5	Play Grounds	45	185,697	134	733,071	69	275,226	248	1,193,994
6	Area under green coverage other than above reservations	28	114,748	27	75,841	5	19,500	60	210,089
	Total	230	1,192,726	346	2,234,006	177	977,088	753	4,403,821
	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>31%</i>	<i>27%</i>	<i>46%</i>	<i>51%</i>	<i>24%</i>	<i>22%</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>100%</i>

Taking into consideration the population of Mumbai (12,478,447) as per Census 2011 and the total open space available in Mumbai (island city as well as western suburbs), the per capita open space available is 0.35 sq.m.

³ Mumbai CDP, 2005-2025