

The Oldest City Parks

These are the 84 oldest U.S. city parks ranked chronologically. In the case of parks which were enlarged later, the date refers to the year of initial creation or acquisition. In the case of parks whose names have changed, the modern name is given. Of course, before the European invasion, there were hundreds of even older plazas, sports fields, ceremonial grounds and food preparation commons in such Native American communities as Cahokia, Cheektowaga, Tathlapotle and Taos Pueblo, but the pre-historical record does not yield dates of their establishment.



Rank	Park Name	City	Year Established
1	Plaza de la Constitución	St. Augustine, Fla.	1573
2	Boston Common	Boston, Mass.	1634
3	New Haven Green	New Haven, Conn.	1641
4	Washington/Marion Squares	Charleston, S.C.	1680
5	Rittenhouse/Washington/Logan/Franklin Squares	Philadelphia, Pa.	1682
6	Salem Common	Salem, Mass.	1685
7	Battery Park	New York, N.Y.	1686
8	Military/Washington Parks	Newark, N.J.	1697
9	Jackson Square	New Orleans, La.	1718
10	San Pedro Springs Park	San Antonio, Tex.	1729
11	Bowling Green	New York, N.Y.	1733
11	Johnson Square	Savannah, Ga.	1733
13	Old Town Plaza	Albuquerque, N.M.	1760
14	El Pueblo	Los Angeles, Calif.	1781
15	National Mall	Washington, D.C.	1790
16	Settlers Landing	Cleveland, Ohio	1796
17	Duane Street Park	New York, N.Y.	1797
18	Village Green Park	Worthington, Ohio	1803
19	Lafayette Square	Washington, D.C.	1804
20	River Common	Wilkes-Barre, Pa.	1807
21	Gravois/Laclede/Mt. Pleasant Parks	St. Louis, Mo.	1812
22	Jackson Place Park	St. Louis, Mo.	1816
23	Auction Park	Memphis, Tenn.	1819
24	Santa Fe Plaza	Santa Fe, N.M.	1821
25	Washington Square	New York, N.Y.	1823
26	Patterson Park	Baltimore, Md.	1827
27	Union Square	New York, N.Y.	1832
28	Tompkins Square Park	New York, N.Y.	1833

29	Cathedral Square Park	Milwaukee, Wis.	1835
29	Van Vorst Park	Jersey City, N.J.	1835
31	Port Richmond Park	Staten Island, N.Y.	1836
32	Grant Park	Chicago, Ill.	1837
33	Lafayette Park	St. Louis, Mo.	1838
34	Daniel Carter Beard Memorial Square	Queens, N.Y.	1841
35	Chapman Park	Portland, Ore.	1843
36	Wyanda Park	Queens, N.Y.	1844
37	Thomas Square	Honolulu, Hawaii	1845
38	Madison Square Park/Reservoir Square (Bryant Park)	New York, N.Y.	1847
38	Portsmouth Square	San Francisco, Calif.	1847
38	Washington Park (Fort Greene Park)	Brooklyn, N.Y.	1847
41	Rice Park	St. Paul, Minn.	1849
41	Sutter Land Grants Park	Sacramento, Calif.	1849
43	Grand Circus Park	Detroit, Mich.	1850
43	Oakland Cemetery	Atlanta, Ga.	1850
43	Orton Park	Madison, Wis.	1850
43	Pantoja Park	San Diego, Calif.	1850
43	Union/Washington Squares	San Francisco, Calif.	1850
48	Goodale Park	Columbus, Ohio	1851
48	Monroe Park	Richmond, Va.	1851
50	Union Park	Chicago, Ill.	1853
51	Artesian Park	Corpus Christi, Tex.	1854
51	Bushnell Park	Hartford, Conn.	1854
51	City Park	New Orleans, La.	1854
51	Elm Park	Worcester, Mass.	1854
55	East Fairmount Park	Philadelphia, Pa.	1855
55	Esther Short Park	Vancouver, Wash.	1855
55	Washington Park	Cincinnati, Ohio	1855
58	Hemming Plaza	Jacksonville, Fla.	1857
58	Murphy Square	Minneapolis, Minn.	1857
60	Central Park	New York, N.Y.	1858
60	San Jacinto Plaza	El Paso, Tex.	1858
62	Druid Hill Park	Baltimore, Md.	1860
63	Miller Park	Lynchburg, Va.	1862
64	Old Fort Park	Fort Wayne, Ind.	1863
65	Pershing Square	Los Angeles, Calif.	1866
66	Allegheny Commons	Pittsburgh, Pa.	1867
66	Buena Vista Park	San Francisco, Calif.	1867
66	Cooper Park	Lincoln, Neb.	1867
66	The Ellipse	Washington, D.C.	1867
70	Balboa Park	San Diego, Calif.	1868
70	DeFremery Park	Oakland, Calif.	1868
70	Farragut/Franklin Squares	Washington, D.C.	1868

70	Prospect Park	Brooklyn, N.Y.	1868
74	Golden Gate Park	San Francisco, Calif.	1870
75	Acadia Park	Colorado Springs, Colo.	1871
75	Lenk's Park	Toledo, Ohio	1871
75	Savage Park	Toledo, Ohio	1871
78	Alum Rock	San Jose, Calif.	1872
78	Belle Isle	Detroit, Mich.	1872
78	Emancipation Park	Houston, Tex.	1872
78	Hanscom Park	Omaha, Neb.	1872
78	Riverside Park	New York, N.Y.	1872
83	Garfield Park	Indianapolis, Ind.	1873
83	Hyde Park	Fort Worth, Tex.	1873