Math Lesson for *10 Park that Changed America* – Ratio of Parkland to City Blocks

Name_____   Date_____

Directions: With your partner, answer the following questions about maps. Use the two maps that your teacher provides to answer the questions.

Background information to complete this sheet:
  • Oglethorpe's basic organizational unit was called a Ward, which featured a square, or open space in the center. Arranged around the square were city blocks, which in turn were divided into building lots.
  • Oglethrope named these city blocks that were located around the squares "Tything" and "Trust."
  • The Tything blocks (to the northwest, southwest, northeast, and southeast of the square) were intended for residential buildings, and the Trust blocks (to the east and west of the square) were for intended for public buildings such as churches, markets, or government buildings. In other words, the larger blocks were residential. As Savannah developed, though, many residential buildings were built on the Trust blocks.
  • Use the scale in the bottom left hand corner of the map.

Pick one of the Squares to focus on, and answer these questions:

1) What is the name of the square you are studying?_____

2) What are its dimensions? _____X_____. How many square feet is that?_____.

2) What are the dimensions of the Tything blocks around that square?

_____X_____. How many square feet is that?_____.

3) What are the dimension of the Trust blocks around that square? _____X_____. How many square feet is that?_____

4) Using these figures, determine a ratio of open space to city block space.

_____:_____

5) Oglethorpe's plan called for six squares. Using your figures as a guide, what percentage of space in Oglethorpe's original plan for Savannah is dedicated to open space (from the squares)?_____

6) What are the dimensions of city blocks in your town?

_____X_____. How many square feet is that?_____

7) What are the dimensions of the open spaces in your home town?

_____X_____. How many square feet is that?_____

8) Using these figures, determine a ratio of open space to city block space.

_____:_____

9) Using the ratio, now figure out the percentage of space in your own hometown that is open space. How does it compare with Savannah?_____