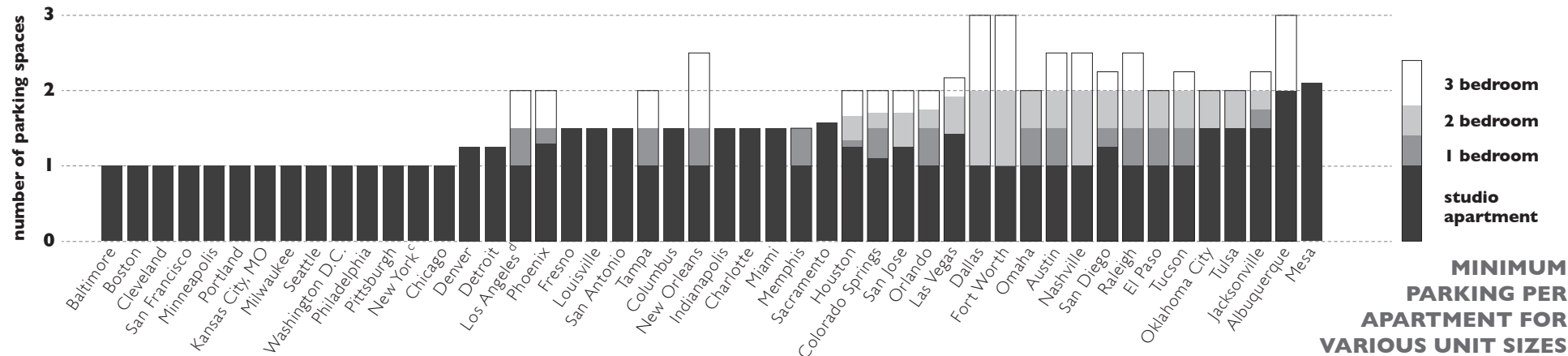
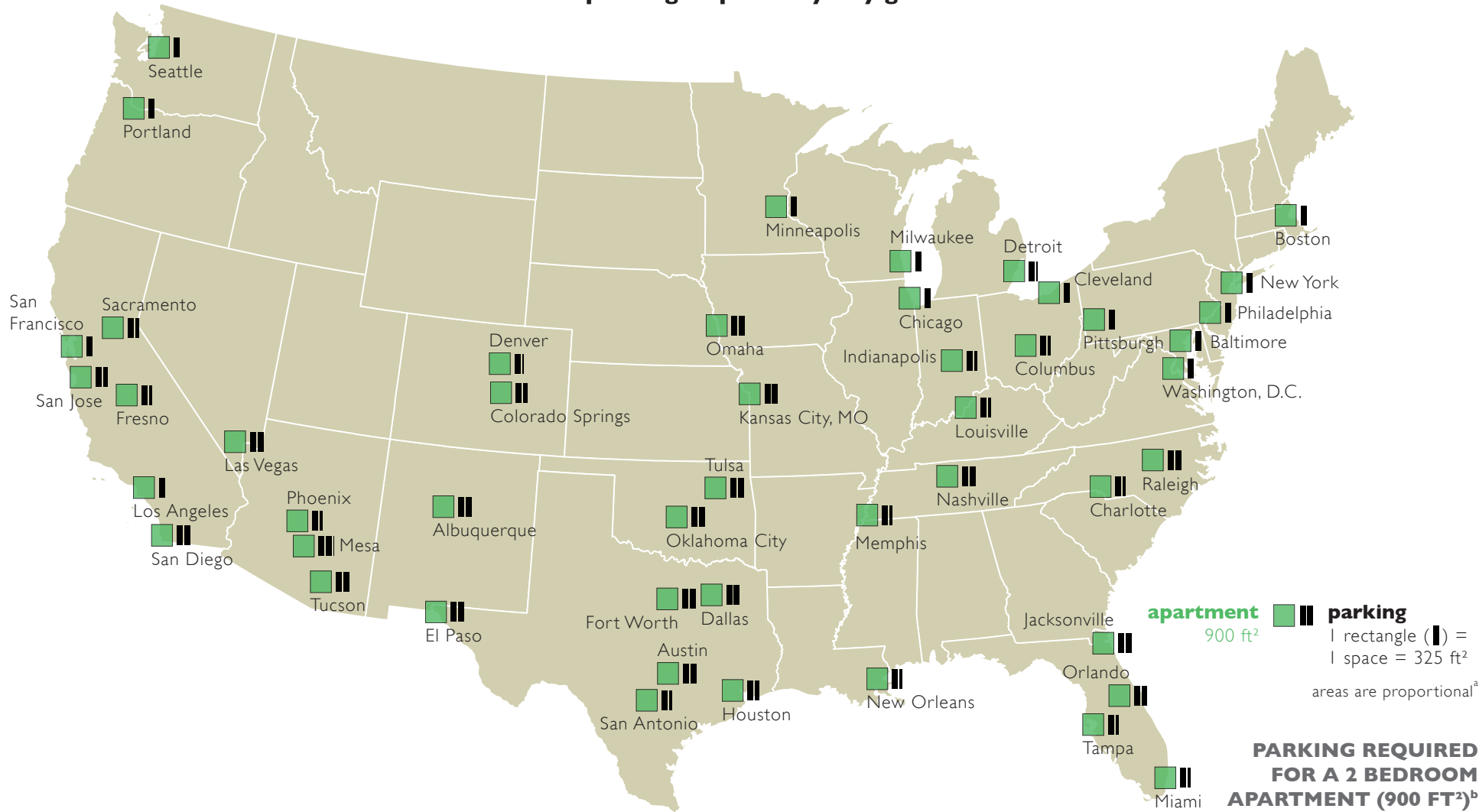


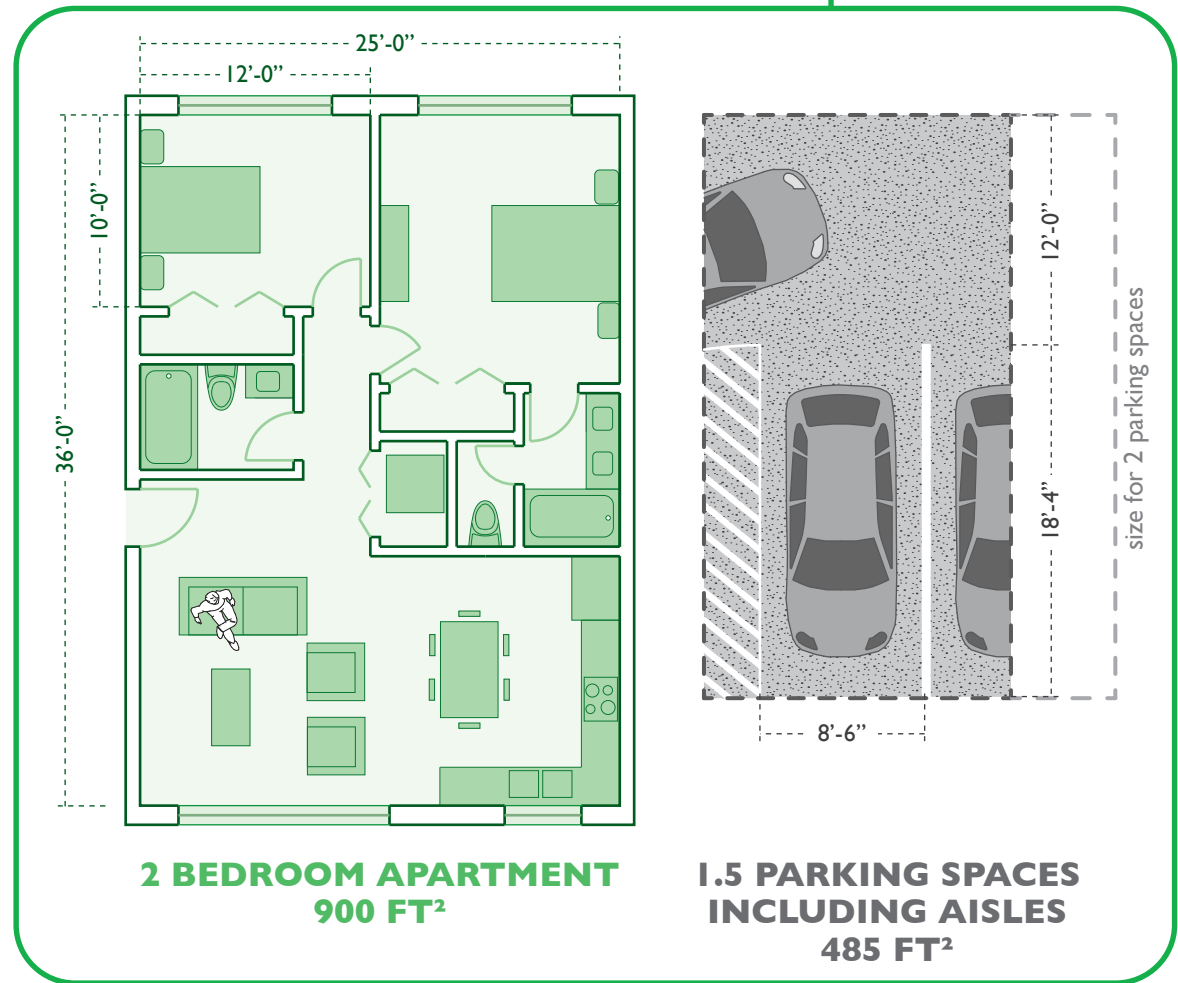
LIVING VS PARKING SPACE



parking required by city governments across the United States



median requirement:
1.5 spaces : 2 bedroom apartment



Nearly every municipality in the United States requires a minimum amount of on-site parking with every residential development. The enormous cost of constructing this parking is hidden from buyers and renters alike because the cost is bundled into the price of each unit. Minimum parking requirements deprive residents of the full benefit of choosing other modes of transportation since they are compelled to pay for parking whether or not they use it. Often even people who cannot afford to buy a car are forced by city governments to have their own parking. All that parking also consumes an enormous amount of space. Depending on the efficiency of the layout, each space requires between 300 to 400 square feet when aisles and ramps are included. Minimum parking requirements make sprawl inevitable rather than the result of market forces.

The graphs above show the requirements for major cities in the United States. Sometimes cities specify lower minimums in certain zones or allow petitions for reductions on a case by case basis. For each city, the standard requirement before exceptions or reductions is shown. In rare cases where there is not a uniform standard, the highest standard has been used.

Off-street parking requirements exist to alleviate overcrowding of parking on the street, but surely there is a better method to regulate this resource than a blanket mandate for *all* people to pay for off-street parking.

a - parking area includes space between ■ symbols
b - a list of the pertinent sections of each city's municipal code (with links) can be found at: <http://graphingparking.wordpress.com/sources/>
c - excluding Staten Island
d - based on habitable rooms; assumes no. of bedrooms + 1 living room/kitchen