

APPENDIX A

PARK TYPOLOGY

The typology used in this park and open space plan for Milwaukee County is based on the typology established under the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission's (SEWRPC) regional planning program¹ and is similar to the typology used by most parks and recreation agencies. The typology in this plan, specifically developed to apply to recreation sites and facilities that are located within or serve the residents of Milwaukee County, classifies each County-owned outdoor recreation site as a regional park, community park, neighborhood park, mini park, sports complex, special-use facility, greenway, parkway, or as an open space/natural area.

Park classifications take into account various characteristics: the size and location of the site; the site's service area; the typical duration of a visit; the availability of recreational amenities, potentially including revenue² or signature³ facilities, or programming; and the intensity of activity supported by park amenities.⁴ These characteristics, along with landscape design and parking and lighting considerations, impact the amount of maintenance associated with each park classification. Though the degree of maintenance can vary with seasonal changes in site usage, three levels of maintenance standards account for the resources required for the upkeep of a park and its amenities, including time and type of equipment. In general, Level 1

¹ Documented in SEWRPC Planning Report No. 27, A Regional Park and Open Space Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin: 2000, November 1977.

² Revenue facilities charge for use, typically in the form of an access fee, player fee, team fee, or permit fee. Such facilities include pools, golf courses, tennis courts, recreation centers, sport field complexes, concession facilities, hospitality centers, reservable shelters, outdoor or indoor theatre space, special event spaces, etc.

³ A signature facility is an enhanced facility or amenity viewed by the community as deserving of special recognition due to its design, location, function, natural resources, etc.

⁴ Regardless of classification, each County-owned park and open space site features safety design that meets established standards for crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED). In addition, facilities within County-owned park and open space site are ADA-compliant (i.e. satisfy requirements set forth by the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act).

maintenance standards require the highest level of maintenance,⁵ Level 2 maintenance standards entail less intensive landscape maintenance,⁶ and Level 3 maintenance standards pertain to lower maintenance park sites.⁷

Regional Park

A regional park serves several communities, residents within the County, or multiple counties. Regional parks usually have a combination of passive and active recreational facilities and are predominantly natural resource-based, often featuring a specific scenic or recreational opportunity not available in other parks. Regional parks can promote tourism and enhance the identity of the Region.

Characteristics typical of regional parks follow:

- Size of site: 100 acres or more
- Service radius: Four miles or greater
- Location: Preferable where natural resources (wetlands, streams, and other geographic features) or significant cultural/historic features can be preserved. Access from public roads capable of handling anticipated traffic
- Duration of visit: All day
- Amenities: 10-12 amenities for a signature facility (e.g. golf course, tennis complex, lake, playground, 3+ reservable picnic shelters, extreme sports, recreation center, pool, gardens, trails, specialty facilities, etc.). Public restrooms, concessions/restaurant, food and retail sales, and special event site. Typically includes sport fields/complexes

⁵ Level 1 maintenance standards may include mowing turf and edging turf perimeters at least once a week, inspecting playgrounds monthly, pruning or trimming trees and shrubs twice annually, and repainting court lines annually.

⁶ Level 2 maintenance standards may include mowing turf at least once every two weeks and edging turf perimeters at least once monthly and pruning or trimming trees and shrubs every two or three years.

⁷ Level 3 maintenance standards primarily apply to parks that are suited to less manipulation, with areas left in a natural state, and that require attention primarily for safety-related concerns.

- Revenue facilities: More than two. Park should produce revenue to offset operational costs
- Land usage: Up to 50 percent active/50 percent passive
- Programming: More than four experiences per age segment; at least four core programs provided
- Maintenance standards: Aim for Level 2; some amenities may require Level 1
- Parking: Varies depending on amenities.⁸ Traffic calming devices encouraged within and next to park
- Lighting: Amenity lighting to meet sport field light standards. Lighting on dual system with 50 percent of lights off at a set time and 50 percent on all night for security, with attention to lighting park paths
- Signage: Directional signage and facility/amenity regulations to enhance user experience. May include kiosks in easily identified areas of the facility
- Landscape design: Appropriate design to enhance the park theme/use/experience
- Other: Linked to major trails systems; public transportation available. Dedicated site managers on duty. Telephone/cable TV conduit

Community Park

Community parks are intended to be accessible to multiple neighborhoods and focus on meeting community-based recreational needs while preserving unique landscapes and open spaces. Community parks typically provide active and passive recreational opportunities for all ages.

Characteristics typical of community parks follow:

- Size of site: normally 25 to 60 acres; may be up to 100 acres
- Service radius: Two miles

⁸ Appendix C of this plan contains general standards for parking for specific facilities.

- Location: On two collector streets minimum; preferably on one arterial street. Minimal number of residences abutting site. Preferably streets on four sides of site or on three sides with a school or municipal use on fourth side. Encourage trail linkage to other parks
- Duration of visit: Two to three hours
- Amenities: Four signature amenities minimum (e.g. trails, large shelters/pavilions, playgrounds for ages 2-5 and 5-12 with some shaded elements, recreation center, pool or family aquatic center, water feature). Public restrooms. Typically includes sport fields/complexes
- Revenue facilities: One or more (e.g. pool, sports complex, pavilion)
- Land usage: 65 percent active/35 percent passive
- Maintenance standards: Aim for Level 2; some amenities may require Level 1
- Parking: Varies depending on amenities; occupies no more than 10 percent of the park. On-street parking adjacent to park to maximize usable park space. Traffic calming devices encouraged within and next to park
- Lighting: Amenity lighting to meet sport field light standards. Lighting on dual system with 50 percent of lights off at a set time and 50 percent on all night for security, with attention to lighting park paths
- Signage: Directional signage and facility/amenity regulations to enhance user experience. May include kiosks in easily identified areas of the facility
- Landscape design: Appropriate design to enhance the park theme/use/experience. Should feature natural/artificial barrier with consideration for sight lines and vision corners if on an arterial street
- Other: Strong appeal to surrounding neighborhoods. Partnerships developed with support groups, schools, and other organizations. Loop trail connectivity; linkages to regional parks, trail, or recreational facility. Telephone/cable TV conduit

Neighborhood Park

A neighborhood park, typically of a size and scale that blends into the surrounding neighborhood, should feature safe pedestrian access for nearby residents. A neighborhood park may be defined by its use and facilities and may serve as the recreational and social focus of adjoining neighborhoods, contributing to their distinct identity.

Characteristics typical of neighborhood parks follow:

- Size of site: Three to 10 acres; occasionally smaller. Preferably eight acres
- Service radius: 0.5 mile
- Location: On a local or collector street. Preferably next to a school and linked by trails to other parks
- Duration of visit: One hour or less
- Amenities: One signature amenity (e.g. major playground, splash pad/wading pool, or sport court); no public restrooms unless necessary for signature amenity. May include one non-programmed sports field, playgrounds for ages 2-5 and 5-12 with some shaded elements, loop trails, and benches and small picnic shelters next to play areas
- Landscape design: Appropriate design to enhance the park theme/use/experience. Should feature natural/artificial barrier with consideration for sight lines and vision corners if on an arterial street
- Land usage: 85 percent active/15 percent passive
- Programming: Typically none, but a signature amenity may be programmed
- Maintenance standards: Aim for Level 2; some amenities may require Level 1
- Signage: Directional signage and facility/amenity regulations to enhance user experience
- Parking: Include on-street parking adjacent to park to maximize usable space. As necessary, provide 5-10 spaces including handicap spaces within park. Traffic calming devices encouraged next to park

- Lighting: Security or amenity only. Lighting on dual system with 50 percent of lights off at a set time and 50 percent on all night for security with attention to lighting park paths
- Other: Customized to demographics of neighborhood

Mini Park

A mini park⁹ is a small site located in a dense/urban area with limited open space and recreational facilities. Mini parks are often established in a neighborhood design or as an adaptive reuse of one or more vacant lots or other leftover or unused open space in an otherwise developed area that are converted to passive or active recreational use. Most often accessed by people within a five to ten minute walking-distance on foot or by bike, mini parks are designed for the needs and interests of the immediately surrounding neighborhood. Mini parks may serve a range of age groups and can provide opportunities for a variety of uses.

Characteristics typical of mini parks follow:

- Size of site: 2 acres or smaller; determined by availability of open land
- Service radius: one-quarter to one-half mile
- Location: On a local/collector street
- Duration of visit: One hour or less
- Amenities: One or more (playfield/open space, gathering area, interactive features/playground facility for ages 2-5 and 5-12). Signage, benches, and shaded elements. May feature community gardens
- Land usage: Varies depending on facilities
- Programming: None
- Maintenance standards: Aim for Level 2; some amenities may require Level 1. Utilize partner support
- Parking: None

⁹ Also known as a pocket park or a vest pocket park.

- Lighting: None
- Signage: Preferable to identify site as a park
- Landscape design: Includes features to physically define the site. May be hardscaped or greenscaped
- Other: Partnerships developed with nearby residents, neighborhood groups, local businesses, schools, and other organizations

Sports Complex

A sports complex may be in a community or regional park or as a stand-alone facility. Sports complexes may be single-focused or multi-focused, include indoor and/or outdoor facilities, and may serve the recreational needs of youth and adults. A sports complex should focus on meeting residents' needs while also attracting sport tournaments to the community for economic purposes.

Characteristics typical of sports complexes follow:

- Size of site: Preferably 40+ acres for stand-alone complex. Sufficient to meet field specifications per the sport's governing body
- Service radius: Determined by community demand
- Location: Stand-alone sports complexes should be on/near arterial streets.¹⁰ Preferably streets on four sides of the site or on three sides with a school or municipal use on the fourth side
- Duration of visit: 2-3 hours for single activities. Potentially all day for tournaments/special events
- Amenities: 4-16 fields/sports courts, public restrooms, picnic pavilion, and concessions. A signature complex should feature enhanced amenities (artificial turf, benches and bleachers, scoreboards, amplified sound, scorer's booths, multipurpose fields, etc.¹¹) May support extreme sports (BMX, skateboarding, etc.)

¹⁰ Refer to information for a community or regional park if located within a park.

¹¹ Enhanced amenities for a sports complex are best identified collaboratively between park and recreation agencies and user groups depending upon adequate funding.

- Revenue facilities: 4 or more (e.g. fields, concessions, pavilion). Sufficient to offset operational costs
- Land usage: 95 percent active/5 percent passive
- Programming: Focus on active programming of all amenities
- Maintenance standards: Plan for Level 1
- Parking: Varies depending on amenities. Traffic calming devices encouraged within and next to site
- Lighting: Outdoor fields should be lighted to maximize value and productivity. Amenity lighting includes sport field light standards. Lighting on dual system with 50 percent of lights off at a set time and 50 percent on all night for security, with attention to lighting park paths
- Signage: Directional signage and facility/amenity regulations to enhance user experience. May include kiosks in easily identified areas of the facility
- Landscape design: Appropriate design to enhance the park theme/use/experience. Turf types appropriate for the facility and anticipated usage
- Other: Telephone/cable TV conduit

Special Use Facility

Special use facilities do not fall within a typical park classification and usually serve a single purpose. Special use facilities may be located inside another park or open space site and generally fall into three categories: historic/cultural/social sites, golf courses, and indoor or outdoor recreation facilities.

Historic/Cultural/Social Sites

Historic/cultural/social sites are unique local resources that offer historical, educational, and cultural opportunities. Examples of such sites include historic downtown areas, commercial zones, plaza parks, performing arts parks, arboretums, display gardens, performing arts facilities, indoor theaters, and amphitheatres. Historic/cultural/social sites are frequently located in community or regional parks.

Golf Courses

Golf courses include nine and 18-hole complexes with ancillary facilities such as clubhouses, driving ranges, program space, and learning centers. Golf courses are highly maintained and serve population with a wide age range. Programs are targeted for daily-use play, tournaments, leagues, clinics, and special events. Operational costs for such facilities come from daily play, season pass sales, concession sales, driving range fees, earned income opportunities, and sale of pro shop items.

Indoor and Outdoor Recreation Facilities

Indoor recreation facilities, which are frequently located within community or regional parks, include specialized or single-purpose facilities, such as community centers, senior centers, indoor recreation facilities, and community theaters. Outdoor recreation facilities, which may also be located within a community or regional park, include aquatic parks, disk golf, skateboarding, BMX, and dog parks.

Characteristics of Special Use Facilities

Though the site size, visit duration, amenities, and other characteristics depend upon the activities offered by the facility and vary for each category, typical characteristics of special-use facilities follow:

- Service radius: Varies. Typically serves special user groups; a few serve the entire population
- Location: Varies¹²
- Revenue facilities: Should be determined at a policy level before the facility is planned and constructed as revenue may be required for construction and/or annual maintenance
- Maintenance standards: Aim for Level 2; some amenities (i.e., rose gardens) may require Level 1
- Parking: On-/off-street parking to satisfy demand, which varies by facility. May feature on-street parking adjacent to site to maximize usable park space. As necessary, provide five to 10 spaces including handicap spaces within site. Traffic calming devices encouraged next to site
- Lighting: Security or amenity only. Lighting on dual system with 50 percent of lights off at a set time and 50 percent on all night for security, with attention to lighting park paths

¹² As with each park classification, the site should be located where appropriate for its use.

- Signage: Directional signage, kiosks, and facility/amenity regulations to enhance user experience
- Landscape design: Appropriate design to enhance the park theme/use/experience
- Other: Telephone/cable TV conduit as appropriate

Parkways

A parkway is a linear site featuring a roadway and a natural resource corridor, most often along major rivers and streams. Parkway, avenues of movement that connect communities, parks, and recreational and cultural components via curvilinear thoroughfares, frequently feature trails and serve as a unifying feature of a recreational and natural resource network. Parkway protect natural areas and open spaces, enhance plant and wildlife habitat, and can contribute to waterway flood control and stormwater management.

Characteristics typical of parkways follow:

- Size: A typical width of at least 200 feet, including the roadway and adjacent natural features
- Location: Along watershed features and bluffs, including creeks, rivers, and Lake Michigan
- Amenities: Limited-access, vehicular roadway, paved trails, benches, picnic tables, and signage. May feature buildings (e.g., comfort stations, picnic shelters, and maintenance buildings) and developed recreation areas with recreational facilities (playgrounds, sport fields, and swimming pools)
- Maintenance standards: Aim for Level 2; some amenities may require Level 1
- Parking: On-street or on-site parking at major trailheads
- Lighting: Security lighting along roadway. Lighting on dual system with 50 percent of lights off at a set time and 50 percent on all night for security with attention to lighting park paths
- Signage: At intersections with collector streets. Interpretive kiosks as deemed appropriate
- Landscape design: Landscapes designed to enhance roadways and adjacent watershed features. Retain existing woods, water features, and topography. Indigenous vegetation to screen or frame

views or to provide flood management. Man-made features (e.g. bridges, culverts, and retaining walls) traditionally constructed of native stone and timber with handcrafted finishes

- Other: Connectivity to natural areas, open space, parks, and other attractions and facilities is desirable

Greenways

A greenway is a narrow trail right-of-way that links neighborhoods, recreation facilities, attractions, and natural areas, or other park and open space sites and facilities. Greenways are recognized for their ability to connect people and places and often feature paved or natural trails, including loop trails through parks. Multi-use trails can fulfill two guiding principles simultaneously: protecting natural areas and open spaces and providing people with a way to access and enjoy the protected lands. Multi-use trails also offer an off-street alternative for transportation; provide unique opportunities for outdoor education and cultural interpretation; and serve as habitat enhancements for plants and wildlife.

Characteristics typical of greenways follow:

- Size: A typical width of at least 30 feet of unencumbered land. May include 10-foot-wide urban trail to support pedestrian/bicycle use
- Location: Consistent with the County-approved trails master plan¹³
- Amenities: Public restrooms at major trailheads
- Maintenance standards: Demand-based maintenance with available funding
- Parking: On-street or on-site parking at major trailheads
- Lighting: Security lighting at trailheads and high use areas. Lighting on dual system with 50 percent of lights off at a set time and 50 percent on all night for security with attention to lighting park paths
- Signage: Identify user's location and trail connections. Mileage markers at half-mile intervals. Interpretive kiosks as deemed appropriate

¹³ *The Milwaukee County Trails Network Plan, published by Milwaukee County Parks in 2007, details proposed trails, trail corridors, and initiatives.*

- Landscape design: Limited or no planting in open space areas
- Other: Connectivity to parks or other attractions and facilities is desirable

Open Space/Natural Areas

Open space/natural areas, undeveloped aside from any natural or paved trails, contain natural resources that can be managed for recreational and educational opportunities and for conservation benefits, such as protecting endangered species, wildlife habitat, and water quality. Unstructured, low-impact, nature-based recreational opportunities supported by open space/natural areas include walking and nature study/viewing.

Characteristics typical of open space/natural areas follow:

- Location: May be located within river corridors or within power line corridors
- Amenities: May include paved or natural trails, wildlife viewing areas, or nature-based interpretation/education facilities
- Maintenance standards: Level 3 or demand based. Resource management practices observed
- Parking: On- or off-street parking
- Lighting: None
- Signage: Interpretive kiosks as deemed appropriate
- Landscape design: Generally none. May be appropriate around site entry or buildings, incorporating sustainable design. May be important for maintaining and restoring of open space/natural areas
