

PARK TYPOLOGY

The Parks Typology is a working document that can be updated as needed. These guidelines are meant for high-level planning and when individual park sites are designed or renovated.

Type	Role	GUIDELINES				Notes	
		Service Area	Size	Potential Activities	Potential Facilities		
CORE RECREATION SITES	Pocket Park	Provides basic recreation opportunities for a limited service area.	Varies	< 2 ac.	Walking and jogging Picnicking Informal play	Low intensity facilities that vary by site conditions, location, and context.	Used only when there are limited options for a larger usable park or when the service population is relatively small.
	Neighborhood	Offer a variety of basic recreation opportunities for residents within a 15 minute walk. Emphasis is on multi-use and flexible open space.	Local Neighborhood 15 minute walking distance	2 – 5 ac.	Walking and jogging Picnicking Informal play Sports for younger children (temporary fields only) Small group activities and community events	Paved paths Multi-use open space Playground Community garden Outdoor fitness stations	
	Community Recreation	Offer a variety of recreation opportunities and facilities with flexible open space as a primary use. These parks are not designed to emphasize uses that do not require large amounts of dedicated space such as baseball/softball fields or football/soccer fields.	District 30 minute driving distance	5 – 15 ac.	Walking and jogging Picnicking Informal play Youth sports Small community events	Paved paths Multi-use open space Playground Restrooms Temporary fields for youth sports Community garden Outdoor fitness stations Water feature for play Off-leash area Off-street parking	
	Community Sports	Primary use is for dedicated space and facilities for sports activities or others that require specific improvements.	District or 30 minute driving distance	5 – 15 ac.	Walking and jogging Picnicking Informal play Sports leagues for youth and adults Community events	Paved paths Multi-use open space Playground Restrooms Dedicated fields/courts for organized sports Picnic shelters for larger groups Skatepark Off-street	Supporting facilities should be provided such as restrooms, paths, and other improvements that for participants and visitors.
	Regional	Large sites to accommodate a wide range of recreational activities and facilities as well as large numbers of visitors. Some of these parks may be developed as “signature” parks, which offer unique facilities and improvements such as a botanical garden, large amphitheater, or some other feature that is an island-wide attraction for residents and visitors.	Island-wide	15 ac. >		Dedicated sports facilities/complexes Paved paths Multi-use open space Playground Group picnic shelters (large groups) Visitor center Public gardens Community garden Off-leash area Restrooms Concession Off-street parking	In general, these sites have the ability to include a wide range of activities and facilities. Specific facilities will depend on the size of the park. Proximity to roads and trails are essential for these parks because of the large numbers of people they can attract. In addition, the impacts of noise, traffic, and some activities may have a negative effect on adjacent residential areas.
	Urban	Provides flexible open space for programs, events, and activities appropriate for urban areas.	Island-wide	< 2 ac.	Programs and community events Receptions and small gatherings	Paved areas Movable furniture Supporting facilities such as restrooms, lighting, and benches	To be successful, urban open spaces depend on programs and events that generate consistent levels of people visiting these sites.

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COASTAL SITES	Beach Access	A public right of way to a public beach.	Island-wide	Varies	Limited to providing access from public right-of-way to ocean	Very limited – paved trail is extent of public improvements	Signage to identify beach access points should be provided. May include paved access paths.
	Beach Park Low Intensity	Oceanfront park that accommodates lower levels of recreational activity.			Sunbathing Swimming and ocean activities CORA (low-impact)	Paved paths Restroom Picnic tables and grills Off-street parking	Visitation is lower than other beach park types though these parks may exhibit occasional peak use during the day or week.
	Beach Park Medium Intensity	Accommodates a limited range of recreational activities that (a) are oriented towards an oceanfront setting, and (b) depend on safe and convenient access to the ocean. These parks typically do not attract as many visitors as High Intensity Beach Parks.			Sunbathing Swimming and ocean activities Volleyball Fitness training Land-based activities CORA	Paved paths Restroom Picnic tables and grills Showers Off-street parking Lifeguard towers	May require a Management Plan to describe how activities and facilities are used to prevent user conflicts, over-use, undesirable environmental impacts, and to minimize negative impacts on adjoining uses.
	Beach Park High Intensity	Accommodates a wide range of recreational activities that (a) are oriented towards an oceanfront setting, (b) depend on safe and convenient access to the ocean, and (c) attract large numbers of people throughout the day and week. These parks may include permitted and special events.			Sunbathing Swimming and ocean activities Volleyball Fitness training Land-based activities Activities requiring Special Event permits Competitive events CORA	Paved paths Restroom Picnic tables and grills Showers Off-street parking Lifeguard towers	Requires a Management Plan to describe how activities and facilities are used to prevent user conflicts, over-use, undesirable environmental impacts, and to minimize negative impacts on adjoining uses.
SPECIAL USE SITES	Natural Resource	Offer opportunities for low-intensity recreation in sites that are undeveloped, have habitat value, restoration potential, or include a distinctive natural features. Provide interpretative facilities for residents, visitors, and school group	Varies	Varies	Low-intensity recreation such as hiking, cycling, horseback riding, and other non-motorized activities Restoration activities Cultural activities	Trails for hiking, bicycling, and equestrian use Interpretive signs and exhibits Supporting facilities (such as small parking areas) and restrooms where appropriate	The emphasis on these sites is to protect, maintain, and enhance the resources. As a result, facilities should be designed and sited to minimize negative and are generally improved or maintained for low-intensity use.
	Cultural Resource	Protect sites that have significant historic or cultural value. Provide interpretative facilities for residents, visitors, and school groups.			Restoration activities Cultural activities	Interpretive signs and exhibits Low-intensity support facilities such as small shelters and benches	
	Trails	Offer dedicated linear connections for non-motorized travel. Users include pedestrians, cyclists, equestrians, and other compatible modes.			Low-intensity recreation such as hiking, cycling, horseback riding, and other non-motorized activities	Trails for hiking, bicycling, and equestrian use Interpretive signs and exhibits Supporting facilities (such as small parking areas) and restrooms where appropriate	
	Greenway	Improved as vegetated natural buffers that improve water quality, reduce the impacts of flooding, and provide wildlife habitat.			Maintenance and restoration	Service trails Low impact trails for public use Interpretive signs and exhibits	The emphasis on these sites is to protect, maintain, and enhance the resources. As a result, facilities should be designed and sited to minimize negative and are generally improved or maintained for low-intensity use.
	Special Use	A broad range of specialized park and recreation facilities, often with a single major use. These can include dog parks, golf courses, community center sites, raceway, and other special use facilities. These may include community park elements, but with amenities that have a regional appeal.			Varies by site		