
appendix a: glossary of terms



Aquatic center: An indoor facility (and any associated outdoor water facilities) which includes a variety of water-related recreational facilities and programs for multiple age groups. Many such facilities are supported by user fees and may be revenue-generating.

Community park: A park which serves community-based recreational needs and may also preserve unique landscapes and open spaces. Typically larger in size than neighborhood parks, community parks serve several neighborhoods and many times include facilities which are too large to be sited in neighborhood parks, such as multiple sports fields. These parks are generally between 20 and 50 acres in size.

Community center: A center that facilitates a diverse range of recreational and educational opportunities and is available for use by the general public. Such centers may require fees for the use of certain resources.

Community garden: A parcel of land that is designated for the common use of nearby residents to propagate ornamental plants and/or crops.

Competition Field: A sports field that is suitable for competition play. Such fields have regular maintenance and appropriate parking, and may be lit for nighttime play. Also known as a "game field".

Cultural resource: Any structure or area with historic, archaeological, architectural, artistic, or entertainment significance to a particular community or culture.

Equestrian Center: A facility oriented toward the care, exercise, and recreation of horses. Such centers may include boarding, training facilities, and event facilities, and may include horse rentals and/or horse rides as well as supporting equestrian trails.

Facility: Structure or equipment designed, constructed, and required for participation in recreational activities.

Greenway: A natural or relatively undeveloped linear area which links parks and open space and is idea for trail development. Greenways tie park systems components together to form a cohesive park environment.

Horticultural center: Any facility or land area that promotes the propagation of, care of, and education about plants.

Interpretive Center: Any facility or kiosk that presents information of an educational or interpretive type to explain its surroundings. Generally located in conjunction with unique or rare ecologies, geologies, or habitats.

Linkage: A connection, generally between two or more parcels of land, which allows easy movement from one point to another.

Mini-park: The smallest park classification, this type of park typically addresses limited or isolated recreational needs. Mini-parks, otherwise known as pocket parks, may be found in residential or commercial areas, such as central business districts. These parks may include active and/or passive recreation.

Natural amenity: Any natural resource which may be considered to have recreation, conservation, or scenic value. Examples include waterways, forests, wetlands, mountains, rock formations, etc.

Neighborhood park: Parks that serve basic recreational needs for particular neighborhoods. These parks are developed for both passive and active recreation activities geared toward those living in its service area. Generally, these parks are a minimum of 5 acres in size, and may range in size up to 20 acres.

Open space: Land, water, and atmosphere, private or public, predominately natural and undeveloped.

Programs: The organization of events, activities, or facilities associated with particular forms of recreation.

Regional park: A park which serves a city or its larger region, and typically is built around a unique landscape, natural area, or specialized recreational opportunity. These parks are generally over 50 acres in size, and usually over 100 to 200 acres in size. Such parks may include areas for typical active recreation facilities, but are largely focused on passive recreation opportunities.

Riparian: Of, on, or pertaining to the bank of a natural course of water.

Senior center: A center that includes recreational facilities and programs for mature adults.

Tournament Field: A sports field that is suitable to accommodate tournament play, including night lighting, parking, and seating for spectators. Often times tournament fields are located within larger sports complexes.

Trail: Any path, passage, or route specifically designated, developed, and managed for trail activities.

Urban plaza: A publicly-accessible open area located within an urban context, generally designed for the use of many for short periods of time and formal in nature.

Water-Related Park: A park which contains any number of water-related recreational facilities

which may be, but are not limited to, spray pools, swimming pools, marinas, beaches, or interactive fountains.

Park and Facility Maintenance Levels

Level (Mode) 1: State of the art maintenance applied to a high quality diverse landscape. Usually associated with high traffic urban areas such as public squares, malls, governmental grounds or high visitation parks. Highest maintenance level with highest associated maintenance and operational costs.

Level (Mode) 2: High level maintenance - associated with well developed park areas with reasonably high visitation.

Level (Mode) 3: Moderate level maintenance - associated with locations with moderate to low levels of development, moderate to low levels of visitation, or with agencies that because of budget restrictions can not afford a higher intensity of maintenance.

Level (Mode) 4: Moderately low level - usually associated with low level of development, low visitation, undeveloped areas, or remote parks.

Level (Mode) 5: High visitation natural areas - usually associated with large urban or regional

parks. Size and user frequency may dictate resident maintenance staff. Road, pathway, or trail systems relatively well-developed. Other facilities at strategic locations such as entries, trail heads, building complexes, and parking lots.