

# RECREATION, PARK AND OPEN SPACE STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES



NATIONAL RECREATION AND PARK ASSOCIATION

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## A Recommended Classification System for Local and Regional Recreation Open Space

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This classification system is intended to serve as a *guide* to planning—not as an absolute blueprint. Sometimes more than one component may occur within the same site (but not on the same parcel of land), particularly with respect to special uses within a regional park. Planners of park and recreation systems should be careful to provide adequate land for each functional component when this occurs.

NRPA suggests that a park system, at a minimum, be composed of a “core” system of parklands, with a total of 6.25 to 10.5 acres of developed open space per 1,000 population. The size and amount of “adjunct” parklands will vary from community to community, but *must* be taken into account when considering a total, well-rounded system of parks and recreation areas.

COMPONENT	USE	SERVICE AREA	DESIRABLE SIZE	ACRES/1,000 POPULATION	DESIRABLE SITE CHARACTERISTICS
<b>A. LOCAL/CLOSE-TO-HOME SPACE:</b>					
<b>Mini-Park</b>	Specialized facilities that serve a concentrated or limited population or specific group such as tots or senior citizens.	Less than ¼-mile radius.	1 acre or less	0.25 to 0.5A	Within neighborhoods and in close proximity to apartment complexes, townhouse development or housing for the elderly.
<b>Neighborhood Park/Playground</b>	Area for intense recreational activities, such as field games, court games, crafts, playground apparatus area, skating, picnicking, wading pools, etc.	¼ to ½-mile radius to serve a population up to 5,000 (a neighborhood).	15+ acres	1.0 to 2.0A	Suited for intense development. Easily accessible to neighborhood population—geographically centered with safe walking and bike access. May be developed as a school-park facility.
<b>Community Park</b>	Area of diverse environmental quality. May include areas suited for intense recreational facilities, such as athletic complexes, large swimming pools. May be an area of natural quality for outdoor recreation, such as walking, viewing, sitting, picnicking. May be any combination of the above, depending upon site suitability and community need.	Several neighborhoods. 1 to 2 mile radius.	25+ acres	5.0 to 8.0A	May include natural features, such as water bodies, and areas suited for intense development. Easily accessible to neighborhood served.

**B. REGIONAL SPACE:**

<b>Regional/Metropolitan Park</b>	Area of natural or ornamental quality for outdoor recreation, such as picnicking, boating, fishing, swimming, camping, and trail uses; may include play areas.	Several communities. 1 hour driving time.	200+ acres	5.0 to 10.0A	Contiguous to or encompassing natural resources.
<b>Regional Park Reserve</b>	Area of natural quality for nature-oriented outdoor recreation, such as viewing, and studying nature, wildlife habitat, conservation, swimming, picnicking, hiking, fishing, boating, camping, and trail uses. May include active play areas. Generally, 80% of the land is reserved for conservation and natural resource management, with less than 20% used for recreation development.	Several communities. 1 hour driving time.	1,000+ acres; sufficient area to encompass the resource to be preserved and managed.	Variable	Diverse or unique natural resources, such as lakes, streams, marshes, flora, fauna, topography.

TOTAL REGIONAL SPACE = 15-20 A/1,000

**C. SPACE THAT MAY BE LOCAL OR REGIONAL AND IS UNIQUE TO EACH COMMUNITY:**

<b>Linear Park</b>	Area developed for one or more varying modes of recreational travel, such as hiking, biking, snowmobiling, horseback riding, cross-country skiing, canoeing and pleasure driving. May include active play areas. (NOTE: any included for any of above components may occur in the "linear park.")	No applicable standard.	Sufficient width to protect the resource and provide maximum use.	Variable	Built or natural corridors, such as utility rights-of-way, bluff lines, vegetation patterns, and roads, that link other components of the recreation system or community facilities, such as school, libraries, commercial areas, and other park areas.
<b>Special Use</b>	Areas for specialized or single purpose recreational activities, such as golf courses, nature centers, marinas, zoos, conservatories, arboreta, display gardens, arenas, outdoor theaters, gun ranges, or downhill ski areas, or areas that preserve, maintain, and interpret buildings, sites, and objects of archeological significance. Also plazas or squares in or near commercial centers, boulevards, parkways.	No applicable standard.	Variable depending on desired size.	Variable	Within communities.
<b>Conservancy</b>	Protection and management of the natural/cultural environment with recreation use as a secondary objective.	No applicable standard.	Sufficient to protect the resource.	Variable	Variable, depending on the resource being protected.

# Appendix A

## Suggested Facility Development Standards

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ACTIVITY/ FACILITY	RECOMMENDED SPACE REQUIREMENTS	RECOMMENDED SIZE AND DIMENSIONS	RECOMMENDED ORIENTATION	NO. OF UNITS PER POPULATION	SERVICE RADIUS	LOCATION NOTES
Badminton	1620 sq. ft.	Singles - 17' x 44' Doubles - 20' x 44' with 5' unobstructed area on all sides	Long axis north-south	1 per 5000	¼-½ mile	Usually in school, rec- reation center, or church facility. Safe walking or bike access.
Basketball 1. Youth 2. High School 3. Collegiate	2400-3036 sq. ft. 5040-7280 sq. ft. 5600-7980 sq. ft.	46'-50' x 84' 50' x 84' 50 x 94' with 5' unobstructed space on all sides	Long axis north-south	1 per 5000	¼-½ mile	Same as badminton. Outdoor courts in neighborhood and com- munity parks, plus active recreation areas in other park settings.
Handball (3-4 wall)	800 sq. ft. for 4-wall, 1000 for 3-wall	20' x 40' - Minimum of 10' to rear of 3-wall court. Minimum 20' overhead clearance.	Long axis north-south. Front wall at north end.	1 per 20,000	15-30 minute travel time	4-wall usually indoor as part of multi-purpose facility. 3-wall usually outdoor in park or school setting.
Ice Hockey	22,000 sq. ft. including support area.	Rink 85' x 200' (minimum 85' x 185'). Additional 5000 sq. ft. support area.	Long axis north-south if outdoor	Indoor-1 per 100,000. Outdoor-depends on climate.	½-1 hour travel time	Climate important consideration affecting no. of units. Best as part of multi-purpose facility.
Tennis	Minimum of 7,200 sq. ft. single court. (2 acres for complex.)	36' x 78'. 12' clearance on both sides; 21' clearance on both ends.	Long axis north-south.	1 court per 2000.	¼-½ mile	Best in batteries of 2-4. Located in neighbor- hood/community park or adjacent to school site.
Volleyball	Minimum of 4,000 sq. ft.	30' x 60'. Minimum 6' clearance on all sides.	Long axis north-south	1 court per 5000.	¼-½ mile	Same as other court activities (e.g., bad- minton, basketball, etc.)
Baseball 1. Official 2. Little League	3.0-3.85 A minimum  1.2 A minimum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Baselines-90' Pitching distance- 60 ½'</li> <li>• Foul lines-min. 320'</li> <li>• Center field-400'+</li> <li>• Baselines-60'</li> <li>• Pitching distance-46'</li> <li>• Foul lines-200'</li> <li>• Center field-200'- 250'</li> </ul>	Locate home plate so pitcher throwing across sun and batter not facing it. Line from home plate through pitcher's mound run east-north-east.	1 per 5000  Lighted-1 per 30,000	¼-½ mile	Part of neighborhood complex. Lighted fields part of com- munity complex.
Field Hockey	Minimum 1.5A	180' x 300' with a minimum of 10' clearance on all sides.	Fall season-long axis northwest to southeast. For longer periods, north to south.	1 per 20,000	15-30 minutes travel time	Usually part of base- ball, football, soccer complex in community park or adjacent to high school.
Football	Minimum 1.5A	160' x 360' with a minimum of 6' clearance on all sides.	Same as field hockey.	1 per 20,000	15-30 minutes travel time	Same as field hockey.
Soccer	1.7 to 2.1A	195' to 225' x 330' to 360' with a 10' mini- mum clearance on all sides.	Same as field hockey.	1 per 10,000	1-2 miles	Number of units de- pends on popularity. Youth soccer on small- er fields adjacent to schools or neighbor- hood parks.

Golf—Driving Range	13.5A for minimum of 25 tees	96' x 690' width and 12' width for each additional tee.	Long axis south-west-northeast with golfer driving toward northeast.	1 per 50,000	30 minutes travel time	Part of golf course complex. As a separate unit, may be privately operated.
¼-Mile Running Track	4.3A	Overall width—276' length—600.02' Track width for 8 to 4 lanes is 32'.	Long axis in sector from north to south to north-west-south-east with finish line at northerly end.	1 per 20,000	15-30 minutes travel time	Usually part of high school, or in community park complex in combination with football, soccer, etc.
Softball	1.5 to 2.0A	Baselines—60' Pitching distance—46' min. 40'—women. Fast pitch field radius from plate—225' between foul lines. Slow pitch—275' (men) 250' (women)	Same as baseball.	1 per 5,000 (if also used for youth baseball)	¼-½ mile	Slight difference in dimensions for 16" slow pitch. May also be used for youth baseball.
Multiple Recreation Court (basketball, volleyball, tennis)	9,840 sq. ft.	120' x 80'	Long axis of courts with primary use is north-south.	1 per 10,000	1-2 miles.	
Trails	N/A	Well defined head maximum 10' width, maximum average grade 5% not to exceed 15%. Capacity rural trails—40 hikers/day/mile. Urban trails—90 hikers/day/mile.	N/A	1 system per region	N/A	
Archery Range	Minimum 0.65A	300' length x minimum 10' wide between targets. Roped clear space on sides of range minimum of 30', clear space behind targets minimum of 90' x 45' with bunker.	Archer facing north + or - 45°.	1 per 50,000	30 minutes travel time	Part of a regional/metro park complex.
Combination Skeet and Trap Field (8 station)	Minimum 30A	All walks and structures occur within an area approximately 130' wide by 115' deep. Minimum cleared area is contained within two superimposed segments with 100-yard radii (4 acres). Shot-fall danger zone is contained within two superimposed segments with 300-yard radii (36 acres).	Center line of length runs northeast-southwest with shooter facing northeast.	1 per 50,000	30 minutes travel time	Part of a regional/metro park complex.
Golf 1. Par 3 (18-Hole) 2. 9-hole standard 3. 18-hole standard	• 50-60A • Minimum 50A • Minimum 110A	• Average length—vary 600-2700 yards • Average length—2250 yards • Average length—6500 yards	Majority of holes on north-south axis.	— • 1/25,000 • 1/50,000	½ to 1 hour travel time	• 9-hole course can accommodate 350 people/day. • 18-hole course can accommodate 500-550 people a day. Course may be located in community or district park, but should not be over 20 miles from population center.
Swimming Pools	Varies on size of pool and amenities. Usually ½ to 2A site.	Teaching—minimum of 25 yards x 45' even depth of 3 to 4 feet. Competitive—minimum of 25m x 16m. Minimum of 27 square feet of water surface per swimmer. Ratios of 2:1 deck vs. water.	None—although care must be taken in siting of lifeguard stations in relation to afternoon sun.	1 per 20,000 (Pools should accommodate 3 to 5% of total population at a time.)	15 to 30 minutes travel time	Pools for general community use should be planned for teaching, competitive, and recreational purposes with enough depth (3.4m) to accommodate 1m and 3m diving boards. Located in community park or school site.
Beach Areas	N/A	Beach area should have 50 sq. ft. of land and 50 sq. ft. of water per user. Turnover rate is 3. There should be 3-4A supporting land per A of beach.	N/A	N/A	N/A	Should have sand bottom with slope a maximum of 5% (flat preferable). Boating areas completely segregated from swimming areas.

## **State-wide Priorities From SCORP that Match Richland County Parks Commission Priorities**

### **Goals and Actions**

**Goal:** Access, understand and adapt to growing recreation tourism demands and preferences

**Actions:**

- Understand the recreation and tourism preferences associated with growing market segments

**Goal:** Improve integration of outdoor recreation interests and needs in land use and other relevant planning efforts

**Actions:**

- Promote the collaboration of Public and private recreation opportunities through intergrated management planning

**Goal:** Continue to provide and enhance public access to Wisconsin recreational lands and waters

**Actions:**

- Promote awareness of the location of existing recreation lands, facilities, and opportunities available within a given region.
- Continue to meet Americans with Disabilities Act standars for accessibility to outdoor recreation facilities
- Promote sustainable recreation facility design, construction and maintenance practices

**Goal:** Promote outdoor recreation as a means of improving public health among Wisconsinites

**Actions:**

- Educated the public about the health benefits of moderat and enjoyable physical activities such as walking, biking, nature study, etc.

**Goal:** Establish great urban parks and community green spaces

**Actions:**

- Connect people with urban parks, trails and community green spaces

## **Activities in Common**

### Nature-based Land Activities

Day hiking

Visit a wilderness or primitive area

Camping

### Developed Land Setting Activities

Walk for pleasure

Driving for pleasure

Picnicking

Bicycling

### Water-based Activities

Canoeing

Fishing-warm water

Fishing- cold water

Fishing- Fly

Kayaking

### Snow and Ice-based Activities

Sledding

Snowmobiling

Cross Country Skiing

### Viewing and Learning Activities

View/photograph natural scenery

View/photograph wildlife

View/photograph wildflowers

View/photograph birds

Sightseeing

Visit a farm or agricultural setting

## **Projected Trends in Wisconsin Outdoor Activities That Match Trends in Richland County**

### Activities Up in Numbers

Kayaking

Youth Soccer

Off-highway Vehicle Driving

### Activities Stable in Numbers

Waling for pleasure

Running or Jogging

Day Hiking

Tent Camping

Bicycling

### Activities Down in Numbers

Horseback Riding

Adult Softball