

SEWRPC OUTDOOR RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PLANNING OBJECTIVES, PRINCIPLES, AND STANDARDS

Introduction

The Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC), as part of the regional park and open space planning program completed in 1977, formulated a comprehensive set of park and related open space preservation, acquisition, and development objectives. Because the study viewed all park and open space sites and facilities as integrated parts of an areawide system, the objectives address neighborhood, community, and major parks and recreational facilities; trails; and the protection of natural resources in open space.

Responsibility for implementing recommendations to meet the park and open space objectives is shared by several levels of government. Resource-oriented outdoor recreation objectives for large parks, long-distance trail facilities, and facilities for such activities as golfing, camping, and boating, are typically the responsibility of the State and County levels of government. Nonresource-oriented outdoor recreation objectives for community and neighborhood parks for activities such as softball, tennis, soccer, and children's playground activities are typically the responsibility of cities, towns, and villages. Objectives intended to protect important natural resource features, including environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas, are the responsibility of all levels of government.

The need for parks and outdoor recreational facilities is determined by applying the standards for the size, number, and geographic distribution of public parks and outdoor recreational facilities to the anticipated future population of a county or local (city, town, or village) government. The anticipated population in the plan "design year," usually 20 years in the future, should be used to conduct the analysis.

The regional standards include both per capita standards, which provide a guideline to help determine the number of acres of park land and the number of various types of recreational facilities needed to serve future residents; and service area standards, which are intended to ensure that public parks and recreational facilities are geographically distributed in a manner that is convenient and efficient for the population they are intended to serve. When applying the service area standards, only areas of existing or planned urban-density residential development are taken into consideration. In rural towns and villages, one community park should be developed to provide picnicking facilities and non-resource oriented recreational facilities, such as ball diamonds and playgrounds.

School outdoor recreation sites, while not generally perceived as parks, provide areas and facilities for recreational uses. Public school outdoor recreation sites are, therefore, taken into account in the application of the per capita acreage standards for parks and facilities and in the application of service area standards for recreational facilities. Because school sites generally do not provide areas for picnicking and other passive uses, school sites are not considered when applying the service area standards for community and neighborhood parks.

For more information about these standards, please contact SEWRPC at (262) 547-6721. Questions regarding city, town, and village park and open space plans should be directed to Ben McKay. Questions regarding county park and open space plans should be directed to Dave Schilling.

Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission

REGIONAL OUTDOOR RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PLANNING OBJECTIVES, PRINCIPLES, AND STANDARDS

OBJECTIVE NO. 1

To provide an integrated system of public general-use outdoor recreation sites and related open space areas that provide residents of the Region with adequate opportunities to participate in a wide range of outdoor recreation and outdoor education activities.

PRINCIPLE

Good physical and mental health is an inherent right of all residents of the Region. Providing public general use outdoor recreation sites and related open space areas contributes to physical and mental health by providing opportunities to participate in a wide range of outdoor recreation activities. Moreover, an integrated park and related open space system properly related to the natural resource base, such as the existing surface water network, can provide the dual benefits of satisfying recreational demands in an appropriate setting while protecting and preserving valuable natural resource amenities. Finally, an integrated system of public general use outdoor recreation sites and related open space areas can contribute to the orderly growth of the Region by lending form and structure to urban development patterns.

A. PUBLIC OUTDOOR RECREATION SITES

PRINCIPLE

Public general use outdoor recreation sites promote good physical and mental health both by providing opportunities to participate in such athletic recreational activities as baseball, swimming, tennis, and ice-skating—activities that help maintain physical health because of the exercise involved—as well as opportunities to participate in more leisurely activities such as walking, picnicking, or just rest and relaxation. These activities tend to reduce stress and thereby help maintain physical and mental well-being. Well designed and properly located public general-use outdoor recreation sites also provide a sense of community, bringing people together for social and cultural as well as recreational activities. This contributes to desirable and stable residential neighborhoods and therefore benefits the communities in which such facilities are provided.

STANDARDS

1. The public sector should provide general use outdoor recreation sites sufficient in size and number to meet the recreation demands of the resident population. These sites should be spatially distributed in a manner that provides ready access by the resident population to natural resource or man-made amenities. To achieve this standard, the public general use outdoor recreation site requirements should be met as indicated in the following table:

Site Type	Size (gross acres)	Publicly-Owned Park and School Sites							
		Parks				Schools ^a			
		Minimum per Capita Public Requirements (acres per 1,000 persons) ^d	Typical Facilities	Maximum Service Radius (miles) ^b		Minimum per Capita Public Requirements (acres per 1,000 persons) ^f	Typical Facilities	Maximum Service Radius (miles) ^c	
				Urban ^e	Rural			Urban ^e	Rural
I ^g Regional	250 or more	5.3	Campsites, swimming beach, picnic areas, golf course, ski hill, ski-touring trail, boat launch, nature study area, playfield, softball diamond, or passive-activity area ^h	10.0	10.0	--	--	--	--
II ^g Multi-Community	100-249	2.6	Campsites, swimming pool or beach, picnic areas, golf course, ski hill, ski-touring trail, boat launch, nature study area, playfield, softball and/or baseball diamond, or passive-activity area ^h	4.0 ^j	10.0 ^j	--	--	--	--
III ^g Community	25-99	2.2	Swimming pool or beach, picnic areas, boat launch, nature study area, softball and/or baseball diamonds, soccer fields and other playfields, tennis courts, or passive-activity area ^h	2.0 ^j	--	0.9	Playfield, baseball diamond, softball diamond, or tennis court	0.5-1.0 ^m	--
IV ^g Neighborhood	Less than 25	1.7	Wading pool, picnic areas, softball and/or baseball diamonds, soccer fields and other playfields, tennis court, play-ground, basketball goal, ice-skating rink, or passive-activity area ^h	0.5-1.0 ^o	--	1.6	Playfield, playground, baseball diamond, softball diamond, basketball goal, or tennis court	0.5-1.0 ^m	--

- Public general use outdoor recreation sites should, as much as possible, be located within the designated primary environmental corridors of the Region.

B. RECREATION RELATED OPEN SPACE

PRINCIPLE

Meeting the recreation demands of the Region's residents cannot be accomplished solely by providing public general use outdoor recreation sites. Certain recreational activities such as hiking, biking, scenic driving, and cross country skiing are best provided through a system of trails and recreation corridors located on or adjacent to linear resource-oriented open space lands. A well-designed system of recreation following linear open space lands can also serve to physically connect existing and proposed public parks, thus forming a truly integrated park and recreation related open space system. Such open space lands also satisfy the need for natural surroundings, serve to protect the natural resource base, and ensure that many scenic areas and areas of natural, cultural, or historic interest are properly considered in determining existing and future land use patterns.

STANDARDS

The public sector should provide sufficient open space lands to accommodate a system of resource-oriented recreation corridors to meet the resident demand for trail-oriented recreation activities. To fulfill this recommendation, the following recreation-related open space standards should be met:

- A minimum of 0.16 linear miles of recreation related open space consisting of linear recreation corridors^p should be provided for each 1,000 people in the Region.
- Recreation corridors should have a minimum length of 15 miles and a minimum width of 200 feet.
- The maximum travel distance to recreation corridors should be five miles in urban areas and 10 miles in rural areas.
- Resource-orientated recreation corridors should maximize the use of:
 - Primary environmental corridors as locations for trail-oriented recreation activities.
 - Outdoor recreation facilities provided at existing public park sites.
 - Existing trail-type facilities within the Region.

OBJECTIVE NO. 2

To provide sufficient outdoor recreation facilities to allow the resident population of the Region adequate opportunities to participate in intensive nonresource-oriented outdoor recreation activities.

PRINCIPLE

Participating in intensive nonresource-oriented outdoor recreation activities including basketball, baseball, ice-skating, soccer, playfield and playground activities, softball, swimming, and tennis provides an individual with both the opportunity for physical exercise and an opportunity to improve their physical fitness. These activities also provide an outlet for stress and an opportunity to share recreational experiences, participate in team play, and interact with other people in the community.

STANDARD

A sufficient number of facilities for participating in intensive nonresource-oriented outdoor recreation activities should be provided throughout the Region. To achieve this standard, the per capita requirements and design criteria for various facilities should be met as indicated in the following table:

Minimum Per Capita Facility Requirements ^a				Design Standards					Service Radius of Facility (miles) ^f
Activity	Facility	Owner	Facility per 1,000 Urban Residents	Typical Location of Facility	Facility Requirements	Additional Suggested Support Facilities	Support Facility Requirements	Total Land Requirement (acres per facility)	
Baseball	Diamond	Public	0.09	Multi-community, community, and neighborhood parks	2.8 acres per diamond	Parking (30 spaces per diamond) Night lighting ¹ Concessions and bleachers ¹ Buffer and landscape	0.28 acre per diamond	4.5	2.0
		Nonpublic	0.01				--		
		Total	0.10 ^b				0.02 acre minimum 1.40 acres per diamond		
Basketball	Goal	Public	0.91	Neighborhood parks	0.07 acre per goal	--	--	0.07	0.5
		Nonpublic	0.22						
		Total	1.13						
Ice-Skating	Rink	Public	0.15 ^d	Neighborhood parks	0.30 acre per rink minimum	Warming house	0.05 acre	0.35 minimum	0.5
		Nonpublic	--				--		
		Total	0.15						
Playfield Activities	Playfield	Public	0.39	Neighborhood parks	1.0 acre per playfield minimum	Buffer area	0.65 acre minimum	1.65 minimum	0.5
		Nonpublic	0.11						
		Total	0.50						
Playground Activities	Playground	Public	0.35	Neighborhood parks	0.25 acre per playground minimum	Buffer and landscape	0.37 acre	0.62 minimum	0.5
		Nonpublic	0.07						
		Total	0.42						
Soccer	Field	Public	0.69	Multi-community, community, and neighborhood parks	1.0 acre per field minimum	Buffer	0.65 acre	1.65	1.0
		Nonpublic	0.17						
		Total	0.86						
Softball	Diamond	Public	0.53	Multi-community, community, and neighborhood parks	1.70 acre per diamond	Parking (20 spaces per diamond) Nighttime lighting ¹ Buffer	0.18 acre per diamond	2.68	1.0
		Nonpublic	0.07				--		
		Total	0.60				0.80 acre per diamond		
Swimming	Pool	Public	0.015 ^e	Multi-community and community parks	0.13 acre per pool minimum	Bathhouse and concessions Parking (400 square feet per space) Buffer and landscaping	0.13 acre minimum	1.22 minimum	3.0
		Nonpublic	--				0.26 acre minimum		
		Total	0.015				0.70 acre minimum		
Tennis	Court	Public	0.50	Multi-community, community, and neighborhood parks	0.15 acre per court	Parking (2.0 spaces per court) Nighttime lighting ¹ Buffer	0.02 acre per court	0.32	1.0
		Nonpublic	0.10				--		
		Total	0.60				0.15 acre per court		

OBJECTIVE NO. 3

To provide sufficient outdoor recreation facilities to allow the resident population of the Region adequate opportunities to participate in resource-oriented outdoor recreation activities.

PRINCIPLE

Participating in resource-oriented outdoor recreation activities including camping, golf, picnicking, downhill skiing, and swimming provides an opportunity for recreational activity in natural surroundings as well as an opportunity for physical exercise. In addition, family members can participate together in activities such as camping, picnicking, and swimming.

STANDARD

A sufficient number of facilities for participating in intensive resource-oriented outdoor recreation activities should be provided throughout the Region. To meet this standard, the per capita requirements and design criteria for various facilities should be met as follows:

Minimum Per Capita Facility Requirement ^W				Design Standards						Service Radius of Facility (miles) ^x	
Activity	Facility	Owner	Per Capita Requirements (facility per 1,000 residents)	Typical Location of Facility	Facility Requirements	Additional Suggested Support Facilities	Support Facility Requirements	Total Land Requirements (acres per facility)	Resource Requirements		
Camping	Campsite	Public	0.35	Regional and multi-community parks	0.33 acre per campsite	Restrooms - showers Utility hookups Natural area backup lands	--	1.83	Ungrazed wooded area Presence of surface water Suitable topography and soils	25.0	
		Nonpublic	1.47				--				
		Total	1.82				1.5 acres per campsite				
Golf	Regulation 18-hole course	Public	0.013	Regional and multi-community parks	135 acres per course	Clubhouse, parking, and maintenance Practice area Woodland or water areas Buffer	8.0 acres per course	185.00	Suitable topography and soils Presence of surface water Form-giving vegetation desirable	10.0	
		Nonpublic	0.027				5.0 acres per course				
		Total	0.040				35.0 acres per course 2.0 acres per course				
Picnicking	Tables	Public	6.35 ^y	Regional, multi-community, community, and neighborhood parks	0.07 acre per table minimum	Parking Shelters and grills Buffer and parking overflow	0.02 acre per table (1.5 space per table)	0.11	Topography with scenic views Shade trees Presence of surface water desirable Suitable soils	10.0	
		Nonpublic	2.39				--				
		Total	8.74				0.02 acre per table				
Skiing	Developed slope (acres)	Public	0.010	Regional, multi-community, and community parks	1.0 acre per acre of developed slope	Chalet Parking Ski tows (and lights) Buffer and maintenance Landscape	0.13 acre minimum	2.10	Suitable topography and soils (20 percent slope minimum) North or northeast exposure	25.0	
		Nonpublic	0.090				0.25 acre per acre of slope				
		Total	0.100				0.40 acre per acre of slope 0.40 acre per acre of slope 0.35 acre per acre of slope				
Swimming	Beach (linear feet)	Public Nonpublic Total	Major Inland Lakes	Regional, multi-community, and community parks	40 square feet per linear foot (average)	Parking Bathhouse-concessions Buffer areas	0.2 acre per acre of beach	-- ^z	Natural beach Good water quality	10.0	
			Lake Michigan				6				16
							12				--
			18	16			0.10 acre minimum				
							10 square feet per linear foot				

OBJECTIVE NO. 4

To provide sufficient outdoor recreation facilities to allow the resident population of the Region adequate opportunities to participate in trail-related and other extensive land-based outdoor recreation activities.

PRINCIPLE

Participating in extensive land-based outdoor recreation activities including biking, hiking, horseback riding, nature study, scenic driving, cross country skiing, and snowmobiling provides opportunities for contact with natural, cultural, historic, and scenic features. In addition, these activities can increase an individual's understanding of the environment and potential pressures on the environment. Similar to intensive resource-orientated activity, family members can participate together in extensive land-based recreation activities, which serves to strengthen relationships within the family. Participating in activities like biking, hiking, and nature study provides an opportunity to educate younger members of the family in the importance of environmental issues that may become of greater concern as they approach adulthood.

STANDARD

A sufficient number of facilities for participating in land-based outdoor recreation activities should be provided throughout the Region. Public facilities provided for these activities should be located within the linear resource-orientated recreation corridors identified in Objective No. 1. The following per capita standards and design criteria should be met to achieve this standard:

Minimum Per Capita Public Facility Requirements ^{aa}			Design Standards				
Activity	Facility	Per Capita Requirements (linear mile per 1,000 residents)	Typical Location of Facility	Minimum Facility Requirements (acres per linear mile)	Suggested Support Facilities and Backup Lands	Minimum Support Facility Requirements (acres per linear mile)	Resource Requirements
Biking	Route Trail	-- ^{bb} 0.16	Scenic roadways Recreation corridor	-- 1.45	Route markers Backup lands with resource amenities	-- 24.2	-- Diversity of scenic, historic, natural, and cultural features Suitable topography (5 percent slope average maximum) and soils
Hiking	Trail	0.16	Recreation corridor	0.73	Backup lands with resource amenities	24.2	Diversity of scenic, historic, natural, and cultural features Suitable topography and soils
Horseback Riding	Trail	0.05	Recreation corridor Regional Park	1.21	Backup lands with resource amenities	24.2	Diversity of scenic, historic, natural, and cultural features Suitable topography and soils
Nature Study	Center	One per County	Regional, multi-community, and community parks Recreation corridor	--	Interpretive center building Parking	--	Diversity of natural features, including a variety of plant and animal species Suitable topography and soils
	Trail	0.02	Regional, multi-community, and community parks	0.73	Backup lands with resource amenities	24.2	Diversity of natural features, including a variety of plant and animal species Suitable topography and soils
Scenic Driving	Route	-- ^{cc}	Scenic roadways Recreation corridor	--	Route markers	--	--
Cross Country Skiing	Trail	0.02	Recreation corridor Regional and multi-community parks	0.97	Backup lands with resource amenities	24.2	Suitable natural and open areas Rolling topography
Snowmobiling	Trail	0.11	Private lands (leased for public use)	1.45	Backup lands, including resource amenities and open lands	24.2	Suitable natural and open areas Suitable topography (8 percent slope average maximum) and soils

OBJECTIVE NO. 5

To provide sufficient surface water access areas to allow the resident population of the Region adequate opportunities to participate in water-based outdoor recreation activities on major inland lakes and rivers and on Lake Michigan, consistent with safe and enjoyable surface water use and the maintenance of good water quality.

PRINCIPLE

The major inland lakes and rivers of the Region and Lake Michigan provide opportunities for water-based recreation activities, including canoeing, fishing, ice fishing, motorboating, sailing, and water-skiing, which may involve unique forms of physical exercise or simply provide opportunities for rest and relaxation within an attractive natural setting. Participating in such activities requires the general public to have access to major inland lakes and rivers and Lake Michigan.

STANDARDS

1. Access sites available for use by the general public on streams and major lakes (50 acres or larger) should be provided in accordance with the requirements established by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources in Sections NR 1.90 and NR 1.91 of the *Wisconsin Administrative Code*.
2. Access sites with parking should be provided on major streams throughout the Region. The maximum interval between access points on major canoeable streams^{dd} should be 10 miles.

OBJECTIVE NO. 6

To preserve sufficient high-quality open space lands for protection of the underlying and sustaining natural resource base and enhancement of the social and economic well-being, environmental quality, and biodiversity^{ee} of the Region.

PRINCIPLE

Ecological balance and natural beauty are primary elements to sustaining a healthy environment and maintaining the social and economic well-being of the Region. Preserving the most significant aspects of the natural resource base, that is, primary environmental corridors, natural areas and critical species habitat sites, and prime agricultural lands, contributes to sustaining the ecological balance, natural beauty, and economic well-being of the Region.

A. PRIMARY ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDORS

PRINCIPLE

The primary environmental corridors are a composite of the best individual elements of the natural resource base including lakes, streams, rivers, and their associated floodplains and riparian buffers; woodlands, wetlands, plant and wildlife habitat; areas of groundwater discharge and recharge; organic soils, rugged terrain, and high relief topography; and significant geological formations and physiographic features. Protecting these elements of the natural resource base reduces flood damage, abates soil erosion, protects water supplies, cleans the air, enhances wildlife population, preserves biological diversity, and provides continued opportunities for scientific, educational, and recreational activities.

STANDARD

All remaining nonurban lands within the designated primary environmental corridors in the Region should be preserved in essentially natural open uses.

B. NATURAL AREAS AND CRITICAL SPECIES HABITATS

PRINCIPLE

Natural areas and critical species habitats are important in a number of ways - including economically, because they support advances in agriculture and medicine; functionally, because they enhance surface water and groundwater quality, minimize erosion, and enhance air quality; educationally; recreationally; aesthetically; in basic scientific research; and in maintaining biological and genetic diversity. In a less tangible but equally important way, natural areas and critical species habitats contribute to the overall quality of life for the Region's residents.

STANDARDS

The remaining natural areas and critical species habitat areas should be preserved.

C. PRIME AGRICULTURAL LANDS

PRINCIPLE

Prime agricultural lands, in addition to providing food and fiber, can supply significant wildlife habitat; contribute to maintaining an ecological balance between plants and animals; offer locations close to urban centers for producing certain food commodities that may require nearby population concentrations for efficient distribution; provide opportunities for agricultural and agriculture-related employment; provide open spaces that give form and structure to urban development; and serve to maintain the natural beauty and unique cultural heritage of the Region.

STANDARDS

1. Prime agricultural lands should be preserved for agricultural use.
2. Agricultural lands surrounding adjacent areas with high-value natural resource, educational, or recreational attributes should be considered for preservation to provide a buffer between such resources and urban development.

OBJECTIVE NO. 7

To satisfy outdoor recreation and related open space needs in an efficient and economical way.

PRINCIPLE

The total resources of the Region are limited and any undue investment in park and open space lands must occur at the expense of other public investment.

STANDARD

The sum total of all expenditures required to meet park demands and open space needs should be minimized.

Footnotes

^a*Facilities for intensive nonresource-oriented recreational activities in urban areas are commonly located in community or neighborhood school outdoor recreation sites. These facilities often provide a substitute for facilities usually located in parks by providing opportunities for participating in intensive nonresource-orientated activities. It is important to note, however, that school outdoor recreation sites do not generally contain natural resource areas, which provide space for passive recreational use.*

^b*Identifying a maximum service radius for each park type is intended to provide another guideline to assist in determining park needs and to assure that each resident of the Region has ready access to the variety of outdoor recreation facilities commonly located in parks, including space and facilities for both active and passive outdoor recreational use.*

^c*Identifying a maximum service radius for each school site is intended to assist in determining active outdoor recreation facility requirements and to assure that each urban resident has ready access to the types of active intensive nonresource-oriented facilities commonly located in school recreation areas.*

^d*For regional and multi-community parks, which generally provide facilities for resource-orientated outdoor recreation activities for the total population of the Region, the minimum per capita acreage requirements apply to the total resident population of the Region. For community and neighborhood parks, which generally provide facilities for intensive nonresource-oriented outdoor recreation activities primarily in urban areas, the minimum per capita acreage requirements apply to the resident population of the Region residing in urban areas.*

^e*Urban areas are defined as areas containing a closely spaced network of minor streets that include concentrations of residential, commercial, industrial, governmental, or institutional land uses having a minimum total area of 160 acres and a minimum population of 500 people. These areas are usually incorporated and served by sanitary sewerage systems. These areas have been further classified into the following categories: Mixed-Use City Center (urban land with at least 18.0 dwelling units per net residential acre), Mixed-Use Traditional Neighborhood (urban land with at least 7.0 to 17.9 dwelling units per net residential acre), Small Lot Traditional Neighborhood (urban land with at least 4.4 to 6.9 dwelling units per net residential acre), Medium Lot Neighborhood (urban land with at least 2.3 to 4.3 dwelling units per net residential acre), and Large Lot Neighborhood (urban land with at least 0.7 to 2.2 dwelling units per net residential acre).*

^f*For public school sites, which generally provide facilities for intensive nonresource-orientated outdoor recreation activities, the minimum per capita acreage requirements apply to the resident population of the Region residing in urban areas.*

^g*Regional parks are defined as large outdoor recreation sites with a multi-county service area. Such parks rely heavily on natural resources for their recreational value and character, and provide opportunities for participating in a wide variety of resource-oriented outdoor recreation activities.*

^h*A passive activity area is defined as an area within an outdoor recreation site that provides an opportunity for such leisurely recreational activities as walking, rest and relaxation, and informal picnicking. These areas are generally located in parks or in urban open space sites, and usually consist of a landscaped area with mowed lawn, shade trees, and benches.*

ⁱMulti-community parks are defined as intermediate size sites having a Countywide or multi-community service area. Similar to regional parks, these sites rely on natural resources for their recreational value and character. Multi-community parks, however, usually provide a smaller variety of recreational facilities and have smaller areas devoted to any given activity.

^jIn general, each resident of the Region should reside within 10 miles of a regional or multi-community park. It should be noted, however, that within urban areas (population of 40,000 or greater) each urban resident should reside within four miles of a regional or multi-community park.

^kCommunity parks are defined as intermediate size parks having a multi-neighborhood service area. These parks rely more on the development characteristics of the service area than on natural resource amenities for location.

^lThe need for a community park in urban areas can be met by the presence of a regional or multi-community park. Each resident of an urban area with a population of 7,500 or greater should be within two miles of a community, multi-community, or regional park.

^mThe service radius of school outdoor recreation sites, for park and open space planning purposes, is governed primarily by individual outdoor recreation facilities within the school site. For example, school outdoor recreation sites that provide facilities such as playfields, playgrounds, and basketball goals typically have a service radius of 0.5 mile, which is the maximum service radius assigned to such facilities (see standards presented under Objective 2). As another example, school outdoor recreation sites that provide tennis courts and softball diamonds typically have a service radius of one mile, which is the maximum service radius assigned to such facilities (see standards presented under Objective 2). It is important to note that areas that offer space for passive recreational use are generally not provided at school outdoor recreation sites and therefore community and neighborhood school sites generally are not used when applying community and neighborhood park accessibility standards.

ⁿNeighborhood parks are defined as small sites that have a neighborhood as the service area. These sites usually provide facilities for intensive nonresource-oriented outdoor recreation activities and are generally located in urban areas. Recreation lands at the neighborhood level should ideally be provided through a joint community-school district venture, with the facilities and recreational land area required to be provided on one site available to serve the recreation demands of both the school student and resident neighborhood populations. Using the neighborhood park standard of 1.7 acres per 1,000 residents and the school standard of 1.6 acres per 1,000 residents, a total of 3.3 acres per 1,000 residents or approximately 21 acres of recreation lands in a typical small lot traditional or medium lot (medium-density) neighborhood would be provided. These acreage standards relate to lands required to provide recreation facilities typically located in a neighborhood and are exclusive of the school building site and associated parking area and any additional natural resource areas that may be incorporated into the design of the park site such as drainageways and associated stormwater retention basins, areas of poor soils, and floodplains.

^oThe maximum service radius of neighborhood parks is governed primarily by the population density in the vicinity of the park. In Mixed-use City Center and Mixed-Use Traditional Neighborhood (high-density) urban areas, each resident should reside within 0.5 mile of a neighborhood park; in Small Lot Traditional Neighborhood and Medium Lot Neighborhood (medium density) urban areas, each resident should reside within 0.75 mile of a neighborhood park; and in Large Lot Neighborhood (low-density) urban areas, each resident should reside within 1.0 mile of a neighborhood park. It should be noted that the need for a neighborhood park can also be met by a regional, multi-community, or community park within the 0.5, 0.75, or 1.0 mile service radii in these areas. Further, it should be noted that in applying the service radius criterion for neighborhood parks, only multi-use parks five acres or greater in area should be considered as satisfying the maximum service radius standard. Such park sites generally provide areas that offer space for passive recreational uses, as well as facilities that provide opportunities for active recreational uses.

^pA recreation corridor is defined as a publicly owned continuous linear expanse of land that is generally located within scenic areas or areas of natural, cultural, or historical interest and provides opportunities for participation in trail-oriented outdoor recreational activities especially through trails designated for activities such as biking, hiking, horseback riding, nature study, and cross country skiing.

^qFacilities for intensive nonresource-oriented outdoor recreation activities generally serve urban areas. The minimum per capita standards for facilities offering these activities, therefore, apply to the total resident population in each urban area of the Region.

^rFor each facility offering an intensive nonresource-oriented activity, the service radius indicates the maximum distance a participant should have to travel from their home to participate in the corresponding activity.

^sEach urban area having a population of 2,500 or greater should have at least one baseball diamond.

^tSupport facilities such as lighting, concessions, and bleachers generally should not be provided in neighborhood parks. These sites typically do not contain sufficient acreage to allow an adequate buffer between such support facilities and surrounding residences.

^uEach urban area should have at least one ice-skating rink.

^vEach urban area having a population of 7,500 or greater should have one public swimming pool or beach.

^wFacilities for intensive resource-orientated activities serve both rural and urban residents of the Region. The minimum per capita requirements for facilities for intensive resource-oriented activities, therefore, apply to the total resident population of the Region.

^xParticipants in intensive resource-oriented recreational activities travel relatively long distances from their homes. The approximate service radius indicates the normal maximum distance a participant in the respective resource-oriented activity should have to travel from their home to participate in the corresponding activity.

^yThe allocation of the 6.35 picnic tables per 1,000 residents to publicly owned parks is as follows: 3.80 tables per 1,000 residents of the Region to be located in regional and multi-community parks to meet the resource-oriented picnicking standard for the Region and 2.55 tables per 1,000 residents of urban areas in the Region to be located in community and neighborhood parks to meet local picnicking standard for urban areas of the Region.

^zA picnic area is commonly provided adjacent to a swimming beach as a support facility. Thus, the total amount of acreage required for support facilities must be determined on a site-by-site basis.

^{aa}Both urban and rural residents of the Region participate in trail-related activities. Thus, minimum per capita requirements for trails apply to the total resident population of the Region.

^{bb}Bike routes are located on existing public roadways; therefore, no requirement is indicated.

^{cc}Scenic driving routes are located on existing public roadways; therefore, no requirement is provided. However, a recreation corridor may provide a uniquely suitable area for the development of a system of scenic driving routes.

^{dd}Major canoeable streams are defined as those streams that have a minimum width of 50 feet over a distance of at least 10 miles.

^{ee}Biodiversity refers to the number and abundance of animal and plant species, their genetic composition and variability, and the ecological connection between and among species.

Source: SEWRPC.