

# RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE

## Overall Recreation

### Policies

- 1 Consider health benefits, impacts, and service population needs in the design, location, and prioritization of County parks, trails, and open space.
- 2 Minimize park, trail, and open space operation and maintenance costs through efficient location, design, and construction.
- 3 Design new facilities, retrofits and additions to improve public safety and enforcement (defensible space), sustainability, economic efficiency, and connectivity.

## Parks

### Policies

- 1 Use the following combined park Levels of Service and definitions:
  - a) Urban – 2.5 acres per 1,000 population by 2035.
  - b) Rural – 6.0 acres per 1,000 population by 2035.

#### Urban Park Definitions

Class	Optimal Size	Critical Services and Facilities
Neighborhood	10 acres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Day Use Only</li> <li>• Family/small group activities</li> <li>• Picnics</li> <li>• Exercise</li> <li>• General play</li> </ul>
Community	30 acres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Day / Evening Use</li> <li>• Small recreation centers (20,000 square feet optimum size)</li> <li>• Small day/night sports complex (4 fields maximum)</li> <li>• Outdoor play pool or convertible indoor/outdoor lap pool</li> <li>• Community events for less than 1,000 participants</li> </ul>
Regional	250 acres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Day / Evening Use</li> <li>• Large recreation centers (20,000+ sq. ft.)</li> <li>• Large day/night sports complex (more than 4 fields)</li> <li>• Aquatic complex with indoor and outdoor pools</li> <li>• Regional events for more than 1,000 people</li> </ul>
Special Use	60 acres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use Varies</li> <li>• Fairgrounds</li> <li>• Equestrian facilities</li> <li>• Livestock facilities</li> <li>• Shooting facilities</li> <li>• Nature preserves</li> <li>• Museums</li> <li>• Public Art</li> </ul>

## Rural Park Definitions

Class	Initial Size	Optimal Size	<u>Critical Services and Facilities</u>
Rural	2.5 acres	10 acres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Day / Evening Use</li> <li>• Small recreation centers (20,000 square feet maximum)</li> <li>• Small day/night sports complex (4 fields maximum)</li> <li>• Outdoor play pool or convertible indoor/outdoor lap pool</li> <li>• Community events for less than 1,000 participants</li> </ul>
Special Use (applies to total Rural area)	5 acres	25 acres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fairgrounds</li> <li>• Equestrian facilities</li> <li>• Livestock facilities</li> <li>• BMX Track</li> </ul>

- 2 Meet the following park distributions by 2035:
  - a) Urban: Neighborhood 30%; Community 15%; Regional 40%; Special Use 15%.
  - b) Rural: Rural Community 80%; Special Use 20%.
- 3 Provide park facilities in an efficient and cost-effective manner, with all potential costs for acquisition, construction, O & M, and park safety factored into the budget for each new park.
- 4 Support public/private partnerships for provision, maintenance, and operation of park facilities.
- 5 Partner with other jurisdictions and agencies for joint use and co-location of public facilities where practical.
- 6 Ensure park districts effectively meet community service needs.
- 7 Locate and develop parks based on consistent criteria.

## Trails Policies

- 1 Recreational trails should be located on public land (or easements) along natural washes, flood control facilities, and public utility corridors.
- 2 Locate trailheads to encourage multiple use and access to public lands.
- 3 Provide interconnectivity to trails in other municipalities and federal lands where appropriate.
- 4 Locate equestrian trails to promote connection to similar facilities on federal lands.
- 5 In urban RNP areas, locate equestrian trails on streets built to rural standards and discourage development of equestrian trails on arterial and collector streets.
- 6 Work with communities and State and Federal agencies to plan and construct OHV trails where appropriate.

## Open Space

### Policies

- 1 Recreational open space should be located on public land (or easements).
- 2 Provide interconnectivity to open space in other municipalities and federal lands where appropriate.
- 3 Limit motorized vehicle use on open space in air quality non-attainment areas.
- 4 Indicate open space areas in County Land Use Plans.
- 5 Pursue funding sources and/or authority to acquire and maintain open space.
- 6 Open space lands should be acquired to serve one or more of the following specific purposes: conservation of natural resources and environmental features; provision of opportunities for outdoor education and recreation; shaping of the urban form; provision of trail corridors; and public protection from natural hazards.
- 7 Neighborhood open space areas should tie into other open spaces to create an open space network.
- 8 Consider support for a regional authority to manage and fund the operation and maintenance of open space facilities.