

CHAPTER 30

Urban Local Outdoor Recreation Facilities*

A. NATURE AND COMPOSITION OF FACILITY

1. DESCRIPTION

(a) *Physical Characteristics*

This chapter covers local, publicly owned facilities having value for outdoor recreation and park purposes. It includes lands and outdoor recreation equipment and structures administered by regional, county, city, or special district bodies. It excludes State and Federal facilities, and agricultural recreation areas which are covered in other chapters. It also excludes large county-owned forests and lands of special non-recreation districts which are not used primarily for recreation purposes.

Among the recreation facilities considered in the study are public parks and recreation areas, playgrounds, ball diamonds, bathing beaches, outdoor swimming pools, tennis courts, recreation buildings, and indoor recreation centers. Among those buildings specifically designed for community recreation are arts and crafts centers, cultural centers, centers for older adults, sports buildings, and teen centers.

(b) *Services Rendered*

County and city parks serve the outdoor recreation needs of city and county residential areas within from one-half to 2 hours drive from home. The specific service area of a park will depend on its character and location. Playgrounds and neighborhood recreation parks may serve an area within a radius of one-eighth to one-fourth mile, or generally the equivalent of an elementary school district. District parks serve several neighborhoods, or an area comparable to junior or senior high school districts. Large urban and suburban parks serve the whole community, as do special facilities, such as golf courses and bathing beaches. Some county and large metropolitan parks are of sufficient size and quality to serve interurban or regional needs.

In addition to serving as facilities for outdoor recreation, local parks have a broader value to the community. They may serve to preserve scenic, historic, and natural resources. They may also be used to promote the formation of distinct cohesive communities, provide relief from extensive urbanization, or open up congested city centers so that buildings or landmarks can be viewed.

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