

Existing Recreation Standards – Summary Table

The following table provides a brief summation of the existing guidelines and standards in the existing Recreation Element.

Recreation Facility	Basis	Guideline	Standards
Neighborhood Park	Population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 acres or 5 acres (adjacent to elementary school) per 3,500-5,000 • Within ½ mile radius 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design/facilities based on population and use characteristics • Typical elements: play & picnic areas, multi-purpose courts, multi-purpose lawn areas
Community Park	Population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20 acres or 13 acres (adjacent to Junior H.S.) per 18,000-25,000 within 1½ mile radius • Swimming pools within parks per 50,000 residents within 1½ to 2 miles • Recreation Center per 18,000-25,000 within 1½ mile radius 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilities to supplement neighborhood parks • Based on population and use characteristics • Typical elements: Athletic fields, multi-purpose courts, recreation building, lawn acres, play, picnic areas, & comfort stations
Regional Parks/Open Spaces	Resource	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Size based on specific resource, expected use, location, & available land 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Located at site of distinctive scenic, natural, or cultural feature • Intended for citywide use • Developed amenities should not impair feature or resource • Portions may be devoted to neighborhood and community park needs

Although the ratios associated with population-based parks are intended to serve as a mechanism for guiding and evaluating the adequacy of parks, they are not always used that way. The acreage developed for recreation facilities in the older urbanized areas of the City are more likely to fall below the existing guidelines. Several factors, including the lack of guidelines and standards when the communities developed and the displacement that would occur with new facilities, play a part in communities where a deficit exists. Understandably, a fixed ratio of resident population to park acreage is the simplest way for communities to compare park facilities throughout the City. Incorporating the less tangible components of accessibility, supervision, and types of facilities requires a subjective analysis provided by individuals experienced in the management of recreation facilities.