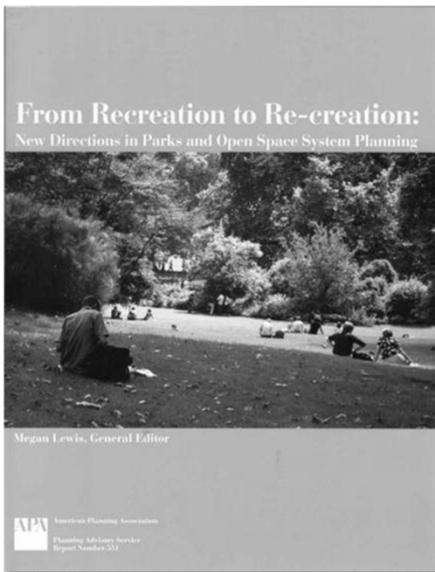


# Parks and Recreation through a Planner's "Lens"



David Barth PhD, CPRP, AICP, RLA  
david@barthassoc.com

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2011 APWA International Public Works Congress & Exposition

## New alternatives for calculating Parks and Recreation Levels of Service

David Barth, ASLA, AICP, CPRP  
Principal, Design + Planning  
AECOM  
West Palm Beach, Florida  
Presenter, 2011 APWA Congress

Public works departments with responsibility for their community's parks and recreation system may be surprised at the lack of Levels of Service (LOS) standards for parks and recreation services. Unlike roads or utilities, there are no universally accepted methods for determining parks LOS. Historically the "standard" mandated one acre of parkland per 1,000 residents, but that has become unrealistic for many communities due to increased suburbanization, densities and land prices. Also, parks and recreation systems are becoming more complex; there are no standards for facilities such as bike trails, spray fountains and dog parks.

According to the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA), the purpose of establishing Levels of Service standards is to assure "equal opportunity to share in the basic areas of services implicit in the standard." Five measures to evaluate "equal opportunity" include:

- Acres per population
- Access distance or travel time
- Facilities per population
- Quality of the facilities
- Availability of programs

While each measure is necessary to comprehensively assess LOS, no single measure is sufficient by itself.

**Acres per Population (Average LOS)** – This LOS measure is based on the premise that every resident, neighborhood and community should have an equal or similar allocation of park land. It remains the most common technique of measuring "equal opportunity" for parks systems in the United States, but varies widely between communities, according to *Inside City Parks*, the LOS in Miami is 3.6 acres/1,000 population, for example, while the LOS in Phoenix is 0.313 acres/1,000.

A simple technique for establishing an Average LOS is to benchmark against similar and/or desirable communities. The community must first determine

The Palm Coast Parks Master Plan recommends an increase in the city's Average Level of Service from 0.4 acres/1,000 to 10.4 acres/1,000.

46 APWA Reporter September 2011

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# High Performance Public Spaces® A TOOL FOR BUILDING GREAT COMMUNITIES

By David Barth

In the Fall 2015 FRPA Journal, President Jack Karbys discussed the new FRPA Strategic Framework to "communicate our relevance, expertise and value in building healthier, prosperous and environmentally sustainable communities through great parks, programs, and public spaces." The ambitious and far-reaching plan includes more than 100 initiatives under the four "pillars" of health, environment, economic impact, community building. The ultimate goal is "to make FRPA and our profession the connective tissue that builds great communities through great parks and programs."

There is a great deal of evidence supporting the contention that well planned, designed, and managed parks and recreation systems contribute to community sustainability. Parks and public spaces have been credited with generating such health and well-being as providing places for people to meet, exercise, exchange information, attend events, conduct business and reconnect the community. Parks provide educational sites as well as for fun. They generally enhance health by cleaning the air, providing water quality, providing food, and preserving natural scenery, and providing wildlife habitat. Additionally they generate economic benefits, such as increasing property value, creating jobs, and improving neighborhoods. Parks and public spaces are also credited with creating order, reducing crime, and shaping the form and beauty.

As with all ambitious plans, implementation is the greatest challenge in achieving the goals and initiatives outlined in the FRPA Strategic Plan. Research suggests that the most effective implementation occurs at the local level. Three actions that local parks and recreation agencies can take immediately to help implement the plan are to 1) plan, design and manage their parks and open spaces as High Performance Public Spaces (HPPS), 2) plan, design and manage their parks and open spaces as part of an integrated public realm, and 3) create a culture that fosters the adoption of innovation in the planning and design of public spaces.

In my recent research at the University of Florida, I defined a HPPS as "any publicly accessible space that generates economic, environmental and social sustainability benefits for

The full article is available at <https://www.planning.org/pas/memo/2016/may/>

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May/June 2016

## PAS MEMO

### Alternatives for Determining Parks and Recreation Level of Service

By David Barth, PhD, AICP

Public agencies use Level of Service (LOS) standards to plan and monitor the quality of services provided to their constituents. For example, transportation planners use roadway LOS to categorize traffic flow and assign "grades" to roadways (e.g., A, B, C, etc.) based on speed, density, and other performance measures. Similarly, utility departments and agencies use LOS standards to characterize the performance of various levels of potable water and wastewater systems.

In contrast, parks and recreation system planning has historically been more art than science. Unlike other elements of the public realm, there are no nationally accepted standards for determining ideal levels of service for parks, indoor recreation centers, athletic fields, trails, and other recreation facilities.

The set of national guidelines published by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) in 1996 encourages communities to develop their own LOS standards rather than rely on any national standard. A standard for parks and recreation cannot be universal, nor can one city be compared with another even though they are similar in many respects (Merris and Hall 1996, 19).

Each city or county must determine the appropriate LOS required to meet the specific needs of its residents. Peter Harnik (Harnik 2010, 5) summarizes the complexities of parks planning in 2010 as:

A major problem for [park] advocates and managers is that parks seem relatively simple and straightforward. People frequently use "I's not rocket science, it's just a park" for readers, you need to be good at math. Parks require math plus horticulture, landscape architecture, sociology and communication. They are immensely complicated.

Determining LOS standards for parks and recreation systems can be challenging for several reasons. One is the many different

ways in which parks and recreation systems can be measured. Typical metrics may address parkland acreage, numbers of recreation facilities, distance to parks and facilities, quality of parks and facilities, operating costs, revenues, or other factors. In addition, LOS metrics can differ between various components of a parks system, for example, LOS may be measured differently for a neighborhood park than a tournament sports facility. Appropriate LOS standards may also differ based on the community context — whether the setting is urban, suburban, or rural.

The purpose of this PAS Memo is to assist planners in determining the most appropriate LOS metrics to use for their parks and recreation systems, collecting the necessary data, and developing appropriate LOS standards that meet their community-specific needs.

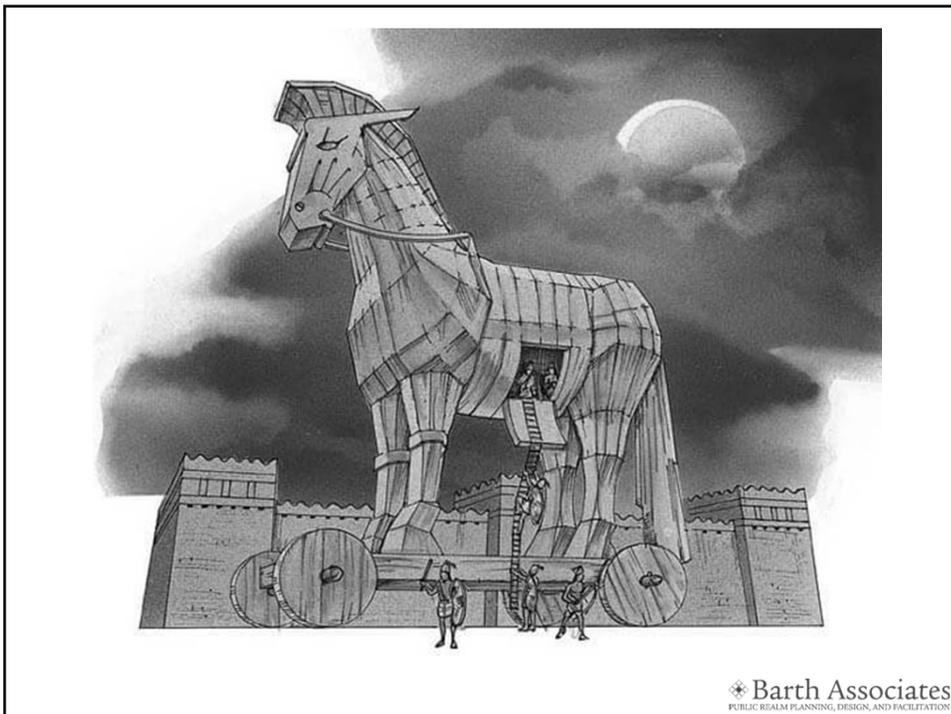
**Overview of Parks and Recreation LOS**  
Parks and recreation LOS standards are used in a variety of ways. For example, a LOS analysis can be used to help determine community needs and priorities in conjunction with other techniques such as surveys, interviews, focus group meetings, site visits, public workshops, social media, and online forums. LOS standards can be used to help determine if parkland, facilities, programs, and funding are distributed equitably across geographic, political, and socioeconomic boundaries.

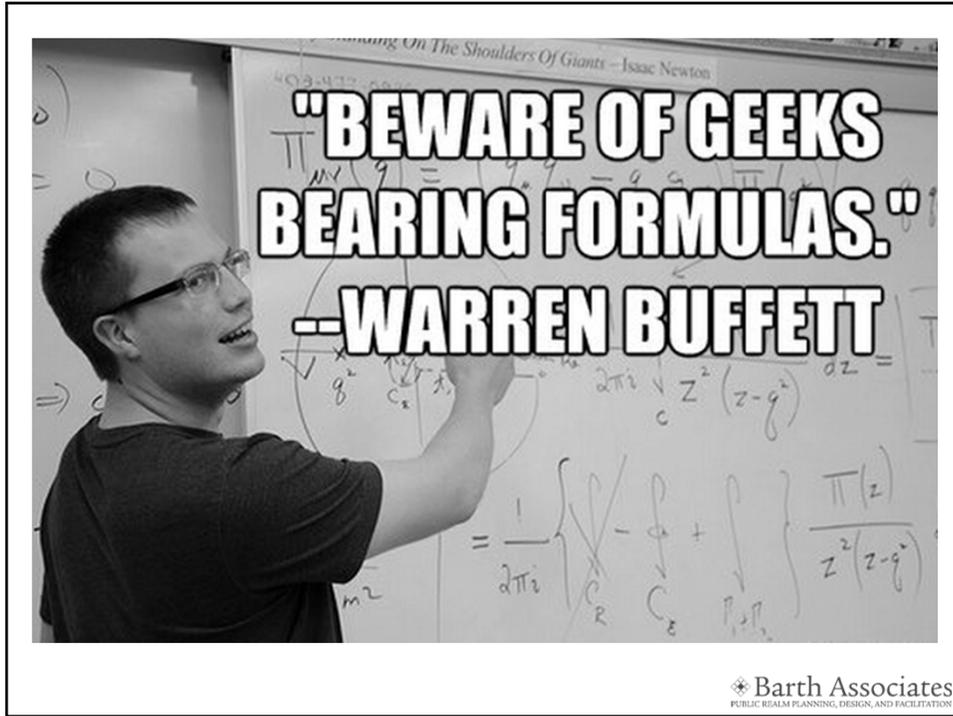
In long-range planning, LOS standards can help planners determine the general size and location of proposed new parks and recreation facilities needed to accommodate anticipated growth. And land development codes and policies (comprehensive plans, land development codes, impact fees, etc.) incorporate LOS standards to help determine the "fair share" of parks and recreation capital and operating costs to be borne by the developers of new residential or mixed-use projects.

Table 1 describes the most common parks and recreation LOS metrics, followed by a description of each metric.

[www.planning.org/](http://www.planning.org/) Journals on Planning Association

<https://www.planning.org/pas/memo/2016/may/>





## Outline

### **2:45 PARKS PLANNING**

- WHAT DO PLANNERS DO AND THINK ABOUT?
- PARKS PLANNING MODELS
- SUBSYSTEMS AND SERVICE DELIVERY MODELS
- PARK CLASSIFICATIONS
- LEVEL-OF-SERVICE METRICS
- HIGH PERFORMANCE PUBLIC SPACES

### **3:45 GROUP EXERCISE**

### **4:45 DISCUSSION**

**WHAT DO PLANNERS AND LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS DO AND THINK ABOUT?**

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“Concept”?

**PARKS PROFESSIONAL** –  
an idea or theory that can be  
tested or piloted to determine  
feasibility

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## “Concept”?

**PARKS PROFESSIONAL** – an idea or theory that can be tested or piloted to determine feasibility

**PLANNER** – a broad but organized arrangement of ideas, vision or strategy

**LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT** – a design direction for the development of a project or site

## “Program”?

**PARKS PROFESSIONAL** - an activity providing a service or experience

**PLANNER** – a specific plan or design

**LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT** - the combined design elements or features comprising a project



## What Planners and Landscape Architects Do



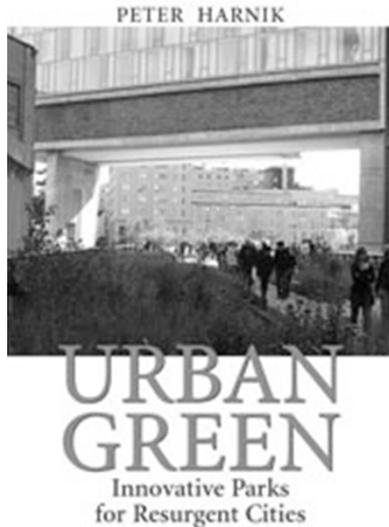

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## Planners' Perspectives

- Residents' Needs and Priorities
- Programs
- Capital Improvements
- Trends
- Operations and Maintenance
- Funding, Fiscal Sustainability
- Political Priorities
- Level-of-Service
- Comprehensive Plan Goals
- Service-Delivery Models
- Mission, Role
- Branding
- Partnerships
- Staffing
- Land Development Codes
- Resource Protection
- Impact Fees
- Park Classifications
- Economic Development
- Social Equity
- Environment, Green Infrastructure
- Agency Accreditation
- Cost Recovery
- Aging-in-Place
- Design Standards
- Marketing
- Tourism
- Health and Wellness
- Quality of Life
- Crime, Safety
- Redevelopment


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## Complexity



“...parks seem relatively simple and straight forward. People frequently say, “**It’s not rocket science, it’s just a park.**”

**No! For rockets... you [just] need to be good at math.** Parks require math plus horticulture, hydrology, psychology, sociology and communication. They are immensely complicated.”

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## Hiring a Planning Consultant

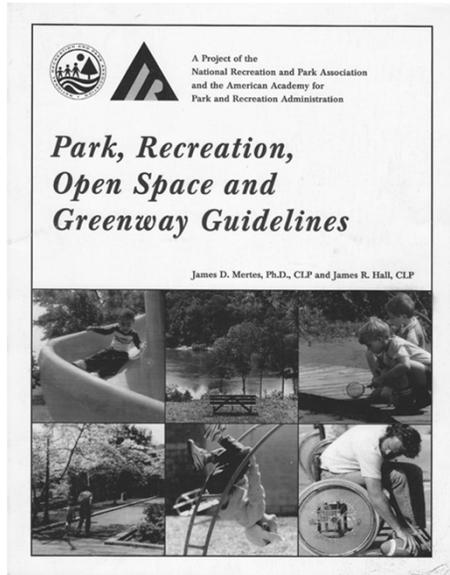
- Determine the need and desired outcome
- Assess the expertise and capacity of in-house staff
- Determine the consulting budget
- Develop a *general* scope of work, desired qualifications
- Issue RFP/RFQ (pros and cons)
- Review proposals, select or shortlist consultant(s)
- Conduct interviews if desired
- Select, refine scope, and negotiate fees

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PROJECT FEE BUDGET														
PROJECT #:														
DATE	23-Sep-16	Rev 1:		Rev 2:				Rev 3:		Rev 5:				
		PRINCIPAL		PM/PLANNER		LITTLE/JOHN		ETC		EDITOR		ADMIN		TOTAL
		\$195		\$125		\$180				\$140		\$50		\$
ACTIVITY		HRS	RATE/HR	HRS	RATE/HR	HRS	RATE/HR	HRS	RATE/HR	HRS	RATE/HR	HRS	RATE/HR	HRS
<b>Phase 1 PROJECT KICKOFF + EXISTING CONDITIONS ANALYSIS</b>														
1.1	Project Management Support + Coordination	14	\$2,730	14	\$1,750		\$0		\$0		\$0		\$0	
1.2	City Staff Kick-Off Meeting	8	\$1,560	4	\$500	6	\$1,080		\$0		\$0		\$0	
1.3	Steering Committee Meetings	20	\$3,900				\$0		\$0		\$0		\$0	
1.4	Existing Plan and Context Review	8	\$1,560	4	\$500		\$0		\$0		\$0		\$0	
1.5	Inventory and Mapping	2	\$390	8	\$1,000		\$0		\$0		\$0		\$0	
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>\$10,140</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>\$3,750</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>\$1,080</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>\$0</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>88</b>
<b>Phase 2 NEEDS ASSESSMENT</b>														
2.4	Online Survey	2	\$390	4	\$500		\$0		\$0		\$0		\$0	
2.3	Statistically Valid Survey	2	\$390	4	\$500		\$0		\$15,000		\$0		\$0	
2.1	Open Space Analysis	2	\$390	2	\$250		\$0		\$0		\$0		\$0	
2.5	Park Visits	8	\$1,560	8	\$1,000	8	\$1,440		\$0		\$0		\$0	
2.7	Stakeholder Interviews/Focus Groups	12	\$2,340	12	\$1,500		\$0		\$0		\$0		\$0	
2.6	Public Outreach Meeting #1	4	\$780	4	\$500		\$0		\$0		\$0		\$400	
2.2	Level of Service Analysis	2	\$390	8	\$1,000		\$0		\$0		\$0		\$0	
2.8	Needs + Priorities Assessment Summary Document	12	\$2,340	4	\$500		\$0		\$15,000	4	\$560		\$0	
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>\$8,580</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>\$5,750</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>\$1,440</b>		<b>15,000</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>\$560</b>		<b>\$0</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Phase 3 VISIONING AND IMPLEMENTATION</b>														
3.1	City Council Presentation	4	\$780	4	\$500		\$0		\$0		\$0		\$0	
3.2	Parks System Visioning Workshop	8	\$1,560	8	\$1,000	8	\$1,440		\$0		\$0		\$0	
3.3	Estimate of Probable Costs	0	\$0	0	\$0	8	\$1,440		\$0		\$0		\$0	
3.4	Implementation Workshop	4	\$780	4	\$500		\$0		\$0		\$0		\$0	
3.5	Public Outreach Meeting #2	4	\$780	4	\$500		\$0		\$0		\$0		\$0	
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>\$3,900</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>\$2,500</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>\$2,880</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>\$0</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>56</b>
<b>Phase 4 Master Plan Document</b>														
4.1	Draft Master Plan Report	12	\$2,340	12	\$1,500	12	\$2,160		\$0	8	\$1,120		\$0	32
4.2	Presentation to City Council	8	\$1,560	4	\$500		\$0		\$0		\$0		\$0	8
4.3	Final Parks and Recreation Master Plan	10	\$1,950	24	\$3,000		\$0		\$0	12	\$1,680		\$0	22
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>\$5,850</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>\$2,160</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>\$2,800</b>		<b>\$0</b>	<b>102</b>
<b>TOTAL FEE</b>		<b>146</b>	<b>\$28,470</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>\$17,000</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>\$7,560</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$15,000</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>\$3,360</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>348</b>
													Subtotal Fee	\$71,790
													Expenses @ 15%	\$7,179
													<b>Total Fee</b>	<b>\$78,969</b>

# PARKS PLANNING MODELS

## No Standards



“A standard for parks and recreation cannot be universal, nor can one city be compared with another even though they are similar in many respects” (Mertes & Hall, p. 59).

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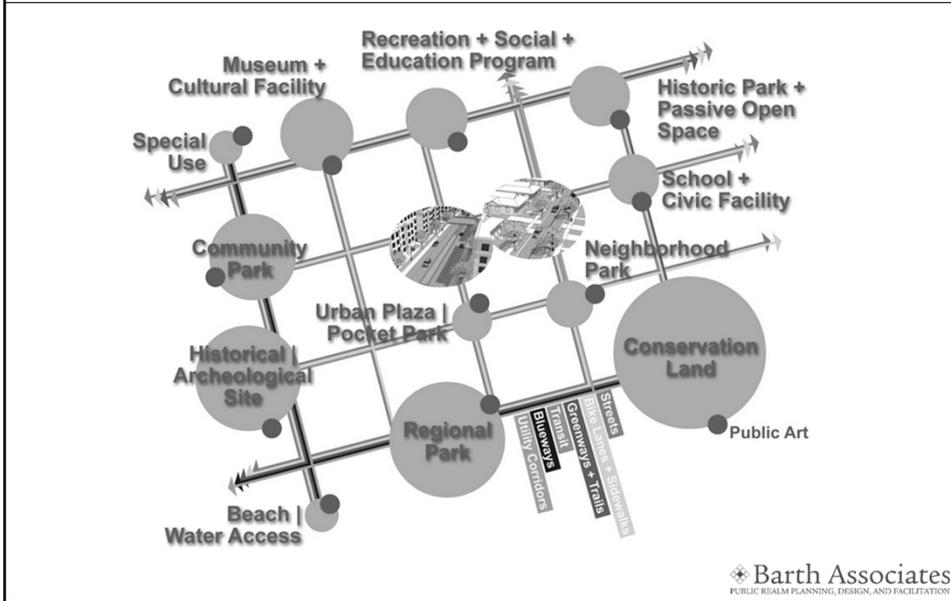
## Definition of the Public Realm

A community's publicly accessible system of streets, sidewalks, parks, civic spaces, historic and cultural areas, natural areas, trails, stormwater treatment ponds, utility corridors and/or other lands owned and managed by city, county, regional, state or federal agencies (Barth, 2014).



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## Parks and Recreation Facilities are Part of an Interconnected Public Realm



## New and Emerging Trends

- Ageing in Place
- Improved Connectivity
- Access to Nature
- Sports Tourism and Travel Ball
- Place-making
- Virtual Reality



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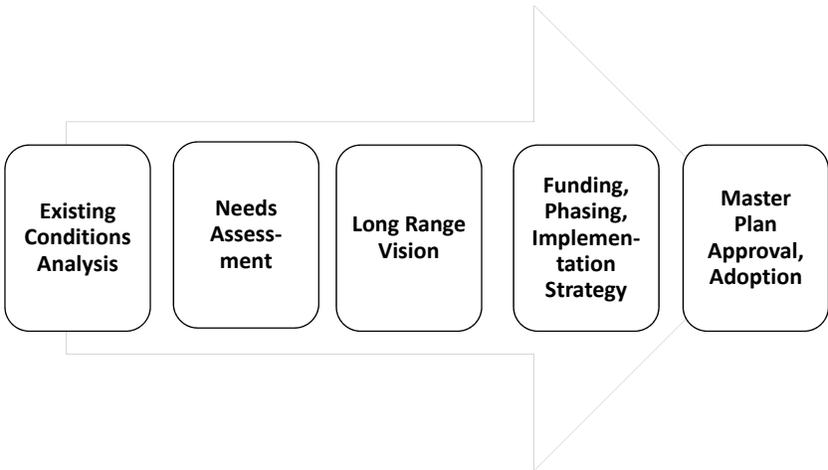
# Placemaking (PPS)



- Key Attributes
- Characteristics
- Metrics

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# Typical Parks and Recreation System Master Planning Process



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# Needs Assessments: Mixed Methods, Triangulated Approach

## Anecdotal:

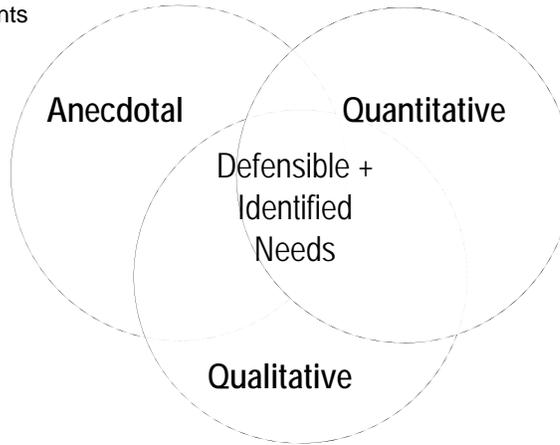
- Previous Planning Documents
- Site Evaluations

## Quantitative:

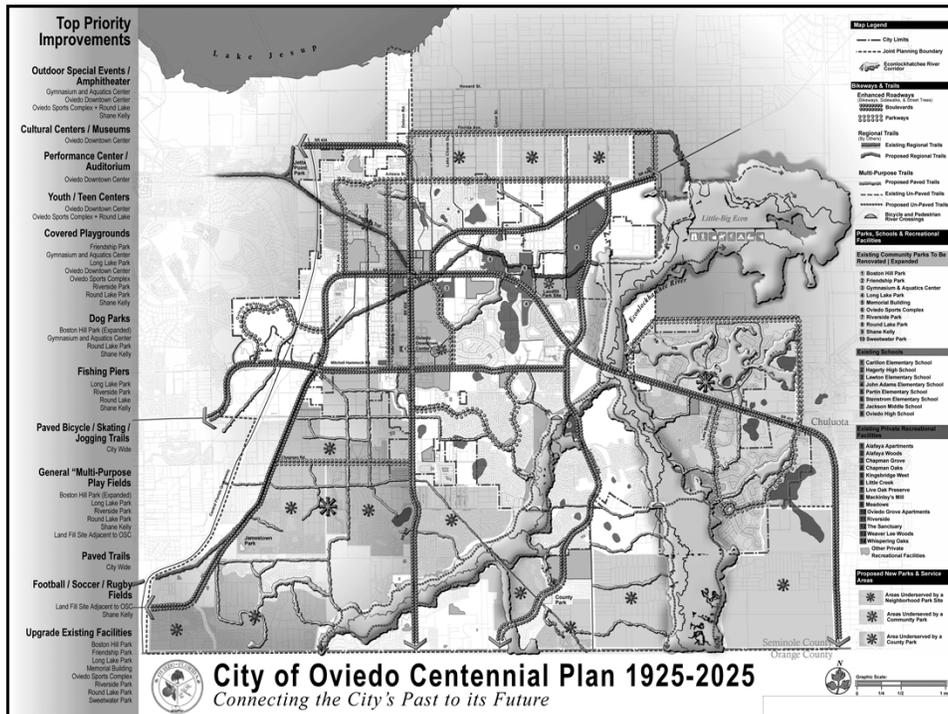
- Statistically-Valid Survey
- Level-of-Service Analysis

## Qualitative:

- Interviews
- Focus Groups
- Public Workshops
- On-line Survey
- Interactive Web Site



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**A 50 YEAR, UNIFYING VISION FOR A LIVABLE, SUSTAINABLE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY**

*"When we build let us think that we build forever. Let it not be for present delight, nor for present use alone; let it be such work as our descendants will thank us for, and let us think, as we lay stones on stones, that a time is to come when those stones will be held sacred because our hands have touched them."*  
-John Ruskin

**PRINCIPLES of a livable, sustainable miami-dade county**

**Equity**  
every resident should be able to enjoy the same quality of public facilities and services, regardless of income, age, race, ability or geographic location

**Access**  
every resident should be able to safely and comfortably walk, bicycle, drive and/or ride public transit from their home to work, school, parks, shopping and community facilities

**Beauty**  
every public space - including streets, parks, plazas and civic buildings - should be designed to be as aesthetically pleasing as possible, and to complement the natural and cultural landscape

**Multiple Benefits**  
every single public facility should generate multiple public benefits to maximize taxpayer dollars

**Seamlessness**  
every element of the County, including transportation, parks, retail areas, schools, civic centers and commercial areas - should be connected without regard to jurisdiction

**Sustainability**  
natural resources - including water, wildlife habitat, and open space - must be protected for future generations

**VISION**

**Great Parks**  
are accessible to everyone regardless of age or ability

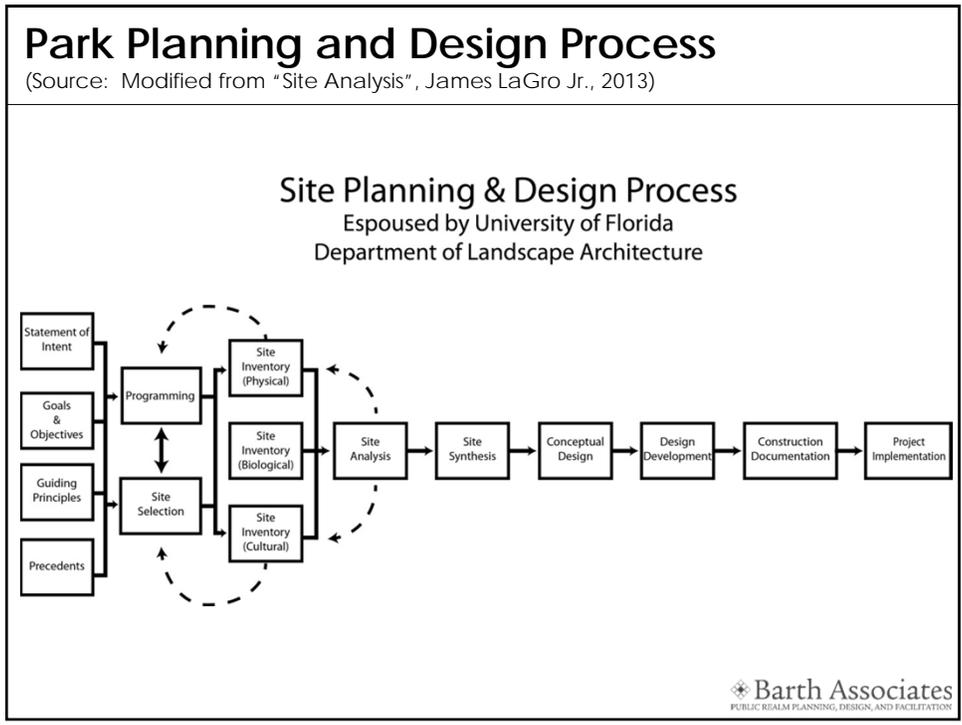
**Great Public Spaces**  
are designed to engage residents

**Great Natural and Cultural Places**  
are planned and managed to balance access and resource protection

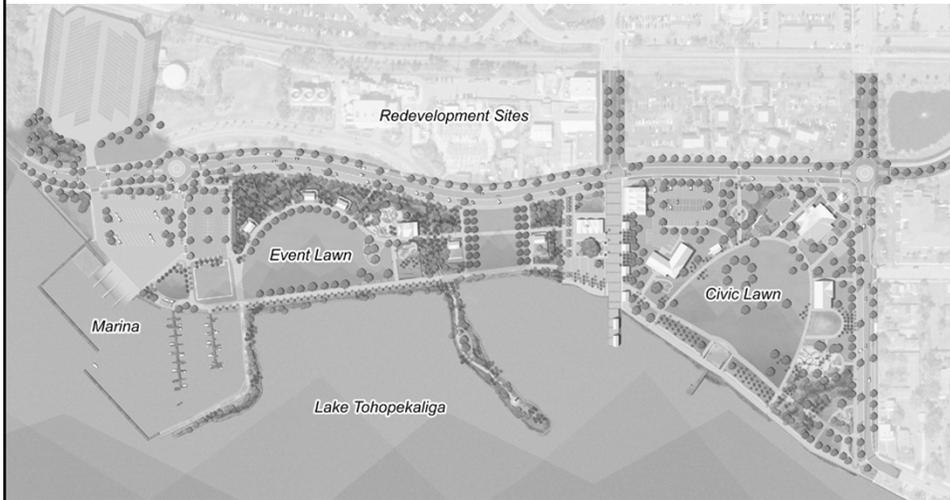
**Great Streets**  
are designed as linear parks

**Great Greenways, Trails and Water Trails**  
connect every resident to places throughout the community

**Miami-Dade County**  
Parks and Open Space System Master Plan



# Kissimmee Lakefront Park Master Plan



Glattig Jackson/ AECOM

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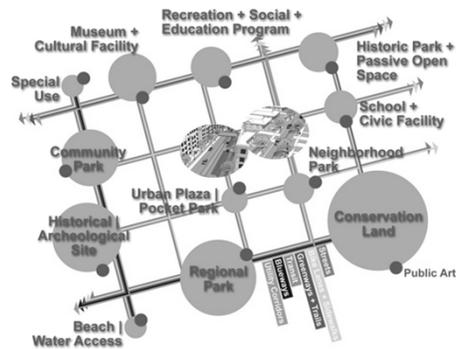


## SUBSYSTEMS & SERVICE DELIVERY MODELS



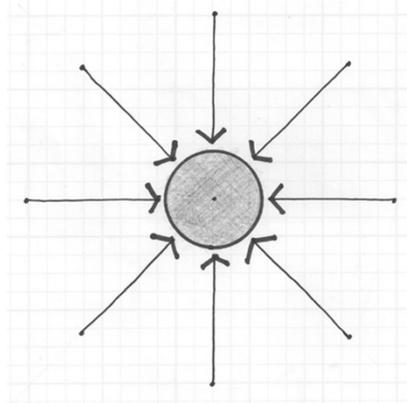
## Potential Subsystems

- Parks
- Recreation Centers
- Athletic Facilities
- Greenways and Trails
- Playgrounds
- Dog Parks
- Aquatics Facilities
- Programs
- Environmental Lands
- Museums, Historic, Cultural Facilities
- Water Access
- Civic Spaces
- Streets, Transit
- Stormwater Facilities, Utility Corridors
- Others



## Subsystem Service Delivery Models

- Centralized (community-wide)
- De-centralized (equity)
- Hub & Spoke
- Venues (multi-centralized)
- Activities-Based (neighborhoods)



**Centralized Model**

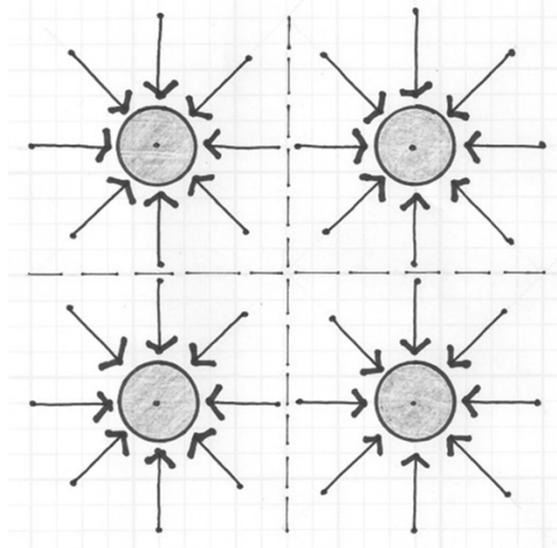
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## Example: Kissimmee Lakefront Park



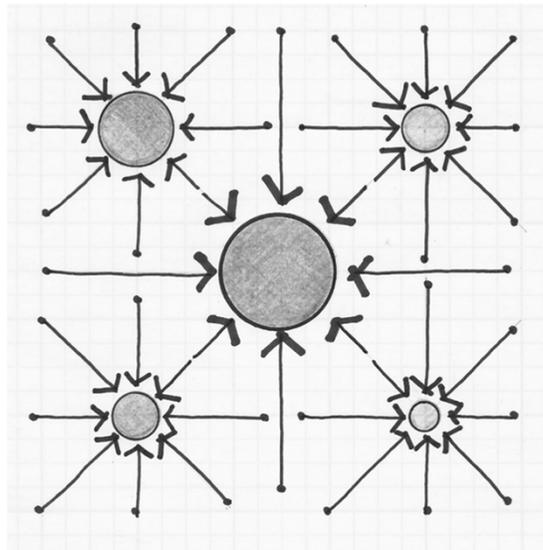
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## De-centralized (Equity) Model



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## Hub & Spoke Model



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## Example: Dog Parks

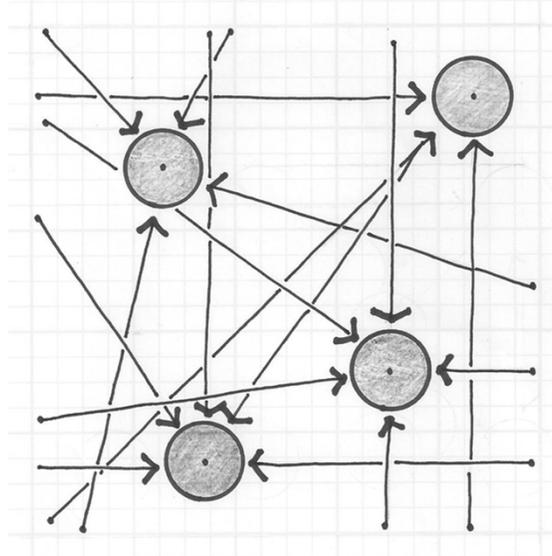


## Dog Parks



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# Venues Model



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## Example: City of Fernandina Beach

**1. The Venues Model for the City of Fernandina Beach**  
The City Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee (PRAC) should work with the City to present their recommendations and needs recommendations to the Board of Commissioners for their review and approval. The PRAC will also coordinate with the City major parks and recreation facilities, this includes, but not limited to, the same community.

**2. The Amelia River Waterfront**  
The Amelia River Waterfront is envisioned as a waterfront park with a variety of amenities including a playground, walking, bicycling, vendor carts, beach volleyball, cafe, and other amenities.

**3. Central Park Transformation**  
Central Park is envisioned as the City's central gathering space. The proposed plan includes a central, multi-purpose park for festivals, special events, promoting and supporting the local business market, an outdoor cafe, and a children's playground.

**4. Peck Center Transformation**  
The existing Peck Center is envisioned as a multi-cultural, multi-functional, educational, and cultural center. The center will provide a variety of programming, events, and services to the community, including a central plaza and playground area.

**5. Sports Complex Expansion**  
The existing Sports Complex is envisioned as an expanded City of Fernandina Beach Sports Complex, providing opportunities for youth sports, fitness, and recreation. The center will include a central plaza and playground area.

**City of Fernandina Beach Parks**

- Fort Clinch State Park
- Little Tiger Island
- Central Park
- Amelia River Waterfront
- Peck Center
- Sports Complex
- MLK Center
- Atlantic Aquatics Center
- 30 Ave Airport Site

**Proposed City of Fernandina Beach Venues**

- Amelia River Waterfront Park
- Central Park
- Peck Arts, Education, & Culture Center
- Amelia River Waterfront Sports Center
- MLK Center
- Atlantic Aquatics Center
- 30 Ave Airport Site

**Schools**

- City of Fernandina Beach Elementary School
- Peck Center
- Amelia River Waterfront
- Amelia River Waterfront High School
- Amelia River Waterfront Middle School
- Amelia River Waterfront Elementary School

**Map Legend**

- City of Fernandina Beach
- Fort Clinch State Park
- Little Tiger Island
- Central Park
- Amelia River Waterfront
- Peck Center
- Sports Complex
- MLK Center
- Atlantic Aquatics Center
- 30 Ave Airport Site

**6. Main Beach Transformation**  
Main Beach is envisioned as an existing beachfront park with new concessions, restaurants, and shops. The center will provide a variety of amenities, including a central plaza and playground area.

**7. Atlantic Avenue Transformation**  
Atlantic Avenue is envisioned as the heart of the city. The center will provide a variety of amenities, including a central plaza and playground area.

**8. Atlantic Avenue Transformation**  
Atlantic Avenue is envisioned as the heart of the city. The center will provide a variety of amenities, including a central plaza and playground area.

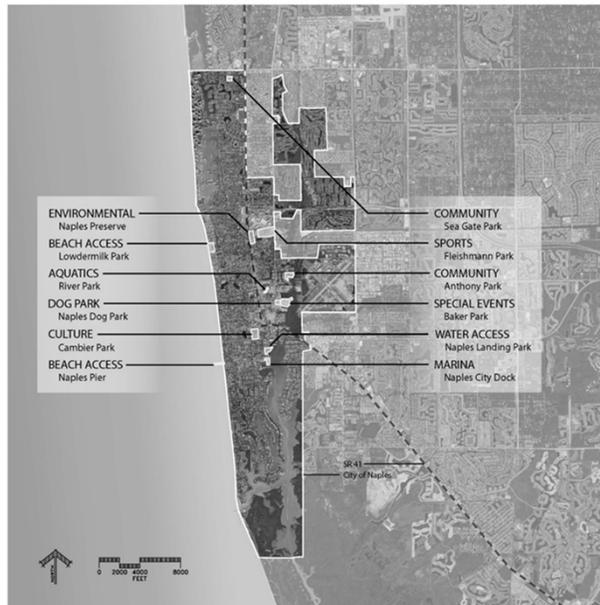
**9. MLK Center Expansion**  
The existing MLK Center is envisioned as the City of Fernandina Beach MLK Center. The center will provide a variety of amenities, including a central plaza and playground area.

**10. 30 Ave Airport Site Transformation**  
The 30 Ave Airport Site is envisioned as the City of Fernandina Beach Nature Center. The center will provide a variety of amenities, including a central plaza and playground area.

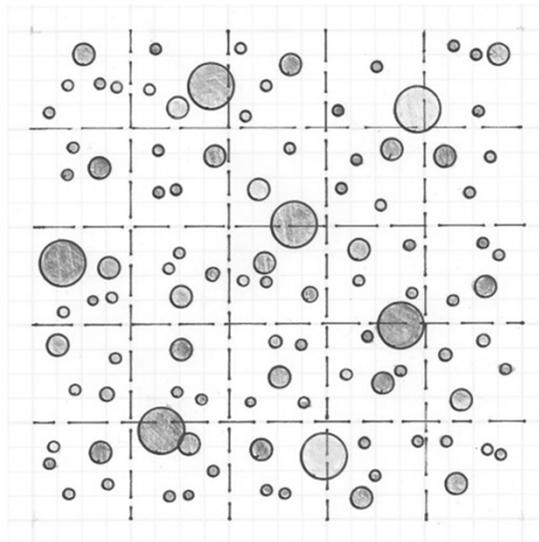
City of Fernandina Beach  
**Parks + Recreation System Vision Framework**

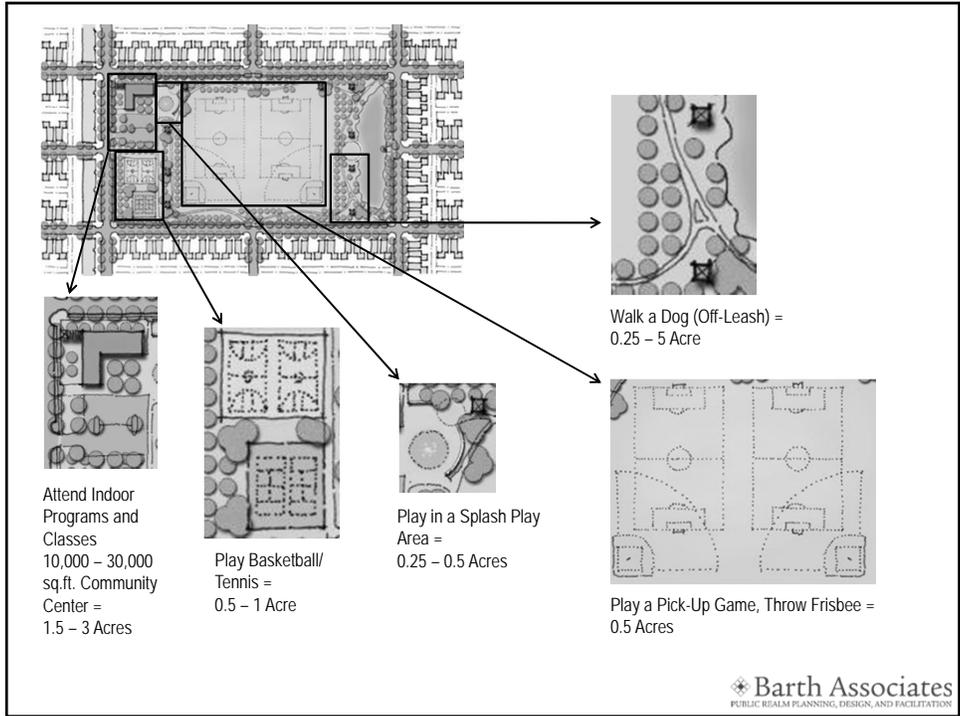
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## Example: City of Naples - "Best in Class"



## Activity-Based (Neighborhood) Model





## Example: New York Hudson River Parkway



# PARK CLASSIFICATIONS

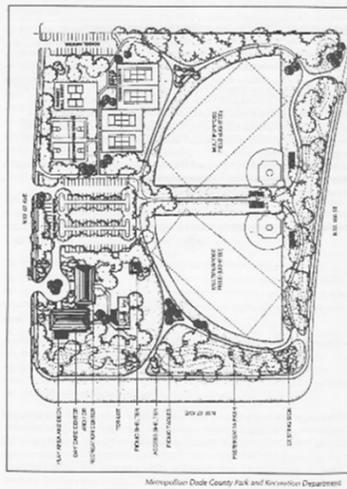
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## Traditional Classifications - NRPA, 1996

The following table provides an overview of the classifications for parks, recreation areas open space, and pathways.

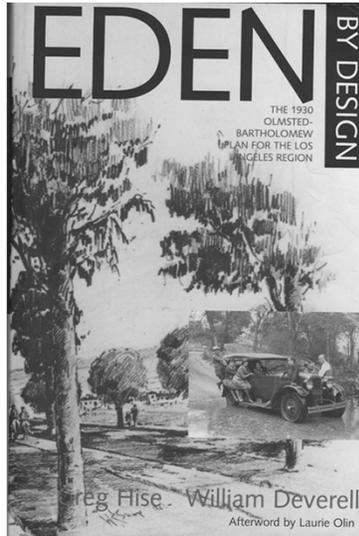
Parks, Open Space, and Pathways Classifications Table				
Parks and Open Space Classifications				
Classification	General Description	Location Criteria	Size Criteria	Application of LOS
Mini-Park	Used to address limited, isolated or unique recreational needs.	Less than a 1/4 mile distance in residential setting.	Between 2000 sq. ft. and one acre in size	Yes
Neighborhood Park	Neighborhood park remains the basic unit of the park system and serves as the recreational and social focus of the neighborhood. Focus is on informal active and passive recreation.	1/4 to 1/2 mile distance and interspersed by non-residential roads and other physical barriers.	5 acres is considered minimum size, 10 to 15 acres is optimal.	Yes
School Park	Depending on circumstances, combining parks with school sites can fulfill the space requirements for other classes of parks, such as neighborhood, community, sports complex, and special use.	Determined by location of school district property.	Variable—depends on location	Yes—but should not count school only uses.
Community Park	Serves broader purpose than neighborhood park. Focus is on meeting community-based recreation needs, as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces.	Determined by the quality and suitability of the site. Usually serves two or more neighborhoods and 1/2 to 3 mile distance.	As needed to accommodate desired uses. Usually between 20 and 50 acres.	Yes
Large Urban Park	Large urban parks serve a broader purpose than community parks and are used when community and neighborhood parks are not adequate to serve the needs of the community. Focus is on meeting community-based recreational needs, as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces.	Determined by the quality and suitability of the site. Usually serves the entire community.	As needed to accommodate desired uses. Usually a minimum of 50 acres, with 75 or more acres being optimal.	Yes
Natural Resource Areas	Lands set aside for preservation of significant natural resources, remnant landscapes, open space, and visual aesthetics/buffering.	Resource availability and opportunity.	Variable.	No
Greenways	Effectively tie park system components together to form a continuous park environment.	Resource availability and opportunity.	Variable.	No
Sports Complex	Consolidates heavily programmed athletic fields and associated facilities to larger and fewer sites strategically located throughout the community.	Strategically located community-wide facilities.	Determined by projected demand.	Yes
Special Use	Covers a broad range of parks and recreation facilities oriented toward single-purpose use.	Variable—dependent on specific use.	Variable.	Depends on type of use.
Private Park / Recreation Facility	Parks and recreation facilities that are privately owned yet contribute to the public park and recreation system.	Variable—dependent on specific use.	Variable.	Depends on type of use.

Figure 4.5  
Community Park



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## Olmsted 1930 Plan for Los Angeles Region



Two “classes” of functions and facilities:

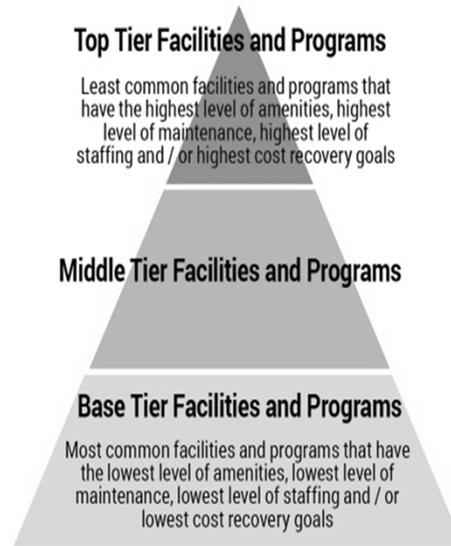
“1. Those that serve mainly *local* needs and can be reduplicated in small and easily accessible units in every part of the Region”

2. Those that serve mainly *regional* needs, which people can reasonably be expected to travel rather long distances to reach, and which cannot be reduplicated locally”

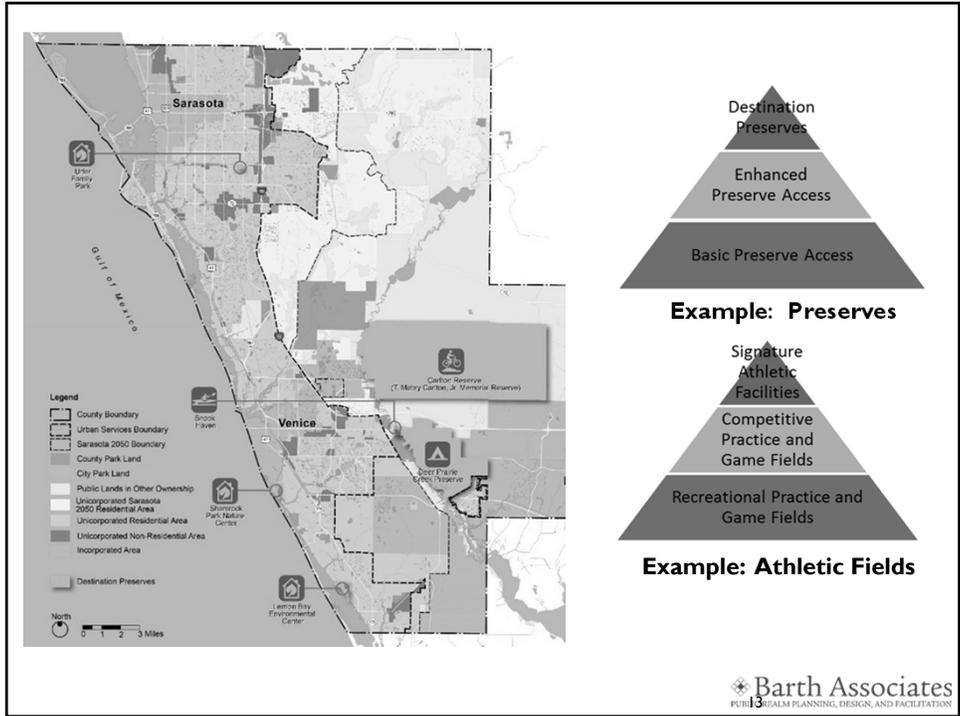
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## Proposed Classifications: Sarasota County

- ① Athletics
- ② Parks
- ③ Natural Areas
- ④ Trails
- ⑤ Beaches
- ⑥ Water Access
- ⑦ Recreation Centers and Programs



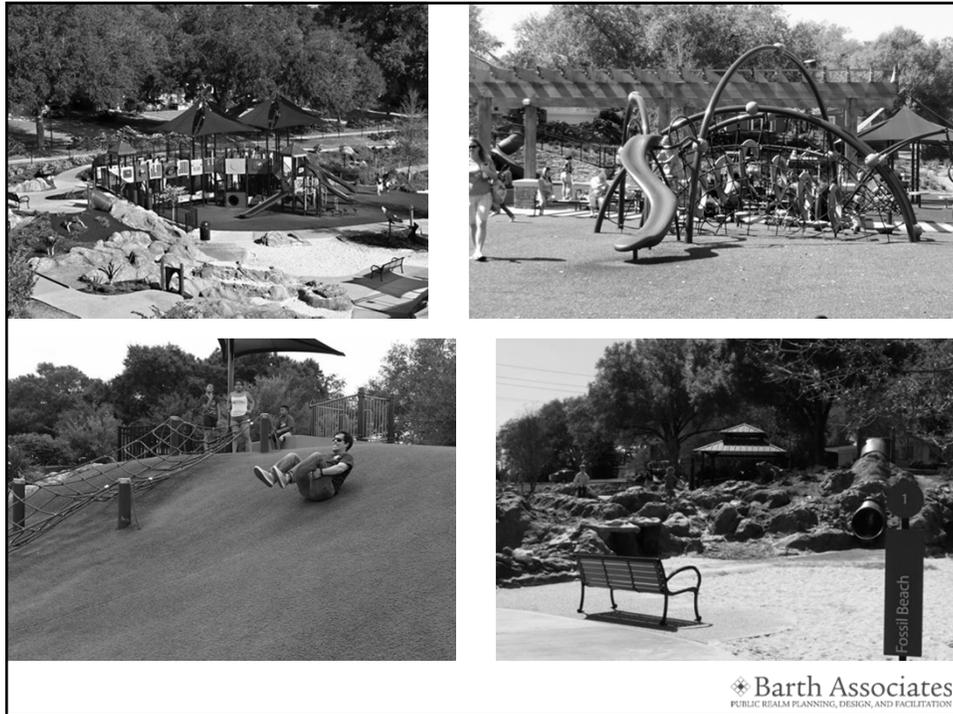
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## Basic Neighborhood Park Program



- Safe
- Comfortable
- Power, water, infrastructure for special events
- Multipurpose open lawns
- Shade – trees & canopies
- Paved multi-purpose trail
- Seating – all types
- Picnic shelters
- Playground
- WiFi
- Placemaking, amenities
- Multi-purpose courts for basketball, tennis, pickleball
- Restrooms in suburban areas; less important in high density urban areas



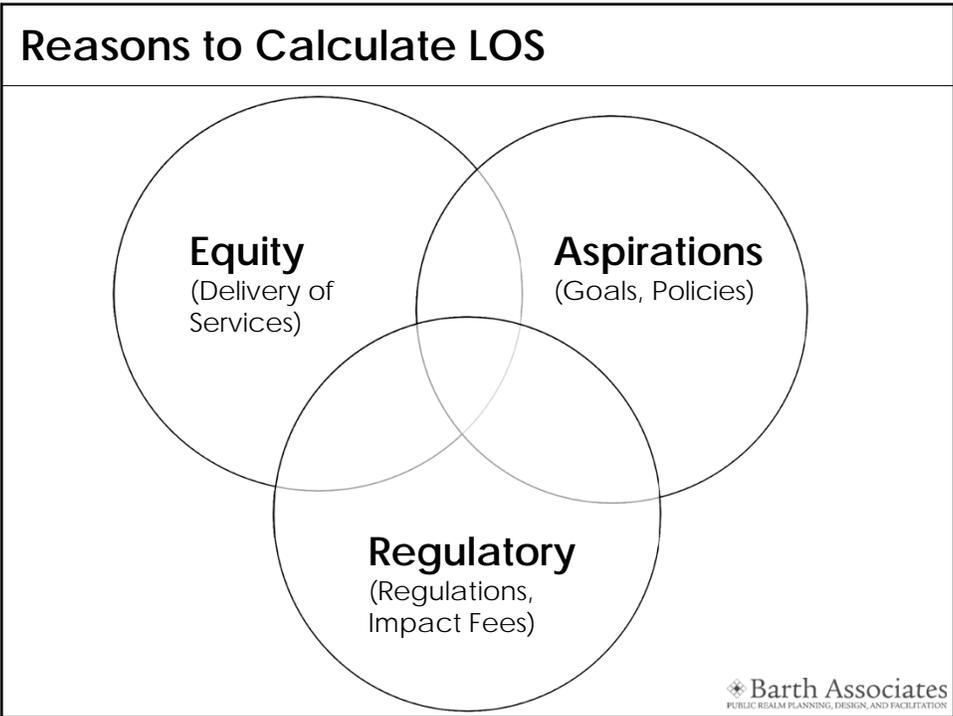
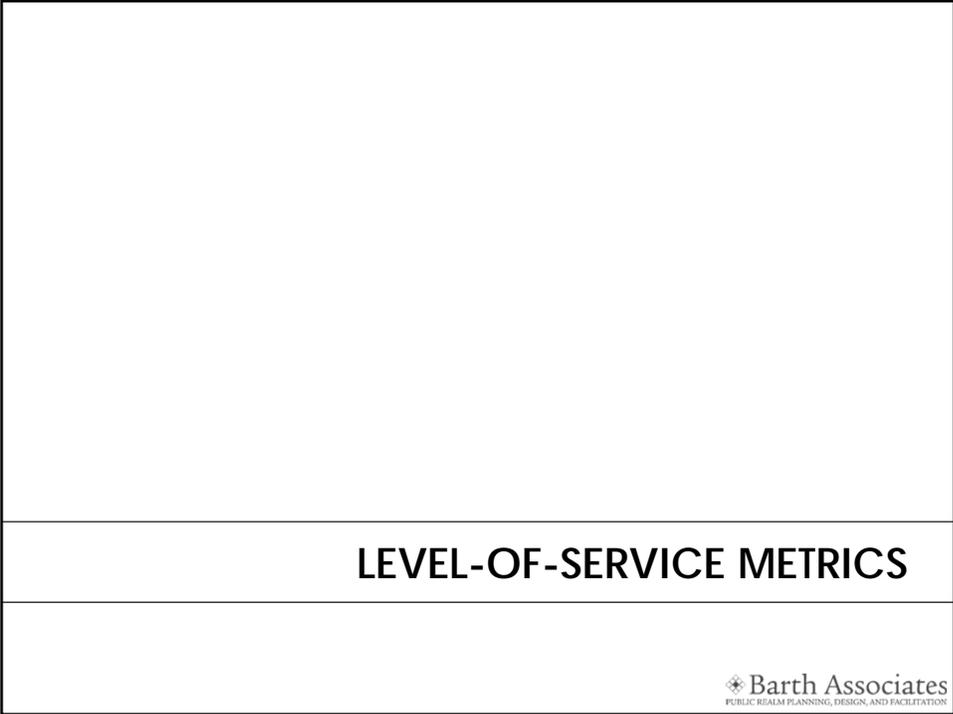
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## Amenities (Activities vs. Facilities)

- Places to play vs. playground
- Places to relax vs. benches
- Places to eat and socialize vs. picnic tables
- Places to play ball vs. athletic fields
- Places to play hoops vs. basketball court
- Places to exercise vs. fitness center



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## Common LOS Metrics

each "necessary but not sufficient"

- **Acres per 1000 residents** – Do we have enough land? Community-wide? Equitably distributed?
- **Facilities per 1000 residents (public, private)** – Do we have enough facilities? Community-wide? Equitably distributed?
- **Square footage per capita** – Do we have enough indoor recreation space? Community-wide? Equitably distributed?
- **Access by transit, car, bike, foot** – Can I get there safely, easily, and comfortably? Regardless of age, income, ability? Urban or rural?
- **Quality of facilities** – Is quality consistent and equitable across the system?
- **Operating expenditures per acre managed** – Do we have enough money to operate effectively?
- **Operating expenditures per capita** - Ditto
- **Revenue per capita** – Are we generating adequate revenues that meet expectations?
- **Revenue as a percentage of total operating expenditures (cost recovery)** - Ditto

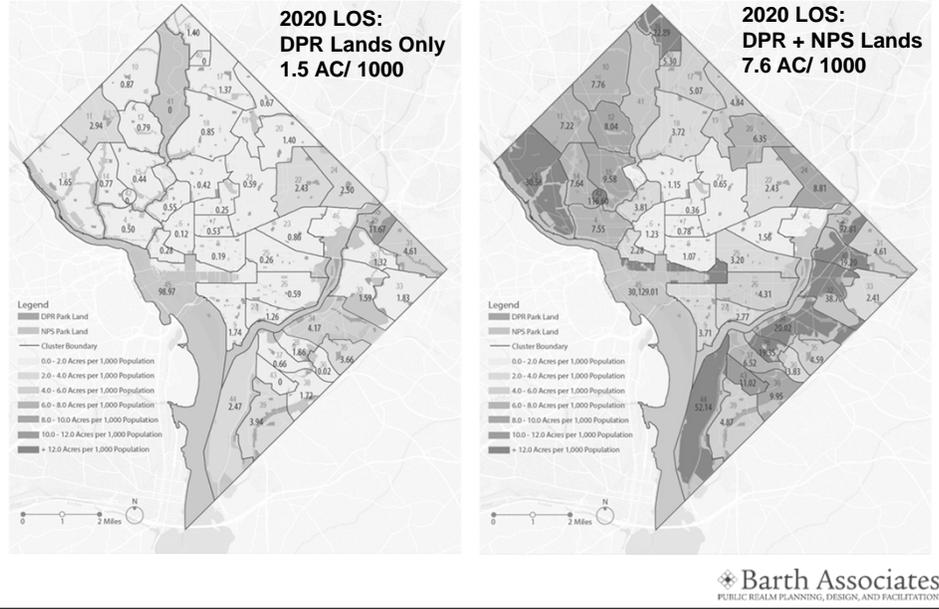
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## Sustainability Metrics, Trends as LOS Standards

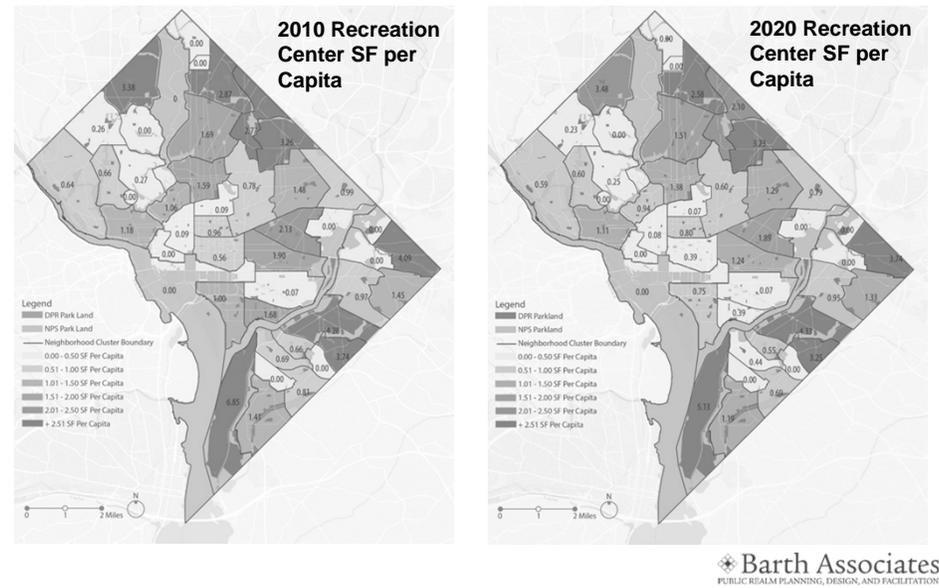
Trends	Potential Metrics
Age-Friendly Communities	Transit Access; % of Senior Participants; % of Multi-generational Programs
Walkability and Connectivity	Percentage of Complete Streets; Miles of Multi-purpose Trails; % of Parks w/ Multi-Modal Access
Access to Nature	Distance/ Time to Natural Areas; % Participants in Nature-Based Programs
Sports Tourism	% Use of Facilities by Visitors % Cost per Visitor User Revenues per Visitor User
High Performance Public Spaces©	

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## Parkland – Acreage LOS per Neighborhood Cluster

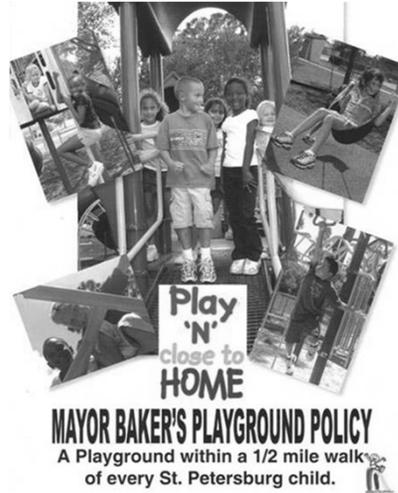


## Recreation Centers – Facility LOS by Neighborhood Cluster



# Access LOS

Facility Type:	Urban/ Suburban Access:	Rural/ Village Access:
<b>All Parks + Active County Parks</b>	1/2 mile / 1 mile	1/2 mile / 1 mile
<b>Baseball/softball Fields</b>	3 miles	5 miles
<b>Football/ Soccer Fields</b>	3 miles	5 miles
<b>Playgrounds</b>	1/2 mile	3 miles
<b>Pickleball Courts</b>	1 mile	3 miles
<b>Tennis Courts</b>	1 mile	3 miles
<b>Basketball Courts</b>	1/2 mile	3 miles
<b>Dog Parks</b>	1 mile	5 miles
<b>Indoor Recreation Centers</b>	2 miles	10 miles
<b>Therapeutic Recreation Centers</b>	3 miles	10 miles
<b>Swimming Pools/ Aquatic Complexes</b>	3 miles	10 miles

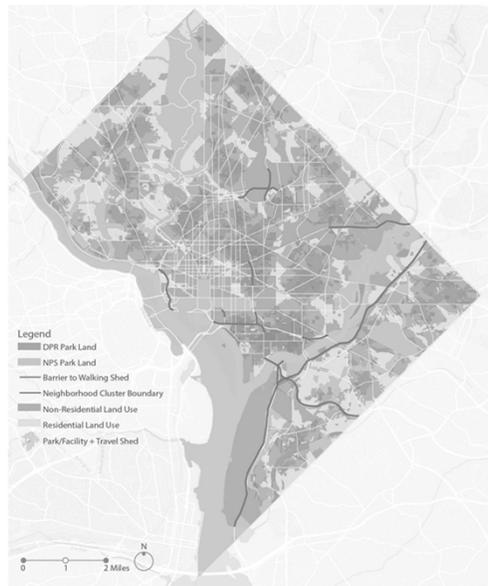


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# Access - Parks

1/2 mile service area

**DPR**

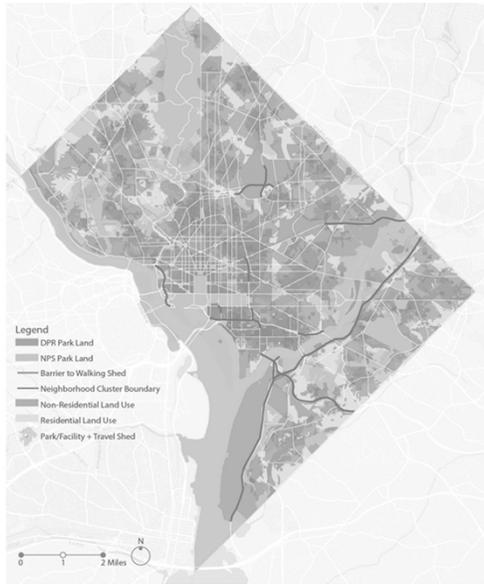


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## Access - Parks

1/2 mile service area

**DPR  
+ NPS**



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## Access - Parks

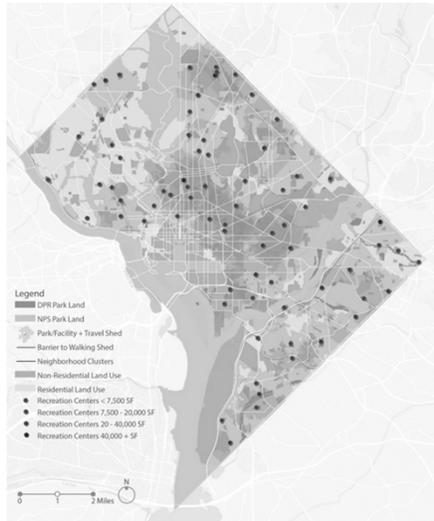
1/2 mile service area

**DPR  
+ NPS  
+ DCPS**



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## Access - Facilities (Recreation Centers)



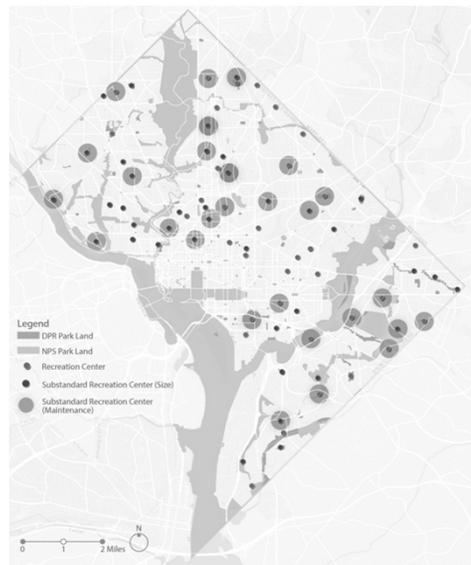
**1 mile service area to minimum 7,500 SF Neighborhood Center**

Recreation Centers 1 Mile LOS



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## Quality – Facilities (Recreation Centers)



- 74 Recreation Centers
- 956,849 total square feet

40 Recreation Centers do not meet minimum DPR Vision standards

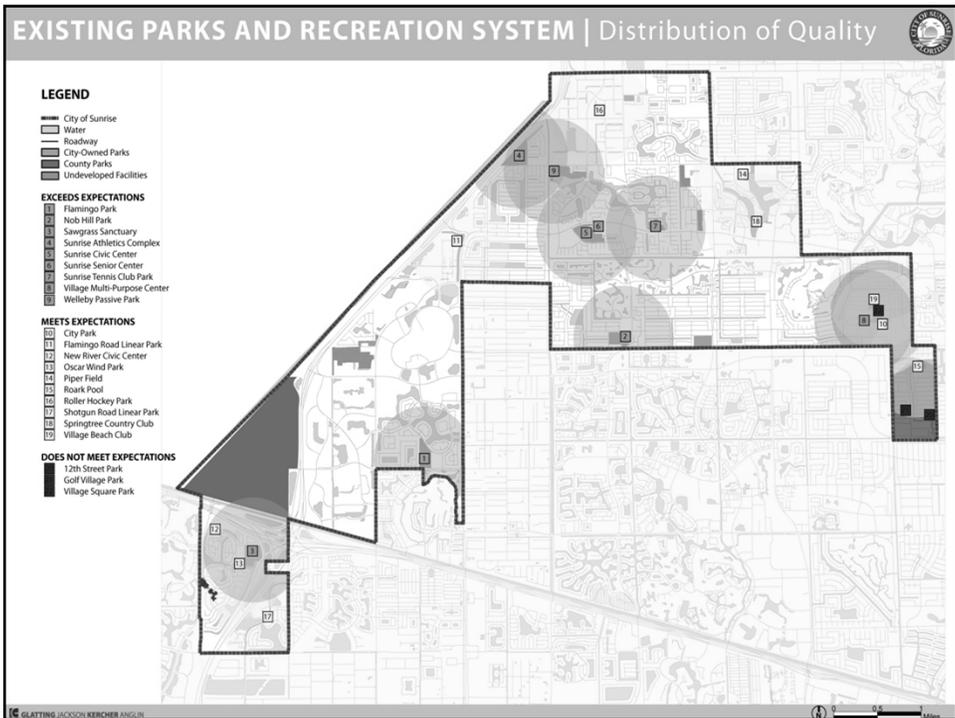
28 Recreation Centers are in Poor/Fair Maintenance Conditions (DGS Facilities Assessment, 2013)

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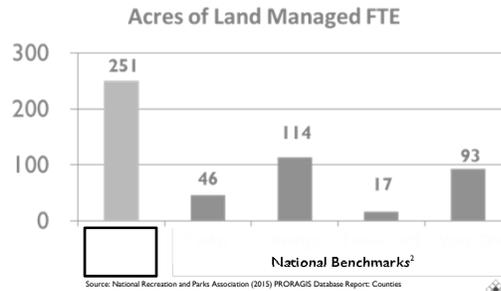
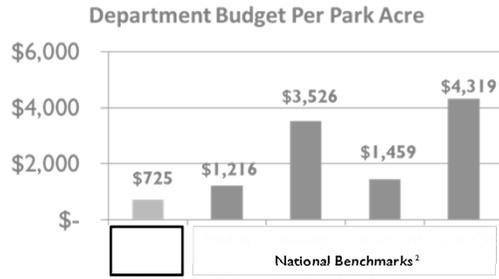
### CITY OF SUNRISE PARKS EVALUATION SCORING MATRIX

	S. CIVIC CENTER	FLAMINGO PARK	WELLEY PARK	NOB HILL PARK	S. APALACHE COMPLEX	S. SENIOR CENTER	VILLAGE CTR.	SAWGRASS SANCTUARY	FLAMINGO MULTI-PURPOSE CTR.	OSCAR WIND PARK	S. COUNTRY CLUB	SHOTGUN RD. LINEAR PARK	CITY PARK	ROLLER HOCKEY PARK	NEW RIVER CIVIC CTR.	VILLAGE SQUARE	GOLF VILLAGE PARK	12TH STREET PARK	AVERAGE	
<b>PROXIMITY, ACCESS, &amp; LINKAGES</b> (MAX 23)																				
VISIBILITY FROM A DISTANCE (MAX 4)	2	3	3	3	2	3	2	3	1	3	3	2	3	3	2	2	2	1	3	2.3
EASE IN WALKING TO THE PARK (MAX 4)	4	4	4	3	4	2	3	2	3	4	4	3	2	4	2	3	3	1	3	3.1
TRANSIT ACCESS (MAX 4)	4	3	1	3	3	4	4	3	1	3	1	4	2	1	3	3	2	1	3	2.5
CLARITY OF INFORMATIONAL SIGNAGE (MAX 4)	3	1	1	1	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1.3
ADA COMPLIANCE (MAX 4)	4	2	3	3	4	4	4	3	3	3	2	3	3	4	3	2	3	2	3	2.9
COMPATIBILITY W/ ADJACENT SPACES (MAX 4)	4	4	3	4	4	4	3	3	2	3	3	4	2	3	4	4	4	1	2	3.4
SAFETY LIGHTING* (MAX 1)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	2.9
<b>COMFORT &amp; IMAGE</b> (MAX 24)																				
FIRST IMPRESSION/OVERALL ATTRACTIVENESS (MAX 4)	4	4	4	4	4	3	4	3	3	4	3	4	4	4	4	3	3	3	2	3.3
FEELING OF SAFETY (MAX 4)	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	2	2	3.6
CLEANLINESS/OVERALL QUALITY OF MAINTENANCE (MAX 4)	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	2	2	3	3.5
COMFORT OF PLACES TO SIT (MAX 4)	4	3	4	4	4	3	4	2	4	4	4	3	2	4	2	3	3	2	1	3.1
PROTECTION FROM INCLIMATE WEATHER (MAX 4)	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	2	4	1	4	4	4	2	1	3.4
EVIDENCE OF MANAGEMENT/STEWARDSHIP (MAX 4)	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	3	2	2	3.6
<b>USES, ACTIVITY, &amp; SOCIABILITY</b> (MAX 16)																				
MIX OF USES/THINGS TO DO (MAX 4)	4	4	4	3	4	3	3	4	3	4	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2.3
LEVEL OF ACTIVITY (MAX 4)	4	3	3	4	4	3	3	2	2	3	3	3	1	3	3	1	1	1	1	2.4
SENSE OF PRIDE/OWNERSHIP (MAX 4)	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	2	3	2	3	3	3	1	2	2	1	1	1	2.7
FREQUENCY OF COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES/EVENTS (MAX 4)	4	4	4	3	2	3	3	4	3	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	2.1
<b>OPPORTUNITIES</b> (MAX 19)																				
PROGRAMMING FLEXIBILITY (MAX 4)	3	3	4	2	1	3	2	4	4	2	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	2.1
REVENUE OPPORTUNITIES (MAX 4)	4	4	4	2	3	3	3	4	1	1	4	1	2	3	1	1	4	1	1	2.4
PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES (MAX 4)	4	3	1	4	1	2	2	3	3	1	1	4	2	1	1	1	2	4	1	2
*GREEN/ENVIRONMENTAL OPPORTUNITIES (MAX 4)	2	2	3	2	1	1	1	4	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	2.5
EVIDENCE OF DESIGN STANDARDS* (MAX 1)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	3.6
EVIDENCE OF EMBRACED HERITAGE RESOURCES* (MAX 1)	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.5
EVIDENCE OF MAINTENANCE STANDARDS* (MAX 1)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3.8
*BONUS POINT ADDITIONAL TO RPT TOTAL																				
<b>TOTAL</b>	78	70	69	68	66	65	63	60	57	57	56	52	50	50	49	44	43			55.5

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# Operations – Budget/ Acre, Acres/ FTE

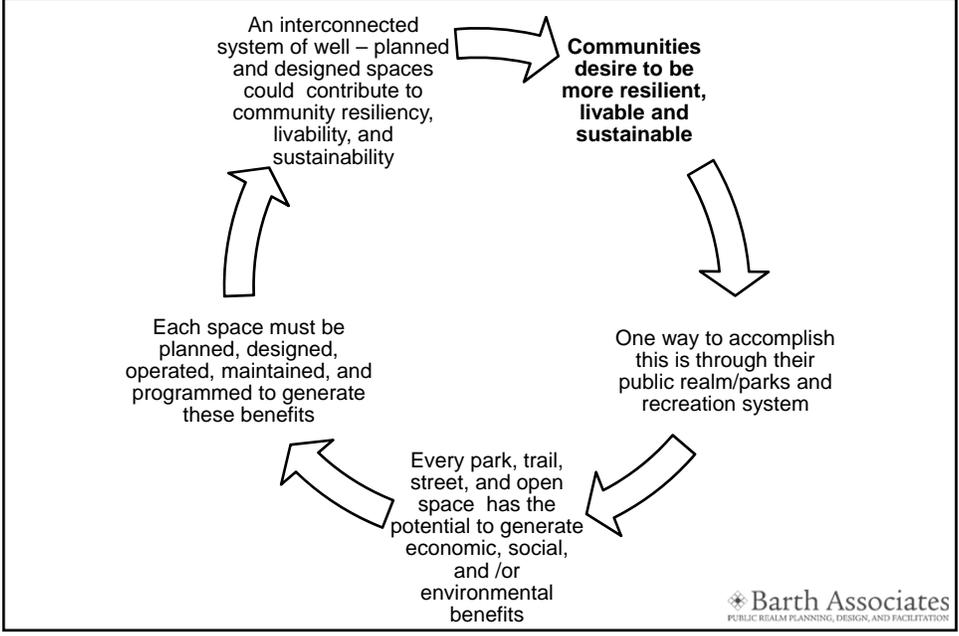


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## HIGH PERFORMANCE PUBLIC SPACES

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# Premise





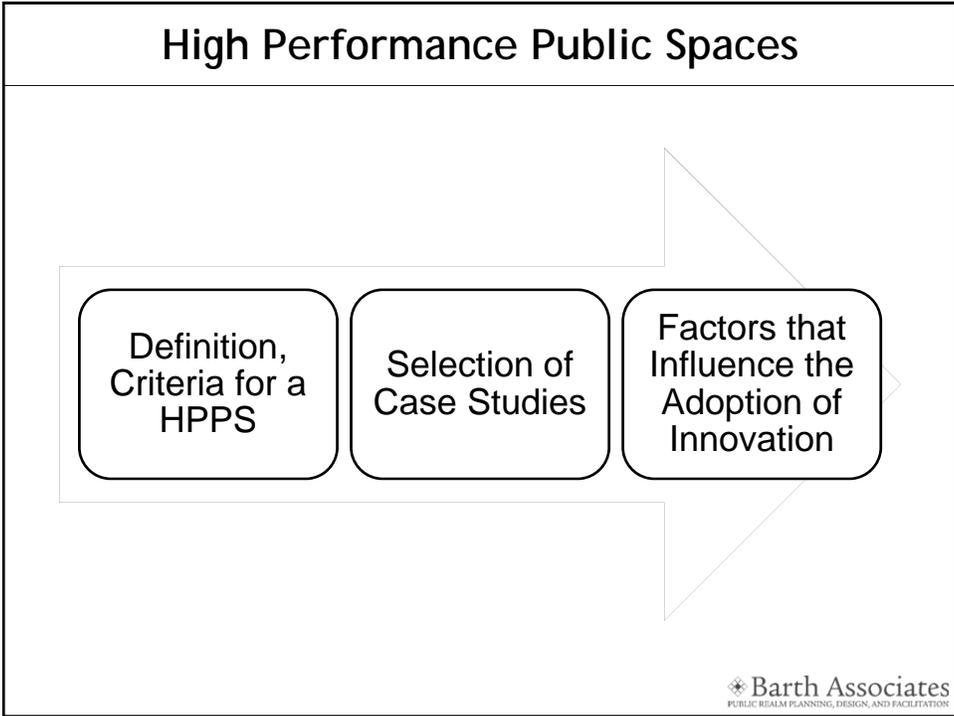
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### 1<sup>st</sup> Year Benefits – Triple Bottom Line

- Estimated 500,000 visitors annually
- Improved lake habitat, storm water treatment
- Increased downtown activity
- \$50 million new planned development
- \$17 million investment from the KUA
- 5% increase in property values throughout downtown in 1st year
- New direct and indirect employment
- Pending RFQ for development of 6 acre utility site
- Venues booked 40 weeks in advance: pavilions, wedding lawn, events space, community house



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## High Performance Public Space© (HPPS)

Any publicly accessible space that generates economic, environmental, and social sustainability benefits for their local community. A HPPS can be a park, trail, square, green, natural area, plaza or any other element of the ‘public realm’ that generates all three types of benefits (Barth, 2015).



Citygarden, St. Louis

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## Phase I: Criteria for HPPSs – Delphi Process

### Social

- Improves the neighborhood
- Improves social and physical mobility
- Encourages health and fitness
- Provides relief from urban congestion, stressors
- Provides places for formal and informal social gathering, art, performances, events
- Provides opportunities for individual, group, passive and active recreation
- Facilitates shared experiences among different groups
- Attracts diverse populations
- Promotes creative and constructive social interaction

### Environmental

- Uses energy, water, and resources efficiently
- Improves water quality of both surface and ground water
- Serves as a net carbon sink
- Enhances, preserves, promotes, or contributes to biological diversity
- Hardscape materials selected for longevity of service, social/ cultural/ historical sustainability, regional availability, low carbon footprint
- Provides opportunities to enhance environmental awareness and knowledge
- Serves as an interconnected node within larger scale ecological corridors and natural habitat

### Economic

- Creates and facilitates revenue-generating opportunities for the public and/or the private sectors
- Creates meaningful and desirable employment
- Indirectly creates or sustains good, living wage jobs
- Sustains or increases property values
- Catalyzes infill development and/or the re-use of obsolete or under-used buildings or spaces
- Attracts new residents
- Attracts new businesses
- Generates increased business and tax revenues
- Optimizes operations and maintenance costs

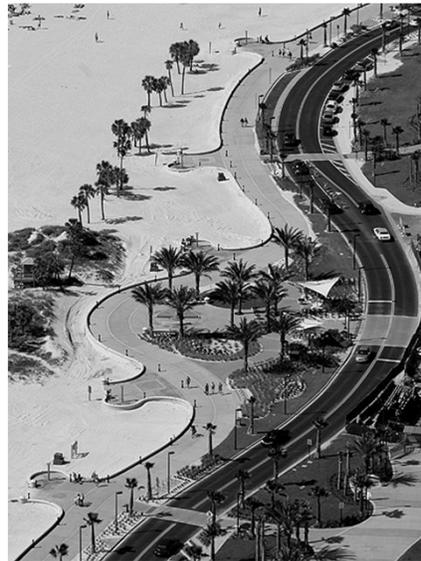
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City of Tallahassee Gaines Street



City of Lakeland Lake Mirror Park  
[www.metrojacksonville.com](http://www.metrojacksonville.com)  
APA top ten public spaces in America, 2014



City of Clearwater Beachwalk  
[www.clearwaterdreaming.com](http://www.clearwaterdreaming.com)

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## Hypothesis – Factors for Adoption

### Primary factors:

- Presence of a strong leader/advocate
- Perception of the innovation
- Collaborative relationship of the planning and design team
- Internal characteristics of the organization
- External characteristics of the organization, such as system openness and an engaged public

### Secondary factors:

- Perceived competition from neighboring communities
- Costs, economic benefits, and perceived return-on-investment
- Presence of a long-range vision plan, including sustainability goals and indicators
- A liberal/Democratic population

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## Outline

### **2:45 PARKS PLANNING**

- WHAT DO PLANNERS DO AND THINK ABOUT?
- PARKS PLANNING MODELS
- SUBSYSTEMS AND SERVICE DELIVERY MODELS
- PARK CLASSIFICATIONS
- LEVEL-OF-SERVICE METRICS
- HIGH PERFORMANCE PUBLIC SPACES

### **3:45 GROUP EXERCISE**

### **4:45 DISCUSSION**

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## **GROUP EXERCISE**

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## Group Questions:

1. Describe the preferred "Service Delivery Model" for future *local* parks, including size, access LOS, typical development program
2. Should the Model differ between urban, suburban, and rural areas? Why or why not?
3. Describe the role of 1) the Town, and 2) community developers, in building and maintaining future *local* parks
4. Describe the preferred Service Delivery Model(s) for *regional* parks, recreation centers, and sports complexes

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**DISCUSSION**

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