

Park Type Standards

By developing Park Type Standards, park users can expect to receive access to the same high quality park system at every park. These standards provide a baseline for service provided within the City of North Port per each park type with the goal of enhancing park planning to provide equitable distribution of service throughout the system. Parks that do not include all elements as defined within their park type will be considered deficient in LOS. Park Type Standards apply only to neighborhood and community parks, as these are assigned a LOS. Special use parks are considered opportunistic sites and are instead guided by site-specific master plans.

Elements within the standards have been broadly defined to provide flexibility as to the exact type and quantity of amenities needed to be responsive to both site conditions and public needs through a public engagement process. By providing these standards, the park system can ensure that all parks, regardless of age and developer, offer high quality service to all residents of the City of North Port.

Neighborhood Parks

Description

Neighborhood parks are small parks that provide access to recreational amenities to nearby residents. These parks include a mix of active and passive recreation with little programming. They generally serve an area up to 0.50-mile distance. Neighborhood Parks provide residents with close-to-home access to daily-use amenities such as playgrounds for kids to use after school or a place to work out after work. While some park users may drive to their nearest neighborhood park, it is expected that most users will walk or ride a bike to their nearest park. For this reason, it is key that neighborhood parks include safe pedestrian access from the surrounding community through crosswalks and interconnected sidewalk networks.

Requirements

Size: 2 to 10 acres*

This proposed size requirement applies only to new parks within the system. The following North Port Neighborhood Parks do not currently meet this new definition:

- Veterans Park
- Hope Park

Geographic Level of Service:

0.50-mile distance

Elements

- Standard City of North Port park signage
- Safe crossings into the park from surrounding residential uses
- Unprogrammed open space
- Lighted walking loop with shade and seating
- Shaded play area
- Lighted** Unique User Experience
i.e. sports court, fitness stations, other unique park draws
- Small pavilions and picnic tables
- Off-street parking – sufficient for daily use patterns and ADA requirements

Recommendations

- Preserve natural areas if available
 - Provide interpretative signage
 - Provide water access opportunities if available
- Enhance user experience
 - Provide shade trees along pathways and near amenities
 - Provide area lighting to extend park availability on cool fall/winter nights
 - Provide security lighting at night
 - Fencing should be limited to prevent target hardening and provide welcoming aesthetics
- Play areas
 - Position play areas away from sports courts, near parking but away from streets
 - Provide shade covering
 - Provide fencing around play areas adjacent to parking or vehicular traffic
 - Incorporate shaded seating, picnic areas, and pavilions near play areas to provide gathering spaces and weather protection

*Recommended for future acquisitions of parks

** When applicable



Figure 3 | Sample Neighborhood Park layout following Park Type standards

Community Parks

Description

Community parks are larger parks providing access to active amenities and events across a larger geographic area. These parks offer both active and passive recreation. Community Parks are designed to serve multiple neighborhoods over an area of up to a 3-mile distance and provide recreational programming that can accommodate events, although they may also provide access to nature-based recreation on a site-by-site basis. In addition to active amenities, Community Parks will also provide Neighborhood Park amenities and serve as close-to-home parks. For this reason, Community Parks must accommodate both vehicle and pedestrian traffic.

Requirements

Size: 10 to 50 acres

Geographic Level-of-Service:

0.50-mile to 3-mile distance

Elements

- Standard City of North Port park signage
- Safe crossings into the park from surrounding residential uses
- Lighted sports court and/or sports field – type determined based on parcel size, site-specific public engagement, and citywide sports field needs
- Walking loop with shade and seating
- Shaded play area
- Mix of group pavilions and small pavilions
- Restroom building
- Off-street parking
- Lighted** Unique User Experience beyond sports needs i.e. event space, public art, splash pad

Recommendations

- Preserve natural areas if available
 - Provide interpretative signage
 - Provide water access opportunities if available
- Enhance user experience
 - Provide shade trees along pathways and near amenities
 - Provide area lighting to extend park availability on cool fall/winter nights
 - Provide security lighting at night
 - Fencing should be limited to prevent target hardening and provide welcoming aesthetics
- Play areas
 - Position play areas away from sports courts, near parking but away from streets
 - Provide shade covering
 - Provide fencing around play areas adjacent to parking or vehicular traffic
 - Incorporate shaded seating, picnic areas, and pavilions near play areas to provide gathering spaces and weather protection
- Locate restroom(s) in centralized areas and near play areas
- Place sports lighting away from surrounding residential areas
- Locate pavilions in key activity areas such as near play areas, recreation field complexes, and near sports courts to provide gathering spaces and weather protection

** When applicable



Figure 4 | Sample Community Park layout following Park Type standards