

PARKS, TRAILS, AND OPEN SPACE

This element addresses recreation-related issues.

Overall Policies

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

Park Policies

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

Rural Park Definitions

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

- PTO 5 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%.
- PTO 6 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.
- PTO 7 Support public/private partnerships for provision, maintenance, and operation of park facilities.
- PTO 8 Partner with other jurisdictions and agencies for joint use and co-location of public facilities where practical.
- PTO 9 Ensure park districts effectively meet community service needs.
- PTO 10 Locate and develop parks based on consistent criteria.

Trail Policies

- PTO 11 Recreational trails should be located on public land (or easements) along natural washes, flood control facilities, and public utility corridors.
- PTO 12 Locate trailheads to encourage multiple use and access to public lands.
- PTO 13 Provide interconnectivity to trails in other municipalities and federal lands where appropriate.
- PTO 14 Locate equestrian trails to promote connection to similar facilities on federal lands.
- PTO 15 In urban RNP areas, locate equestrian trails on streets built to rural standards and discourage development of equestrian trails on arterial and collector streets.
- PTO 16 Work with communities and State and Federal agencies to plan and construct OHV trails where appropriate.

Open Space Policies

- PTO 17 Recreational open space should be located on public land (or easements).
- PTO 18 Provide interconnectivity to open space in other municipalities and federal lands where appropriate.
- PTO 19 Limit motorized vehicle use on open space in air quality non-attainment areas.
- PTO 20 Indicate open space areas in County Land Use Plans.
- PTO 21 Pursue funding sources and/or authority to acquire and maintain open space.
- PTO 22 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.
- PTO 23 Neighborhood open space areas should tie into other open spaces to create an open space network.
- PTO 24 Consider support for a regional authority to manage and fund the operation and maintenance of open space facilities.