



# Department Policy & Procedure

|                                     |                                           |                   |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Subject: Park Classification System |                                           | Number            |
|                                     |                                           | Supersedes 5.11.1 |
| Approved:                           | Department:<br>Seattle Parks & Recreation | Page 1 of 11      |

## 1.0 PURPOSE STATEMENT

Seattle Parks and Recreation recognizes the unique nature of each property it owns and is responsible for. The size of each property, its setting within the surrounding neighborhood, the amenities it provides to park visitors, its accessibility to the public, its soil, hydrology, vegetation, and habitat combine to make each property a unique asset. Understanding the uniqueness of each property, there is also a recognized benefit to categorizing park owned properties based on their similarities across a number of characteristics. The purpose of this policy and procedure is to establish a method for classifying the parks in Seattle Parks and Recreation. The classifications are driven by park use, purpose and size. This classification system serves the following purposes:

- These classifications will provide a general guideline for future development options. The combination of descriptors for each park type represents what has generally been successful on a certain sized plot of land located in a certain type of physical environment. These guidelines can help to set community expectations for a given site.
- These classifications may serve as a basis for policies around appropriate programming and uses in different park types.
- These classifications may inform functional planting design standards and other design standards.

This classification scheme is not intended to serve as an inventory of individual assets (e.g. total acres of natural area or total number of athletic fields) because different combinations of the same assets appear in each park type, nor is it intended to be a naming policy. ~~Lastly, F~~for each park type, the list of desired or optional assets or programming opportunities is not intended to be inclusive of all potential assets or programs. Lastly, this policy is not to be used to supersede Parks approved master plans for individual parks, such as Discovery Park, Magnuson Park or Seward Park.

## 2.0 ORGANIZATIONS AFFECTED

### 2.1 Seattle Parks and Recreation

### 3.0 POLICY

Seattle Parks and Recreation adopts the following park classifications as defined in Section 4.0 as well as the Parks Classification Assignments List dated October, 2014:

1. Mini Parks/Pocket Parks
2. Neighborhood Parks
3. Community Parks
4. Downtown Parks
5. Regional Parks
6. Special-Use Parks/Specialty Gardens
7. Greenbelts/Natural Areas
8. Boulevards/Green Streets/Greenways

### 4.0 DEFINITIONS

|                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                              |
|------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>4.1 MINI PARKS, POCKET PARKS</b>                        | <p>Mini and pocket parks provide a little green in dense areas. They are small parks transformed from developed, urban land sites acquired by the City. These urban land acquisitions have a wide variety of uses, and are sometimes jointly operated for both recreational and utility/infrastructure purposes.</p> <p>Mini and pocket parks may include ornamental areas, traffic islands, small boulevards, oversized rights-of-way, medians, and minor drainage ways. Plans for mini or pocket parks try to use remnants of old landscaping features or other elements from the site's prior use to emphasize cultural or historic importance. Plans may also incorporate water towers or other utility infrastructure.</p> |                                                              |
| <b>Physical</b>                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                              |
| Size                                                       | Generally under 10,000 sq. ft. (0.25 acre)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                              |
| Setting                                                    | All zones<br>Can be surrounded by residences, small commercial, non-arterial streets or on unused land between roads                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                              |
| Contributes to planning area Usable Open Space requirement | No, unless it exceeds 10,000 sq. ft. (0.25 acre)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                              |
| <b>Built environment</b>                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                              |
| Percent developed                                          | 70-100%                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                              |
| Assets (desired – size dependent)                          | Benches<br>Improved paths                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Plaza or grassy area for informal activity (no sports field) |
| Assets (optional)                                          | Designed Landscape<br>Lighting for safety (rare)<br>Picnic table                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Play area<br>Public art<br>Viewpoint                         |
| Parking                                                    | Street, none                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                              |
| <b>Natural Environment</b>                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                              |
| Natural Area                                               | No                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                              |
| Environmental Benefits                                     | Possible green stormwater infrastructure, native plants                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                              |
| <b>Programs</b>                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                              |
| Programming (desired)                                      | None                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                              |
| Programming (optional)                                     | Small community gatherings                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                              |

|                           |                                                       |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| Geographic range of users | Immediate neighborhood – less than ¼ mile in distance |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|

**4.2 NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS** Neighborhood parks are substantially larger than pocket parks and generally occupy and area equivalent to one city block, and serve the surrounding neighborhood for multiple uses. Typical park development may include play areas, small fields, turf, trees, shrubs, irrigation, benches, trash receptacles, picnic tables, paved parking or walkways, signage and lighting. Many Neighborhood Parks contain playgrounds and viewpoints.

|                               |                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                    |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Physical</b>               |                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                    |
| Size                          | Between 0.25 and 9 acres                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                    |
| Setting                       | Single Family Residential, Residential Urban Villages, Hub Urban Villages<br>Generally surrounded by residences, small businesses, small or arterial streets |                                                                                                                                    |
| Contributes to planning area  | Yes                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                    |
| Usable Open Space requirement |                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Built environment</b>      |                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                    |
| Percent developed             | 30-100%                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                    |
| Assets (desired)              | Benches<br>Designed landscape<br>Improved paths                                                                                                              | Level grassy area for informal activity<br>Picnic tables<br>Play area                                                              |
| Assets (optional)             | Basketball courts<br>Boat launch<br>Comfort station<br>Garden<br>Lighting for safety<br>Picnic shelter or small shelter house                                | Public art<br>Recreation areas<br>Sports fields Stage<br>Tennis courts<br>Spray park or Wading pool<br>Viewpoint<br>Off-leash Area |
| Parking                       | Generally just street parking; may have off-street parking                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Natural Environment</b>    |                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                    |
| Natural Area                  | May have natural area, creek, lake                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                    |
| Environmental Benefits        | Green stormwater infrastructure, native plants, habitat (if natural area), CO2 reduction                                                                     |                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Programs</b>               |                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                    |
| Programming (desired)         | None                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                    |
| Programming (optional)        | Light scheduling for athletic teams, community gatherings, small concerts                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                    |
| Geographic range of users     | Surrounding neighborhood – between ¼ and ½ mile                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                    |

### 4.3 COMMUNITY PARKS

Community parks satisfy the recreational needs of multiple neighborhoods and may also preserve unique landscapes. They generally accommodate group activities and recreational facilities not available at neighborhood parks. They may have athletic fields, large open spaces, paths, benches, natural areas, and restrooms. Community park sites should be accessible by arterial and/or collector streets, and may include off-street parking.

| <b>Physical</b>                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Size                                                       | Between 5 and 60 acres                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Setting                                                    | Single Family Residential, Residential Urban Villages, Hub Urban Villages<br>Should be next to an arterial, institution, or natural area rather than surrounded by homes on all sides       |
| Contributes to planning area Usable Open Space requirement | Yes                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Built environment</b>                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Percent developed                                          | 25-100%                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Assets (desired)                                           | Basketball court<br>Benches<br>Comfort station<br>Designed landscape<br>Improved paths<br>Level grassy area for informal activity                                                           |
|                                                            | Lighting for safety<br>Picnic tables and shelters<br>Play area<br>Sports field(s)                                                                                                           |
| Assets (optional)                                          | Boat launch<br>Community Center<br>Concessions<br>Community or specialty garden<br>Lifeguarded beach<br>Lighting for specific facility use<br>Natural Area<br>Off-leash area<br>Public art  |
|                                                            | Pool<br>Recreation areas or complexes (lighted sports fields with designated parking away from residences)<br>Skatepark<br>Stage<br>Tennis courts<br>Spray park or Wading pool<br>Viewpoint |
| Parking                                                    | Off-street parking                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Natural Environment</b>                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Natural Area                                               | May contain natural areas, creeks, lakes                                                                                                                                                    |
| Environmental Benefits                                     | Green stormwater infrastructure, native plants, habitat (if natural area), CO2 reduction                                                                                                    |
| <b>Programs</b>                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Programming (desired)                                      | Community gatherings                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Programming (optional)                                     | Scheduled for athletic teams, small concerts, naturalist activities, food vendors (cart)                                                                                                    |
| Geographic range of users                                  | Several surrounding neighborhoods – between 1/2 and 3 miles; citywide if park contains a recreation complex                                                                                 |

|                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                    |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>4.4 DOWNTOWN PARKS</b>     | Downtown Parks are typically smaller, developed sites located in Seattle’s center. Many are iconic urban landscapes and provide a respite from busy downtown streets, offer places to sit, and provide space for performers and vendors.                                                                                                          |                                                                    |
|                               | Many of these parks have historic significance. Downtown destination parks are signature parks of interest to the broad community and allow the public to enjoy the city’s center.                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                    |
| <b>Physical</b>               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                    |
| Size                          | Between 0.1 and 5 acres                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                    |
| Setting                       | The 2006 Downtown Parks & Public Spaces Task Force Report defines “downtown” as the area bounded by South Lake Union Park to the north, the International District to the south and Interstate 5 to the east. This document currently reflects those boundaries, although in the future the area defined “downtown” may shift as the city changes |                                                                    |
| Contributes to planning area  | Generally surrounded by commercial buildings                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                    |
| Usable Open Space requirement | Only those over 10,000 square feet                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                    |
| <b>Built environment</b>      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                    |
| Percent developed             | 100%                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                    |
| Assets (desired)              | Benches<br>Improved paths<br>Designed landscapes<br>Lighting for safety                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Plaza or level grassy area for informal activity (no sports field) |
| Assets (optional)             | Picnic tables<br>Play area                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Public art<br>Stage<br>Off-leash Area                              |
| Parking                       | Street, none                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                    |
| <b>Natural Environment</b>    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                    |
| Natural Area                  | None                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                    |
| Environmental Benefits        | Possible green stormwater infrastructure, native plants                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                    |
| <b>Programs</b>               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                    |
| Programming (desired)         | None                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                    |
| Programming (optional)        | Buskers, food vendors (carts), small concerts, special events                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                    |
| Geographic range of users     | Immediate business community, downtown visitors and residents, tourists                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                    |

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| <b>4.5 REGIONAL PARKS</b>                                  | Regional parks supplement neighborhood and community parks, often serving broader citywide recreation needs. Each of these parks contains various assets, often for active recreation, and is programmed accordingly. Many also have large natural areas of undeveloped land and/or historic or landmarked significance. These parks tend to be destinations, often generate tourism, and have views or water access. Restroom facilities and off-street parking should be provided for facility users. Park lighting should be for security and safety as well as facility use. |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Physical</b>                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Size                                                       | The average for this category is over 100 acres, but the range is from approximately 10 acres up to over 500 acres.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Setting                                                    | Single Family Residential, Residential Urban Villages, Hub Urban Villages                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Contributes to planning area Usable Open Space requirement | Yes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Built environment</b>                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Percent developed                                          | 20-100%                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Assets (desired)                                           | Benches<br>Comfort station<br>Designed landscape<br>Improved paths<br>Level grassy area for informal activity                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Lighting for safety<br>Picnic tables and shelters<br>Play area<br>Sports field(s)                                                                                                                                              |
| Assets (optional)                                          | Boat launch<br>Community Center<br>Concessions<br>Community or specialty garden<br>Lifeguarded beach<br>Lighting for specific facility use<br>Natural Area<br>Off-leash area<br>Public art<br>Basketball court                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Golf courses and driving ranges<br>Pool<br>Recreation areas or complexes (lighted sports fields with designated parking away from residences)<br>Skatepark<br>Stage<br>Tennis courts<br>Spray park or Wading pool<br>Viewpoint |
| Parking                                                    | Off-street parking                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Natural Environment</b>                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Natural Area                                               | May contain natural areas, creeks, lakes, wetlands, shoreline access                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Environmental Benefits                                     | Green stormwater infrastructure, native plants, habitat (if natural area), CO2 reduction                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Programs</b>                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Programming (desired)                                      | Community gatherings                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Programming (optional)                                     | Scheduled for athletic teams, rentals, small concerts, naturalist activities, food vendors (cart), buskers, special events                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Geographic range of users                                  | Citywide, regional, tourists                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |

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| <b>4.6 NATURAL AREA/<br/>GREENBELT</b>                     | Natural Areas are park sites established for the protection and stewardship of wildlife, habitat and other natural systems support functions. Some natural areas are accessible for low-impact use. Minimal infrastructure may include access and signage, where it will not adversely impact habitat or natural systems functions. Larger natural areas may have small sections developed to serve a community park function. Large Natural Area/Greenbelts may be divided into subareas based on vegetation, habitat, restoration status, wildlife area designation, recreation use area, etc. in order to better differentiate resource needs and use priorities. |                 |           |                               |         |               |                                                             |  |           |
| <b>Physical</b>                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                 |           |                               |         |               |                                                             |  |           |
| Size                                                       | Any                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                 |           |                               |         |               |                                                             |  |           |
| Setting                                                    | Where tracts of undeveloped land are available. Natural areas may include, but are not limited to, forest, meadows, riparian areas, beaches, tidelands and wetlands. Non-accessible natural areas are generally found on steep slopes or in riparian zones or wetlands. Natural areas often serve as a buffer between incompatible land uses. See 1993 Greenspaces Policy (Resolution 28653) for details about natural areas.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                 |           |                               |         |               |                                                             |  |           |
| Contributes to planning area Usable Open Space requirement | Only parks with usable open space over 10,000 square feet                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                 |           |                               |         |               |                                                             |  |           |
| <b>Built environment</b>                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                 |           |                               |         |               |                                                             |  |           |
| Percent developed                                          | Limited to infrastructure for support services                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                 |           |                               |         |               |                                                             |  |           |
| Assets (desired)                                           | None (Parks Design Standard 02900-01 "Site Restoration of Natural Areas" shall apply)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                 |           |                               |         |               |                                                             |  |           |
| Assets (optional)                                          | <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Comfort station</td> <td>Play area</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Environmental Learning Center</td> <td>Signage</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Picnic tables</td> <td>Trails (internal and connecting with external urban trails)</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Viewpoint</td> </tr> </table>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Comfort station | Play area | Environmental Learning Center | Signage | Picnic tables | Trails (internal and connecting with external urban trails) |  | Viewpoint |
| Comfort station                                            | Play area                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                 |           |                               |         |               |                                                             |  |           |
| Environmental Learning Center                              | Signage                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                 |           |                               |         |               |                                                             |  |           |
| Picnic tables                                              | Trails (internal and connecting with external urban trails)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                 |           |                               |         |               |                                                             |  |           |
|                                                            | Viewpoint                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                 |           |                               |         |               |                                                             |  |           |
| Parking                                                    | Street parking, off-street parking for natural areas with more amenities                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                 |           |                               |         |               |                                                             |  |           |
| <b>Natural Environment</b>                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                 |           |                               |         |               |                                                             |  |           |
| Natural Area                                               | Yes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                 |           |                               |         |               |                                                             |  |           |
| Environmental Benefits                                     | Green stormwater infrastructure, native plants, habitat, riparian corridor (if there is a creek or shoreline), erosion control                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                 |           |                               |         |               |                                                             |  |           |
| <b>Programs</b>                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                 |           |                               |         |               |                                                             |  |           |
| Programming (desired)                                      | Environmental education                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                 |           |                               |         |               |                                                             |  |           |
| Programming (optional)                                     | Plant restoration service projects, research                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                 |           |                               |         |               |                                                             |  |           |
| Geographic range of users                                  | Citywide, regional, tourists                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                 |           |                               |         |               |                                                             |  |           |

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| <b>4.7 BOULEVARDS/GREEN STREETS/GREENWAYS</b>              | Park boulevards are established by City Council Ordinance, SMC 15.02.046 I and defined as an extension or expansion of a dedicated street which continues to serve as a right-of-way in addition to being park land. Many of Seattle’s boulevards are part of the Olmsted plan. Boulevards and green streets often provide safe pedestrian routes as well as recreation opportunities for jogging and bicycling. |                                                  |
| <b>Physical</b>                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                  |
| Size                                                       | Any                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                  |
| Setting                                                    | Single Family Residential, Residential Urban Villages, Hub Urban Villages<br>Along an arterial road<br>In places with attractive views                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                  |
| Contributes to planning area Usable Open Space requirement | Those with usable open space over 10,000 square feet                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                  |
| <b>Built environment</b>                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                  |
| Percent developed                                          | 25-100%                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                  |
| Assets (desired)                                           | Designed landscape Improved Path                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Regular street lighting                          |
| Assets (optional)                                          | Benches<br>Decorative lighting<br>Flat grassy area for informal activity                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Play area<br>Public gathering place<br>Viewpoint |
| Parking                                                    | Street parking, off-street parking                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                  |
| <b>Natural Environment</b>                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                  |
| Natural Area                                               | May have shoreline, riparian area                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                  |
| Environmental Benefits                                     | Green stormwater infrastructure, native plants, riparian area, CO2 reduction                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                  |
| <b>Programs</b>                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                  |
| Programming (desired)                                      | None                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                  |
| Programming (optional)                                     | None                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                  |
| Geographic range of users                                  | Citywide, all travelers using the street                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                  |



**4.8 SPECIAL-USE  
PARKS/SPECIALITY  
GARDENS**

This category refers generally to stand-alone parks that are designed to serve one particular use. Examples of parks that fit into this category include Woodland Park Zoo, West Seattle Stadium, Langston Hughes Performing Arts Center, Kubota Gardens and Camp Long. Specialty gardens are some of Seattle's most beautiful and inspiring places. They offer respite from the city's noise, quiet places to sit and reflect, and a revival of color and fragrance in the spring.

For each special-use park type, the descriptors will differ depending on industry standards and best practices for the intended activity. For each type of special-use park, a more detailed list of descriptors should be developed by a design expert in that particular field.

|                                                            |                                                                                                                                       |
|------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Physical</b>                                            |                                                                                                                                       |
| Size                                                       | Whatever size is necessary for the intended use                                                                                       |
| Setting                                                    | Depends on intended use                                                                                                               |
| Contributes to planning area Usable Open Space requirement | In some cases                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Built environment</b>                                   |                                                                                                                                       |
| Percent developed                                          | 70-100%                                                                                                                               |
| Assets (desired)                                           | Depends on intended use                                                                                                               |
| Assets (optional)                                          | Depends on intended use                                                                                                               |
| Parking                                                    | Depends on intended use                                                                                                               |
| <b>Natural Environment</b>                                 |                                                                                                                                       |
| Natural Area                                               | None                                                                                                                                  |
| Environmental benefits                                     | Native plants, habitat, and green stormwater infrastructure; environmental benefits of other special-use parks depends on development |
| <b>Programs</b>                                            |                                                                                                                                       |
| Programming (desired)                                      | Depends on intended use                                                                                                               |
| Programming (optional)                                     | Depends on intended use                                                                                                               |
| Geographic range of users                                  | Citywide, regional, tourists                                                                                                          |

5.0 RESPONSIBILITY

- 5.1 The Planning & Development Division (PDD) will be responsible for reviewing the Parks Classification System as a guideline as park development plans are reviewed for proposed improvements or changes in use.
- 5.2 The Parks Division will be responsible for reviewing the Parks Classification System as new maintenance procedures at a park site are considered.
- 5.3 As policies related to park programming options in different park types are considered, it will be the responsibility of the Recreation Division and Regional Parks and Strategic Outreach Division to review the Parks Classification System for policy guidance.

6.0 PROCEDURE

- 6.1 Revisions to the Parks Classification System may be requested, including revisions to park category definitions and changes to the assigned category of a specific park. Requests should be made in writing to the Parks Superintendent.
- 6.2 The Parks Superintendent may confer with the chair of the Board of Park Commissioners on the revisions and the preferred public review process for requested revisions. The Parks Superintendent shall have final authority on changes to the policy and/or park classification assignments

7.0 REFERENCES Not applicable