

Kelowna Park Classifications

For the purposes of park acquisition and planning, the City of Kelowna divides its parks into four main classifications. The classifications are based on size, location, and overall function within the park system.

ACTIVE PARK CLASSIFICATIONS

City-wide Parks

Size: various

City-Wide Parks are parks of special recreational, environmental or cultural significance. These parks vary in size and may be designed to accommodate active programming (e.g. sports fields, tennis courts, etc.), passive programming (e.g. picnicking, playgrounds, etc.), or a combination of both. Park amenities vary but are typically of sufficient importance to attract people from throughout the city as well as tourists. Examples include waterfront parks, hilltops, mountainsides, and significant viewpoints.

Example Parks: Sarson's Beach Park

Recreation Parks

Size: Approximately 30 hectares

Recreation Parks are primarily active in their design. They typically include high activity sports fields, recreation centres, arenas, court facilities, swimming pools and multi-recreational trails. They attract large numbers of participants and spectators and must accommodate such access demands with supportive vehicle, transit, cycling and pedestrian infrastructure. Passive recreational uses (e.g. picnicking, rest areas, playgrounds, etc.), for all ages are also typically incorporated into the design. Recreation Parks are designed to serve 45,000 people within a radius of approximately 5 kilometres; however, the nature of the park facilities typically attracts residents from across the city and beyond.

Example Parks: Mission Recreation Park

Community Parks

Size: Approximately 2 to 6 hectares

Community Parks are designed to serve 12,000 people within a radius of approximately 3 kilometres. They feature higher intensity recreation uses such as multi-recreational courts (i.e. tennis, basketball, hockey, lacrosse), sportsfields with minimal bookings, and infrastructure to meet vehicle, transit, cycling and pedestrian access needs. They may also include playgrounds, open space for unstructured activities, and other uses typical of a neighbourhood park.

Example Parks: Ben Lee Community Park

Neighbourhood Parks

Size: Typically 0.6 to 1.2 hectares

Neighbourhood Parks are centrally located within a neighbourhood and typically serve 2,000 residents within one kilometre or a five minute walk to the park. They may include playgrounds, nonbookable recreation spaces, trails, picnic areas, and passive recreational open space for children, families, seniors and others to enjoy. The park design is not expected to generate or accommodate significant traffic or noise. Neighbourhood Parks may be built in conjunction with a school, or developed to address a site-specific need such as a heritage park, or preservation of a unique ecological feature

Example Parks: Cross Glen Neighbourhood Park

Town Plazas

Size: Typically 0.2 to 0.8 hectares

In Kelowna's Town Centres (as defined by Kelowna's Official Community Plan), a Neighbourhood Park may take the form of a Town Plaza. Town Plazas are significant public spaces set aside for civic purposes. They are located in areas of high pedestrian activity and serve as landmarks and gathering places. They are high quality spaces with special attention to pedestrian amenities, accessibility, and adjacent commercial or civic uses.

Pocket Parks

Size: Typically 0.2 to 0.5 hectares

Pocket Parks are located in heavily developed areas to serve the immediate neighbourhood. They provide an urban open space to sit outdoors, trees and hard and soft surface landscaping, and potentially educational structures and children's play structures. Pocket Parks are typically the size of an average city lot (i.e., 0.2 to 0.5 hectares). As public spaces, often in close proximity to employment and commercial areas, Pocket Parks serve an important social and psychological role as a respite from the workday routine.

PASSIVE PARK CLASSIFICATIONS

Natural Area Parks

Size: Variable

Natural Area Parks are publicly owned parks that, for the most part, remain in their natural state. Wetlands, hillsides, ravines, significant natural landscapes, and other environmentally sensitive areas are typical characteristics of Natural Areas Parks. They have areas established for public access and recreation; however, they typically also include ecological conservation or preservation areas. In some instances, where appropriate, Natural Area Parks may include environmentally sensitive park development. Sustainable park management plans may be necessary to ensure the recreational and environmental park functions work in concert with one another.

Linear Parks

Size: 10 metre trail corridor width (minimum)

The term Linear Parks refers to the network of on- and off-road trails that are developed to serve all forms of non-vehicular movement. The network links points of interest throughout the city and provides healthy and diverse transportation and outdoor recreation opportunities. Where Linear Parks run off-road they often parallel creeks. Linear Parks along creek corridors are located outside the Riparian Management Area (some exceptions apply in mature areas due to site constraints). They are generally a minimum of 10 metres wide, with additional 5 metre buffer zones on each side. Trail corridors may be wider to reflect topographic challenges and to respond to specific on-site conditions. The City's Linear Park Master Plan identifies existing and proposed linear parks and various trail classifications, and outlines trail design and development standards.

OTHER PARK CLASSIFICATIONS

Private/Public Open Spaces

Size: Typically less than 0.2 hectares

Public or privately owned courtyards, pedestrian ways and small plazas can serve park functions for the occupants of adjacent development as well as other pedestrians. These spaces offer aesthetic relief, provide pedestrian rest and socializing areas, and allow for pedestrian connections within and between commercial, civic and residential areas.

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