

CHAPTER 3: RECREATIONAL FACILITY DESCRIPTIONS AND STANDARDS

Five types of public outdoor recreational areas are developed and maintained by the City of Milwaukee and the Milwaukee Public Schools:

Playfields

A playfield is an intensive-use area for organized sports activities serving youths and adults at both the neighborhood and community levels. Playfields contain facilities like football and soccer fields, hardball and softball diamonds, and tennis courts. Playfields are targeted to the population 15 years and older.

Playgrounds

A playground is a highly developed; intensive-use facility primarily serving neighborhood and school children aged 5-18 years. Playgrounds also provide recreational opportunities for young adults. Playgrounds include both paved and turf areas for play apparatus and activities such as basketball and softball.

Playlots

A playlot is an intensive-use area smaller than a playground; it is usually found in areas without sufficient space for development of a full-sized playground. Playlots are targeted to 5-12 year old children.

Totlots

A totlot is a small facility with play apparatus for use by preschool children and elementary school pupils. Totlots are frequently incorporated into playfields, playgrounds, and playlots. The targeted population is 12 years and younger.

Greenspaces

A greenspace is a primarily passive recreational area, which serves all age groups. Greenspaces may also provide opportunities for more active recreational pursuits such as hiking or rollerskating.

Spatial standards for playfields, playgrounds, playlots, totlots, greenspaces, and other types of public outdoor recreational areas are shown in Table 1. These standards are based on the recommendations of the National Recreation and Park Association. The standards are not absolute requirements for the provision of recreational facilities but are used as a guide in needs assessment and planning.