

6 > DEFINITIONS AND STANDARDS

Park classification systems have been used successfully elsewhere in the country to manage park resources, market to the public, and plan for future development. A system based on existing park inventories is proposed in this report, along with recommendations for park and facility standards.

> Park Classifications

Recognizing the diversity of the resources and variety of uses within the county parks, we recommend a park classification system. The classifications will serve as a guide to the ongoing management and use of the existing parks and open space lands, and the future development of new ones. Each park will be assigned a classification based on its dominant feature, recognizing that parks may share some of the characteristics of other park categories.

The following park and recreational lands classifications are proposed:

- **Shared-use Parks**
- **Special Use Area**
- **Natural Areas**

In addition, park and recreational lands that meet certain criteria may be assigned a special designation overlay. The following overlays are proposed:

- **Gateway Designation**
- **Leased Park Designation**



Recommendation:

Park Designation Process:

Consider lease, trade or sale of park lands that have been identified as not fitting the overall mission of the Parks Master Plan in order to fund other aspects of the park system.

Perform periodic reviews to evaluate whether the individual parks designation is still valid.

“I am from the local area and have not heard of some sites: need more signage and communication to public.”

*Survey respondent,
Hammond
August 2005*



“Unfortunately there is a lack of unvandalized toilet facilities.”

*Survey respondent
August 2005*

“All the parks need to be more publicized. Nobody knows about all these parks. Put out more information about the parks and put big signs on them!”

*Survey respondent
August 2005*

> Shared-use Parks

Definition

Sites that provide a range of park, recreation and open space opportunities.

Role and Function

Meet a variety of community-based, shared-use park and recreational needs.

Facilities

Examples of facilities deemed necessary to fulfill the recreational needs of the particular park: boat docks, built restroom facilities, water systems, covered picnic areas, playgrounds, volleyball courts, horseshoe pits, baseball fields, barbecue pits, trails, parking, fee boxes, camp hosts, fishing docks, signage, etc.

Management Focus

- Maintain all facilities and grounds in attractive, clean, safe and working order.
- Identify park management zones: active areas, passive areas and natural environment areas.
- Install an interpretive signage and educational program that will highlight the wonderful natural features of the area.
- Develop trails, viewing areas and other waterfront and wetland-related amenities, subject to environmental considerations (e.g., boat launch, fishing pier, viewing platforms or beach access).
- Collect fees where feasible.

> Special Use Area

Definition

Parks and recreation facilities oriented toward a single use or purpose.

Role and Function

Serve specific users and activities, including residents and visitors. Examples include boat ramps, docks, camping facilities, etc.

“Dog parks! We have well behaved springers that love to run.”

*Survey respondent
Astoria
August 2005*

Facilities

All facilities support the primary use.

Management Focus

- Maintain all facilities and grounds in good, safe and working order.
- Identify park management zones: active areas, passive areas and natural environment areas.
- Establish an interpretive signage and educational program that can highlight the wonderful natural features of the area.
- Facilitate public access and views to natural features.
- Establish fee collection where feasible.

> Natural Areas (Low-Impact Recreation)

Definition

The primary purpose of these sites is to conserve the natural environment while allowing for low-impact, nature-based recreational activities.

Role and Function

Self-directed, resource-oriented outdoor recreation that complements the unique and natural features of each site without harming the environment. Natural areas are typically less developed and managed to preserve natural processes.

Facilities

Low-impact facilities including trails, trailheads, modest comfort facilities (restrooms), informal parking areas, information/interpretive kiosks, and directional/way finding signage.

Management Focus

- Protect important natural and cultural heritage features.
- Manage and enhance environmental resources; examples include forest land, fisheries and other wildlife.
- Identify appropriate use of areas and trail routes.
- Encourage shared-use trails wherever possible and appropriate to serve the greatest number of users; separate trail uses where necessary if conflict is unavoidable.
- Install an interpretive signage and educational program that will highlight the unique natural and historic features throughout these parks; examples include bird watching, nature enjoyment and trails use.
- Establish a "Carry-in / Carry-out" trash policy within these scenic and natural park settings.

"We have lived here all our lives and I have never seen any information out on county parks."

*Survey respondent,
Youngs River area
August 2005*

> Gateway Designation

Definition

Gateway parks are likely points of first contact with the larger park system.

Role and Function

Serve as a gateway to the parks system with information about other parks that visitors might like to see.

Facilities

Kiosks, information centers, fee payment systems.

Management Focus

Maintain the information booths, fee collection.

> Leased Park Designation

Definition

Parks that are leased to a third party that manages the park for a specific purpose.

Role and Function

Provide a needed, popular or historic public service.

Facilities

As needed by the leasing entity and consistent with the lease agreement, but consistent with returning the land to its underlying designated use at the conclusion of the lease.

Management Focus

Ensure that the terms of the lease are followed.

**Table 19 – Park & Recreational Lands
Classification Matrix**

Parks

	A. Shared- Use	B. Special Use	C. Natural (Low Impact Rec)	D. Gateway	E. Leased Parks
Aldrich Point		u			
Big Creek	u				
Carnahan	u				
Cullaby Lake	u			u*	
David Douglas			u		
Lee Wooden			u		
John Day		u		u*	
Kloutchy Creek	u			u*	
North Fork Nehalem Park (Hwy 53)			u		
Nehalem Park (Red Bluff)			u		
Sigfridson			u		
Smith Lake			u		
Westport		u		u*	

Recreational Areas

	A. Shared- use	B. Special Use	C. Natural (Low Impact Rec)	D. Gateway	E. Leased Parks
Camp Cullaby (BSA)		u			u
DeLaura Beach			u		
Lewis & Clark		u			
Camp Kiwanilong	u				u
Twilight Eagle		u			
Lower Co. Soccer		u			u

*Proposed designations

> Zoning

Existing zoning does not fully account for current uses or future plans for county parks. Based review by the Task Force, county parks and recreational lands are inconsistently zoned. In the opinion of the Task Force, the RM (Recreation Management) zone is the closest match.

We recommend defining all county parks and recreational lands as county-owned land zoned RM. The parks master plan (or specific, individual park master plans) would become the document controlling use or conditional uses. The parks classification document described in this chapter provides an effective guideline for current use and future plans.

Recommendation:
We recommend defining all county parks and recreational lands as county-owned land zoned RM.

Table 20 – County Zoning Relevant to Parks and Recreation Lands

Use/Zone	Park Master Plan Zone (Section 3.900)	Open Space, Parks, and Recreation Zone (Section 3.580)	Recreation Management Zone (Section 3.594)
Purpose	The purpose of this zone is to provide for the long term protection, management and enjoyment of natural, cultural, scenic, open space and recreational resources within publicly-owned or managed parks.	The OPR zone is intended to provide for the conservation of open space; the protection and development of areas uniquely suited for outdoor recreation and the protection of designated scenic, natural and cultural resource areas.	This zone is intended to be applied to existing public and private parks particularly those that contain significant natural values. These areas are intended to accommodate the type of recreational development that insures the maintenance of the site's natural values.
Applicability	This zone will be applied only to public parks which have master plans adopted by Clatsop County pursuant to OAR 660 Division 34		
Development & Use	Park uses and facilities that are consistent with a park master plan adopted pursuant to OAR 660 Division 34, and with applicable development standards, are allowed through the review procedures...	Farm use. Forest use. Wildlife refuge or management area. Public regional park or recreation area excluding campgrounds. Historical or archaeological site/area. Golf courses except in areas identified as Coastal Shorelands. R.V. Park subject to Section S3.550-S3.552 except in the Clatsop Plains Planning Area. Other watersheds. Public or private neighborhood park or playground. Golf driving range. Municipally owned watersheds. Accessory development customarily provided in conjunction with the above developments. Property line adjustment. Low intensity recreation.	General maintenance and operation of existing recreation facilities. Recreational improvements and additions necessary to serve the same visitor capacity served by the existing facilities, provided that off-site impacts are not disturbed. Property line adjustments. Low intensity recreation.

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