



POLICIES AND GUIDELINES FOR PARKS

FOR INDIAN CITIES



Landscape Environment Advancement Foundation,
INDIA

September
2023

PREFACE

The document is developed with an aim of defining standards that will improve the park development process, and serve as a reference tool to guide planning bodies, governing agencies and professionals engaged in planning and development of public parks .

Note - The is an evolving document and might vary across different regions depending upon various environmental and social factors. The design parameters and attributes may be affected climate zones, rainfall, soil types, urbanity, social status, cultural considerations, etc .

CONTENT**1. INTRODUCTION**

- Urban Parks	7
- Objective	10
- Scope	10
- Open Space Comparison – Global Cities Vs Indian Cities	11
- Challenges With The Development Of Public Park In India	12
- Ideal Methodology To Be Adopted For The Development Of Parks	13
- Categorising parks and park typologies	14

2. PRINCIPLES OF PARK DESIGN

- Design For User Range and Experiences	15
- Place making And Design Identity	15
- Accessibility and Connectivity	16
- Preservation and Aesthetics	16
- Sustainability and Environmental issues	17
- Design for Safety and Security	17
- Effective Administrative Management And Enforcement	18
- Formulate A Definitive Operations And Maintenance Program	18
- Design For Public Health , Wellbeing and Recreation	18

3. PARK ATTRIBUTES & RECOMMENDATIONS

- Spatial Organization	19
- Recreational Facilities	20
- External Linkages	22
- Access	23
- Internal Circulation	23
- Parking facilities	25
- Buildings, Amenities, Services and Utilities Infrastructure	26
- Shading & Shade Structures	28
- Softscape	29
- Hardscape	31
- Park furniture	32
- Special Features (water features, bridges , decks)	33
- Lighting	34
- Signage	35
- Fence, wall and Screens	36
- Public Art	36
- Water Management	37

CONTENT**4. OPERATION & MAINTENANCE**

- Maintenance Planning 39
- Public & Private Partnership 40
- Capital investment 41
- Training 41

5. CASE REFERENCE – PRATITI INITIATIVE

- Introduction 42
- The process 42
- Challenges 42
- Park attributes / kit of parts 43
- Stakeholder and responsibility matrix 44
- Parks 45

6. EVALUATION PARAMETERS FOR PARKS

- Evaluation based on park attributes 48
- Parameters - to assess sustainability 49

7. ANNEXURE

- Statistics and Norms 50
- References 52

PRINCIPLES OF PARK DESIGN

-  Design For User Range and Experiences
-  Place making And Design Identity
-  Accessibility and Connectivity
-  Preservation and Aesthetics
-  Sustainability and Environmental issues
-  Design for Safety and Security
-  Effective Administrative Management And Enforcement
-  Formulate A Definitive Operations And Maintenance Program
-  Design For Public Health , Wellbeing and Recreation

PARK ATTRIBUTES & RECOMMENDATIONS

-  Spatial Organization
-  Recreational Facilities
-  External Linkages
-  Access
-  Internal Circulation
-  Parking facilities
-  Buildings, Amenities, Services and Utilities Infrastructure
-  Shading & Shade Structures
-  Softscape
-  Hardscape
-  Park furniture
-  Special Features (water features, bridges , decks)
-  Lighting
-  Signage
-  Fence, wall and Screens
-  Public Art
-  Water Management

OPERATION & MAINTENANCE

-  Maintenance Planning
-  Public & Private Partnership
-  Capital investment
-  Training

IMPORTANCE OF URBAN PARKS



To improve the liveability and quality of life



To increase habitat and biodiversity



To provide identity to towns and cities



To create a magnet to attract living, working, investment and tourism



To reduce urban heat island effect.



To decrease pressure on built infrastructure (Integrated storm water systems)

OPEN SPACES AND CITIES - GLOBAL EXAMPLES



**Calculated on a per person basis.*

OPEN SPACES AND CITIES - INDIAN SCENARIO



**Calculated on a per person basis.*

CATEGORIZATION OF PARKS

Categorization of parks could be done on various parameters – size , area that they cater to, functions or level / pattern of usage.

The planning and design standards of Parks can be formulated accordingly. Depending on the location, size and hierarchy level of the park, attributes with recommended planning norms and design standards need to be considered.

CASE OF DELHI

Categories established for Planning Norms, Standards for Recreational Areas / Parks at City level

URBAN PARK CATEGORY	CONSTITUENTS	SIZE GUIDELINE	POPULATION
City Park	Aqua park/water sports park, Arboretum, Botanical Garden, National Memorial (approved by Cabinet/ Govt. of India), Amphitheatre, Open Playground, Aquarium, other activities same as permitted in District Park.	100	10 lakh
District Park	Theme park, Recreational Club, National Memorial, Open-air food court, Children Park, Orchard, Plant Nursery, Area for water harvesting, Archaeological Park, Specialized Park, Amusement Park, Children Traffic Park, Sports activity, Playground, Amenity structures.	25	5 lakh
Community Park	Park, Children Park, Open-air food court, Playground, etc.	5	1 lakh

Categories established for Planning Norms, Standards for Recreational Areas / Parks at Neighborhood level

URBAN PARK CATEGORY	CONSTITUENTS	SIZE GUIDELINE (HECTARE)	POPULATION
Neighbourhood Park	Common open space	0.1	10,000
Housing Area Park	Anganwari / Tot Lot and convenience shopping area	0.5	5000
Tot lot Housing Cluster level		0.0125	250

5. CASE REFERENCE-
PRATITI INITIATIVE

5.4 PARK ATTRIBUTES _ KIT OF PARTS

For effective design and maintenance a kit of parts was developed. One that was cost-effective, sustainable, and adaptable.



Signage



Accessible entrance



Playground



Seating courts



Shaded Walkways



Meditation ground



Outdoor Gym



Biodiversity and Experientially



Amphitheater



Waterbody / Fountain

5. CASE REFERENCE-
PRATITI INITIATIVE

5.4 PARK ATTRIBUTES _ KIT OF PARTS



Loose furniture – Seating and Waste bins



Lighting



Pet park



Gym Building



Waste Bins



Drinking water facilities



Hygienic Toilets



Installations

5.5 PARK ATTRIBUTES _ ECONOMICS OF OPERATIONS AND MAINTAINANCE

Based on the parks developed so far for the PRATITI INITIATIVE , the cost can be broken up as follows :

Cost of Design and Maintenance - 600 INR per sq. m Per Annum.

Depending on design, these parks cost Rs. 2750-4000 per sq. m to develop.

7. ANNEXURE

7.2 REFERENCES

1. Bureau of Indian Standards, 2016, 'Part 1: definitions', *National Building Code of India 2016: volume 1*, pp.5-27. 10.
2. Bureau of Indian Standards, 2016, 'Part 10- Landscape development, signs and outdoor display structures: Section 1- landscape planning, design and development',
3. *National Building Code of India 2016: volume 2*, pp.16-23
3. County of Los Angeles, Department of Parks and Recreation Planning & Development Agency, June 2014, 'Chapter 2- Park Design Guidelines: 2.1 spatial organization', *Park Design Guidelines and Standards*, pp.3-5, viewed 08 July 2019
4. *Park Design Guidelines, Delhi, 2020, Delhi Urban Art Commission- Chapter 3 Park Attributes & Recommendations* pp.32-25, pp. 50-61
5. *Hong Kong planning standards and guidelines*
6. *Public Open Space Categories- GIGL*
7. *City of St. Albert Parks and Open Space Standards and Guidelines Evaluation Tool*, Nov 2018, pp 1- 6
8. *Parks recreation magazine/March 2018 - Measuring the Use of Public Neighborhood Parks*
9. TERI, *Griha Manual: volume 1: Introduction to national rating system*, pp.31.
10. *Town and Country Planning Organisation, Government of India, Ministry of Urban Development, 2014, Urban Greening Guidelines 2014*

