

## Appendix A – GRASP® Glossary

Buffer: see catchment area

Catchment area: a circular map overlay that radiates outward in all directions from a component and represents a reasonable travel distance from the edge of the circle to the asset. Used to indicate access to an asset in a LOS assessment

Component: an amenity such as a playground, picnic shelter, basketball court, or athletic field that allows people to exercise, socialize, and maintain a healthy physical, mental, and social wellbeing

Geo-Referenced Amenities Standards Process® (GRASP®): a proprietary composite-values methodology that takes quality and functionality of assets and amenities into account in a LOS assessment

GRASP® Level of service (LOS): the extent to which a recreation system provides community access to recreational assets and amenities

GRASP®-IT audit tool: an instrument developed for assessing the quality and other characteristics of parks, trails, and other public lands and facilities. The tested, reliable, and valid tool has been used nationwide in more than 125 park systems inventories.

Low-score component: a component given a GRASP® score of "1" or "0" as it fails to meet expectations

Lower-service area: an area of a District that has some GRASP® LOS but falls below the minimum standard threshold for the overall LOS

Modifier: a basic site amenity that supports users during a visit to a park or recreation site, to include elements such as restrooms, shade, parking, drinking fountains, seating, BBQ grills, security lighting, and bicycle racks, among others

No-service area: an area of a District with no GRASP® LOS

Perspective: A perspective is a map or data quantification, such as a table or chart, produced using the GRASP® methodology that helps illustrate how recreational assets serve a community

Radius: see catchment area

Recreational connectivity: the extent to which community recreational resources are transitionally linked allows for easy and enjoyable travel between them.

Recreational trail: A recreation trail can be a soft or hard-surfaced off-street path that promotes active or passive movement through parklands or natural areas. Recreational trails are typically planned and managed by parks and recreation professionals or departments.

**Service area:** all or part of a catchment area ascribed a particular GRASP® score that reflects the LOS provided by a specific recreational asset, a set of assets, or an entire recreation system

**Threshold:** a minimum LOS standard typically determined based on community expectations

**Trail:** any off-street or on-street connection dedicated to pedestrian, bicycle, or other non-motorized users

**Trail network:** A trail network is a functional and connected part of a trail system. Different networks are separated from other trail networks by missing trail connections or barriers such as roadways, rivers, or railroad tracks.

**Trail system:** all trails in a community that serve pedestrian, bicycle, and alternative transportation users for purposes of both recreation and transportation

**Transportation trail:** A transportation trail is a hard-surface trail, such as a District sidewalk, intended for traveling from one place to another in a community or region. These trails typically run outside of parklands and are managed by Public Works or another District utility department.

### GRASP® Components and Definitions

GRASP® Outdoor Component List	
GRASP® Outdoor Component Type	Definition
Adventure Course	An area designated for activities such as ropes courses, zip-lines, challenge courses. The type specified in the comments.
Amusement Ride	Carousel, train, go-carts, bumper cars, or other ride-upon features. The ride has an operator and controlled access.
Aquatics, Complex	An aquatic complex has at least one immersion pool and other features intended for aquatic recreation.
Aquatics, Lap Pool	A swimming pool intended for swimming laps.
Aquatics, Leisure Pool	A swimming pool intended for leisure water activities. May include zero-depth entry, slides, and spray features.
Aquatics, Spray Pad	A water play feature without immersion intended for interaction with moving water.

<b>GRASP® Outdoor Component List</b>	
<b>GRASP® Outdoor Component Type</b>	<b>Definition</b>
Aquatics, Therapy Pool	A therapy pool is a temperature-controlled pool intended for rehabilitation and therapy.
Basketball Court	A dedicated full-sized outdoor court with two goals.
Basketball, Practice	A basketball goal for half-court play or practice, including goals in spaces associated with other uses like parking lots.
Batting Cage	A batting cage is a stand-alone facility with pitching machines and restricted entry.
Bike Complex	A bike complex accommodates various bike skills activities with multiple features or skill areas.
Bike Course	A designated area for non-motorized bicycle use, constructed of concrete, wood, or compacted earth. May include a pump track, velodrome, skills course.
Camping, Defined	Defined campsites may include a variety of facilities such as restrooms, picnic tables, water supply. Use the official agency count for quantity if available.
Camping, Undefined	Indicates allowance for users to stay overnight in the outdoors in undefined sites. Undefined camping receives a quantity of one for each park or location. Use this component when the number of campsites is not available or for dispersed camping.
Climbing, Designated	A designated natural or human-made facility provided or managed by an agency for recreation climbing but is not limited to play.
Climbing, General	Indicates allowance for users to participate in a climbing activity. Use a quantity of one for each park or other location.
Concession	A facility used for the selling, rental, or other provision of food, drinks, goods, and services to the public.

GRASP® Outdoor Component List	
GRASP® Outdoor Component Type	Definition
Diamond Field	Softball and baseball fields, suitable for organized diamond sports games. Not specific to size or age-appropriateness.
Diamond Field, Complex	Many ballfields at a single location are suitable for tournaments.
Diamond Field, Practice	An open or grassy area is used to practice diamond. It doesn't lend itself to organized diamond sports games and from open turf by the presence of a backstop.
Disc Golf	A designated area for disc golf. Quantities: 18 hole course = 1; 9 hole course =.5
Dog Park	An area explicitly designated as an off-leash area for dogs and their guardians.
Educational Experience	Signs, structures, or features that provide an educational, cultural, or historical experience. They are distinguished from public art by the presence of interpretive signs or other information. Assign a quantity of one for each contiguous site.
Equestrian Facility	An area designated for equestrian use and typically applied to facilities other than trails.
Event Space	A designated area or facility for an outdoor class, performance, or special event, including an amphitheater, bandshell, stage.
Fitness Course	Features intended for personal fitness activities. A course receives a quantity of one for each complete grouping of fitness equipment.
Game Court	Outdoor court designed for a game other than tennis, basketball, and volleyball distinguished from a multi-use pad, including bocce, shuffleboard, and lawn bowling. The type specified in the comments. Quantity counted per court.

<b>GRASP® Outdoor Component List</b>	
<b>GRASP® Outdoor Component Type</b>	<b>Definition</b>
Garden, Community	A garden area that provides community members a place to have a personal vegetable or flower garden.
Garden, Display	An area designed and maintained to provide a focal point or destination, including a rose garden, fern garden, native plant garden, wildlife/habitat garden, and an arboretum.
Golf	A course designed and intended for the sport of golf counted per 18 holes. Quantities: 18 hole course = 1; 9 hole course = .5
Golf, Miniature	A course designed and intended as a multi-hole golf putting game.
Golf, Practice	An area designated for golf practice or lessons, including driving ranges and putting greens.
Horseshoe Court	A designated area for the game of horseshoes, including permanent pits of regulation length. Quantity counted per court.
Horseshoes Complex	Several regulation horseshoe courts in a single location. They are suitable for tournaments.
Ice Hockey	Regulation size outdoor rink explicitly built for ice hockey games and practice. General ice skating included in "Winter Sport."
Inline Hockey	Regulation size outdoor rink built specifically for in-line hockey games and practice.
Loop Walk	Opportunity to complete a circuit on foot or by non-motorized travel mode. Suitable for use as an exercise circuit or leisure walking. Quantity of one for each park or other location unless more than one particular course is present.
Multi-Use Pad	A painted area with games such as hopscotch, 4 square, tetherball found in schoolyards. As distinguished from "Games Court," which is typically single-use.

GRASP® Outdoor Component List	
GRASP® Outdoor Component Type	Definition
Natural Area	Describes an area in a park that contains plants and landforms that are remnants of or replicate undisturbed native regions of the local ecology. It can include grasslands, woodlands, and wetlands.
Open Turf	A grassy area that is not suitable for programmed field sports due to size, slope, location, or physical obstructions. It may be used for games of catch, tag, or other informal play and uses that require an open grassy area.
Other	An active or passive component that does not fall under another definition. Specified in comments.
Passive Node	A place designed to create a pause or particular focus within a park includes seating areas, plazas, overlooks, and not intended for programmed use.
Pickleball Court	A designated court designed primarily for pickleball play.
Picnic Ground	A designated area with a grouping of picnic tables suitable for organized picnic activities. Account for individual picnic tables as Comfort and Convenience modifiers.
Playground, Destination	A destination playground attracts families from the entire community. Typically has restrooms and parking on-site. May include special features like a climbing wall, spray feature, or adventure play.
Playground, Local	A local playground serves the needs of the surrounding neighborhood. Includes developed playgrounds and designated nature play areas. These parks generally do not have restrooms or on-site parking.
Public Art	Any art installation on public property. Art receives a quantity of one for each contiguous site.

<b>GRASP® Outdoor Component List</b>	
<b>GRASP® Outdoor Component Type</b>	<b>Definition</b>
Rectangular Field Complex	Several rectangular fields in a single location. A complex is suitable for tournament use.
Rectangular Field, Large	Describes a specific field large enough to host one adult rectangular field sports game such as soccer, football, lacrosse, rugby, and field hockey. The approximate field size is 180' x 300' (60 x 100 yards). The field may have goals and lines specific to an individual sport that may change with the permitted use.
Rectangular Field, Multiple	Describes an area large enough to host one adult rectangular field sports game and a minimum of one other event/game, but with an undetermined number of actual fields. This category describes a large open grassy area arranged in configurations for any number of rectangular field sports. Sports may include but are not limited to: soccer, football, lacrosse, rugby, and field hockey. The field may have goals and lines specific to an individual sport that may change with the permitted use.
Rectangular Field, Small	Describes a specific field too small to host a regulation adult rectangular field sports game but accommodates at least one youth field sports game. Sports may include but are not limited to: soccer, football, lacrosse, rugby, and field hockey. A field may have goals and lines specific to a particular sport that may change with a permitted use.
Shelter, Large	A shade shelter or pavilion large enough to accommodate a group picnic or other event for a minimum of 13 seated. Address lack of seating in scoring.
Shelter, Small	A shade shelter, large enough to accommodate a family picnic or other event for approximately 4-12 persons with seating for a minimum of 4. Covered benches for seating up to 4 people are included in comfort and convenience scoring and should not be included here.

<b>GRASP® Outdoor Component List</b>	
<b>GRASP® Outdoor Component Type</b>	<b>Definition</b>
Skate Feature	A small or single feature primarily for wheel sports such as skateboarding, in-line skating. The component may or may not allow freestyle biking. Categorize dedicated bike facilities as Bike Course.
Skate Park	An area set aside primarily for wheel sports such as skateboarding and in-line skating. The park may allow freestyle biking. It may be specific to one user group or allow for several user types and accommodate various abilities. Typically has a variety of concrete or modular features.
Target Range	A designated area for practice or competitive target activities. The type specified, such as archery or firearms, in comments.
Tennis Complex	Multiple regulation courts in a single location with amenities suitable for tournament use.
Tennis Court	A court that is suitable for recreation or competitive play. Quick-start or other non-standard types specified in comments.
Tennis, Practice Wall	A wall intended for practicing tennis.
Track, Athletic	A multi-lane, regulation-sized running track appropriate for track and field events.
Trail, Multi-Use	A trail, paved or unpaved, is separated from the road and provides recreational opportunities or connections to walkers, bikers, rollerbladers, and equestrian users. Paths that make a circuit within a single site are Loop Walks.
Trail, Primitive	An unpaved path is located within a park or natural area that provides recreational opportunities or connections to users. Minimal surface improvements that may or may not meet accessibility standards.
Trail, Water	A river, stream, canal, or other waterway trails for floating, paddling, or other watercraft.



GRASP® Outdoor Component List	
GRASP® Outdoor Component Type	Definition
Trailhead	A designated staging area at a trail access point may include restrooms, an information kiosk, parking, drinking water, trash receptacles, and seating.
Volleyball Court	One full-sized court. It may be a hard or soft surface, including grass and sand. May have permanent or portable posts and nets.
Wall Ball Court	Walled courts are associated with sports such as handball and racquetball—the type specified in the comments.
Water Access, Developed	A developed water access point includes docks, piers, kayak courses, boat ramps, fishing facilities. It is specified in comments, including the quantity for each unique type.
Water Access, General	Measures a user's general ability to access the edge of open water. May include undeveloped shoreline. Typically receives a quantity of one for each contiguous site.
Water Feature	This passive water-based amenity provides a visual focal point that includes fountains and waterfalls.
Water, Open	A body of water such as a pond, stream, river, wetland with open water, lake, or reservoir.
Winter Sport	An area designated for a winter sport or activity. For example, a downhill ski area, nordic ski area, sledding hill, tobacco run, and recreational ice. The type specified in the comments.

## Inventory Methods and Process

The planning team's detailed GIS (Geographic Information System) inventory first prepared a preliminary list of existing components using aerial photography and GIS data. Components identified in aerial photos were located and labeled.

Next, the team conducted field visits to confirm or revise preliminary component data, make notes regarding sites or assets, and understand the system. The inventory for this study

focused primarily on components at public parks. Each element's evaluation ensures it serves its intended function, noting any parts needing refurbishment, replacement, or removal. The inventory also included recording site comfort and convenience amenities such as shade, drinking fountains, restrooms, and modifiers.

Collection of the following information during site visits:

Component type and geo-location

Component functionality

Based on the condition, size, site capacity, and overall quality, assessment scoring. The inventory team used the following three-tier rating system to evaluate these:

- 1 = Below Expectations
- 2 = Meets Expectations
- 3 = Exceeds Expectations

Site modifiers

Site design and ambiance

Site photos

General comments

## Asset Scoring

All components were scored based on condition, size, site capacity, and overall quality, reflecting the user's expectations of recreational features. Beyond the quality and functionality of components, however, GRASP® LOS analysis considers other essential aspects of a park or recreation site. Not all parks are created equal, and their surroundings may determine the quality of a user's experience. For example, the GRASP® system acknowledges the essential differences between identical playground structures as displayed in the following example figures:

**Figure 33 GRASP® examples**



In addition to scoring components, GRASP®-IT assesses each park site or indoor facility for comfort, convenience, and ambient qualities. These qualities include the availability of restrooms, drinking water, shade, scenery. These modifier values then enhance or amplify component scores at any given location.

This inventory atlas consists of the GIS data displayed by location on an aerial photograph. Compiled GIS information collected during the site visit, including all GIS data and staff input. An accompanying data sheet for each site lists modifier and component scores and observations and comments.

Analyzing the existing parks, open space, trails, and recreation systems determines how they serve the public. Level of Service (LOS) defines the capacity of various components and facilities to meet the public's needs regarding the size or quantity of a given facility.

## Park Classifications

### The Nature of Classification Systems

Most park and recreation agencies organize lands and facilities into various classes, types, categories, or other schemes as a planning and management tool. Park classification systems are commonly utilized by park and recreation agencies. However, once established, classification schemes are rarely modified. Over time, they may lose effectiveness as a tool due to changing agency or community values. Purposes for classifying lands and facilities into different categories include:

- Determination of policies and strategies for management and operation of lands and facilities.
- Definition of categories of need for land and facilities and identifying potential acquisitions to meet those needs.
- Establish policies and strategies for land acquisition, including exactions, easements, leases, and other processes, in addition to fee-simple purchase.
- Establish benchmarks and goals for providing services and measure the efforts towards meeting these.

In 1995, the National Park and Recreation Association published the following classification table. It represented the most current thinking on classification and standards for parklands and facilities.

**NRPA Parks and Open Space Classifications (1995)**

<b>Parks, Open Space, and Pathways Classification Table</b>			
<b>Parks and Open Space Classifications</b>			
<b>Classification</b>	<b>General Description</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Size Criteria</b>
<b>Mini-Park</b>	Used to address limited, isolated or unique recreational needs	Less 1/4 mile distance in residential setting	Between 2500 sq. ft. and one acre in size
<b>Neighborhood Park</b>	Neighborhood park remains the basic unit of the park system and serves as the recreational and social focus of the neighborhood. Focus is on informal activity and passive recreation	Up to to 1/2 mile distance and uninterrupted by non-residential roads and other physical barriers	5 acres is considered minimum size. 5 to 10 acres is optimal
<b>School-Park</b>	Depending on circumstances, combining parks with school sites can fulfill the space requirements for other classes of parks, such as neighborhood, community, sports complex, and special use	Determined by location of school district property	Variable depends on function
<b>Community Park</b>	Serves broader purpose than neighborhood park. Focus is on meeting community-based recreation needs, as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces	Determined by the quality and suitability of the site. Usually serves two or more neighborhoods within a 3-mile distance	As needed to accommodate desired uses. Usually between 30 and 50 acres
<b>Large Urban Park</b>	Large Urban parks serve a broader purpose than community parks and are used when community and neighborhood parks are not adequate to serve the needs of the community. Focus is on meeting community-based recreational needs as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces	Determined by the quality and suitability of the site. Usually serves the entire community.	As needed to accommodate desired uses. Usually a minimum of 50 acres with 75 or more acres being optimal
<b>Natural Resource Areas</b>	Lands set aside for preservation of significant natural resources, remnant landscapes, open space and visual aesthetics or buffering.	Resource availability and Opportunity	Variable
<b>Greenways</b>	Effectively tie the park system components together to form a continuous park environment.	Resource availability and Opportunity	Variable
<b>Sports Complex</b>	Consolidates heavily programmed athletic fields and associated facilities to larger and fewer sites strategically located throughout the community	Strategically located Community-wide facilities	Determined by projected demand usually a minimum of 25 acres with 40 to 80 acres being optimal.
<b>Special Use Park</b>	Covers a broad range of parks and recreation facilities oriented toward single-purpose use	Variable – dependent on specific use	Variable
<b>Private Park/Recreation Facility</b>	Parks and recreational facilities that are privately owned yet contribute to the public park and recreation system	Variable – dependent on specific use	Variable

NRPA has since moved to GIS mapping of Park and Recreation Lands. The GRASP® methodology is one example of a GIS-driven, component-based system that may be used for both classification and LOS analysis.

Classifications must be clear, straightforward, and understandable. Often methods are adopted that are ambiguous or use conflicting criteria for defining individual classes of lands and facilities. Planners and administrators often try to do too many things at once within a single scheme. A common failing of classification systems is that they tend to be used based on parcel size rather than land use. Often, a large parcel has a wide and diverse set of uses. No single classification encompasses the full range of purposes that the parcel addresses. So a classification is chosen from among the possible choices. Still, it cannot describe all of the functions of that parcel. A common solution is to develop a new category that fits the parcel. Over time, this leads to too many classes and becomes unwieldy and less useful.

Consider a site located in a residential area on 20 or 30 acres with a wooded section and a developed park portion. It may have a playground intended for use by the neighborhood but not much else. This site would be classified as a neighborhood park based on usage but a community park based on size. An exception must be made to the standard to assign it to one classification or the other.

That same park might have a large lawn area used for soccer games. The combination of size and use would place it in the community park category. Still, everyone considers it a neighborhood park because of its location and the people it serves. Another exception is made to the standard. Or a new classification is created to address the unique situation.

Classifications are of relatively little importance to the general public. A visitor chooses to visit a particular park or facility for its amenities, not based on its classification. A park name that includes its classification, such as Meridian Community Park, may suggest to the potential visitor what amenities it contains. However, the choice to visit is still based on the amenities found there regardless of name or classification. Classifications may be most valuable for internal use by an agency.

### Use or Function Based Level-of-Service Classification

Another useful classification system is applied on a land-use rather than a parcel basis. To do this:

- a. List the various types of uses found within the agency's lands and facilities.
- b. Sort these into helpful categories relevant to the assets' planning, operation, and management.
  - i. For example, if sports-oriented parks are managed differently than neighborhood parks, a clear and understandable definition of what uses constitute a neighborhood park should be developed.

- c. Once the use categories are defined, all of the land and facilities owned and managed by an agency should be evaluated to identify which parts fall within the various classifications.
  - i. This should be done on use rather than a parcel basis.
  - ii. A sports-oriented park may be defined by boundaries that reflect the use.
  - iii. These boundaries may not necessarily coincide with parcel boundaries (though often they will).
  - iv. These boundaries can be drawn in a GIS system and stored on separate layers from the parcel boundaries.
  - v. By creating a new layer in the GIS with classifications based on use or functions, the classification system can be used more effectively to measure and manage the agency's assets.

**Table 17: Meridian Park Classifications and Descriptions**

Proposed Classification	Proposed General Description	General Design and Development Guidelines	Size and Street Frontage Guidelines	Proposed <b>Unique</b> GRASP® Component Range based on Current Inventory	Proposed <b>Total</b> GRASP® Component Range based on Current Inventory
Regional Park (Large Urban Park)	Serve a broad purpose to the community and region while still providing adequate neighborhood level of service to adjacent residents. Focus is on components that occur in quantities, size and design to serve large groups or community wide events. May serve users from across city or region. Because of service area requires adequate parking facilities.	Appropriate components may include but not be limited to: Destination Playground Dog Park Sports Fields Splash Pads Event Space Open Turf Shelter Basketball, Tennis, Pickleball, etc. Loop Walk Public Art Typical Comfort and Convenience Amenities (Picnic tables, benches, bike racks, drinking fountains, restroom, etc)	50+ acres based on current inventory  Full access on at least two sides of park. At least one side of the park should have access from a collector or arterial street.	15 to 21	39+
Community Park	Serve a broad purpose to the community while still providing adequate neighborhood level of service to adjacent residents. Focus is on components that occur in quantities, size and design to serve large groups or community wide events. Generally serves users within 1-3 mile radius. Requires adequate parking to minimize neighborhood conflict.	Appropriate components may include but not be limited to: Destination Playground Dog Park Sports Fields Open Turf Shelter Basketball or Other Courts Loop Walk Public Art Typical Comfort and Convenience Amenities (Picnic tables, benches, bike racks, drinking fountains, restroom, etc)	15 to 30 acres based on current inventory  Visible from adjoining street and street frontage on at least two sides with 400 feet minimum	7 to 9	8 to 15
Neighborhood Park	The basic unit of the park system and serves as the recreational and social focus of the neighborhood. Level of service is primarily provided to individual, families and small groups through unique components. Generally serves residents within 1/2 mile walking distance up to one mile and limited on-site parking provided.	Appropriate components may include but not be limited to: Local Playground Open Turf Shelter Basketball or Other Court Game Loop Walk Public Art Typical Comfort and Convenience Amenities (Picnic tables, benches, bike racks, drinking fountains, restroom, etc)	.5 to 11 acres based on current inventory (City Standard Size is 7 acres)  Visible from adjoining street and 200 feet of street frontage	5 to 6	4.5 to 6
Special Use Park	Covers a broad range of parks and recreational facilities oriented toward single-purpose use, limited, isolated or unique recreational needs.	Appropriate components may vary based on use. Typical Comfort and Convenience Amenities (Picnic tables, benches, bike racks, drinking fountains, restroom, etc)	Varies by use  Street frontage may vary by use and size	Varies	Varies
Sports Park	Sport oriented facility.	Appropriate components may vary based on use. Typical Comfort and Convenience Amenities (Picnic tables, benches, bike racks, drinking fountains, restroom, etc)	Varies by use  Street frontage may vary by use and size	Varies	Varies



## Additional Inventory

### HOA/Private Parks and Properties

Park or Facility	Acres	Aquatics, Lap Pool	Aquatics, Leisure Pool	Aquatics, Therapy Pool	Basketball Court	Basketball, Practice	Disc Golf	Game Court	Horseshoe Court	Loop Walk	Open Turf	Passive Node	Playground, Destination	Playground, Local	Rectangular Field, Multiple	Shelter, Large	Shelter, Small	Tennis Court	Volleyball Court	Water Feature	Water, Open
ALEXANDRIA SUB	1											1					2				
AMBERCREEK SUB NO 02	2										1		1								
ARCADIA SUB	1										1						1				
ASTORIA SUB	1										1			1							
BAINBRIDGE SUB NO 02	1	1									1			1							
BEDFORD PLACE SUB NO 03	1					1					1			1							
BELLINGHAM PARK SUB NO 01	5										2						2				
BIRCHSTONE CREEK SUB	1										1			1							
BLACKROCK SUB NO 01	2										1										
Boise Timber Thorns	19														1						
BRIDGETOWER SUB NO 01	18	2									2			1					1		
CABELLA CREEK SUB	3										1						1				
CARDIGAN BAY SUB	0.3										1			1							
CASTLEBROOK SUB NO 02	5	1												3							
CAVEN RIDGE ESTATES EAST SUB NO 01	3	1									1			1							
CEDARCREEK SUB	1										1			1							
Century Farms HOA	1	1									1			1							
CHAMPION PARK SUB NO 02	1					1					1										
CHATSWORTH SUB	1										1			1							
CHERRY CROSSING SUB	1										1			1			1		1		
CHESTERFIELD SUB NO 04	0.5										1			1			1				
COBBLEFIELD CROSSING SUB	1										1										
COBRE BASIN SUB NO 01	4	1									2			3			1				
COURTYARDS AT TEN MILE SUB	1													1			1				
CROSSFIELD SUB NO 01	2	1									1			1							
CROSSFIELD SUB NO 04	1	1			1						1			3							
DANBURY FAIR SUB NO 01	1																				
DECATUR ESTATES SUB NO 01	1										1										
EDINBURGH PLACE SUB NO 01	1										1			1							
ESTANCIA SUB	1										1			1							
FALL CREEK SUB NO 01	3	1									2			1			1				
GOLDEN VALLEY SUB	0.3										1						1				
GRAMERCY SUB	1										1	2		1							
GRAMERCY SUB NO 01	1										2						1			1	
HACIENDA SUB	2	1									1	1					1				
HAVASU CREEK SUB NO 01	1										1			1							
HERITAGE GROVE SUB	1								1	1	1										
HIGHGATE SUB NO 02	0.2										1			1							
HIGHTOWER SUB	1										1			1			1				



Park or Facility	Acres	Aquatics, Lap Pool	Aquatics, Leisure Pool	Aquatics, Therapy Pool	Basketball Court	Basketball, Practice	Disc Golf	Game Court	Horseshoe Court	Loop Walk	Open Turf	Passive Node	Playground, Destination	Playground, Local	Rectangular Field, Multiple	Shelter, Large	Shelter, Small	Tennis Court	Volleyball Court	Water Feature	Water, Open
HILLS CENTURY FARM SUB NO 01	7	1	1							1	3			2							
HOLLYBROOK SUB NO 01	0.1																1				
HOWRY LANE SUB NO 01	3										1			1							
INGLENOOK SUB	0.4													1							
IRVINE SUB NO 02	2										2			1							
ISOLA CREEK SUB NO 01	1	1									1			1							
JAYDAN VILLAGE SUB	1		1																		
JERICHO SUB	0.3												1								
JUMP CREEK SUB NO 02	1										1			1							
KINGSBRIDGE SUB NO 01	3	1									1			2			1				
LAKE AT CHERRY LANE NO 05 AMD	0.4																1				
LANDING SUB NO 08	2				1						1			1							
LARKSPUR SUB NO 02	2										1						3				
LOCHSA FALLS SUB NO 04	7				1		1				1			1		1					
LYNDHURST GROVE SUB	0.2										1			1							
MACAILE MEADOWS SUB	1				1						1			1			1				
MADELYNN ESTATES SUB	3		1			3															
MARLIN SUB NO 01	4										2			2			1				
MEDFORD PLACE SUB	1										2										
MESSINA HILLS SUB NO 01	1					1															
MESSINA HILLS SUB NO 03	0.4		1											1							
MESSINA MEADOWS SUB NO 01	3																8				
MESSINA VILLAGE SUB NO 02	1		1								1										
MILLIRON PLACE SUB	1										1			1							
MOSHERS FARM SUB	0.3					1															
NORMANDY SUB NO 03	2										1			1							
OAKCREEK SUB NO 01	3		1								2			2			2				
PACKARD ACRES SUB NO 03	1		1											1							
PADDINGTON SUB	0.4					1					1										
PARAMOUNT DIRECTOR SUB NO 01	1					1					1						1				
PARAMOUNT DIRECTOR SUB NO 02	12		1	1						1	4			2			1		1		
QUENZER COMMONS SUB NO 01	4		1								1						1				
REDFEATHER ESTATES SUB NO 02	5		1			1					3			1			3				
REFLECTION RIDGE SUB NO 01	6		1								2			1			1		1		
Rockhampton II Park	3										1			1							
Rockhampton Park	8					2					1			1							
ROSELEAF SUB NO 01	2					1					2			1							
ROUNDTREE PLACE SUB	0.4										1			1							
SAGECREST SUB	0.4		1											1							

Park or Facility	Acres	Aquatics, Lap Pool	Aquatics, Leisure Pool	Aquatics, Therapy Pool	Basketball Court	Basketball, Practice	Disc Golf	Game Court	Horseshoe Court	Loop Walk	Open Turf	Passive Node	Playground, Destination	Playground, Local	Rectangular Field, Multiple	Shelter, Large	Shelter, Small	Tennis Court	Volleyball Court	Water Feature	Water, Open
SAGEWOOD SUB	1										1			1							
SAGUARO CANYON SUB NO 02	4		1								2			2							
SETTLEMENT BRIDGE SUB NO 01	4	1									2			2							
SHERBROOKE HOLLOWES SUB NO 02	3													1							
SIENNA CREEK SUB NO 01	1										1										
SILVERLEAF SUB NO 02	3		1								2			1							
SILVERWATER SUB NO 03	0.5				1						1			1			1				
SNORTING BULL SUB NO 01	4		1						1	1							2				
SOLITUDE PLACE SUB NO 02	3										1			1			1				
SOMMERSBY SUB NO 02	1				1						1						2				
SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS SUB NO 01	2	1									1			1							
SPORTSMAN POINTE SUB NO 03	2				1									2				2			
SPURWING GREENS SUB	1																	3			
STRADA BELLISSIMA SUB NO 01	0.2													1							
SUNDANCE SUB NO 02	4		1		1						2			1							
SUTHERLAND FARM SUB NO 04	8										2			2							1
The Village	0.4										1	1		1							
TIBURON MEADOWS SUB	1										1					1					
TRADEWINDS SUB NO 01	0.2				1																
TRAILWAY PARK SUB	3							1	1		2			2			1				1
TREE FARM SUB NO 01	3																				
TURNBERRY SUB NO 02	0.2													1							
TUSCANY LAKES SUB NO 02	1										1			1							
TUSCANY VILLAGE SUB NO 01	2		1								1			1							
VENTANA SUB NO 01	3		1								1			1							
VICENZA SUB NO 02	11		1		1						1										1
VIENNA WOODS SUB NO 03	2									1	1		1	1							
WHITEACRE SUB NO 01	3										1			1							
WILKINS RANCH VILLAGE SUB	1										1			1			1				
WOODBURN SUB	2										1		1	1			1				
ZEBULON HEIGHTS SUB NO 04	4		1		1						1										1
<b>HOA/ Private Totals</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>

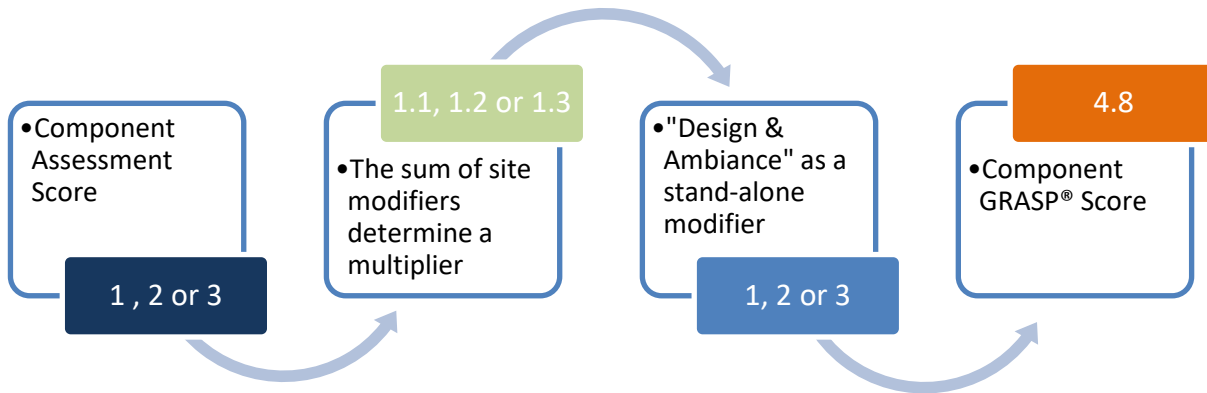
Map ID	LOCATION	Playground	Open Turf	Multi-use Court	Basketball	Rectangular Fields, All Sizes	Diamond, Practice	Diamond Ballfield	Shelter, All Sizes	Loop Walk	Volleyball	Tennis	Athletic Track	Parcel Score	Subtotal	Modifier	Design & Ambiance	Subscore	Discount	Final GRASP® Score
S13	Barbara Morgan Stem Academy	1	1	1	1	1		1	1					1	8	1.1	2	17.6	0.5	8.8
S35	Central Academy		1											1	2	1.1	2	4.4	0.5	2.2
S15	Chaparral Elementary School	1	1	1	1	1				1				1	7	1.1	2	15.4	0.5	7.7
S12	Chief Joseph Elementary School	1	1	1		1				1				1	6	1.1	2	13.2	0.5	6.6
S39	Compass Public Charter School													1	1	1.1	2	2.2	0.5	1.1
S18	Crossroads Middle School				1	1					1			1	4	1.1	2	8.8	0.5	4.4
S07	Discovery Elementary School	1	1	1						1				1	5	1.1	2	11.0	0.5	5.5
S32	Heritage Middle School				1	1	1			1		1		1	6	1.1	2	13.2	0.5	6.6
S38	Hillsdale Elementary School	1	1	1										1	4	1.1	2	8.8	0.5	4.4
S04	Hunter Elementary School	1	1	1		1								1	5	1.1	2	11.0	0.5	5.5
S17	Lewis & Clark Middle School		1		1	1	1	1		1		1		1	8	1.1	2	17.6	0.5	8.8
S05	Lowell Scott Middle School		1			1	1	1		1		1		1	7	1.1	2	15.4	0.5	7.7
S22	Mary McPherson Elementary School	1	1	1	1	1				1				1	7	1.1	2	15.4	0.5	7.7
S37	Meridian Academy		1					1						1	3	1.1	2	6.6	0.5	3.3
S16	Meridian Elementary School	1	1	1		1	1							1	6	1.1	2	13.2	0.5	6.6
S40	Meridian High School					3		3				6	1	1	5	1.1	2	11.0	0.0	0.0
S14	Meridian Middle School		1			1		1		1		1		1	6	1.1	2	13.2	0.5	6.6
S34	Mountain View High School					3		4			2	6	1	1	6	1.1	2	13.2	0.0	0.0
S31	Paramount Elementary School	1	1	1	1									1	5	1.1	2	11.0	0.5	5.5
S06	Pathways Middle School		1	1	1									1	4	1.1	2	8.8	0.5	4.4
S21	Pepper Ridge Elementary School	1	1	1	1									1	5	1.1	2	11.0	0.5	5.5
S20	Peregrine Elementary School	1	1	1		1				1				1	6	1.1	2	13.2	0.5	6.6
S01	Pioneer School of the Arts	1	1	1		1	1			1				1	7	1.1	2	15.4	0.5	7.7
S10	Ponderosa Elementary School	1	1	1	1	1			1	1				1	8	1.1	2	17.6	0.5	8.8
S29	Prospect Elementary School	1	1	1		1				1				2	6	1.1	2	13.2	0.5	6.6
S33	Renaissance High School													3	1	1.1	2	2.2	0.0	0.0
S11	River Valley Elementary School	1	1	1	1	1				1				4	7	1.1	2	15.4	0.5	7.7
S36	Rocky Mountain High School					3		4				6	1	5	5	1.1	2	11.0	0.0	0.0
S08	Sawtooth Middle School		1		1	1	1			1		1		6	7	1.1	2	15.4	0.5	7.7
S28	Siena Elementary School	1	1	1	1	1				1				7	7	1.1	2	15.4	0.5	7.7
S19	Spalding STEM Academy	1	1	1	1				1					9	6	1.1	2	13.2	0.5	6.6
S09	Ustick Elementary School	1	1	1		1				1				10	6	1.1	2	13.2	0.5	6.6
S02	Victory Middle School				2	2						6	1	11	6	1.1	2	13.2	0.5	6.6
S27	Willow Creek Elementary	1	1	1	1	1				1				12	7	1.1	2	15.4	0.5	7.7
FS01	Future School A													1	1	1.1	2	2.2	0.0	0.0
FS02	Future School B													1	1	1.1	2	2.2	0.0	0.0
FS03	Future School C													1	1	1.1	2	2.2	0.0	0.0
FS04	Future School D													1	1	1.1	2	2.2	0.0	0.0
FS05	Future School E													1	1	1.1	2	2.2	0.0	0.0
FS06	Future School F													1	1	1.1	2	2.2	0.0	0.0
FS07	Future School G													1	1	1.1	2	2.2	0.0	0.0
FS08	Future School H													1	1	1.1	2	2.2	0.0	0.0
		<b>19</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>4</b>							

## Composite-Values Level of Service Analysis Methodology

### GRASP® Score

Each park or recreation location and components have been assigned a GRASP® Score. A basic algorithm calculates scoring totals, accounting for component and modifier scores, every park, and facility in the inventory. The resulting ratings reflect the overall value of that site. Scores for each inventory site and its components may be found in the GRASP® Inventory Atlas. The following illustration shows this relationship.

**Figure 34: GRASP® Score calculation.**



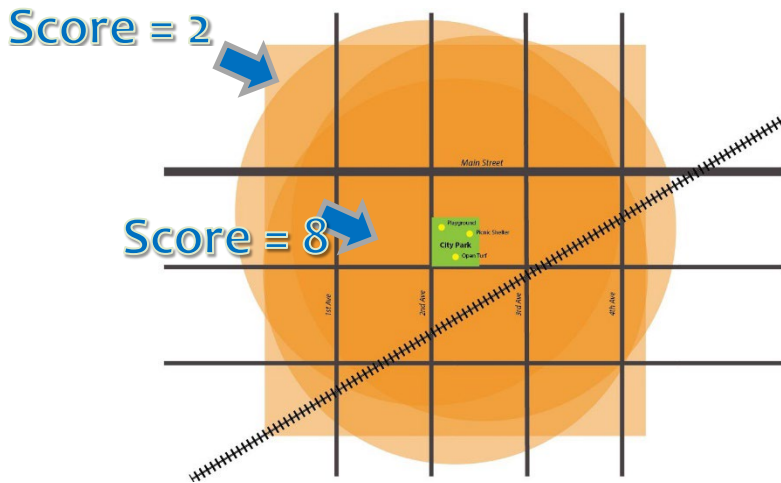
### Catchment Areas

Catchment areas, also called buffers, or service areas, are drawn around each component. The GRASP® Score for that component is then applied to that buffer and overlapped with all other component catchment areas. This process yields the data used to create perspective maps and analytical charts.

### Perspectives

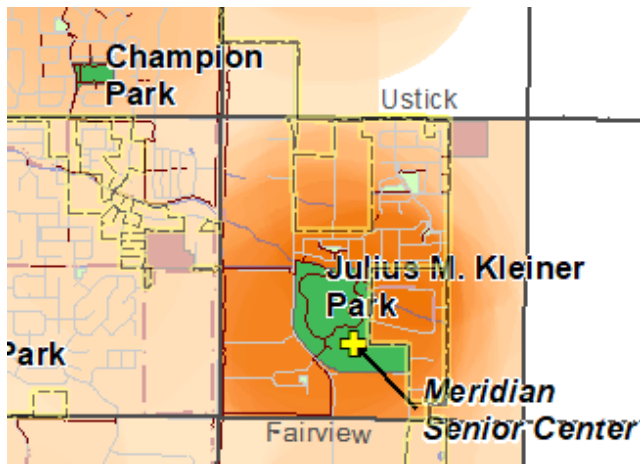
Maps and data produced using the GRASP® methodology are known as perspectives—each perspective models service across the study area. The system can be further analyzed to derive statistical information about service in various ways. Maps, tables, and charts provide benchmarks or insights a community may use to determine its success in delivering services. Plotting service areas for multiple components on a map produces a picture representing the cumulative LOS provided by that set of elements in a geographic area.

**Figure X:** This example graphic illustrates the GRASP® process, assuming that all three components and the park boundary itself are scored a "2". The overlap of their service areas yields higher or lower overall scores for different study areas.



On a map, darker shades result from the overlap of multiple service areas. They indicate areas served by more or higher quality components. There is a GRASP® Value that reflects cumulative scoring for nearby assets for any given spot. Figure 34 below, provides an example.

**Figure 35 Example of GRASP® Level of Service (LOS)**



## More on Utilizing GRASP® Perspectives

GRASP® perspectives evaluate the LOS throughout a community from various points of view. Their purpose is to reveal possible gaps in service and provide a metric to understand a recreation system. However, it is not necessarily beneficial for all community parts to score equally in the analyses. The desired LOS for a location should depend on the type of service, the place's characteristics, and other factors such as community need, population growth forecasts, and land use issues. For example, commercial, institutional, and industrial areas might have lower LOS for parks and recreation opportunities than residential areas. GRASP® perspectives focus attention on gap areas for further scrutiny.

Perspectives used in conjunction with other assessment tools such as community needs surveys and a public input process to determine if current levels of service are appropriate in a given location. Plans provide similar levels of service to new, developing neighborhoods. Or it may be determined that different LOS are adequate or suitable. Therefore, a new set of criteria may be utilized that differs from existing community patterns to reflect these distinctions.

## Brief History of Level of Service Analysis

To help standardize parks and recreation planning, many parks & recreation professionals look for ways to benchmark and provide "national standards." These standards might include how many acres, how many ballfields, pools, playgrounds a community should have. In 1906 the fledgling "Playground Association of America" called for playground space equal to 30 square feet per child. In the 1970s and early 1980s, the first detailed published works on these topics began emerging (Gold, 1973; Lancaster, 1983). In time "rule of thumb" ratios emerged with 10 acres of parklands per thousand, becoming the most widely accepted norm. Other normative guides also have been cited as traditional standards but have been less widely accepted. In 1983, Roger Lancaster compiled a book called "Recreation, Park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines," published by the National Park and Recreation Association (NRPA). In this publication, Mr. Lancaster centered on a recommendation "that a park system, at minimum, be composed of a core system of parklands, with a total of 6.25 to 10.5 acres of developed open space per 1,000 population (Lancaster, 1983, p. 56). The guidelines went further to recommend an appropriate mix of park types, sizes, service areas, acreages, and standards regarding the number of available recreational facilities per thousand population. While published by NRPA, the table became widely known as "the NRPA standards," but these were never formally adopted for use by NRPA.

Since that time, various publications have updated and expanded upon possible "standards," several of which have been published by NRPA. Many of these publications did a benchmark and other normative research to determine what an "average LOS" should be. Organizations such as NRPA and the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration have focused on accreditation standards for agencies. These standards have been less directed towards outcomes and performance and more on planning, organizational structure, and

management processes. The popularly referred to as "NRPA standards" for LOS, as such, do not exist.

It is critical to realize that the above standards can be valuable when referenced as "norms" for capacity but not necessarily as the target standards for which a community should strive. Each agency is different, and many factors are not addressed by the criteria above. For example:

- Does "developed acreage" include golf courses"? What about indoor and passive facilities?
- What are the standards for skateparks? Ice Arenas? Public Art? Etc.?
- What if it's an urban land-locked community? What if it's a small town surrounded by open Federal lands?
- What about quality and condition? What if there's a bunch of ballfields, but they are not maintained?
- And many other questions.

## GRASP® (Geo-Referenced Amenities Standards Program)

A new methodology for determining the LOS is appropriate to address these and other relevant questions. Composite-values methods are applied to measure and portray the service provided by parks and recreation systems. This methodology's primary research and development were funded jointly by GreenPlay, LLC, a management consulting firm for parks, open space, and related agencies; Design Concepts, a landscape architecture and planning firm; and Geowest, a spatial information management firm. The trademarked name for the composite-values methodology process is called GRASP® (Geo-Referenced Amenities Standards Program). For this methodology, capacity is only part of the LOS equation. Consider other factors, including quality, condition, location, comfort, convenience, and ambiance.

Parks, trails, recreation, and open space are part of an overall infrastructure for a community made up of various components, such as playgrounds, multi-purpose fields, passive areas. The explanations and characteristics listed above affect the amount of service provided by the system's parts follow.

**Quality** – The service provided by anything, whether it is a playground, soccer field, or swimming pool, is affected by quality. A playground with various features, such as climbers, slides, and swings, provides a higher degree of service than one with only an old teeter-totter and some "monkey-bars."

**Condition**– The condition of a component also affects its service. A playground in disrepair with unsafe equipment does not offer the same function as one in good condition. Similarly, a soccer field with a smooth surface of well-maintained grass certainly provides more service than one full of weeds, ruts, and other hazards.

Location – To be served by something, you need to be able to get to it. The typical park playground serves people who live within easy reach than someone living across town. Therefore, service is dependent upon proximity and access.

Comfort and Convenience – The service provided by a component, such as a playground, is increased by having amenities such as shade, seating, and a restroom nearby. Comfort enhances the experience of using a component. Convenience encourages people to use an element, which increased the amount of service that it offers. Easy access and the availability of trash receptacles, bike racks, or nearby parking are examples of conveniences that enhance the service provided by a component.

Design and Ambience– Simple observation proves that places that "feel" right attract people. A sense of safety and security, pleasant surroundings, attractive views, and a sense of place impact ambience. A well-designed park is preferable to a poorly designed one, enhancing its components' degree of service.

This methodology records each component's geographic location, quantity, and capacity. Also, it uses comfort, convenience, and ambience as characteristics that are part of the context and setting of a component. They are not characteristics of the element itself, but they enhance the value when they exist.

Combining and analyzing each component's composite values makes it possible to measure the service provided by a parks and recreation system from various perspectives and for any given location. Typically, this begins with deciding on "relevant components," collecting an accurate inventory of those components, and analysis. Maps and tables represent the results of the GRASP® study.

## Making Justifiable Decisions

GRASP® stores all data generated from the GRASP® evaluation in an electronic database. It is available and owned by the agency for use in various ways. The database tracks facilities and programs and can schedule services, maintenance, and components' replacement. In addition to determining LOS, it can project long-term capital and life-cycle costing needs. The GRASP® methodology provides accurate LOS and facility inventory information and integrates with other tools to help agencies decide. It is relatively easy to maintain, updatable, and creates easily understood graphic depictions of issues. Combined with a needs assessment, public and staff involvement, program, and financial assessment, GRASP® allows an agency to defensibly make recommendations on priorities for ongoing resource allocations along with capital and operational funding.



## Addressing Low-Scoring Components

Components whose functionality ranks below expectations are identified and scored with a "one." Find a list of these as extracted from the inventory dataset below. When raising the score of a component through improvement or replacement, the LOS is increased. The following is an outline strategy for addressing the repair/refurbishment/replacement or repurposing of low-functioning components.

- Determine why the component is functioning below expectations.
  - Was it poorly conceived in the first place?
  - Is it something that was not needed?
  - Is it the wrong size, type, or configuration?
  - Is it poorly placed or located in a way that conflicts with other activities or detracts from its use?
  - Have the needs changed so that the component is now outdated, obsolete, or no longer needed?
  - Has it been damaged?
  - Has the component's maintenance been deferred or neglected to the point where it no longer functions as intended?
  - Does the component score low because it is not available to the public in a way that meets expectations?
  - Is the component old, outdated, or otherwise dysfunctional but has historical or sentimental value? An example would be an archaic structure in a park such as a stone barbecue grill that is not restorable to its original purpose but has historical significance.
- Depending on the answers from the first step, select a strategy for addressing the low-functioning component:
  - Does the need for that type of element in its current location still exist? In that case, the feature should be repaired or replaced to match its original condition as much as possible.
  - If the need for that type of component has changed, replace it with a new one that fits the current requirements.
  - If a component is poorly located or poorly designed to start with, consider relocating, redesigning, or otherwise modifying it.
  - Remove a component because of changing demands unless it can be maintained in good condition without excessive expense or has historical or

sentimental value. In-line hockey rinks may fall into this category. If it has been allowed to deteriorate because the community has no desire for in-line hockey, repurpose it into some other use.

Through ongoing public input and as needs and trends evolve, there may be the identification of new demands for existing parks. In that case, the decision may include removal or repurpose a current component, even if it is functional.

As tennis's popularity declined and demand for courts dropped off in some communities over recent decades, functional courts became skate parks or in-line rinks. In most cases, this was an interim use, intended to satisfy a short-term need until a decision to either construct a permanent facility or let the fad fade. The need for in-line rinks now seems to have diminished. In contrast, temporary skate parks or pickleball courts on tennis courts have now had permanent locations of their own.

One community repurposed a ball diamond into a dog park. The diamond is well-suited because it is already fenced. Combining the skinned infield where the dogs enter and natural grass in the outfield where traffic disperses. In time this facility either becomes a permanent facility or is constructed elsewhere. It could also turn out that dog parks fade in popularity and dog owners have other preferences. Meanwhile, the use of the diamond for this purpose is an excellent interim solution.

## List of Low-Scoring Components and Modifiers

**Table 18 Outdoor Low Scoring Components. The following components scored low during site visits.**

Map ID	Park or Facility	Component	Quantity	Neighborhood Score	Community Score	Observations
C021	Storey Park	Diamond Field	2	1	1	One softball, one baseball. These fields are not the quality of other fields in town
C200	Reta Huskey Park	Fitness Area	1	1	1	Minimal fitness equipment compared to others
C270	Centennial Park	Trail Access Point	1	1	1	Minimal
C212	8th Street Park	Trailhead	1	1	1	Less developed, but seems to be used as trailhead

**Table 19: Low Scoring Outdoor Modifiers.**

Red highlighted modifiers scored low. Green highlights show good or excellent quality at this location. Modifiers represented by N/A were not present at the time of site visits. These scores do not imply that all parks and facilities should have all modifiers but positively impact the user experience.

Park or Location	Classification	Design & Ambiance	Drinking Fountains	Seating	BBQ Grills	Dog Station	Security Lights	Bike Racks	Restrooms	Shade	Trail Connections	Park Access	Parking	Seasonal Plantings	Ornamental Plantings	Picnic Tables
8th Street Park	Neighborhood	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	2	2	2	0	0	2
Bear Creek Park	Community	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	0	2
Centennial Park	Mini	2	2	2	0	0	0	2	2	2	2	2	2	0	0	2
Champion Park	Neighborhood	2	2	2	2	2	2	0	2	1	2	2	2	0	0	2
Chateau Park	Neighborhood	2	2	1	2	2	2	0	2	2	0	2	2	1	0	2
City Hall Plaza	Special Use	2	2	2	0	0	2	2	2	0	2	2	2	0	3	0
Discovery Park	Community	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	1	1	2
Fire Station No.4 Park	Mini	2	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	2	2	0	0	0
Fuller Park	Community	2	2	2	2	2	2	0	2	2	3	2	2	2	2	2
Generations Plaza	Special Use	2	2	2	0	0	2	2	0	2	0	2	2	2	2	2
Gordon Harris Park	Neighborhood	2	2	2	2	2	2	0	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	2
Heroes Park	Community	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	2
Hillsdale Park	Community	2	2	2	2	2	0	2	2	2	0	2	2	0	1	2
Julius M. Kleiner Park	Regional	3	2	3	2	2	2	2	3	2	3	2	2	3	3	2
Keith Bird Legacy Park	Neighborhood	2	2	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	0	2	2
Lakeview Golf Course	Golf	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	2	2	0	2	0
Meridian Swimming Pool	Special Use	2	2	2	0	0	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	0	0	0
Renaissance Park	Neighborhood	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	0	2
Reta Huskey Park	Neighborhood	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	2	2	1	2	2
Seasons Park	Neighborhood	2	2	2	2	2	2	0	2	2	0	2	2	1	2	2
Settlers Park	Regional	3	2	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	2
Storey Park	Community	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	2
Ten Mile Trailhead	Future	2	2	2	0	2	0	0	2	0	3	2	2	0	0	0
Tully Park	Community	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	2

## Level of Service Improvements

### Addressing Lower and No Service Areas

One way of using the GRASP® Perspectives is to prioritize identified gap areas. For example, several regions with low or no service were identified in the walkable access analysis.

Future growth or subdivision development may significantly impact future gap areas. Further investigations of these areas can help when prioritizing future improvements or recreation opportunities. Prioritization of improvements may consider multiple factors, including providing maximum impact to the highest number of residents. Social equity factors, such as average household income, could also influence priorities.

### Component Inventory and Assessment

Maintaining and improving existing facilities typically ranks very high in public input. Existing features that fall short of expectations should be enhanced to address this concern.

Components have been assessed based on condition and. Identify and treat those with low scores, as explained below. The assessment should be updated regularly to assure the upgrade or improvements of components affected by wear and tear over time.

### Addressing Low-Scoring Components

Low scoring components are discussed previously.

#### Booster Components

One way to enhance service is by adding components at specific park sites or recreation facilities to “boost” the score of a park or area. These are most effective in low-service areas where parks exist that have space for additional features.

#### High Demand Components

The statistically valid survey asks respondents to rank facilities by importance based on those that needed to add or improve. Many of these needs may be addressed by upgrading facilities, retrofitting lesser used assets, and adding components that could serve as future program opportunities. Consider these high-demand components when adding new elements to the system.

### Trends in Parks and Recreation

Trends to consider when deciding what to do with low-functioning facilities, or improving existing parks to serve the needs of residents, include things like:

Dog parks continue to grow in popularity and may be related to an aging demographic in America. It is also a basic form of socializing for people who may have once socialized with other parents in their child's soccer league. Now that the kids are grown, they enjoy the

company of other dog owners at the dog park. And for singles, a dog park is an excellent place to meet people.

Meridian has dog parks at Storey Park and Discovery Park

Skateboarding and other wheel sports continue to grow in popularity. Distributing skating features throughout the community provides greater access to this activity for younger people who cannot drive to a more extensive centralized skate park. Add skate features to neighborhood parks in place of larger skate parks.

Tully Park has a skate park in addition to the adjacent, Boise skatepark at C.F.McDevitt Park

A desire for locally-grown food and concerns about health, sustainability, and other issues leads to community food gardens in parks and other public spaces.

Julius M. Kleiner Park has a community garden

Events in parks, from a neighborhood "movie in the park" to large festivals in regional parks, are growing in popularity to build a sense of community and generate revenues. Providing spaces for these could become a trend.

Meridian has identified event spaces at City Hall Plaza, Generations Plaza, Julius M. Kleiner Park and Discovery Park

Spraygrounds are growing in popularity, even in colder climates. An extensive and growing selection of products raises the bar on expectations and offers new possibilities for creative facilities.

Meridian has spray pads at Generations Plaza, Settlers Park, Julius M. Kleiner Park, Hillsdale Park, and Discovery Park

New playgrounds are emerging, including discovery, nature, adventure, and even inter-generational play. Some of these rely upon movable parts, supervised play areas, and other variations from the standard fixed "post and platform" playgrounds found in the typical park across America. These types of nature-based opportunities help connect children and families to the outdoors.

Integrating nature into parks by creating natural areas is a trend for many reasons. These include a desire to make parks more sustainable and introduce people of all ages to the natural environment.

GRASP Maps

## Appendix B: : General Maintenance Standards for Quality Parks and Facilities in Meridian, Idaho

Some sample maintenance standards are in appendix X of the plan and are meant to be a starting point for the department to review and consider as a basic desired maintenance standards for all parks and recreational facilities.

### Parks

#### Grounds

- Grounds mowed and trimmed on a regular schedule
- Park is free of litter, debris, and hazards
- Parking lots, if applicable, are clean; striped; and free of debris, holes, and tripping hazards

#### Drinking Fountains (where applicable)

- Fountains are accessible and operational
- Fountains are in appropriate locations and in compliance with ADA
- Fountains are installed on a solid surface and free of standing water and debris
- Drain system is operational

#### Signage

- Park identification signs are secure and properly installed in a noticeable location
- Handicapped parking signs are secure, visible, and installed to code
- Park rules signs are secure and properly installed in a noticeable location
- Restroom signs are secure and visible
- Signs are clean, painted, and free of protrusions and graffiti
- Directional signs provided as needed in appropriate locations
- Signs include City logo and contact phone number

#### Ornamental Plants and Trees

- Plants and trees are healthy and free of disease and insects
- Plant beds are free of litter, debris, and weeds
- Plant selection is appropriate for season and area usage
- Trees trimmed and shaped on a regular basis, inspect for, and remove hazardous trees as needed
- Tree species selection should provide a wide variety of native and selected non-native trees where appropriate
- Tree wells and planting beds mulched for protection and water conservation

#### Walkways and Trails

- May be hard surface or soft surface depending on location and intended use
- Soft surface trails are free of water collecting depressions and erosion
- Walkways and trails have a uniform surface, positive drainage, are level with ground and free of trip hazards and excessive material deflection
- Walkways and trails are free of litter, debris, sediment, and seasonal snow
- Walkways and trails meet ADA requirements
- Walkways and trails provide unobstructed access and are free from low and protruding tree limbs, guide wires, signposts, and ornamental plants
- Walkways in irrigated park areas are neatly edged
- Walkways and trails are clear of weeds and grass growth in cracks and expansion joints; adequate trash receptacles provided
- Guard rails and safety fencing provided in appropriate locations
- Routine safety and function inspections are performed including surface, culverts, water crossings, signage, and vegetation

### Trash Receptacles (random locations)

- Receptacles are clean and free of odor with liners in place
- Receptacles are painted, free of damage and missing parts, and properly anchored
- Roll-off containers and dumpsters are clean, screened, and placed in non-intrusive locations
- Area around trash receptacles is clean and free of trash and debris
- Area around roll-off containers and dumpsters is clean and free of trash and debris

### Fencing

- Fences are intact, structurally sound, and free of damage or deterioration
- Nails, bolts, and screws are flush with surface with no exposed sharp points
- Fences have no excessive voids, cracks, or splintering

### Security and Exterior Lights

- 90% of security and exterior lights are operational
- No electrical conducting wires are exposed
- Lights comply with appropriate building code
- Poles and components are secured in ground, operational and straight

### Bridges

- Bridges have a uniform surface, are free of trip hazards, and are free of graffiti
- Lumber and other materials are structurally sound, free of cracking deterioration and splintering
- Bridges comply with ADA requirements
- Bridges have handrails intact and properly installed and anchored
- Bridges are free of litter and debris



## General Use Turf Areas

- Turf areas are free of litter and debris
- Turf areas are mowed and trimmed on a regular schedule
- Turf areas have a uniform surface and are well drained
- Areas have clean trash receptacles present that are in good condition
- Turf is free of disease, insects, and weeds
- Supplemental irrigation is provided as needed
- Turf areas are fertilized and aerated on a regular basis

## Athletic Use Turf Areas

- Turf areas are free of litter and debris
- Turf areas are mowed and trimmed according to usage schedule
- Turf areas have a uniform surface and are well drained
- Playing surface maintained according to sport specific guidelines
- Areas have clean trash receptacles present that are in good condition
- Turf is free of disease, insects, and weeds
- Supplemental irrigation is provided as needed
- Turf areas are fertilized and aerated on a regular basis

## Irrigation

- Irrigation system is fully operational with complete and uniform coverage
- System is free of leaks; backflow prevention devices are in place and functioning properly
- Heads are installed properly for intended use
- Heads are properly adjusted with rotations and arcs to set to reduce water runoff
- Systems are set to run at specific times to minimize evaporation and waste
- Systems function checks are conducted on a regular basis
- Repair excavations are properly compacted, and turf restored

## Open Space Areas

- Native grasses mowed, if necessary, according to specific management plans, with focus on promoting natural growth heights and cycles and wildlife habitat
- Trail corridors and picnic areas mowed as needed
- Trail surfaces are free of debris and weeds
- Native tree and shrub growth are encouraged
- Wildlife habitat and water quality preservation emphasized
- Rules and regulations and identification signs are posted in noticeable locations
- Annual and noxious weeds are controlled as needed
- Property access points and boundaries are clearly marked

## Athletic Facilities and Competitive Play Fields

### Turf

- Turf has a healthy dense stand of grass and coverage is no less than 95 percent of playable area
- Play area has a uniform surface and is well drained
- Turf to be mowed at the appropriate height for the type of grass used, time of season, and type of field use
- Turf is free of any litter or debris
- Apply top dressing and over seeding as needed to maintain healthy grass
- Fields may be closed for use periodically to allow for turf recovery
- Turf is free of disease, insects, and weeds

### Softball Infields

- Infields have a uniform surface and are free of lips, holes, and trip hazards
- Infields are well drained with no standing water areas
- Infields have proper soil composition for intended use with ball field mix added as needed
- Infields are free of weeds and grass
- Infields are free of rocks, dirt clods, and debris
- Bases and plates are properly installed, level, and are at proper distances and anchored according to manufacturer's specifications and league requirements
- Fields dragged and lined as needed according to use schedules

### Bleachers

- Hardware is intact, and bracing and safety rails tightly connected
- Seating surface is clean, smooth, free of protrusions and have no exposed sharp edges or pointed corners
- Clean trash receptacles provided and in good condition, area under bleachers free of trash

### Lights

- Electrical system and components are operational and in compliance with applicable building codes
- 90% of lamps for each field are operational
- No electrical conducting wires exposed
- Ballast boxes and components are properly installed and secured
- Lights provide uniform coverage on facilities and fixtures and are adjusted to eliminate dark or blind areas
- Fixtures securely fastened to poles and poles secured in ground according to manufacturer's specifications

- Poles and fixtures inspected immediately after any major wind, ice, or hailstorm

## Fencing

- Fencing material is galvanized chin link and appropriate gauge wire for specified use
- Fencing material is properly secured to support rails
- Support rails are properly connected and straight
- Fencing is free of holes and protrusions
- Fabric is straight and free of bending and sagging
- Gates and latches are operational

## Restrooms/Portable Toilets

- Toilets are clean, sanitary, and properly stocked with paper products
- Lights and ventilation systems are operational
- Toilets, stall doors, and hand air dryers are operational
- Buildings and enclosures are free of graffiti
- Doors are properly marked according to gender
- Restrooms have clean trash receptacles
- All doors and locks are operational
- Restrooms/portable toilets are in compliance with ADA requirements
- All restrooms stocked with hand sanitizer

## Playgrounds

### Play Equipment

- Equipment and surrounding play areas meet ASTM and National Playground Safety Institute (NPSI) standards
- Play equipment and hardware is intact
- Play equipment is free of graffiti
- Age appropriateness for equipment is noted with proper signage
- Regular inspection and repair program is in place and enforced

### Surfacing

- Fall surface is clean, level, and free of debris
- Fall surface meets ASTM and NPSI standards
- Fall surface is well drained
- Rubber cushion surfaces are free of holes and tears
- Rubber cushion surfaces are secure to base material and curbing

### Borders

- Playground borders are well defined and intact
- Playground borders meet ASTM and NPSI standards

## Decks

- Planks are intact, smooth, structurally sound, free of splinters and no cracks greater than ¼ inch
- Nails, bolts, and screws are flush with surface
- Planks are level with no excessive warping

## General

- Slides and climbing devices are properly anchored
- All moving parts are properly lubricated and functioning as intended
- S-hooks and swing seats are in good operating condition
- Damaged or under repair equipment is removed or properly marked and isolated from public use until repaired
- Playgrounds should adhere to the Americans with Disabilities Act standards

## Picnic areas and shelters

### General

- Access to facilities complies with ADA
- Shelters are clean, sanitary, and free of graffiti
- Lights and electrical plugs are operational and comply with appropriate building codes
- Vegetation around structure is trimmed back to reduce hazards and does not impede entry and egress
- Grounds around structure are mowed, trimmed and free of litter, debris, and hazards
- Shelters are structurally sound, clean, painted with no rotted lumber or rusted metal and no loose siding or loose shingles
- Water fountains and hose bibs (if provided) are operational
- Signage and rules and regulations information are posted in a noticeable location

### Tables

- Tables are clean, free of dust, mildew, and graffiti
- Table hardware is intact
- Table frames are intact, and slats are properly secured
- Table seats and tops are smooth with no protrusions and have no exposed sharp edges or pointed corners

### Grills

- Grills are operational and free of rust and metal deterioration
- Grills are clean and free of grease build-up
- Grill racks are operational and secure, and grills are properly anchored to reduce hazard and theft

## Trash Receptacles

- Receptacles are clean, free of odors and liners in place
- Receptacles are painted, free of damaged or missing parts and properly anchored
- Area around receptacles is clean and free of trash and debris

## Tennis Courts

### Surfacing

- Surface is smooth, level, and well drained with no standing water
- Surface is free of large cracks, holes, and trip hazards
- Surface is painted and striped in accordance with U.S. Tennis Association court specifications and for Pickle ball where appropriate
- Worn painted surfaces do not exceed 30 percent of total court surface
- Surface is free of litter, debris, gravel, and graffiti

### Nets

- Nets and wind screens are free of tears and frays
- Nets are properly installed and secured to support poles
- Nets have center stripes installed at the regulated height and are anchored to the court
- Support poles have hardware intact and are properly anchored and installed
- Wind screens are properly installed and secured to fencing

### Fencing

- Fencing is galvanized chain link and is the appropriate gauge wire for specified use
- Fencing material is properly secured to support rails
- Support rails are properly secured and straight
- Fencing is free of holes, protrusions, and catch points
- Fabric is straight and free of bending or sagging
- Gates and latches are operational
- Windscreens are tightly secured and free of tears and holes

## OUTDOOR BASKETBALL COURTS

### Surfacing

- Surface is smooth, level, well drained, and free of standing water
- Surface is free of large cracks, holes, and tripping hazards
- Surface is painted and striped per court specifications
- Surface is free of litter, debris, gravel, and graffiti

### Goals and Backboards

- Goals and backboards are level with hardware intact
- Goals and backboard are painted
- Nets are properly hung and free of tears and fraying
- Support poles are secure in ground and straight

## SAND VOLLEYBALL COURTS

### Nets

- Nets are free from holes and are not torn or tattered
- Nets are hung tightly at specified height
- Nets are securely attached to support poles
- Support poles have hardware intact, are properly anchored and installed

### Sand Surface

- Court surface is loose sand
- Surface is smooth with good drainage and no standing water
- Surface is free of weeds, grass, debris, and litter

### Borders

- Borders are well defined and intact
- Borders meet International Volleyball Federation (FIVB), ASTM and NPSI standards
- Surrounding area is free of debris and encroaching landscaping to reduce hazard

## PONDS AND LAKES

### Water

- Aerators, if provided, are operational
- Pond surface is at least 90% free of vegetation
- Water area is free of trash and debris
- Bank areas are smooth and free of washouts and erosion, rip rap in place where needed
- Ponds and lakes, where appropriate, are stocked with appropriate species of fish
- Inlet and outlet structures are operational
- Appropriate and seasonal rules and regulations signage is in place at noticeable locations

### Fishing Piers and Decks

- Planks are intact, smooth, structurally sound, free of splinters and have no cracks greater than  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch
- Nails, bolts, and screws are flush with surface
- Planks are level with no excessive warping
- Handrails are present and structurally sound

- Piers and decks comply with ADA
- Trash receptacles provided nearby

## Benches

- Hardware is intact and structurally sound
- Nails, bolts, or screws are flush with surface
- Seats and backing are smooth with no protrusions, have no sharp edges or pointed corners, and are structurally sound
- Benches are secured in ground and properly installed