



Parks Classification Policy Update Overview

The purpose of the Park Classification System Policy is to establish a method for classifying the parks in Seattle Parks and Recreation. The categories are driven by park use, purpose, general size, attributes, natural assets, and physical environment. The system is used to assist in how Parks grounds maintenance crews work efforts are allocated. For example, many of the parks in the Regional Category are used very intensely. As a result, they require more hours of trial maintenance, garbage pick-up and comfort station cleaning than a Neighborhood Park. This policy is not to be used to supersede Parks approved Master Plans for individual parks, such as Discovery Park, Magnuson Park or Seward Park.

During the development of the Parks Legacy Plan, Parks determined that some of the parks classifications did not work well for planning and analysis purposes. The categories and parks assigned to them were modified during the plan's development but the Parks Classification Policy was not updated. The changes reflect the consolidation or expansion of certain categories with park properties as appropriate. Additionally, the park classification categories are used for reporting purposes in other City policy documents, such as the Comprehensive Plan and in reports generated by the Trust for Public Land.

The creation of a new 'Regional Parks' category captures some of Parks' largest landholdings, often serving broader citywide recreation needs. Many of these parks have historic or landmarked significance and/or large areas of undeveloped land that are maintained in a natural state. These parks tend to be destinations, often generate tourism, and have views or water access. Examples include: Gas Works Park, Discovery Park, Warren G. Magnuson Park, Lincoln Park and Green Lake Park. Parks with the attributes described above were reclassified from 'Community Park', 'Downtown Park', 'Natural Area', 'Recreation Area', and 'Special Use' categories.

Timeline

The update to Parks Classification Policy was recommended for approval by the Board of Park Commissioners on January 8, 2015.

November 6, 2014	Proposed changes were sent to the Board of Park Commissioners and made available to the public
November 13, 2014	Briefing to the Board on Park Commissioners
December 11, 2014	Public hearing
January 8, 2015	Further discussion by the Board and recommended approval

Resources

The Board of Park Commissioners briefing paper and updated policy can be downloaded from the following sites:

<http://www.seattle.gov/parks-and-recreation/about-us/board-of-park-commissioners>

<http://www.seattle.gov/parks/Publications/policy.htm>

For more information please contact:

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