

# Park Models



## Summary

Upon completion of park/facility inventory and analysis site visits, a customized series of park categories were developed that are unique to Augusta. These categories were developed based on observations of existing parks and the types of uses that could be commonly found within them.

## Park Category Guidelines

This park category system includes six park types, which are Mini Park, Neighborhood Park, Community Park, Regional Park, Linear Park/Greenway and Special Purpose Facility or Park.

The following lists all park types including their optimum size, potential locations and type of facilities most commonly found within them. This park category system should be considered a guideline for future park development. It is not uncommon for adjustments to be made to park guidelines based on recommended levels of service. The actual number of parks recommended for Augusta has been adjusted based on a number of factors. When made, these adjustments may include adjustments to optimum size, acreage range, location and facilities included in the park.

## Park Categories

## Guidelines

### **1. Mini Park**

Mini Parks serve a concentrated or limited population area.

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|---------------------|---|
| Optimum Size:       | 1 Acre  |
| Acreage Range:      | ½ Acre to 2 ½ Acres   |
| Level of Service:   |   |
| Location:           | Should have adjacency to other neighborhood pedestrian networks or park system components, most notably Linear Parks or Greenways/trail systems. May be located within a walkable or bikeable distance to an elementary school or other site convenient to the population served. |
| Facilities and Use: | Should service a recreational need or take advantage of a unique opportunity. Not intended for programmed activities. May include a picnic shelter, playground, benches, walks/trails and open space.   |
| Primary Facilities: | 1 Playground (optional) with shade and/or trees<br>Picnic Area<br>Benches   |

### **2. Neighborhood Park**

Neighborhood Parks provide relief from the built environment for residents and serve as a social and recreational focal point for the immediate neighborhood in which it is located.

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| Optimum Size:     | 5 Acres   |
| Acreage Range:    | 2 ½ to 12 Acres   |
| Level of Service: |   |
| Location:         | Should be easily accessible to neighborhood population and geographically centered within safe walking and biking distance. May be accessible by public transit providing easy access for children and senior adults. May be located at an elementary or middle school. |



**Facilities and Use:** Should have balance of active and passive activities geared toward those living within the service area. Should provide activities for all ages such as play equipment, internal trails, landscaped areas, limited lighting and paved parking. Should include a ballfield other athletic field or open space for pickup or practice games. A neighborhood garden where appropriate and desired may be added. May include a game court (i.e. basketball, pickle ball, volleyball, etc.) where appropriate and specific to the neighborhood.

**Primary Facilities:**  
 1 Playground with shade and trees  
 1 Ballfield/Athletic Field/Open Space  
 1 Game Court (Basketball Court, Pickle ball Court, Volleyball Court, etc.)  
 Picnic Areas

### 3. Community Park

Serves broader geography than Neighborhood Parks. Focuses on meeting community based recreation and social/gathering needs.

**Optimum Size:** 15 Acres  
**Acreage Range:** 10 to 35 Acres  
**Level of Service:**

**Location:** Serves two or more neighborhoods and is geographically centered to serve them. Located adjoining or immediately adjacent to collector street providing community wide access. Connected with Linear Park/ Greenways, if possible. Adjoining or adjacent to schools, if possible.

**Facilities and Use:** Blends active and passive use facilities with emphasis on community based recreation and community gathering. Should also include supporting passive use areas for activities such as walking; sitting and picnicking; a playground with adequate shade/landscaping; and nearby/convenient paved parking. Also includes a Community Center with Gymnasium and Senior Center and pool/splash pad where appropriate.

**Primary Facilities:**  
 1 Playground with shade and trees  
 1 - 2 Athletic Fields  
 2 Game Courts  
 Picnic Areas with Shelters  
 Benches  
 ¼ Mile (min.) to 1 Mile of Leisure Trails  
 Community Center with Gymnasium and Senior Center  
 Swimming Pool/Splash Pad (Optional)

### 4. Regional Park

Regional Parks emphasize a blending of passive and active facilities, drawing users from outside the community. Due to their unique mix of features, these parks can become destinations for both locals and out-of-towners.

**Optimum Size:** 50+ Acres  
**Acreage Range:** 50 to 100+ Acres  
**Level of Service:**



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| Location:           | Should be accessible from major thoroughfares. Well connected/serviced by arterial or collector roads and strategically located. Should draw from natural resources and emphasize connection to community-wide greenways.   |
| Facilities and Use: | Facilities should emphasize activities such as walking, sitting and picnicking blended with active components such as athletic fields. Public gathering spaces including concert pavilions, wedding venues, and libraries may be contributing elements. If provided, playgrounds are ancillary facilities (with adequate shade/landscaping). Convenient paved parking should support the facilities. May also include a dog park, RV park and/or swimming facility where appropriate. |
| Primary Facilities: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Picnic Areas with Shelters</li> <li>Benches</li> <li>5 Miles of Leisure Trails</li> <li>4 - 8 Athletic Fields</li> <li>Multiple Game Courts, covering a variety of activities</li> <li>Playgrounds with shade/trees</li> <li>Aquatic or Water Element</li> </ul>   |

### 5. Linear Park/Greenway

A passive use park, corridor or trail that preserves unique natural, or environmentally sensitive sites for public use.

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| Optimum Size:       | Site & Resource Driven  |
| Acreage Range:      | Site & Resource Driven  |
| Level of Service:   |   |
| Location:           | Should have connectivity to other park system components.   |
| Facilities and Use: | Should focus on unique natural components not commonly found such as gardens, water access, lakes/ponds, wetlands or unusual open spaces. May function as a mechanism to protect irreplaceable natural resources. Predominantly passive use in nature, but may include limited active facilities such as bike trails, informal spaces for play, and canoe/kayak or boat ramps. Should contain leisure/nature trails, picnic areas, boardwalks and interpretive signs. |
| Primary Facilities: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Picnic Areas with Shelter(s)</li> <li>Leisure/Nature Trails</li> </ul>   |

### 6. Special Purpose Facility or Park

Facilities that do not fall into one of the above-mentioned categories and primarily provide a single purpose; or a specialized facility that could provide a positive economic impact to the department/community. Possible examples include sports complexes, golf courses, aquatic facilities, tennis centers, stand-alone boat ramps, amphitheater, etc.

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|----------------|------------------------|
| Optimum Size:  | N/A                    |
| Acreage Range: | Site & Resource Driven |