

Appendix F: Glossary of Terms

Active Transportation Terms

Mode is a particular form of travel, such as walking, bicycling, carpooling, bus, or train.

Connectivity is the ability to create functionally contiguous blocks of land or water through linkage or similar ecosystems or native landscapes; the linking of trails, greenways, and communities.

Accessible is used to describe a site, building, facility, or trail that complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Accessibility Guidelines and can be approached, entered, and used by people with disabilities.

Walkability audit is an unbiased examination/evaluation to identify concerns for pedestrians related to the safety, access, comfort, and convenience of the walking environment.

Complete Streets policies direct transportation planners and engineers to consistently design streets with all users in mind. Policy-makers can use Complete Streets information and resources to improve the way their travel ways are planned, designed, and constructed.

Community Health Terms

Active Living is a way of life that integrates physical activity into daily routines.

Health Impact Assessment (HIA) is a combination of procedures, methods, and tools by which a policy, program, or project may be judged as to its potential effects on the health of a population, and the distribution of those effects within the population.

Community & Recreation Planning Terms

Components are elements that draw users to a place to engage in an activity or experience. In this study, components are physical assets within the community that provide a parks and recreation experience.

Modifiers are amenities that enhance or support the use and enjoyment of a place. Examples include benches, shade, restrooms, drinking fountains, and other amenities that enhance the comfort and convenience of a place. This can also refer to the overall attractiveness of a place due to its design and ambience.

Impact Fee is a fee levied on the developer or builder of a project by a public agency as compensation for otherwise unmitigated impacts the project will produce. Impact fees can be designated to pay for publicly owned parks, open space, and recreational facilities.

Diversity is the quality of being different or varied. Diversity characteristics often include race, ethnicity, gender, disability and sexual orientation.

Core Services reflect the mission-led and vision-inspired primary service or businesses areas in which an agency focuses its efforts and energy. Core Services are meant to align with community values to achieve desired outcomes. Examples might include:

- Recreation centers
- Youth recreation programs
- Adult recreation programs
- Athletics and fields
- Neighborhood parks
- Community and regional parks
- Aquatic centers and services
- Open space
- Trails

Service Areas Defined

Regional Service Area – A given facility or program that serves multiple communities (e.g. cultural arts centers, golf courses, ice arenas, water parks).

Community Service Area – A facility or program that serves an area within a 15-minute drive or three miles.

Neighborhood Service Area – A facility or program that serves an area within a 15-minute walk or less than one mile.

Service Assessment – An intensive review of organizational services including activities, facilities, and parklands that leads to the development of an agency **Service Portfolio**. The assessment indicates whether the service is “**core to the organization’s values and vision,**” and provides recommended strategies that can include, but are not limited to, enhancement of service, reduction of service, collaboration, and advancement or affirmation of market position. The process includes an analysis of the relevance of each service to organizational values and vision and market position, including an examination of economic viability and other competitive service availability.

Values – A set of timeless, guiding principles that influence:

- What we strongly believe about who we are and what we do
- A set of core beliefs
- Who the organization is
- What’s important to the organization

Organizational values are a composite of the societal/community, member/staff, and leader/policy maker values. They are what we aspire to impart as park and recreation professionals within our community. Examples include environmental stewardship, financial sustainability, and active lifestyles.

Vision – A 10 to 30 year over-arching goal describing what the organization seeks to become or how they plan to impact the community in the future.

Strategy – A set of actions designed to attain an objective.

Sub-Area – Used for demographic and level of service analysis in different geographic parts of a community.

Goal – An ideal that we strive to attain or maintain.

Level of Service (LOS) – The amount and kind of parks and recreation service that is appropriate to the needs and desires of residents and is sustainable to operate. The Composite-Values Level of Service Methodology analyzes quantity, quality, and location information of physical components that make up the parks and recreation system (e.g. playgrounds, trails, recreation centers, etc.). By analyzing the composite values of each component, it is possible to measure the service provided by the parks and recreation system from a variety of perspectives for any given location.

Objective – A measurable or observable achievement.

Partnership – A cooperative venture between two or more parties with a common goal and compatible missions that combine complementary resources to establish a mutual direction or complete a mutually beneficial objective.

Sustainability – Meeting the needs of the present without endangering the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Parks & Conservation Terms

Blueway – A river, stream or canal that is used for aquatic recreation such as boating.

Carrying Capacity – refers to the amount of use a given resource can sustain before an irreversible deterioration in the quality of the resource begins to occur.

Dog Park – An area designed specifically as an off-leash area for dogs and their guardians, also known as a “canine off-leash area.”

Loop Walk – Any sidewalk or path that is configured to make a complete loop around a park or feature and that is sizeable enough to use as an exercise route (min. 1/4 mile).

Natural Area – An area that contains plants and landforms that are remnants of or undisturbed native areas of the local ecology. Natural areas are usually dedicated to the protection and maintenance of native habitat and biological diversity and specifically managed to preserve plants and animals.

Playground, Destination – A playground that serves as a destination for families from a large geographic area. Typically, a destination playground has restrooms and parking on-site, and may include special features such as a climbing wall, spray feature, or adventure play.

Skate Park – An area designed specifically for skateboarding, in-line skating, or free-style biking. A skate park may be specific to one user group or allow for several user types and can typically accommodate multiple users of varying abilities.

Trails/Pathways Terms

Interpretive Trail is a short to moderate length trail (1/2 to 1 mile) with concentrated informational stops to explain associated views, natural flora and fauna, and other features.

Buffer (Buffer Zone) is any type of natural or constructed barrier (like trees, shrubs, or wooden fences) used between the trail and adjacent lands to minimize impacts (physical or visual).

Multi-Use/Shared Use Trail is a trail that permits more than one user group at a time (horse, OHVer, hiker, mountain bicyclist, wheelchair). Trails are paved or have a natural surface, and are separated from the road and provide recreational or transportation opportunities (e.g. biking, walking/jogging, rollerblading, wheelchair travel).

Rail-Trail (Rail-to-Trail) is a multi-purpose public path (paved or natural) created along an inactive rail corridor.

Rail-with-Trail is a trail that shares the same corridor with active rail traffic.

Single-Track Trail is a trail only wide enough for one user to travel and requires one user to yield the trail to allow another user to pass.

Bike Path/Bike Trail is any corridor that is physically separated from motorized vehicular traffic by an open space or barrier. It is either within the highway right-of-way or within an independent right-of-way. Due to a lack of pedestrian facilities, most bike paths/trails are commonly designed and referenced as multiuse paths and trails.

Greenway is a linear open space established along a natural corridor, such as a river, stream, ridgeline, rail-trail, canal, or other route for conservation, recreation, or alternative transportation purposes. Greenways can connect parks, nature preserves, cultural facilities, and historic sites with business and residential areas.

Hard Surface (Paved) Trail is a trail tread surfaced with asphalt or concrete.

Armoring is reinforcement of a surface with rock, brick, stone, concrete, or other “paving” material.

Backcountry is an area where there are no maintained roads or permanent buildings—just primitive roads and trails.

Bollard is a barrier post, usually 30 to 42 inches in height, used to inhibit vehicular traffic at trail access points.

Natural Surface Trail is a trail tread surfaced with gravel, aggregate, dirt or other natural materials.