

Park Types & Recommended Standards

In order to provide the parks, recreational and open space facilities needed by the City's residents, a set of standards and design criteria should be followed. The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) has developed such standards for parks, recreation and open space development, which are intended to guide communities in establishing a hierarchy of park areas.

The following sections describe a commonly used classification system that follows guidelines similar to those set forth by the NRPA. The park areas discussed are defined by the various types of activities that are to be furnished, and their type, size, and service area. Each park type is discussed below in order to identify the following:

- (1) The function of each park type;
- (2) The recreational activities generally associated with each park type.

Each type of park, or park function, is described in the sections below to identify recreational activities associated with each park, the service area usually associated with each type of park, and the physical relationship of each type of park to the population residing within its service area. The classification of each of Sachse's existing parks is provided in *Table 10* to the right.

TABLE 10 Classification of Existing Parks City of Sachse, Texas	
Mini-Park/Pocket Park	Cornwall Lane Park
Neighborhood Parks	Joe J. and Patricia D. Stone Park Park Lake Park 5 th Street Park
Community Parks	Heritage Park Salmon Park
Special Use Park	(None)
Open Spaces/Greenbelts	Muddy Creek Preserve Cedar Creek Estates Park Creek Crossing Park Sachse on The Creek Park Bunker Hill Park
Source: Dunkin Sims Stoffels, Inc.	

MINI-PARK/POCKET PARK (CORNWALL LANE PARK)

A mini-park/pocket park is a small area generally used as a children's playground or as a passive or aesthetic area. Mini-parks/pocket parks are designed to serve a very small population area and are often privately owned or maintained by a property association. These parks normally serve a population base of 500 to 1,000 persons, and although they range in size, they are typically less than 5 acres. The primary function and use of this



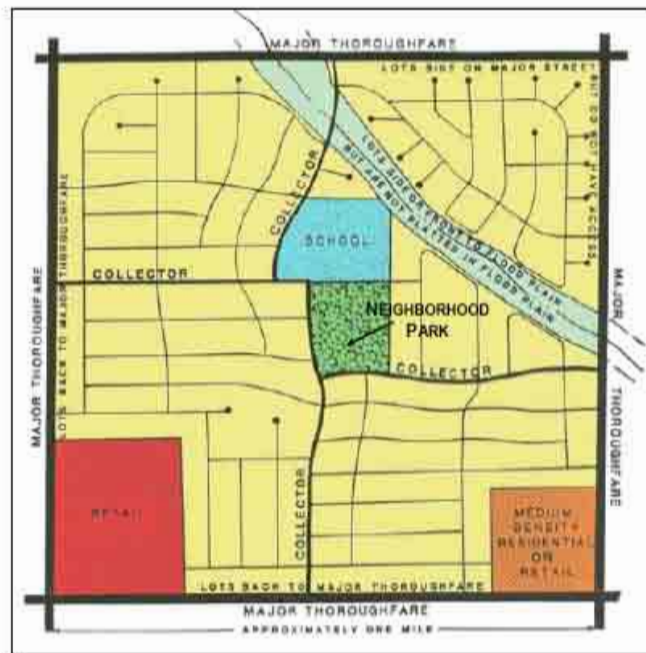
EXAMPLE OF A MINI-PARK

type of park should be to provide recreational space for preschool-age children and elementary school-age children near their residences. Where substantial development of high-density apartments is proposed, it is appropriate that mini-parks/pocket parks be incorporated as part of the high density development. These parks, although they should be used to calculate the amount of park acreage a city has, are generally not recommended in a municipal park system due primarily to required maintenance costs.

NEIGHBORHOOD PARK (JOE J. & PATRICIA D. STONE PARK, PARK LAKE PARK, 5th Street Park)

The neighborhood park, sometimes referred to as a playground, is deemed to be one of the most important features of a park system, and is often considered to be one of the major cohesive elements in neighborhood design. Its primary function is the provision of recreational space for the neighborhood that surrounds it.

When it is possible to combine an elementary school with this type of park, the two features further enhance the identity of the neighborhood by providing a central location for recreation and education, and by providing a significant open space feature within the neighborhood. A neighborhood park should be located near the center of the neighborhood, and should have a service area of approximately one-half mile to three-fourths mile. Safe and convenient pedestrian access (sidewalks or hike-and-bike trails) is important to a neighborhood park location. Generally, the location should not be adjacent to a heavily traveled major thoroughfare.



EXAMPLE OF A NEIGHBORHOOD PARK AND ITS RECOMMENDED RELATIONSHIP TO THE SURROUNDING NEIGHBORHOOD

Facilities normally provided at a neighborhood park consist of the following:

- Playground equipment for small children;
- A multiple-purpose, surfaced play area;
- An athletic area (non-lighted) for games such as baseball, football and soccer, and a surfaced area for such sports as volleyball, basketball and similar activities.

Other desirable elements for neighborhood parks include:

- Pavilions with tables and grills for picnics;
- Restrooms;

- ◆ Drinking fountains;
- ◆ Tennis courts, and
- ◆ A passive area with landscaping, trees and natural elements.

Neighborhood parks are designed to serve a small population area. An appropriate standard in relation to size and population for this type of park is 2.5 acres per 1,000 persons. These parks normally serve a population base of 1,000 to 2,500 persons, and they generally range in size from five to 10 acres. The minimum acreage for a neighborhood park should be five acres for several important reasons. A minimum of five acres provides enough land to develop playgrounds, small pavilions, etc. The City from time to time may accept a smaller tract of land, in the one acre to three acre range. Maintenance of these parks would be time consuming and would also require an increase in the City's maintenance budget. A minimum of five acre tract is, therefore, recommended for neighborhood park development with 10 acres being the optimal desired size. An ideal situation that enables a city to provide a neighborhood park can occur in cooperation with an elementary school play area; the city oftentimes is able to purchase additional land adjacent to the site so that the area serves as a neighborhood park. This is a positive circumstance for the city because parking and other infrastructure is already in place, and is positive for the school because of the additional open space provided.

COMMUNITY PARK (HERITAGE PARK, SALMON PARK)

A community park is larger than a neighborhood park, and is oriented toward providing active recreational facilities for all ages. Community parks serve several neighborhood areas or an entire city, and therefore, they should be conveniently accessible by automobile, and should include provisions for off-street parking. Activities provided in these parks generally include:



HERITAGE PARK, A COMMUNITY PARK IN SACHSE

- ◆ Game and practice fields for baseball, football, soccer and softball;
- ◆ Walking or biking trails;
- ◆ A community building/recreation center;
- ◆ Tennis courts;
- ◆ A surfaced multiple-purpose play area;
- ◆ Playground structures;
- ◆ A passive area for picnicking; and,
- ◆ Other special facilities, such as disc golf, if space is available.

The service radius of a community park play field is a minimum of one mile, and a location adjacent to, or as a part of, a junior high or high school is considered desirable. Community parks are designed to serve a medium to large population area. An appropriate size standard for these parks in relation to

size and population is 5 acres per 1,000 persons. These parks normally serve a population base of 5,000 persons or more, and they generally range in size from 40 acres to 100 acres. Sachse has two existing community parks, Heritage Park and Salmon Park, which are approximately 36 acres and 7 acres, respectively.

SPECIAL USE PARK

Golf courses, linear parks/greenbelts, trails, country clubs, school parks, botanical gardens and special athletic and community centers, including youth centers (e.g., YMCA) and civic centers, are considered to be special types of recreational facilities. Standards for this type of facility are variable and dependent upon the extent of services provided by the special facility. Sachse currently does not have any special use parks.



EXAMPLE OF A HIKE-AND-BIKE TRAIL

OPEN SPACE, RESERVATIONS, PRESERVES & GREENBELTS (MUDDY CREEK PRESERVE, CEDAR CREEK ESTATES PARK, CREEK CROSSING PARK, SACHSE ON THE CREEK PARK, BUNKER HILL)

These areas are natural and are generally left undisturbed, and can be referred to as open space. Although active recreation can be accommodated within these areas, they are primarily intended for passive recreational use.