

# A Brief Review On Urban Park History, Classification And Function

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**Abstract:** urban parks are important places for the conservation of biodiversity within cities. Urban parks and open spaces are a necessary part of the urban inheritance. They not only provide an enjoyable and natural environment but also increase the quality of life in urban areas and deal with essential environmental functions. This study aims to add to this current consideration by investigate the history of public and private area. Specifically the report will consider the link between classifications of urban parks. The objectives were to see design policies of parks and the scale of a park can variety from a national park to Neighborhood Park. There are four main types of parks: national, provincial, regional, and municipal.

**Index Terms:** Urban Park, Public Area, Private Area, Classification of Park, Neighborhood Park, Community Park.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

A Park is an area of natural, semi-natural, or planted space set aside for human enjoyment and recreation or for the protection of wildlife or natural habitats. It may consist of grassy areas, rocks, soil, and trees, but may also contain buildings and other artifacts such as monuments, fountains or playground structures [1]. Parks belong to a vast category of land uses termed public open places. These places cover a broad range of purposes that are devoted to serving the needs and interests of diverse groups, and many subdivisions of the population [2]. They are geared towards fulfilling the leisure, recreational and educational needs of the young and old, male and female, rich and poor, and of people of varying abilities. Public areas and facilities can be publicly and privately owned or owned through a public-private partnership. All these types of public areas can be divided into two broad families of spaces: plazas, streets, and parks [3].

### 1.2 Public and private area

#### 1.2.1 Public area

Public area, as the name suggests, are spaces where anyone regardless of race, age, income or gender can partake in a variety of activities. They are built with the intention to serve the common good and to be accessible and shared by all. Public area is an environment where aspects and functions of life are played out.

#### 1.2.2 Private area

Private area often appears to be public, but public does not necessarily mean public ownership. Some spaces are privately owned, but are made for public use. Theme parks fall into this category. Areas like Disneyland in California are places where the success of the park is totally reliant on the public but the park itself is privately owned. They are reliant on the public because they charge user fees for the services they provide and work on a cost recovery and profit basis. Within the park they can set standards and control what people can and cannot do where people can go and when they can be there. 1.2 Public and private area

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### 1.3 Parks, Streets and Plazas

#### 1.3.1 Plazas and Streets

In modern usage, a plaza can be any meeting place on a street or between buildings, a street crossing with a statue, etc. Now a days urban landscapes often integrate the "plaza" as a design element, or as an outcome of zoning guidelines. When the street is viewed as a function of transportation, its only importance is to be an efficient mover of traffic. When the street's context is revealed, the surrounding buildings and their uses become important in the definition of the street. Squares and streets have been part of the city since early Greek and Roman times. Their forms have changed dramatically, but their function as public spaces have remained constant. The market

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place and church square of Medieval Europe are two early forms of public open space [4]. Greenways are essentially linear parkways or corridors that connect main nodes in the city such as parks, transit terminals, and business districts to form a park system. Sometimes there are gaps in the greenways and the greenways lose their connectivity. These gaps are filled with Street Parks. Street Parks are normal everyday streets that have been aesthetically improved through landscaping and architectural standards. The space in these streets is used for pedestrian activities and some vehicular traffic. A people street pedestrian plaza creates available public open space by concluding a portion of street to vehicular traffic. A colorful, patterned treatment is useful to the street surface; while large planters and other elements define the plaza boundary. The community partner maintains and operates the plaza, providing portable tables and chairs, public programs, and continuing neighborhood access. People street pedestrian plazas must remain publicly easy to get permanently.

### 1.3.2 Public Parks

The simplest definition of a park is provided by Lynch, who describes parks as pieces of land that are colored green on planners' maps [5]. This limited, but accurate, description provides a suitable starting point in defining parks because it reveals that parks, like maps, occur at different scales.

## 1.4 The Scale of Parks

A public park is an open space that is controlled by government. The level of government participation is related to the scale of the park and accordingly its classification. The scale of a park can range from a national park to smaller. For each classification of park there is a government agency that has authority. There are four main types of parks: national, provincial, regional, and municipal.

### 1.4.1 National Parks

A national park is a park, in use for conservation purposes. Often it is a reserve of natural, semi-natural, or developed land that a sovereign state declares or owns. Although individual nations designate their own national parks differently, there is a common idea: the conservation of wild nature for prosperity and as a symbol of national pride [7]. Within the national park system there are three categories of parks: national historic parks/sites, national parks and linear parks.

### 1.4.2 Provincial Parks

Provincial parks have an intermediate position between parks at the federal level and parks at the municipal level. Several provinces have established huge provincial parks that resemble some Canadian national parks in scope, resources and management [7] the size of a park is not determined by the controlling level of government. In some cases, a provincial park can be larger in area than a national park.

### 1.4.3 Regional Parks

A regional park is an area of land preserved on account of its natural beauty, historic interest, recreational use or other reason, and under the administration of a form of local government. A regional park can be a special park district covering a region crossing several jurisdiction boundaries, or a park system of a single jurisdiction, such as a province, county, or city [8]. Many provinces have regional levels of

government. This level of government is responsible for the management of many municipalities, which are closely linked. Often a department within this regional government is responsible for parks that are of regional interest. Regional Parks are large recreation areas that may serve the entire City and beyond.

### 1.4.3.1 Design Policies of Regional Parks

- Parking to serve 100-300 vehicles typical. Gates located at parking lot entrances. Bicycle parking must be provided.
- Typical development includes: large play area, sports complexes, basketball courts, trails, picnic areas, golf course, disc golf course, skate courts, tennis courts, pavilions, senior center, recreation center, restrooms.
- Should be located near major circulation routes including access to public transportation [9]

### 1.4.4 Municipal Parks

Every municipality has a department within its governing body that works in conjunction with other departments to maintain, manage and plan for municipal parks.

## 1.5 City Parks

City parks serve the entire city and include areas with special natural features, historic significance or centralized cultural facilities. The facilities are usually geared towards the interests of adults and families.

## 1.6 Community Parks

The area from which a city attracts visitors for community parks is generally considered to be within an approximate 2.4 kilometer radius of the park. Community Parks serve a much larger area and suggestion more facilities than neighborhood parks. They serve as a focal point for community-wide activities and, as such are proposed to provide either the facilities or intensity of activities that are suitable in the community where noise, lighting vehicular traffic are appropriate for the neighborhood. They generally provide parking and restroom facilities. Where there are no neighborhood parks, community parks can also provide that function. A Community Park, depending on size, visual character, natural determinant factors, or location can address one or more of the following recreational needs of the community: Ecologically sensitive and unique natural areas where, through public protecting, the character of the area is preserved for future generations. Uses will be primarily passive in nature and may include trails, picnicking, viewing, and environmental education. Explanatory sites of historic land uses such as agriculture or mining may also be included in these parks. Areas intended to provide diversity of either structured or non-structured outdoor recreation activities. It May include facilities such as athletic fields, play areas, waterfront, swimming pools, community gardens, skating area, or outdoor amphitheaters. In some community parks, active recreation facilities can be the focal point of the park. In these instances, parking facilities can become quite large. Areas proposed to address the needs for indoor recreation activities. These may include gyms, daycare, fitness facilities, meeting space, classrooms, game rooms, swimming pools, theaters, recreation centers. Community Parks may

contain certain park constituents benefiting adjacent vicinities. The intent is to make accessible to the community extensive diversity of recreational opportunities through an appropriate distribution of activities and facilities. Community Parks should be served by major or collector streets and be available [9].

#### 1.6.1 Design Policies of Community Park:

- Minimum size should be 20000 m<sup>2</sup>.
- At least 2/3 of the site should be available for active recreation use.
- Appropriate facilities include: Formal sports fields, softball, soccer, tennis courts, sand or grass volleyball courts, community gardens, open grass areas, restrooms, picnic facilities, trails, basketball courts, children's play areas and space for special outdoor events.
- Parking requirements depend upon facilities provided. Generally, 5 spaces per 5000 m<sup>2</sup> of active use area. Bicycle parking must be provided [9]

#### 1.7 Neighborhood Parks

Small parks provide informal recreation in residential areas. Neighborhood parks generally serve an area of 500 to 800 meter radius and provide a local park function at the neighborhood level. Parks at this level can provide facilities for both active and passive recreation. The standards for neighborhood parks are currently set at 0.6 hectares per 1,000 residents. It offers many different facilities to a wide range of people. Active amenities include a playground, basketball court, sitting area, shelter, tennis, Multi-use courts, horseshoe pitch, gazebo, and play meadow, while flower beds provide a passive area. Neighborhood Parks should be equitably distributed throughout the city to serve citizens close to home. They are small in size (under 10000 m<sup>2</sup>), used for non-supervised or organized neighborhood recreational activities. Typically a neighborhood park accommodates a variety of activities including children's play equipment area, seasonal wading pools, picnicking, open grass for passive use, outdoor basketball courts and can include multi-use sports fields for soccer [7].

##### 1.7.1 Design Policies of Neighborhood Parks:

- Development of Neighborhood Parks should be aimed to achieve a balance between active and passive park uses. For this reason, neighborhood parks should be located on a site that has some natural aesthetic appeal and is predominately flat.
- Active recreational facilities in neighborhood parks are planned to be used in an informal and unstructured manner. Appropriate facilities include: Multi-use open fields for youth soccer and baseball, opportunities for non-supervised, non-organized recreation activities such as basketball and tennis, facilities for picnicking, children's play areas, trails, and perspectives.
- Restroom facilities are not provided.
- Ease of access and walking distance are critical factors in locating a Neighborhood Park. Accessibility is usually by way of sidewalks along residential streets or neighborhood trails. The park design should encourage access by foot or

bicycle and provide bicycle racks at each primary access point.

- Parking requirements: If less than 90 meter of street frontages exists, a minimum of 3 spaces per 5000 m<sup>2</sup> of usable active park areas should be provided. A bicycle holder must be provided [9].

## 2. Materials and Methods

The study has been conducted on the basis of literature survey. Library, Internet, Various seminar papers, taskforce reports of research organization, journals and some periodicals on history of urban parks have been surveyed for the purpose of accumulating information.

## 3. Results and Discussion

Parks and adjacent communities are closely linked. The way a community uses a park is typically reflected in the structure and design of the park. Conversely, the park's structure and design shape opportunities for human use [10, 11, 12, and 13]. Parks serve many functions in urban America. Principal among these is that parks provide sites of active and passive recreation for people in surrounding neighborhoods [10, 11, and 12]. The development and functioning of such landscape boundaries in urban areas has been examined within the fields of urban land-use planning and urban sociology [14, 15]. Entities without strong constituent support typically are not as well maintained as those that do have backing, particularly within the context of fiscal constraints now found in most major US cities [11]. For example, local roads and schools which receive the most service are often those which are backed by a strong constituent [16]. In the 16 century the parks were affectedly created in imitation of nature, in most of the cases the built environment was the focal point of the park [17]. English travelers of this period took the name park and useful it to the more formal royal and titled gardens of Europe [18]. The Royal grounds of London such as Hyde Park were opened to the public as early as the 17 century [19]. The English natural style garden became very popular in Europe, particularly in France. It was stylish for the rich in England to travel on the continent and designers such as Kent, Brown and Repton were ordered to create private parks with classical elements. In the period in-between the princes of Germany were altering public gardens on the remainders of old German defenses, and 'people's parks such as that opened in Munich in 1789 [20]. At the end of the 18 century parks all over Europe began to be more widely related with cities [19]. The development of urban parks has been part of the process of urbanization of European and American cities. Urban parks were created in industrial cities throughout Britain. Before the 1850s there were only a few of Royal Parks and some older meeting greens in London. The huge popular of parks in other industrial cities were not originally designed as urban parks for public use but were leisure parks contributed to, or obtained by the city [21]. Though the probable need for public green space joined with the old-style English love of all things rural was in authority, at least in part, for the acceptance of rural themes. Three representations have affect the design of public parks since their emergence: The 18 century Landscape Park, the botanical garden, and pleasure gardens of which Vauxhall Gardens in London would be the model [22]. The European pleasure gardens of the 17 and 18 centuries had been designed according to 3 rules suggesting the relationship between nature and art: 1) the garden should orient itself to the image of nature. 2) in mirroring nature, it should be illustrious

from the surrounding landscape and familiar as something different and 3) this difference should not be an unusual contrast but rather an enhancing of nature in the image of nature and reason [21]. At the end of the 18 century and the beginning of the 19 century a shift in emphasis from aesthetics to functionalism occurred as people have a tendency to use parks to accomplish their needs, rather than as something to observe (Ponte, 1991). The park historian comprises 4 separate ages in the evolution of urban parks in America [23]:

1. The Pleasure Ground 1850-1900
2. The Reform Park 1900-1930
3. The Recreation Facility: 1930-1965
4. The Open-Space System: 1965 and after

Before 1900 preference grounds were the treatment to life in the manufacturing city. In the improvement era it was recognized that although cities were confused, their survival was necessary and the solution to this confusion could be found by improving them. The park that would bring the needed order was a mixture of two activities: small park support which wanted to bring parks to the areas in which working class people lived and the play area movement which wanted a substitute to the street for children's play [23]. Ludwig Lesser founded the German Association of Parks for People in 1913. He defined the new reform parks in Germany as being based on certain fundamental principles. Their function was not mainly walking and strolling. They were to make provision for all sorts of games. They were to be available to all people however of social class. They were to pay off for the land lost to industry and housing and they were especially planned for the working class as a relief from the pressures of their lives [24]. The Recreation Facility era in the United States (1930-1965) was a time of rapid population growth and an increased standard of living; this resulted in a propensity towards leisure activities. Recreation began to be considered as a necessary part of life. In New York City, for instance, during a period of twenty years from the mid-1930s the number of recreation facilities increased more than five times [21]. In England, the struggles of the National Playing Fields Association formed in 1927, and the National Fitness Campaign formed in 1939, managed to the setting up of many entirely sporty open spaces. Since World War Two very few major urban parks have been built in Britain [25]. Throughout the second half of the 20 century the approach to urban planning and design differed among the countries of Europe, which in turn exaggerated the creation of urban parks [26]. Compare with London or Berlin there has always been absence of accessible green space in Paris. In 1959 a London user had access to nine square meters of green space compared with the one square meter of a Parisian. In 1991 Paris had a lower percentage of park area relative to office space than did New York and Tokyo. Concern about the setting up of green space managed to planning guidelines which taken a 55% percent increase in public park area between 1976 and 1992. In France and Spain formation and conservation of urban parks and other kinds of open space were well thought-out economic, social and physical improvement policy, while in Britain these issues were of moderately limited importance in France and Spain there is a movement to an emphasis on culture, social activities, tourism and leisure. This accent is evident in the spatial configuration of these parks in France (Parc de La Villette, Parc Citroen) and Spain (Parque Del Clot, Parque Olivar de la Hinojosa-Madrid, Jardin de la Espana). In Germany (Green U in Stuttgart, Nidda Valley Volkspark) and the Netherlands the emphasis has been more on nature [21].

Pohl refers to two new western parks: Nature Park and Leisure Park. The nature park is built on the legend of living in the wild and. Difference the reason after the relaxation park is a commercial one. The combination of these two: nature and culture is a goal that many park designers hope to achieve. One program is towards post-industrial parks and the renovation style in landfills and bothered lands in the urban environment. This movement is in opposition to the still important attractive parks for its prominence is on natural procedures. It aims to connect the vital and active aspect of nature with the growing culture of urban inhabitants and is becoming more popular with the rise of environmental worries in planning and urban design [27, 23]. Another increasingly popular approach to park design is creating urban parks as a maintenance of national exhibitions and Garden Festivals which started in the middle of the 20 century in Germany, the Netherlands and Britain. There is also a trend towards flexible spaces which suggestion work together with users and allow them to choose their own activities, in other words the zoning of activities is self-organized and well-defined by customers [21]. Modernism and Post-Modernism in this discipline then appeared after their occurrence in architecture and fine arts. The term Modernism in landscape architecture have not yet been well-defined pleasurably [28]. This is also true of Post-Modernism [29]. The value of space as a relating medium was find again in Modern landscape architecture. Post Modernism and Modernism are educational approaches instead of design styles [30]. Post Modernism emerged as a reaction to societal modernization and as an escape from the affinity of modern life to be totally controlled by the values of the scientific-industrial complex [31]. Hargreaves takes the issues of Post-Modern architecture and tries to interpret them in the context of landscape architecture. He statements that Post-Modern architecture, art and landscape architecture should find configuration and meaning in the external world rather from a perfect internal space. Modernism and Post Modernism have had an impact on the philosophy of design in landscape architecture. The lack of connection between people and nature derives from the viewpoint of modernism [32, 33, 34] this enables them to recognize and avoid the potential engagements of actions and establish the zonings of activities at various times [35]. Parks are being designed like any other landscapes along with their vitality, for they have natural components that grow, change and evolve. People knowledge time in parks as places with plants and environment, which age and change with the seasons: the dynamic process of birth, growth and decline. It is the procedure of regeneration. Time is supposed by signals from nature. The natural processes are complex relations of linked webs of vegetation and animals in terms of chemical and physical changes. The changes are reproduced in the visual characteristics of natural elements, changes in color, size, and texture. The designer always has to be aware of the concept of time for designing and managing the vitality of the landscape [21].

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