

## 6 Appendix 1 – Reserve Categories

### Wellington City Council Parks Categories

(Adapted from the New Zealand Recreation Association Parks Categories and Levels of Service)

The New Zealand Recreation Association (NZRA) published the first New Zealand, industry developed and agreed set of parks categories for use by territorial local authorities for the planning and management of parks.

The categories are intended to capture a **primary** purpose. While many parks will (and should) have multiple values, allocation of a primary purpose allows for analysis of the parks network at various scales from a specific neighbourhood right through to a regional analysis. Understanding “what we have” is an essential first step in planning for effective management of the parks network.

#### Neighbourhood (community)

Larger, multiple-use spaces (generally 3000 sq m minimum area) with an emphasis on providing for the needs of the wider community, provide for a range of informal recreation activities for all age groups and may be located near or adjacent to other community facilities (eg a library, suburban or town centre, Plunket, childcare space).

They generally provide:

- easy pedestrian access
- play equipment and seating
- flat or gently undulating grass areas
- adequate space for running and informal ball games
- neighbourhood amenity and access to open space and the natural environment.

They may also provide a public toilet and car parking.

#### Neighbourhood (local)

Smaller, lower profile spaces (generally less than 3000 sq m) often located on a pedestrian/commuting route and typically bordered on several sides by houses.

They provide for local neighbourhood informal recreation, may contain no built infrastructure (ie comprise a flat or open grass space with some trees) but may also provide neighbourhood amenity alongside a specific function (such as a play area or a dog exercise area).

### **Neighbourhood (amenity)**

Small (generally less than 1000 sq m) areas of open space that contribute to the character and amenity of a neighbourhood through provision of pockets of open space and/or sites for amenity trees and other vegetation.

Access and use is often constrained by topography, shape, or location in relation to the surrounding area but often with important cumulative values across the reserves network and local neighbourhood.

### **Sport and Recreation (community)**

Parks with a primary purpose of providing for sport and recreation activity, recreation facilities and buildings. Often multiple uses and values with a focus on organised recreation and sportsfield provision. Types of use/value include social sports, active recreation, informal sports and recreation, walking, amenity and access to open space and the natural environment.

### **Sport and Recreation (local)**

Sport and recreation activity for the local area. Smaller scale, smaller area and less infrastructure than the Sport and Recreation (community) category. May be multiple use. Generally one sportsfield used by organised junior sport and for informal sport. May also provide for other social sport, active recreation, informal recreation, walking, amenity and access to open space and the natural environment.

### **Cultural Heritage**

Protection of built cultural and historical environment to provide for commemoration, understanding, appreciation, and remembrance. Often multiple values, for example, amenity and ecological value in addition to heritage.

### **Natural**

Experience and/or protection of the natural environment. Types of use/value include conservation, ecological restoration/enhancement, access to the natural environment, walking/cycling, information/education/interpretation, open space, ecosystem management, low-impact recreation, landscape protection.

Typical characteristics include remnant and regenerating indigenous vegetation, stream and the associated catchment, and coastal areas. Large areas of open space sometimes inaccessible but generally include informal recreation opportunities and low-key infrastructure throughout. For example, they may contain track networks and associated information and way finding, picnic areas and possibly seats. Minimum area of approximately four hectares. Examples are Trelissick Park, Tyers Stream Reserve and Frobisher Street Reserves.

### **Recreation and/or Ecological Linkages**

Open space, linkages and corridors, water margins and protection of the natural environment. Generally a low level of development and a linear nature. Generally smaller than approximately four hectares. Provide essential citywide ecological links and protection of significant remnant and emergent indigenous vegetation. Provide recreation links between parks and within neighbourhoods. Often provide only an ecological link but both an ecological and recreation link where possible (often constrained by topography in Wellington) and necessary. Make an important contribution to local and citywide amenity and sense of place.