

Community-Significant Parks

A “destination” recreation facility was defined by the Parks, Recreation, Open Space, and Greenways Resource Panel as a recreation amenity that a person would bypass to reach another facility of the same type. As an example, a parent might drive by a playground in their own neighborhood to reach a playground in another community that had more attractive play opportunities for their child. By identifying specific destination recreation facilities, it is then possible to define a park as being regionally-significant if it contains a set number of those types of facilities.

In order to identify the community-significant parks in Allegheny County, the Resource Panel created a list of destination recreation facilities and set a minimum number for those facility types that would have to be present in a park in order for the park to qualify as community-significant. The following destination recreation facilities were selected as an indication of community significance, along with the minimum number (if greater than one) required for a park to be defined as community-significant:

- Amphitheater Present
- Baseball / Softball Fields (with 4 or more fields)
- Small Stadium – Open to Public
- Boating Access
- Campground
- Recreation Center (Minimum of 30,000 sq. feet; could include one or more: pool, classroom, fitness center.)
- Disc Golf Course
- Fenced Dog Park
- Golf Course
- Ice Rink
- Picnic Pavilion (4 or more)
- Pavilion with Amenities (All-weather, kitchen, etc.)
- Pond / Lake
- Skate Park
- Soccer / Hockey Facility (4 or more)
- Designated Swimming Beach
- Swimming Pool
- Tennis Courts (6 or more)
- Nature / Environmental Centers
- Trails (Multi-municipal, 10 miles +, or part of existing trail)
 - Motorized Access
 - Equestrian Facility
 - Mountain Bike / Hiking (Greater than 5 miles / not to include Rail Trails)
- Total Acres (Minimum 200 acres per Regional Asset District standards)
- Hunting / Fishing Access



The above facilities were listed on the Allegheny County Municipal Park/Open Space Survey. The compilation of survey results was reviewed to determine which parks met the criteria of being community-significant, based on the listed factors.