

# Parks, Recreation, & Open Space

Element Summary: 8-PROS

## GOAL

Preserve and enhance parks and open spaces within the District of Columbia to meet active and passive recreational needs through universal access, promote health and wellness, improve environmental quality, enhance the identity and character of District neighborhoods, and provide visual beauty in all parts of the national capital.

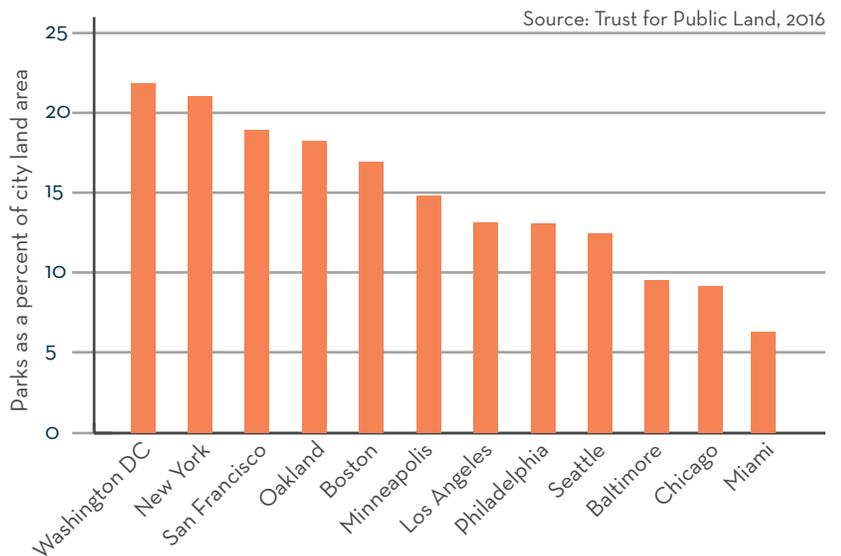
## CONTENTS

- **PROS-1 Park Planning and Land Management:** focuses on stewardship of parks that are owned and operated by the District of Columbia. Policies also express the District’s perspectives on the federally-owned parks that serve city residents.
- **PROS-2 Park and Recreational Facilities:** focuses on park facilities, including recreation centers, aquatic facilities, and outdoor facilities (including courts, playgrounds, and fields).
- **PROS-3 Open Space Networks:** focuses on Washington DC’s four outstanding and distinct networks of open space, including the Monumental Core, Rock Creek Park, the Fort Circle Parks.
- **PROS-4 Maximizing Our Assets:** discusses leveraging community resources through collaboration and partnerships to improve access to open space and recreational services. It also focuses on redefining “open space” to include assets beyond parkland.

### DPR Managed Amenities



### Parkland Open Space: DC Compared to other Cities



# Parks, Recreation, & Open Space

Element Summary: 8-PROS

## SUMMARY OF MAJOR POLICY THEMES

### Improving Resilience and Equitable Access

- Promote resilience, focusing on mitigating flooding and climate change. Mitigation measures for stormwater and heat island effect include nature-based design and multipurpose parks. New policies are aimed at sustaining parks as great public spaces while providing more equitable access to them across the city.

### Addressing the Intersection of Parks with Health and Wellness

- Improve and expand access to high-quality parks and open spaces, with physical activity as a key contributor to personal wellness.

### Revitalizing Anacostia River Waterfront

- Address the remaining gaps in Washington, DC's waterfront network, completing the implementation of the Anacostia Waterfront Initiative (AWI) Plan, now a national model for urban rivers in terms of environmental restoration, public access, economic development, and inclusive growth.

### Creating and Applying Design Standards

- Create District-wide parks and recreation facility design standards for outdoor facilities. Design should reflect resident preferences and the culture of the local population, and accommodate a range of age groups and abilities.

### Developing New Parks Classification and Data Collection Systems

- Develop a park classification system that provides clear definitions based on review of industry standards and best practices, to provide DPR with more tailored level of service standards. Develop a more robust data system to help improve measurement of facilities usage and participation, and to better inform master planning, capital investment, and programming decisions.

### Forging Partnerships with Federal Entities

- Continue to work with federal agencies to evaluate and bolster the role that federal lands play in meeting the recreational needs of District residents.