RECREATION & PARKS

- Parkland Dedication Ordinance
- Non Park Use Policy
- Urban Forest Canopy
The Parkland Dedication Ordinance passed originally in 1998 as a requirement to assure that parkland and open space is adequate in Columbus and that development interests are treated equitably.

- Applies to all zoning cases changing use of one acre or larger
- Applies to projects resulting in increased density
- Exemptions:
  - Rezoning from one residential to another residential classification that does not result in an increase in density
  - Council Variances & BZA cases
  - Annexations into Columbus that stay the same zoning land use
  - Properties under 1 acre in size
  - Properties in areas with specialized zoning review authority
  - (examples are Downtown, Franklinton, German Village)
Parkland Dedication Ordinance

Macro-planning during larger projects will include negotiation for land to be deeded to Recreation and Parks for future public parkland.

When requirement is less than an acre, negotiations may include cash in lieu of a Land Commitment:

- Determination is made from current market value of land in the vicinity
- All commitments will be applied in the Planning Area of the proposed development
- Waivers or reductions of commitment will be considered on a case by case basis by the Recreation and Parks Commission designee based upon the criteria:
  - Recreational opportunities for the general public in addition to the immediate residents of the development; protection and conservation of environmentally sensitive areas
- Parkland Dedication Ordinance fees due to Recreation and Parks prior to Site Compliance Approval.
Parkland Dedication Ordinance

Standard for parkland is 5.5 acres per 1000 residents
Additional criteria is: is it within a 10 minute walk?

Calculations:

**Owner Occupied Home sites:**

\[
\text{# of Units} \times 2.40^* \text{ residents per unit} = \text{# of residents generated} \\
\frac{\text{# of residents generated}}{1,000 \text{ residents}} \times 5.5 \text{ acres} = \text{acres of parkland}
\]

**Multi-Family Home Sites (including Extended Stay):**

\[
\text{# of Units} \times 2.13^* \text{ residents per unit} = \text{# of residents generated} \\
\frac{\text{# of residents generated}}{1,000 \text{ residents}} \times 5.5 \text{ acres} = \text{acres of parkland}
\]

**Commercial:**

$400 per acre or portion thereof

*Median Household size for residential units established by U.S. Census data
Non Park Use Policy (NPUP)

Purpose

• Per City Code Section, 919.03 – Recreation and Parks is responsible for providing the public with safe and healthful environments through effective management and enhancement of:
  - Public land
  - Natural resources
  - Wildlife habitats

• Columbus Recreation and Parks Department (CRPD) has the authority to limit the development of parks and parkland that interfere with these objectives
• There is an application required when there is a request to impact parkland
• Approvals will be contingent upon benefit to the park and the community as a whole
• Any non-park development will include a restoration plan and final approval by Recreation and Parks
Non Park Use Policy

Implementation and Mitigation:

Parkland Implementation:
- Any parkland that is legally restricted, environmentally protected or designated as a natural area will not be approved for non-park development
- Any agreement entered into will not terminate previous commitments
- Land will not be sold or transferred unless it is determined to be a long term benefit for the Columbus community

Parkland Mitigation:
- Impact to ½ acre or less of parkland requires twice the area (1 acre and under) for invasive species removal, wetland mitigation or wildlife habitat
- Impact to properties greater than ½ acre will require mitigation 2.5 times the area of the species removal, wetland mitigation or wildlife habitat
- Impact to public trees will have been identified during planning process. Any impact identified during demolition or construction will require on site meeting with Project Manager and City Representative
- Where removal and / or replacement is required, fines may be assessed to the Tree Fund

THE CITY OF COLUMBUS
ANDREW J. GINTHER, MAYOR
RECREATION AND PARKS DEPARTMENT
Urban Forest

By Code, Recreation and Parks Department has Authority Over Trees on Public Property:

912.02 - Management and Protection

- ...to have charge, custody and control of trees, shrubs and evergreens planted or to be planted in or on public streets, parks and public spaces
- Typically the maintenance in these areas are limited to street trees. Maintenance agreements are signed for intense landscapes with low growing vegetation, planters, rain gardens and bio swales
- Downtown Streetscape Standards have been developed which outline the landscape requirement in the Columbus inner core

912.09 - Planting Permit.

- It shall be unlawful for any person to plant or set out any tree, shrub or ground cover in or on any public street, park or public place without first obtaining a written permit from the Recreation and Parks Department
Urban Forest

A tree’s feeding roots extend 2x the breadth of the tree

Roots Breathe:

Most of the tree roots are located within the top 12” of soil

Therefore:

912.20 - Excavation prohibited

- No person shall excavate any ditch, tunnel, trench or lay any drive within a radius of ten (10) feet from the trunk or edge of drip line of any tree, shrub or evergreen standing on any public street park or public space
Urban Forest

Plan Submittals

Tree Installation:
- Include location, quantity, genus, species on the plans
- Include installation details and planting notes on the plan set
- For existing street trees, show size and location
- Include tree protection notes & details
- When specifying tree species, consider the diversity of material to avoid large scale impact to canopy

Tree Removals:
- If applying to remove trees, clearly indicate this on the drawings. Prior approval is needed
- Any street or park trees intended to be removed must be replaced with the same aggregate total of caliper size
- If trees cannot be planted in the development at time of construction, a City Representative will determine alternate locations for tree planting or a fee will be assessed to the Columbus Tree Fund
Parks & Trees
Questions??

Key Personnel:

OSS Plan Reviews  Don E. Evans  deevans@Columbus.gov  614-724-1553
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