

20 Appendix C. Open Space and Recreation Facility Provision

Introduction

20.1 The purpose of this table is to identify the required standards of provision for new public open space and recreational facilities as part of new development in Milton Keynes. They should be applied taking into account the current open space provision in Milton Keynes, illustrated in the Open Space Categories Maps, so as to determine the need for new open space as part of new development.

20.2 The provision and standards are only applicable to publicly accessible open space.

20.3 The table is divided into 3 sections:

1. The first section identifies those categories of open space that are normally required(1) in new developments, with their catchments*, characteristics and principles of design.
2. The second section identifies those open space categories that will be required if the existing site already includes features of that category. Minimum size and catchment area are not however applicable or relevant and hence not specified, rather the table identifies characteristics and principles for their design.
3. The third section identifies categories that maybe required but will be determined on a case by case basis, again including characteristics and principles for their design.

20.4 * Where a catchment distance is indicated, public open space of the required size or larger must be provided within the catchment distance from any home in applicable developments (1). A category of open space of a larger size, including ones with no catchment marked, will be deemed to meet the need for categories of smaller sizes of open space as well, providing it is within the required catchment distance of the homes for these smaller sizes of open spaces.

20.5 (1) Developments in the urban area including Milton Keynes, Newport Pagnell, Olney, Woburn Sands and strategic urban extensions will be expected to comply with the stated catchment areas in full. Developments of between 11 and 50 homes will be expected to contribute to the improvement and maintenance of existing categories of open space.

Table 20.1

Categories of Open Space/Facilities	Minimum Size	Catchment Area or Standard (the latter applicable only to playing fields)	Characteristics	Principles
SECTION 1				
District Parks	District Parks - minimum 20ha	1200m	These are spaces that actively attract visitors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Normally would be part of linked network of

20 . Appendix C. Open Space and Recreation Facility Provision

			<p>from a wide catchment, typically further than 10 kilometres. They offer unique or novel experiences that extend visiting time.</p>	<p>multi-functional open space.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Needs to include a major visitor attraction. Must have very good public transport accessibility. Must have adequate parking.
Local Parks	Minimum 1-2ha	600m	<p>Urban parks, rural parks and formal gardens, open to the general public that provide opportunities for various informal recreation and community events. A local park may include children's play, sitting out areas, landscaped environment, community events area, kickabout area and playing fields if the park is large enough. Local Parks will vary in size, but will be expected to be a minimum of 1-2ha.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Normally would be part of linked network of multi-functional open space unless local circumstances would justify a standalone local park. Should, where appropriate, include opportunities for some woodland, natural planting or other wildlife feature to foster biodiversity. Must be in accessible location and accessible from various locations. Must have very good public transport accessibility. If segregated pedestrian routes provide access to the park they must feel safe and be overlooked Should have the fronts of housing

20 . Appendix C. Open Space and Recreation Facility Provision

				<p>facing at least 1 side of park.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If includes playing fields, requires adequate provision of parking. • Must include high quality paths on and around the edge of site.
Pocket Parks	Up to 1ha	300-400m	<p>Includes small areas of inviting public space that has an overall coherent landscape design approach and tend to be well integrated into and have a positive relationship with the surrounding development.</p> <p>Provides for informal play and passive recreation.</p> <p>Should include seating.</p> <p>Can include play areas but they should not take up more than 50% of the park.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Normally would be part of linked network of multi-functional open space unless local circumstances would justify a standalone pocket park. • Should, where appropriate, include opportunities for some woodland, natural planting or other wildlife feature to foster biodiversity. • Must be integrated into the surrounding development. • Adjacent development must front onto and overlook park. • Must be in highly accessible location, e.g. should be on key pedestrian route such as redway. • There should be direct routes leading to pocket

20 . Appendix C. Open Space and Recreation Facility Provision

				<p>park that are safe and overlooked.</p>
Amenity Open Space	Up to 1000m ²	400m	<p>Commonly found in housing areas, they predominantly comprise grass areas. The primary purpose of these spaces is to provide opportunities for informal activities close to home or work, as well as visual amenity to help break up the built form. Can be used to incorporate on street parking.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Should be in accessible locations and integrated into the surrounding development. • Should be overlooked by the fronts of housing. • To soften the visual impact of on street parking it should, when appropriate, allow opportunities for unallocated visitor parking around the edges of amenity open space.
Local Play Areas (LPAs)	0.04ha (excluding 20m separation buffer between activity zone and residential properties)	300m	<p>Includes equipped play areas predominantly for those under the age of 8 years, close to their homes. This provides opportunities for play, physical activity and social interaction.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-location of the LPAs with linear, district, local or pocket parks is preferable. Unless the co-location is not possible (mostly when parkland is outside the LPAs catchment area) then LPAs could be provided as standalone areas within the development. • Activity zone to be at least 20m from residential property boundaries and 30m from roads.

20 . Appendix C. Open Space and Recreation Facility Provision

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be easily accessible on key pedestrian routes/redways. • There should be direct pedestrian routes/redways leading to play areas that are safe and overlooked. • To be overlooked by the fronts of housing. • Mainly for children up to age 8. • For unsupervised play close to home. • Approximately 5 items of play equipment and small games area. These quantities will need to be greater in areas of higher density family housing.
Neighbourhood Play Areas (NPAs)	0.1ha (excluding 30m separation buffer between activity zone and residential properties)	600m	Includes equipped play areas, ball courts, skateboard areas and teenage shelters with the primary purpose of providing opportunities for play, physical activity and social interaction involving both children and young people. Can include multi-use game areas (MUGAs). MUGAs are totally	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-location of the NPAs with linear, district, local or pocket parks is preferable. Unless the co-location is not possible (due to parkland being outside the NPAs catchment area) then NPAs could be provided as standalone areas within the development. • Active zone to be at least 40m

20 . Appendix C. Open Space and Recreation Facility Provision

			<p>enclosed games areas which provide facilities for a range of sports, normally 5-a-side football, basketball, netball etc. MUGAs are available for free public use all year round.</p>	<p>from residential property boundaries and 30m from main roads; if noisy sports facilities e.g. wheeled sports are included within NPAs then greater than 30m buffer zones from residential properties may be required to address potential noise problems.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be easily accessible on key pedestrian routes/redways. • There should be direct routes leading to play area that are safe and overlooked. • For all children, but emphasis on 8+. • For unsupervised play. • Approximately 8 items of play equipment and ball games areas, goal wall, cycle area, larger more adventurous equipment. These quantities will need to be greater in areas of higher density family housing.
Playing fields and Outdoor Sports Facilities	N/A	As per provision standards included in	Is a wide ranging category of open space, which includes both	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-location of playing fields with linear,

20 . Appendix C. Open Space and Recreation Facility Provision

<p>(Does not include school playing fields as these are not publicly accessible).</p>		<p>most recent Playing Pitch Strategy. The required standard for the quantity of provision for playing field area is 0.52 ha per 1000. (Playing Pitch Strategy, 2015)</p>	<p>natural and artificial surfaces for sport and recreation that are either publicly or privately owned, but are publicly accessible. They include playing pitches, athletics tracks, bowling greens and golf courses with the primary purpose of participation in outdoor sports.</p>	<p>district or local parks is preferable.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Must include adequate provision of parking ● If publicly accessible should have accessible network of pedestrian routes around and across site. ● Fencing around playing pitches may be considered for the development of the standard of play for the local sports clubs in order to meet the National Governing Bodies of Sport current guidelines and ensure a safe environment for the activity / sport. However, prior to erection informal consultation will be sought with the local communities and must adhere to planning regulations. ● New playing pitches must meet Sport England standards for formal participation of training and matches.
---	--	---	--	---

20 . Appendix C. Open Space and Recreation Facility Provision

Allotments and Community Growing Areas	In areas of high demand; based on current allotments waiting lists.	700-1000m	Allotments and Community Growing Areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Normally would be part of linked network of multi-functional open space unless local circumstances would justify a standalone allotment. • Must include adequate amount of parking.
Sports Facilities	As per provision and quality standards included in most recent Sports and Active Communities Strategy			
SECTION 2				
Linear Parks	N/A	N/A	Key structural component of MK, following the water bodies across the city, they have an important green infrastructure role: mitigating flood events, preserving archaeology, as pedestrian and cycle corridors, for wildlife and recreation. The feel of the corridors change across the city; more formal in urban areas and more agricultural on the periphery. They are often multi-functional to include for example playing fields, play areas, paddocks and allotments.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only required where an urban extension incorporates a significant watercourse. • Will be characterised by a linked network of multi-functional open space that includes many other typologies of open space. • Must have very good public transport accessibility • Key green. infrastructure role: mitigating flood events, wildlife corridors, preserving archaeology, pedestrian and cycle corridors. Must have adequate parking.

20 . Appendix C. Open Space and Recreation Facility Provision

Green Access Links	Depends on existing site features	N/A	Provide green corridors along certain transport routes and public rights of way (footpaths, redways, roads other than grid roads) as well as historic hedgerows. They may support a range of habitats important for nature conservation and / or provision for walking, running and cycling.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most appropriate to associate with and follow historic rights of way and / or hedgerows to be retained in new development. • Should be fairly considerable in length and provide direct access to reach key facilities within a development. • Should be made to be as accessible as possible from the wider area.
Areas of Wildlife interest - Natural and semi natural	Depends on existing site features	N/A	Space includes woodlands, copses of trees, scrubland, grasslands (e.g. meadows and non-amenity grassland), wetlands and river corridors, ponds, lakes, nature reserves and brown field land with a primary purpose of wildlife conservation and biodiversity. They also perform visual amenity functions and depending on size can provide an important recreation function. They can include	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing wildlife sites should be used to structure a development such that wildlife site is well integrated into the development and provides visual amenity. • In this regard development should front onto wildlife sites. • If appropriate, footpaths should be included through the site especially if they form part of help create direct pedestrian routes linking wider destination.

20 . Appendix C. Open Space and Recreation Facility Provision

			formal and/or informal pedestrian routes.	
SECTION 3				
Transport Corridors	Refer to Transport Policy	N/A	Define the urban form of Milton Keynes, flanking the main grid roads they buffer local communities from the noise and visual impact of passing vehicles and providing an attractive landscape feature to the motorist. Also provide key wildlife habitats.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must be consistent with transport policies on grid road reserves/corridors.
Paddocks	To be required and assessed on a case by case basis.	To be required and assessed on a case by case basis.	Includes small fenced outdoor pasture area where a horse is kept. A paddock may have a dirt or grass surface. For the purpose of the Open Space Assessment only paddocks within the settlement boundaries are being considered.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mostly to be located in rural areas. Could be included in linear parks. Not expected within developments' within the existing city boundary. Their private usage means they can be located in secluded places.
Civic Spaces	To be required and assessed on a case by case basis.	To be required and assessed on a case by case basis.	Includes civic and market squares and other hard surfaced community areas designed for pedestrians. The primary purpose of providing a setting for civic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Should be located in highly accessible locations with significant volumes of footfall. Should be positively

20 . Appendix C. Open Space and Recreation Facility Provision

			buildings, public gatherings and community events.	addressed by buildings with active frontages facing the civic space. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Should have a comfortable height to width ratio to create an appropriate sense of enclosure.
--	--	--	--	---