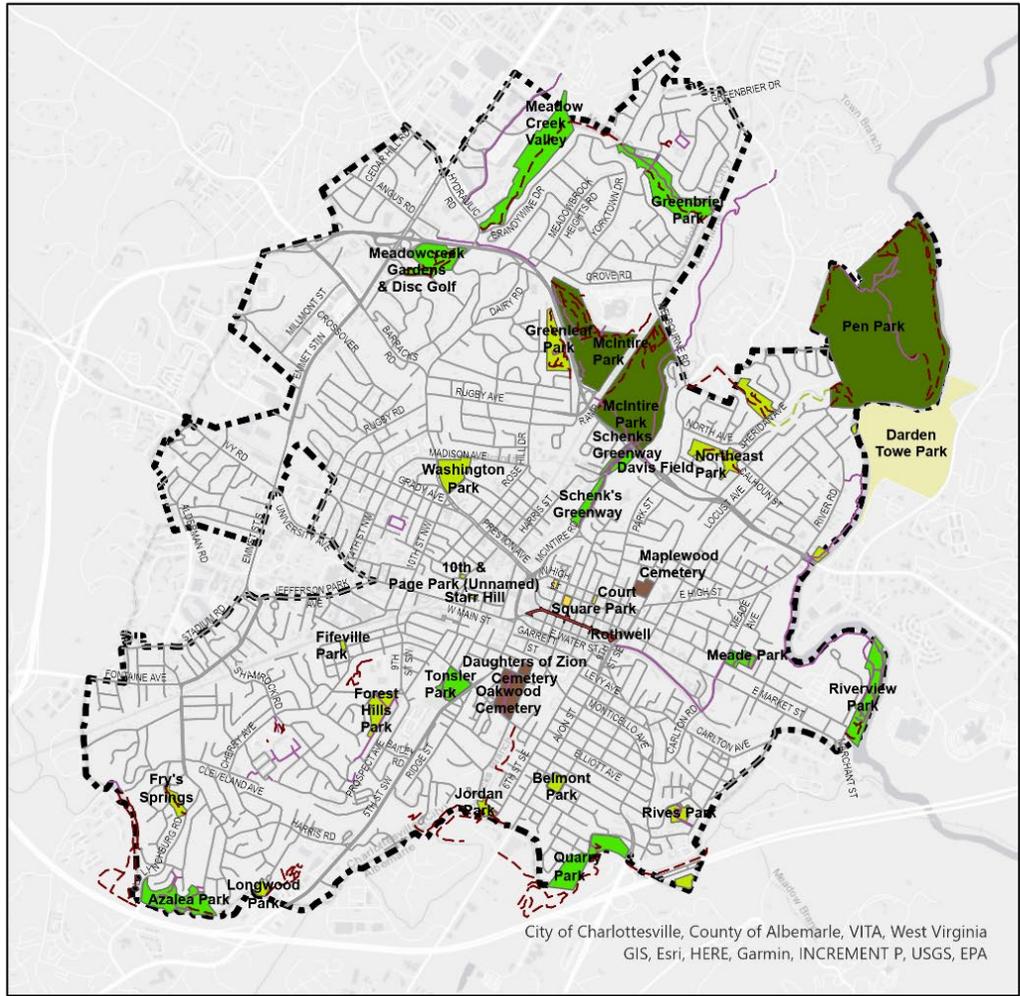


Park Classifications

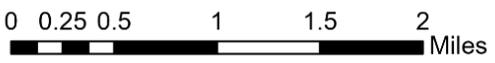
Charlottesville's parks can be grouped into 4 different classifications: urban parks, neighborhood parks, community parks, and regional parks.

Map: Parks and Trails



City of Charlottesville, County of Albemarle, VITA, West Virginia
GIS, Esri, HERE, Garmin, INCREMENT P, USGS, EPA

- Multi-Use Trail
- - - Soft Surface Trail
- - - Rivanna Trail
- City-County Park
- Urban Park
- Neighborhood Park
- Community Park
- Regional Park
- Public Cemetery
- Downtown Mall Civic Space



Urban Parks

Purpose: Publicly accessible urban parks should include facilities that are pedestrian-oriented and provide visual enhancement, a sense of identity, opportunities for social interaction, enjoyment of outdoor open space and performing and visual arts.

Location and Access: Urban parks are generally integrated into mixed-use developments or major employment centers in areas of the city that are planned or developed at an urban scale. Primary elements of urban-scale local parks are ease of non-motorized access and a location that complements, or is integrated with, surrounding uses. Features may include urban style plazas, mini-parks, water features, and trail connections, oriented to pedestrian and/or bicycle use by employees and residents. Short-term, informal activities and programmed events during lunch hours and after-work hours are intended to foster social interactions among users, provide leisure opportunities, and create a visual identity to strengthen sense of place and orientation.

Character and Extent of Development: Urban park size is typically less than three (3) acres and can be as small as ½ acre. Service area is generally within a 5-10 minute walking distance from nearby offices, retail, and residences. To be successful urban parks need high visibility, easy access, lots of pedestrian traffic, immediacy of casual food service, access to basic utilities, landscaped vegetated areas, ample seating, high quality materials, a focal point or identity, regular custodial maintenance, and an inviting and safe atmosphere. Visits to urban parks are typically one hour or less.

The urban parks in Charlottesville include Court Square Park (Formerly Jackson Park), Market Street Park (Formerly Lee Park), and McGuffey Park.

Neighborhood Parks

Purpose: Neighborhood parks serve neighborhoods and other residential areas of the city. They primarily offer a variety of active or passive recreation opportunities, or a combination of both, in close proximity to residents and employment centers. Areas designated for natural and/or cultural resource protection may also be included within these parks.

Location and Access: Neighborhood parks should be located to serve local residential neighborhoods, broader residential communities and/or urban employment or mixed-use centers. Pedestrian, bicycle and/or car access is appropriate depending on the setting and access features. School grounds also serve as neighborhood parks and should be treated with the same experiences and length of stay.

Character and Extent of Development: Neighborhood parks primarily provide facilities for active or passive recreation, or both; areas for scheduled and unscheduled recreation activities and social gathering places; and serve residential, employment and mixed-use centers. In the City, park size will

typically be at least ½ acre and less than 25 acres. Visits to neighborhood parks are typically less than two hours.

The character of neighborhood parks may vary depending on their location within the city. In residential settings, neighborhood parks will generally be larger than in urban parts of the city. Neighborhood parks offer open space to those with little or no yards. Typical facilities may include open play areas, playgrounds, courts, athletic fields, game areas, trails, trail connections, natural areas, picnic facilities, and facility lighting. The service area for neighborhood parks is typically no more than 1 mile.

The user experience at neighborhood parks may be casual and informal, geared toward social interaction, play, and outdoor enjoyment, or may be more structured to support organized sports and park programs. Co-Location of a mix of park uses and facilities that support both informal and structured activities is increasingly necessary to meet the City's diverse and varied recreation and leisure needs with minimal available land. To the extent possible, facilities should be planned so that areas that address different needs are compatible.

The neighborhood parks in Charlottesville include a new park in the 10th & Page neighborhood (not yet named), Bailey Park, Belmont Park, Fifeville Park, Forest Hills Park, Greenleaf Park, Jordan Park, Northeast Park, Rives Park, and Starr Hill Park, in addition to Clark Elementary, Burnley-Moran Elementary, Jackson-Via Elementary, Johnson Elementary, Greenbrier Elementary, Venable Elementary, and Walker Upper Elementary.

Community Parks

Purpose: Community parks include larger parks that serve larger geographic areas of the city and provide a variety of indoor and/or outdoor recreation facilities and park experiences. Portions of these parks may be designated for natural and/or cultural resource protection.

Location and Access: These parks are located throughout the city. Access should be available by the major roads and the regional greenway network to encourage pedestrian and bicycle trips; public transit access is also desirable. The service area can range from 3 to 6 miles. Size can range from 5 to 30 acres. Parking must be provided.

Character and Extent of Development: Community parks provide diverse opportunities for passive and active recreation uses. Generally, facilities in these parks are larger in number and scale than at neighborhood Parks and support a longer visit. Community parks may combine recreation-oriented complexes of developed facilities with areas of the park that are undeveloped. The extent of development will depend on actual site conditions, such as topography, amount of developable acreage, and access. Appropriate facilities include those that support active and passive recreation,

often clustered together, areas for programmed activities and gathering places, and areas designated for resource protection. Lighted facilities and extended hours of operation are also present in these parks.

These parks offer diverse experiences and activities that typically involve an individual or group for a time period of up to a half day and may attract spectators or participants. Typical recreation activities at community parks include athletics, trail usage, swimming, gardening, skating, special events, and performing arts. Additionally, woodlands, open space, trails, and open play areas are highly desirable features. Sensitive environmental areas and cultural resource sites within the parks will be managed as Natural or Cultural Resource Areas. Visits to community parks can range from two (2) to six (6) hours.

The community parks in Charlottesville include Azalea Park, Greenbrier Park, Meade Park, Meadow Creek Gardens, Quarry Park, Riverview Park, Skate Park, Tonsler Park, and Washington Park.

Regional Parks

Purpose: This park classification includes larger parks that serve regionally and provide a variety of large- scale indoor or outdoor recreation facilities, or both, as well as facilities that are unique within the City. Areas designated for natural and/or cultural resource protection may also be included within these parks.

Location and Access: These parks may be located in an area of the city where available land can support a large-scale park facility. Access should be available by the major arterials and the regional greenway network to encourage pedestrian and bicycle trips; public transit is required. The service area is typically larger than 10 miles, including areas outside the city limits. Park size is a minimum of 50 acres. Parking must be provided.

Character and Extent of Development: Regional parks provide diverse opportunities for passive and active recreation uses to a wide range of simultaneous users. Generally, these parks provide complexes of intensively developed activity areas. The complexes may include multiple facilities for the same activity, an assortment of different activity focuses in one or more areas of the park, and/or unique facilities found in only one or a few parks within the entire park system. Facilities in these parks are larger in scale than those found in community parks.

Regional Parks may combine larger complexes of developed areas with extensive natural areas. The extent of development will depend on actual site conditions, such as topography, amount of developable acreage, access, and intensity of adjacent land uses. Appropriate facilities include those typically found in Community Parks as well as the facilities unique to regional parks and the support uses necessary for a full day activity such as concessions and restrooms. Formally scheduled community gathering places and areas for large, programmed activities and events are also typical.

Lighted facilities and extended hours of operation are the norm.

These parks offer diverse experiences and activities that typically involve an individual or group for a time period of up to a day and which may attract large numbers of spectators or participants. Typical activities include those found in regional parks as well as facilities such as athletic complexes, recreation centers, nature centers, golf courses, indoor gymnasiums, and indoor aquatic facilities. Sensitive environmental areas and cultural resource sites within the parks will be managed as Natural or Cultural Resource Areas. Visits to regional parks can range from two (2) to eight (8) hours.

The two regional parks in Charlottesville are Pen and McIntire Parks.

Natural Resource Management Areas

Purpose: Natural Resource Management Areas are primarily designated for natural resource protection and stewardship. These areas may include forested areas, stream valleys, wetlands, and wildlife habitat. Primary intention is for protection of natural resources with a secondary use for passive recreation, interpretation, and education.

Location and Access: These areas can be located anywhere throughout the City, and may include water reservoir properties. Size can range from 1-1,000 acres or more depending on setting and location. Access is generally available from local connector trails or small parking lot trailhead areas. Access into the park itself is primarily on foot.

Character and Extend of Development: Natural Resource Management Areas provide opportunity to enjoy natural resources in and around the urban area. These areas typically do not include spaces for active recreation such as athletic fields, playgrounds, etc. Buildings, other than small restrooms or picnic shelters, are generally not included in these areas. Lighting is not generally included in these areas but may be included at parking and trailhead areas. These lands may be placed into conservation or open space easements to preserve natural features, but easements are not required. Fishing is allowed but not hunting or trapping. Forest management is intended to preserve native plants and control invasive plant species.

Natural Resource Management Areas in and around the city include Ragged Mountain, Ivy Creek Natural Area, Sugar Hollow Reservoir, the Meadow Creek Stream Valley, Heyward Community Forest, and Fry's Spring Park. Properties acquired since the 2013 Comprehensive Plan include about 50 acres of City-owned land in the County, just outside the City border, near Quarry Park, Jordan Park, and Azalea Park.

Other Outdoor Facilities

In addition to its numerous parks and open spaces, Charlottesville also has a variety of other outdoor facilities that provide a source of recreation to City residents. Many of these facilities are maintained by the City of Charlottesville, though some involve partnerships with the County and with various non-profit organizations. Some of these outdoor facilities are located in the heart of Charlottesville while others are found outside the City's limits in Albemarle County. The character of these facilities ranges from urban, such as the Downtown Mall, to natural, such as the Ragged Mountain Natural Area.

Trails

Charlottesville Parks & Recreation maintains a variety of trails in the city. There are nearly six miles of paved trails and about 30 miles of nature trails available for residents and visitors to enjoy. Multi-use trails exist at Riverview Park (and upstream along the Rivanna River), Meade Park, at Schenk's Greenway, McIntire Park, John Warner Parkway, and at Forest Hills Park. Nature trails exist in the woods of many City parks and alongside creeks.

Outdoor Pools

The City of Charlottesville maintains three outdoor pools: Onesty Pool at Meade Park and the Washington Park Pool, and a wading pool at McIntire Park. Spray grounds are located in Belmont, Forest Hills, and Greenleaf Parks.

Downtown Mall

Charlottesville's Downtown Pedestrian Mall turned 45 years old in July of 2021. Closing a portion of Main Street to automobiles has been highly successful, and the Downtown Mall is both an economic and a cultural center for the greater Charlottesville area. A new Transit Center has been constructed at the east end of the Downtown Mall.

The renovation of the old Amphitheater and the east end extension of the Downtown Mall were the final steps for completing the Mall's original plan, drafted in 1976. The Charlottesville Pavilion, now known as the Ting Pavilion, was substantially completed in July of 2005, finalizing the renovation of the Amphitheater.

Play Lots

The Charlottesville Redevelopment and Housing Authority, maintains eight play lots at various public housing developments in the city. Play lots are small playground areas intended for use primarily by

children under twelve years of age. They serve as substitutes for individual backyards that may not always be present in dense living environments. Play lots in the city include two at Westhaven Public Housing; two at the South 1st Street Public Housing; one at 6th Street Public Housing; one at Riverside Avenue Public Housing; one at Michie Drive Public Housing, and; one at the Madison Avenue Public Housing. The housing developments at South 1st Street, 6th Street, and Madison Avenue also have basketball courts. The South 1st Street site also has a large field for soccer and baseball.

Jointly-Funded Parks

The City of Charlottesville and Albemarle County share the operating costs of three parks that are located near the City in Albemarle County. These parks represent excellent examples of how City-County cooperation can address mutual recreational needs. The Ivy Creek Foundation also assists the City and County in managing both the Ivy Creek and the Ragged Mountain Natural Areas. Ragged Mountain Natural Area is located southwest of Charlottesville in Albemarle County and provides expansive recreational areas for hiking, bird watching, boating, and fishing. This natural area also includes a reservoir that is part of the regional water supply. Ivy Creek Natural Area, located north of Charlottesville in Albemarle County, consists of a small farm and 215 acres of protected wildlife area that offer hiking trails and opportunities for various other nature-oriented activities. Darden Towe Park is located on Elk Ridge Drive, off Route 20 North. The park provides a total of 110 acres of open space, including a wide variety of activity areas, space for team/field sports, and canoe access to the Rivanna River.

In addition to these outdoor public amenities, many city residents make use of County facilities such as Chris Green Lake, Mint Springs, Walnut Creek, and Beaver Creek.

Public Cemeteries

Maplewood Cemetery, the oldest public cemetery in Charlottesville, opened in 1827. It is closed to new patrons, but burials are still performed occasionally for families with inherited plots. Oakwood Cemetery, the second public cemetery in Charlottesville, opened circa 1860. Burials are still performed. Both public cemeteries are maintained by the Parks and Recreation Department.

Schools

Schoolyards offer recreation facilities including playgrounds, ball fields, hard courts, and open play areas.