



# I. What is "Parks & Recreation?"

In order to plan for the best possible parks and recreation system the City must first understand what are Parks, and what comprises Recreation. According to the *National Recreation and Park Association*, a "public park" is any area or portions of areas dedicated or designated by any federal, state or local agency primarily for public recreational use. Public recreation includes activities that take place at a public park/facility - sports, physical activities, exposure to natural surroundings, arts and culture, to name a few. These activities may be passive or active and may be performed at will by the visitor or be organized by a public agency. Parks and recreation are resources and services provided for the purposes of leisure, entertainment and recreational pursuits by the citizens. Resources may be public spaces and facilities like parks, nature preserves, open space areas, greenways, trails, and built structures for sport, recreation or arts programs. Examples of services include recreation activity programs, athletic leagues, special events, arts programs, and environmental education programs.



*“We need nature as much in the City as in the countryside. In order to endure we must maintain the bounty of that great cornucopia which is our inheritance. It is clear that we must look deep into the values which we hold. These must be transformed if we are to reap the bounty and create that fine visage for the home of the brave and the land of the free. We need, not only a better view of man and nature, but a working method by which the least of us can ensure that the product of his work is not more despoliation.”*

Ian Mcharg, Design With Nature, 1969

