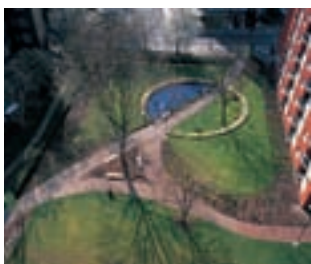




Crystal Palace Park, London – a valued community resource



Ouse Bridge, Bedford (Architect: Chris Wilkinson)



The King's Cross Estate action initiative has created safer, more direct routes between streets and parks (designer: Tibbalds Monro)



Childrens play ground, Cockle Bay, Sydney

**Create park life**

A variety of parkland distributed within the urban area ensures a range of recreational needs within close proximity to homes and workplaces. Table 3.5 provides a hierarchy of parks classified according to scale, function and locational suitability. This includes rules of thumb for appropriate size and distance from home. Surround parks with different types of land uses to help spread activity and ensure they are well used at different periods of the day.

**Table 3.5 Types of parks**

Type and main function	Approx. size and distance from home	Characteristics
<b>Regional parks and open spaces</b>		
(linked Metropolitan Open Land and Green Belt Corridors) Weekend and occasional visits by car or public transport	400 hectares 3.2-8 km	Large areas and corridors of natural heathland, downland, commons, woodlands and parkland also including areas not publicly accessible but which contribute to the overall environmental amenity. Primarily providing for informal recreation with some non-intensive active recreation uses. Car parking at key locations.
<b>Metropolitan parks</b>		
Weekend and occasional visits by car or public transport	60 hectares 3.2 km or more where the park is appreciably larger	Either (i) natural heathland, downland, commons, woodland etc. or (ii) formal parks providing for both active and passive recreation. May contain playing fields, but at least 40 hectares for other pursuits. Adequate car parking.
<b>District parks</b>		
Weekend and occasional visits by foot, cycle, car and short bus trips	20 hectares 1.2 km	Landscape setting with a variety of natural features providing for a wide range of activities, including outdoor sports facilities and playing fields, children's play for different age groups, and informal recreation pursuits. Should provide some car parking.
<b>Local parks</b>		
For pedestrian visitors	2 hectares 0.4 km	Providing for court games, children's play, sitting-out areas, nature conservation, landscaped environment; and playing fields if the parks are large enough.
<b>Small local parks and open spaces</b>		
Pedestrian visits, especially by old people and children, particularly valuable in high-density areas.	up to 2 hectares up to 0.4 km	Gardens, sitting-out areas, children's playgrounds or other areas of a specialist nature, including nature conservation areas.
<b>Linear open space</b>		
Pedestrian visits	Variable wherever feasible	Canal towpaths, paths, disused railways and other routes which provide opportunities for informal recreation, and areas that are not fully accessible to the public but contribute to the enjoyment of the space.