



PALM BEACH COUNTY



**PARKS & RECREATION**

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# Parks Operations Division Quality Standards Manual



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## Introduction

In 1995, when the Parks Operations Division budget structure was revised, special effort was taken to create goals which related to tangible park features. These same goals served as the framework of this Quality Standards Manual making the important connection between the budget and park operations.

In 2016, the Parks Operations Division reassessed the standards and goals contained in this manual to better define the performance indicators to match current industry standards and budget conditions.

As originally designed, our standards and goals continue to define the desired conditions of the tangible park features. Broad goals have been translated into very simple yet specific performance indicators that are easily identifiable by every Parks Operations Division employee.

This manual also provides a framework for periodically inspecting the tangible park features of each park site and evaluating their condition to ensure safe, enjoyable experiences for park patrons. The findings of these inspections can then be compared to planned levels of achievement.

Most importantly, it is the intent of this manual to clearly identify expectations relative to desired maintenance and to provide employees with the basic information and direction needed to effectively perform their work.



## Safety

It is the responsibility of every Parks Operations Division employee to ensure that potential safety concerns are secured and supervision is immediately notified. All safety related issues shall be addressed as outlined in this Quality Standards Manual and in compliance with applicable county, department, and division policies and procedures. Supervision will review the potential safety concern and ensure that proper protocols are met.

One way to maintain safety is through scheduled park inspections. Depending on the area of responsibility, safety inspections shall be performed daily/weekly/monthly/quarterly/biannually or annually.

## Turf and Landscape

No other structure, fixture or feature has a greater impact on the appearance of our park system than the turf and landscape. For many, if not all park visitors, it is the primary indicator of overall park quality. Well managed turf and landscape can effectively draw attention away from shortcomings in other areas, while impressions of even the best facility can be quickly ruined by poorly managed turf and landscape.

### Turf

The quality of turf in common lawn and open play areas (separate from athletic fields), shall be judged by a review of four factors: color, height, density and edging. It is important to note that irrigated turf areas will be held to higher standards than non-irrigated areas.

### *Irrigated Turf Quality Standard*

- ✓ **Color** – Color is the most obvious and widely used indicator of turf quality. Overall turf color shall be medium to dark green with only a few variations of lighter green and brown.
- ✓ **Height** – The importance of uniform height to turf is easily demonstrated by looking at newly mowed turf next to turf that has not been mowed for several days. Turf areas are to be kept at a uniform height between 3 ½ and 5 inches throughout the park system.
- ✓ **Density** – A thick stand of turf provides a more functional, safer surface for park users, a more pleasing appearance and protection against weed intrusion. In irrigated areas, turf shall be dense and soil not visible from the surface.
- ✓ **Edging**– The aesthetic qualities of turf are generally enhanced by clearly defining the borders of designated areas. The more obvious the border, the sharper the contrast. Turf boundaries will be generally well defined with clean cut edges. Grass shall not stray from designated areas.



### *Non-irrigated Turf Quality Standards*

- ✓ **Color** – Overall turf color shall be light to medium green. There will be some variance from time to time due to changes in environmental conditions such as drought, wind, soil pH, etc.
- ✓ **Height** – Same as irrigated turf.
- ✓ **Density** – Although the turf will not be as dense without irrigation, a good ground cover shall be maintained in most common areas with very little soil visible from the surface. Efforts must be made to identify and correct all ruts and uneven surfaces that are considered hazardous.
- ✓ **Edging** – Turf boundaries are generally well defined, although edges may not be clean cut.

### Landscape

Palm Beach County recognizes that trees and shrubs provide us with various colors, shapes and textures – with natural beauty. Additionally, this vegetation provides a great deal more by keeping air supply fresh, trapping and filtering dust and pollen, providing shade, acting as sound barriers, suppressing weeds, preventing soil erosion and camouflaging unsightly objects.

Trees shall not have hanging/cracked limbs, root protrusion or other hazards visible from the ground. Limbs and foliage of mature trees shall be maintained at a minimum height of 10 feet over pedestrian pathways and 14 feet over vehicular driveways. Trees and shrubs shall not have evidence of pest or disease from normal viewing distance. Overall appearance should be aesthetically pleasing.

The performance goal of the Parks Operations Division is to maintain 90% of our turf and landscape areas in accordance with above quality standards.

#### **Performance Indicator(s)**

- Number and percent of turf-grass acres maintained in accordance with parks quality standards.
- Number and percent of pedestrian walkways and vehicular driveways with properly maintained tree limb heights.

## **Irrigation Systems**

Irrigation systems are actually support systems for turf. Their impact on the quality of turf grass is so great that periodic inspections are vital. The importance of water conservation makes inspections even more significant.

Irrigation systems shall be evaluated on the number of systems operating according to planned patterns and time schedules.

*To be considered operational a system must:*

- ✓ Irrigate when activated
  - ✓ Provide water to entire area it is intended to service
  - ✓ Avoid watering unintended targets
  - ✓ Shut down when deactivated
  - ✓ Have operational rain sensors always left in the **on** or **active** position
- Note:* above must comply with current South Florida Water Management District water rules
- ✓ Have at least 90% of individual sprinklers functional

The Parks Operations Division will measure performance of irrigation systems by completing biannual inspections which will compare the number of operational systems with that of the park's system inventory. The performance goal is to maintain at least 90% of the irrigation systems in operational condition.

#### **Performance Indicator(s)**

- Number and percent of irrigation systems operating according to planned patterns and time schedules.

## **Athletic Fields**

The Parks Operations Division prides itself in the high quality condition, appearance and playability of its sports and athletic fields. The maintenance of these facilities will follow the daily, seasonal and yearly requirements as outlined in Parks Operations Division Policies and Procedures (PPMs) and/or Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).

Visual inspections will be made daily and in-depth inspections will be conducted monthly by Parks Operations District staff. It is of utmost importance that the safety and well being of all facility users be ensured. All unsafe conditions and hazards will be given top priority and facilities will not be made available for public use until hazards have been abated.

Circumstances beyond the Parks Operations Division's control (e.g. inclement weather) may impact field conditions, and the Parks Operations Division reserves the right to prohibit any play on any field determined to be unsafe. The Parks Operations Division may also prohibit/suspend play on any field



in a condition such that continued play would cause damage to the turf of such a magnitude that routine maintenance practices could not repair the problem. Suspended field use will be for a 24 hour period and then be reevaluated by Parks Operations Division staff.

The performance goal for the Parks Operations Division is to maintain 90% of all baseball/softball, football/soccer and multi-purpose field surfaces in a safe, functional condition and in accordance with Parks Operations Division PPMs and/or SOPs.

### **Performance Indicator(s)**

- Number and percent of infields that meet a minimum depth of 3 inches of clay.
- Number and percent of turf-grass surfaces which are maintained in a safe, functional and attractive condition.

## **Custodial/Caretaker Services**

Nothing says more about an organization than the cleanliness and attractiveness of its restrooms and picnic areas. The inspection and cleaning/sanitizing of park restrooms and group picnic shelters will be conducted seven days a week in accordance with Parks Operations Division PPMs and/or SOPs.

The following checklist details the desired condition of park restrooms and picnic shelters. During supervisory inspections each facility will be judged on its ability to meet all the quality standards listed below. A facility that does not meet all the listed criteria is counted as such, whether it fails to meet just one or all of the quality standards listed below.

### *Restroom/Picnic Shelter Quality Standards*

- ✓ Equipment is functional
- ✓ Supplies are restocked
- ✓ Surfaces are free of graffiti
- ✓ Facilities are ADA accessible
- ✓ Surfaces appear to be freshly painted
- ✓ Seating is smooth
- ✓ Trash cans are adequate
- ✓ Grills are clean (ashes kept at a minimum)
- ✓ Site has proper drainage
- ✓ Floors are clean
- ✓ Mirrors are clean
- ✓ Pleasant odor is present
- ✓ Cobwebs and insects are not present
- ✓ Area is free of standing water
- ✓ Tables are free of staples, deep carvings and food residue
- ✓ Drinking fountains are clean and functional
- ✓ Electrical outlets are functional and covered



The performance goal of the Parks Operations Division is to maintain at least 90% of all restrooms and picnic shelters in a condition that meets all quality standards listed above.

**Performance Indicator(s)**

- Number and percent of restrooms and picnic shelters which meet all division quality standards.

## Refuse Services

The collection of trash or garbage within the park system is a monumental task with thousands of tons disposed of annually by park visitors. Every refuse receptacle/waste container will be checked and emptied a minimum of three times per week with the exception of group picnic areas and athletic fields where receptacles/waste containers will be emptied a minimum of five times per week. Refuse collected through the use of contractual service may have a pick up frequency which is different from internal guidelines as described above.

*Refuse Receptacle/Waste Container Quality Standards*

- ✓ Shall be inspected each time they are serviced for cleanliness, functionality and safety
- ✓ Shall function as designed including lids and liners
- ✓ Shall have no protruding hardware
- ✓ Placement shall not impede traffic and/or present hazards
- ✓ Shall be cleaned, repaired and/or replaced as required
- ✓ Effort shall be made to ensure receptacles/waste containers are free of odors and insects are effectively controlled
- ✓ Shall be free of graffiti
- ✓ Exterior shall be free of animal waste
- ✓ Grounds surrounding receptacles/waste containers shall be clean

It will be the responsibility of all Parks Operations Division employees to pick up and discard any item of refuse they observe during the course of their daily work assignment(s).

The performance goal of the Parks Operations Division is to maintain at least 90% of parks refuse receptacles/waste containers in a clean, safe and functional condition.

**Performance Indicator(s)**

- Number and percent of parks refuse receptacles/waste containers which are maintained in a clean, safe and functional condition.

## Beach Cleaning

The Parks District Operations personnel are responsible for the inspection of over 4.5 miles of beach front property three to five times per week and removal of man made debris such as wood, plastic, broken glass as well as other debris and safety concerns.

In 2010, due to budget cuts and in consideration of the pivotal part seaweed plays in the beach and shoreline ecosystem, it was decided to end routine beach raking of seaweed on County beaches. However, if a natural event occurs (e.g. hurricane) and mechanical beach raking is necessary, proper protocol in accordance with the Florida Beach & Shore Preservation Act, Florida Statute 161 developed by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) and the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) shall be followed at all times particularly during sea turtle nesting season (March 1 through October 31).

The performance goal of the Parks Operations Division is to maintain a minimum of 90% of beach shoreline in a safe condition.

### Performance Indicator(s)

- Percent of beach shorelines maintained in a safe condition.

## Boat Ramps

The Parks Operations Division maintains numerous Fresh and salt water boat ramps throughout the park system. Visual inspections are made weekly to ensure the ramps are free of mold, mildew and algae buildup, as well as trash, weeds and other debris. Above and below the water detailed inspections are performed biannually to check for holes, voids, loose or broken cables, dislodged rocks and other potential hazards.



All unsafe conditions and hazards shall be addressed in a timely manner. If routine maintenance practices cannot resolve the problem, with Parks Operations Division Director approval, the boat ramp should be closed until such issues can be addressed.

The performance goal of the Parks Operations Division is to maintain 90% of all boat ramps in a safe and functional condition.

### Performance Indicator(s)

- Percent of boat ramps maintained in safe and functional conditions.

## Buildings, Structures and Fixtures

This section groups together a large number of buildings, structures and fixtures not addressed by more specific objectives. All buildings, structures and fixtures maintained and/or inspected by the Parks Operations Division shall be kept in a safe, serviceable and attractive condition. All public safety concerns are to be corrected the same day as reported or secured if repairs cannot be addressed the same day. Gang related and obscene graffiti is to be repainted within 24 hours of occurrence or notification. Water and electrical conservation fixtures shall be installed where possible. The following details quality standards of most items covered in this section.

### *Building Quality Standards*

- ✓ Ceilings
  - Shall be in good condition
  - Shall be clean and painted where appropriate
  - Shall be free of cobwebs, staples and other debris
- ✓ Doors
  - Shall operate freely, quietly and as designed
  - Shall lock when appropriate
  - Shall be clean, graffiti free and painted when appropriate
- ✓ Electrical outlets
  - Shall be functional, safe and intact
- ✓ Exit signs
  - Shall be clearly visible and functional
- ✓ Floors
  - Shall be clean and free of debris
  - Shall not have any tripping hazards
  - Shall provide secure footing
- ✓ Heating/Cooling
  - Shall be functional and operate without excessive noise
- ✓ Roof
  - Shall be functional and in good repair including gutters
- ✓ Wall/Partitions
  - Shall be clean and painted where appropriate
  - Shall be free of tape, staples, tacks, graffiti, etc.



- ✓ Windows
  - Shall be free of cracks, holes or other damage
  - Shall be clean and free from smudges and obstructions

*Structures and Fixtures Quality Standards*

- ✓ Fencing and gates
  - Shall be securely anchored to the ground
  - Framing, fabric and hardware shall be in good repair
  - Shall be free of graffiti
  - Shall be free of sharp edges
  - Gates shall swing freely, with latches functional



- ✓ Benches and outdoor bleachers
  - Shall offer smooth seating surface
  - Shall be secure and sturdy (bleachers anchored to concrete slab)
  - Shall be free of unintended protrusions (nails, bolts, etc.)
  - Shall be free of graffiti
  - Shall have skid-resistant foot surfaces

- ✓ Plumbing fixtures
  - Shall be securely anchored
  - Shall provide a steady flow of water when used
  - Shall not leak or run when not in use
  - Shall drain freely and completely
  - Shall be free of graffiti



- ✓ Electrical fixtures and poles
  - Shall be properly anchored or secured
  - Shall be operational and meet each facility's light level standards
  - Shall have no exposed wires

- ✓ Signage
  - Shall be free of graffiti
  - Shall be visible and legible
  - Shall be properly secured
  - Shall be located so as not to present a hazard to park visitors
  - Shall meet all traffic and department standards where applicable

- ✓ Flagpoles
  - Shall be accessible and visible
  - Shall have functional lighting if flag is flown overnight
  - Cables and hooks shall be functional
  - Shall be free of graffiti
  - Flags shall not be ripped or torn



- ✓ Parking kiosks
  - Shall be securely anchored to the ground
  - Shall be functional (properly accepting payments, no alerts)
  - Shall have current/correct signage and stickers present
  - Shall be clean and free of graffiti
  - Solar panels shall be free of obstructions (vegetation, etc.)
  
- ✓ Shade Structures and Sails
  - Fabric, framing, and hardware shall be in good repair
  - Cables shall have proper tension and be in good repair

The performance goal of the Parks Operations Division is to maintain 90% of buildings, structures and fixtures in a condition that meets all quality standards listed above.

**Performance Indicator(s)**

- Number and percent of park buildings, structures and fixtures which meet Division standards relative to functionality, safety and aesthetics.

## Recreation Facilities

The following quality standards indicate the condition of recreational courts and facilities (excluding play structures and fitness zones). As previously mentioned, the Parks Operations Division reserves the right to close any of these facilities if an unsafe condition or hazard is present.

### *Recreational Facilities Quality Standards*

- ✓ Athletic fields
  - Fences and gates shall be in good repair
  - Area shall be free of glass and litter
  - Refuse cans shall be inspected daily
  - Lights shall be operational and meet each field's light level standards
  
- ✓ Basketball courts
  - Nets shall be in good repair
  - Hoops and backboards shall be in good repair and securely fastened
  - Court surfaces shall be in playable condition (smooth, without large cracks, clean and with well-defined lines)
  - Lights shall be operational and meet each court's light level standards



- ✓ Tennis/racquetball courts and multipurpose rinks
  - Surface shall be in playable condition (smooth, cleaned and with lines clearly marked)
  - Fences and gates shall be in good repair
  - Nets shall be in good repair with proper tension and at proper heights
  - Walls shall be free of graffiti
  - Lights shall be operational and meet each court's light level standards
  
- ✓ Volleyball
  - Area shall be free of glass, litter and animal droppings
  - Support poles shall be free of sharp edges
  - Support poles hardware shall be in working order
  - Sand shall be spread evenly within the court and there shall be no piling up of sand near the edges
  - Lights shall be operational and meet each court's light level standards
  
- ✓ Equestrian
  - Fences and gates shall be kept in good repair and support posts free of protrusions
  - Horse trailer parking areas shall be kept free of objects blocking use
  - Arena footing shall be free of sharp objects and manure and kept at the proper consistency
  - Arena water sprinkler units shall be kept in a safe position when not in use
  - Arena show bleachers shall be kept free of hanging vegetation and moldy surfaces
  - Arena shall be free of branches, vegetation and objects at mounted rider level and below
  - Trails shall be free of branches, vegetation and other objects at the mounted rider level and below

The performance goal of the Parks Operations Division is to maintain 90% of recreational facilities in accordance with above listed quality standards.

**Performance Indicator(s)**

- Number and percent of recreational facilities that meet all listed quality standards.

## Playgrounds

The high standards by which the Parks Operations Division judges playgrounds are a reflection of their importance to our Department, and safety is by far the most important standard by which we evaluate their quality.



Safety will always be a priority for the Parks Operations Division and playgrounds will receive both informal daily and formal quarterly inspections. Informal inspections of all playground areas will be made daily by Parks Operations District staff. Formal quarterly inspections will be conducted by certified Parks

Operations Trades staff. Equipment which cannot be repaired immediately shall be removed from service, thus rendering the area safe.

Playgrounds shall be maintained to be safe, functional, and attractive and provide children with a variety of skill and sensory activities.

The following quality standards shall be used as general guide during playground safety inspections. The list is not intended to be a substitute for close scrutiny or common sense.

### *Playground Safety Standards*

- ✓ All apparatus
  - Shall be free of loose footings or loose structural supports
  - Shall be free of sharp edges, worn and/or missing parts
  
- ✓ Surfaces
  - All playgrounds will contain an approved surface material (sand, pour-in-place, artificial turf or engineered mulch) spread over the entire play area
  - Mulch fall zones shall be a minimum compressed cushion of 9 inches in depth
  - Surface shall be free of hazardous materials (broken glass, animal feces, etc.)
  - All playgrounds shall be free of tripping hazards
  - Concrete footings shall be covered by surface material
  
- ✓ Metal parts
  - Shall be free of loose or protruding nuts and bolts
  - Shall be free of bent, broken or severely worn pipe
  - Shall be free of exposed tubing intended to be capped or covered
  
- ✓ Plastic, fiberglass or rubber parts
  - Shall be free of cracks, rot or wear
  
- ✓ Swings
  - Seats, straps and rivets shall be sturdy
  - Chains, S-hooks, swings hangers and assemblies shall be in good working order and signs of wear shall be limited
  
- ✓ Slides
  - Shall be free of stress or damage
  - Ladders shall be sturdy and complete
  - Exits shall be parallel to the ground
  - Slide surface shall be free of holes, rough edges and foreign objects
  
- ✓ Climbers
  - Shall have tight fittings
  - All parts shall be present, intact and in working order

### *Playground Utility Standards*

Playground utility refers to the ability of the individual pieces of equipment to perform their intended function. Utility shall be evaluated by observing each activity area as a whole. Although a few pieces of play equipment may be non functional, the overall activity area may still function as intended. For instance, a five swing unit may have one swing missing, but the other four may adequately provide for the intended purpose. Any activity area judged to be unsafe cannot be evaluated as functional. If it cannot be repaired within 48 hours and is removed from service, it must be evaluated as nonfunctional.

### *Playground Aesthetic Standards*

This particular rating of playground equipment requires a certain degree of subjectivity. The intent is not to judge the design of a structure or the colors selected for a piece of equipment; rather, the intent is to judge the overall appearance of the equipment compared to its original appearance. Children prefer new things to old, shiny objects instead of dull and bright colors compared to faded. Playgrounds must be attractive to those that use them and shall be maintained with this in mind.

The performance goal of the Parks Operations Division is to maintain 90% of playgrounds in accordance with the above quality standards.

#### **Performance Indicator(s)**

- Number and percent of playgrounds which are safe and functional.
- Number and percent of playgrounds which are maintained in an attractive condition.

## **Fitness Zones**

Fitness zones are designed for teens and adults of all fitness levels (not suitable for use by people under the age of 13 years).

Fitness zones shall be judged on the basis of their safety, aesthetics and utility. The following quality standards indicate the desired conditions of County's fitness zones.

Visual inspections will be performed daily by Parks Operations personnel. In-depth inspections will be conducted quarterly by the Parks Operations Trades staff. All unsafe conditions and hazards will be given top priority.

### *Fitness Zones Safety and Aesthetic Standards*

- ✓ Fitness zones shall be kept clean and free of graffiti
- ✓ Fitness zones shall be kept free of safety hazards and free of hazardous materials (broken glass, etc.)



- ✓ Plastic, fiberglass or rubber parts
  - Shall be free of cracks, rot or wear
- ✓ Benches shall be kept clean and in good condition and have no splinter, cracks or warps
- ✓ Safety inspections of equipment and shade structures shall be conducted daily by Parks Operations personnel. Any unsafe conditions, equipment defects and damages shall be reported immediately
- ✓ Shade structures
  - Inspection shall be conducted quarterly by Parks Operations Trades staff. Inspect for any unsafe conditions, defects and damaged structural components including fabric (damaged, faded fabric, etc.)
- ✓ All apparatus
  - Shall be free of loose footing or loose structural supports
  - Shall be free of sharp edges, worn and/or missing parts
  - Individual pieces of equipment shall perform their intended function
- ✓ Metal parts
  - Shall be free of loose or protruding nuts and bolts
  - Shall be free of bent, broken or severely worn pipe
  - Shall be free of exposed tubing intended to be capped or covered

### *Fitness Zones Utility Standards*

Fitness zone utility refers to the ability of the individual pieces of equipment to perform their intended function. Utility shall be evaluated by observing each individual piece of equipment. Although a few pieces of equipment may be nonfunctional, the overall activity area may still function as intended. Any individual pieces of equipment judged to be unsafe cannot be evaluated as functional. If it cannot be repaired within 48 hours and is removed from service, it must be evaluated as nonfunctional. The Parks Operations Division reserves the right to close any of these facilities if an unsafe condition or hazard is present.

The performance goal of the Parks Operations Division is to maintain 90% of fitness zones in accordance with the above listed quality standards.

#### **Performance Indicator(s)**

- Number and percent of fitness zones which are safe and functional.
- Number and percent of fitness zones which are maintained in an attractive condition.

## Dog Parks

Palm Beach County dog parks are extremely popular and heavily visited on a daily basis by park patrons. The following quality standards indicate the desired conditions of County dog parks. The Parks Operations Division reserves the right to recommend closing any of these facilities if an unsafe condition or hazard is present.

Visual inspections will be performed daily by onsite personnel. In-depth inspections will be conducted weekly when the dog park is closed for maintenance. All unsafe conditions and hazards will be given top priority. Dog parks will not be made available for public use until such hazards have been addressed.

### *Dog Park Quality Standards*

- ✓ Turf and landscape
  - In-depth visual inspections shall be conducted once per week in order to monitor turf conditions and identify turf disease, damaged irrigation heads and inadequate irrigation coverage
  - All grass areas shall be serviced one time per week and maintained at a height of 3 ½ inch to 5 inches
  - Edging shall be performed one time per week around walkways, mulched areas and parking lot
  - Grass shall be fertilized a minimum four times per year
  - Grass shall be treated with insecticide only as needed
  - Holes, ruts and uneven surfaces shall be corrected on a daily basis and turf shall be replaced as needed to prevent bare areas
  - Material used to fill holes shall be free of rocks and debris
- ✓ Mulch
  - Mulched areas around gazebos, benches and trees shall be replenished when mulch levels fall below 3 inches
- ✓ Litter, trash and waste
  - Garbage cans shall be cleaned and sanitized as needed to kill germs and odors
  - Litter, trash and dog waste bags shall be removed on a daily basis to prevent the spread of infectious pathogens
  - Dog waste bag boxes shall be refilled as needed
- ✓ Gazebos and benches
  - Debris shall be blown off concrete floors on a daily basis
  - Concrete gazebo floors shall be pressure cleaned on a regular basis to remove dirt, grime and mud
  - Benches shall be kept clean in good condition with no splinters, severe cracks or warps



- ✓ Walkways
  - Walkways shall be kept clean, edged and hazard free
  - Inspections shall be conducted one time per week in order to identify cracks, tree root damage and deteriorating surfaces
  - Debris shall be blown off the concrete and asphalt pathways on a daily basis
  
- ✓ Fences and gates
  - Chain link fences, walk in gates and service gates shall be thoroughly inspected one time per week
  - Gate latches shall be lubricated one time per week
  
- ✓ Water fountains and wash areas
  - Water fountains shall be cleaned and checked daily for proper function
  - Wash area drains shall be cleaned daily to remove hair and other objects
  
- ✓ Signage
  - Signage shall be kept clean and legible and checked for proper placement
  - Unapproved advertisements/flyers posted soliciting business from park patrons shall be removed
  
- ✓ Other
  - The entire dog park shall be checked for insects daily (ants, wasps, bees, etc.)

The performance goal of the Parks Operations Division is to maintain 90% of dog parks in accordance with above listed quality standards.

**Performance Indicator(s)**

- Number and percent of dog parks that meet all listed quality standards.

## **Trails, Paths, Boardwalks, Crossovers and Roadways**

Although quite often it goes unnoticed, an important task of the Parks Operations Division is to ensure that all park facilities are accessible. With many miles of trails, paths, boardwalks, crossovers and roadways within the park system supporting vehicular, pedestrian and wheelchair traffic, special attention must be given to the safety and aesthetics of each route. Routes shall be relatively smooth and free of any trip/slip hazards. Separated paths shall not have unintended differentials greater than 1/2 inch in height. Mulched or wood chip trails shall not contain any large pieces of vegetation exceeding 3 inches in length.

Washouts caused by erosion will be repaired within 48 hours of notification. Trees and shrubs will be properly pruned to avoid any route obstruction. The performance goal of the Parks Operations Division is to maintain 90% of trails, paths, boardwalks, crossovers and roadways in accordance with the above listed quality standards.



#### **Performance Indicator(s)**

- Number and percent of trails, paths, boardwalks, crossovers and roadways maintained in accordance with parks quality standards.

## **Natural Areas**

The Parks Operations Natural Resources personnel are responsible for the maintenance and management of those areas undeveloped or specifically identified as natural areas by the Parks and Recreation Department. These areas will be managed in accordance with current “Best Management Practices” (BMP) or site specific management plans.

The philosophy subscribed to by the Parks Operations Division with regard to natural areas management is to ensure the survival of the natural ecosystems and habitat located throughout our park system. The primary management practices employed include exotic removal and eradication, reforestation, lake and shoreline maintenance, wildlife management and wildfire prevention. These practices continue until restoration, reclamation, mitigation or development of the park property occurs.

The performance goal of the Parks Operations Division is to manage a minimum of 50% of the park natural areas in accordance with (BMP) or site specific plans.



#### **Performance Indicator(s)**

- Number and percent of natural area acres managed in accordance with (BMP) or site specific plans.

## User Group Amenities & Facilities

User group constructed and/or maintained amenities and facilities are the group's responsibility to inspect and maintain as outlined in their agreement with the Department. If a potential issue is identified by Division staff, they will notify the Department liaison(s) or other County/non-County contacts to have concerns addressed.

The following is a list of **common** amenities and facilities constructed and/or maintained by user groups in PBC Parks.

- Mountain bike trails
- BMX track
- Radio Control (RC) locations
- Water ski courses
- Skate parks (excluding West Boynton Skate Park)
- Batting cages and bullpens
- Meeting, concession and storage buildings