

# Park Access (2015)

## Description

This local strategy map shows access to parks per 1,000 people based on geographic proximity to recreational open space. People are considered to have access to “neighborhood parks” (less than 35 acres) within half a mile of their home and “community parks” (35 acres or more) within one mile of their home. Values are reported at four levels: less than one acre, one to four acres, four to ten acres, and more than ten acres of accessible parkland per 1,000 people. Generally, the four-acre standard is considered adequate for denser communities, while the ten-acre standard is appropriate for less-dense areas.

## Inputs

### CMAP Land Use Inventory

- Source: CMAP Parcel-Based Land Use Inventory
- Vintage: 2015 (published 2020)
- Location: [CMAP Data Hub](#)

### Decennial Census, Total Population in Occupied Housing Units

- Source: U.S. Census Bureau, SF1 table H10, block geography
- Vintage: 2010
- Location: [data.census.gov](http://data.census.gov)

### CMAP Trip Generation Zones (Subzones)

- Source: CMAP, derived from PLSS quarter-sections
- Vintage: 2009
- Location: [CMAP Data Hub](#)

## Procedures

- 1) For each subzone, a population centroid point was created by calculating the population-weighted mean of the coordinates of every census block geometric centroid point falling within the subzone.
- 2) One-mile and half-mile buffers were created for each subzone centroid.
- 3) The CMAP Land Use Inventory was used to identify recreational open space (land use codes 3100 and 3500) within the seven-county region. This was supplemented with data from the Chicago Parks District, as the parcels forming the building blocks of the Land Use Inventory do not reliably represent the Chicago lakefront parks.

- 4) Parks were classified based on their area as either “neighborhood parks” (less than 35 acres) or “community parks” (35 or more acres).
- 5) Parks were split along subzone boundaries, and a centroid (with associated acreage) was created from each park-subzone polygon.
- 6) For each park-subzone centroid, the acreage was divided by the sum of the subzone population within either a half mile (for neighborhood parks) or one mile (for community parks) to determine the accessible acreage per capita.
- 7) For each subzone, the accessible acreage per capita of each park-subzone centroid within the buffers from Step 2 was summed and multiplied by 1000 to calculate the total accessible acreage per 1,000 people.
- 8) Finally, each subzone was categorized into one of four groups: less than one acre, one to four acres, four to ten acres, or more than ten acres of accessible parkland per 1,000 people. All subzones with a population density of fewer than 1,000 residents per square mile (i.e. below the Census Bureau’s definition of “urbanized areas”) were removed.

## Contacts

Contact [Noel Peterson](#) with any questions about this local strategy map.