

QL3.3 ENHANCE PUBLIC SPACE

INTENT:

Improve existing public space including parks, plazas, recreational facilities, or wildlife refuges to enhance community livability.

LEVELS OF ACHIEVEMENT

IMPROVED	ENHANCED	SUPERIOR	CONSERVING	RESTORATIVE
(1) No adverse effects. Project team works with the community, property owner and required regulatory and resource agencies to identify public space resources and develop possible solutions. Feasibility analysis done for incorporating preservation, enhancement, or the creation of new spaces into the project. Project is designed such that it results in no long-term adverse effects and may include mitigation. Project may result in minor temporary impacts. (A, B)	(3) No Impact to resources. Project team works with the community, property owner and required regulatory and resource agencies to develop avoidance solutions. Focus is on no impact to resource. The project has no significant permanent impact to the resource. Temporary impacts are minimized. Consideration is given to the creation of new public space. (A, B)	(6) Improvement and enhancement. Project team identifies and implements meaningful enhancement or the creation of new public space. The project team works with stakeholders (users, regulatory agencies, and resource owner) to develop a sensitive design. Official with jurisdiction over that resource must concur in writing with impact assessment – both for temporary and permanent impacts. (A, B)	(11) Overall net benefit. Examples include creating new space or facilities; addition of recreational facilities to an existing resource and/or significantly improving access for current and future users. Stakeholder satisfaction with planned efforts and outcomes. Official with jurisdiction over the resource must concur in writing with impact assessment, both temporary and permanent impacts. (A, B)	(13) Substantial restoration. Restoration of existing plazas, parks, recreational areas or wildlife refuges is delivered. Examples may include restoring hiking trails, pavilions, or athletic fields. Urban contexts may include opening previously private space to public access or restoring existing public space. Stakeholder satisfaction with efforts and results. Official(s) with jurisdiction over that resource must concur in writing with impact assessment – both for temporary and permanent impacts. (A, B, C)

DESCRIPTION

Opening space whenever possible to community activity is helpful in gaining acceptance by local communities, educating the public about sustainable infrastructure, reducing crime, and encouraging healthy and vibrant neighborhoods. Public space can be in either urban or natural settings and may include, but is not limited to, parks, plazas, recreational facilities, and wildlife refuges. In the case of natural settings such as parks and wildlife refuges 'public' refers to space accessible for human recreation and enjoyment. The preservation of habitats and species biodiversity is addressed by credits in the Natural World category. Infrastructure designs that open public space must take into account and mitigate any significant increases in risk to the public.

This credit applies to all publicly-owned parks, recreational areas and wildlife refuges, or such privately-owned resources where there is significant and formalized public access that is specifically outlined in the written management plans and/or legal agreements of those privately-owned resources.

An action is a net benefit if it results in the overall enhancement of the significant activities, features and attributes of a park, recreational area or wildlife refuge. The official(s) with jurisdiction over that resource must concur in writing that the proposed project will indeed result in a net benefit to that resource. Specific attention should be given to enhancements that improve security and crime safety during various times of the day. Allowing clear sightlines, increasing human activity, and improving site quality and safety may help reduce crime and improve the greater community as a whole.

The Official(s) with jurisdiction is the entity that has control over the operation or governance of that resource. The official is often the owner, but may include additional entities in the cases of leases, trusts and other legal agreements.

ADVANCING TO HIGHER ACHIEVEMENT LEVELS

Benchmark: The action has no particular effect, positive or negative, regarding the preservation or improvement of public space. No efforts to identify, preserve, or enhance other than what is required by local laws or regulations.

Performance improvement: Shift from maintenance and preservation to enhancement and restoration.

EVALUATION CRITERIA AND DOCUMENTATION

A. What effect will the project have on public space (e.g., parks, plazas, recreational facilities, or accessible space in wildlife refuges) that enhances community livability?

1. *Studies, assessments of the impact of the project on existing public space.*
2. *Design documents describing any new public space developed as part of the project.*
3. *Determination of benefits, improvements, negative impacts.*
4. *Determination of risks to public health and safety.*

B. Are the public agencies and other stakeholders satisfied with the project plans involving public space?

1. *Acceptance by the appropriate public agencies.*
2. *Letters, memoranda, minutes of meetings with stakeholders showing stakeholder satisfaction.*

C. Will meaningful and beneficial restoration efforts be undertaken?

**METRIC:**

Plans and commitments to preserve, conserve, enhance and/or restore the defining elements of the public space.

1. *Plans, drawings showing the scope and extent of any restoration efforts to be made on public space.*

SOURCES

- CEEQUAL Assessment Manual for Projects, Version 4, December 2008, Roger K. Venables, Sections 3.2.1, 5.1.1.

RELATED CREDITS

QL1.1 Improve Community Quality Of Life

QL3.1 Preserve Historic And Cultural Resources

QL3.2 Preserve Views And Local Character