





# Kimley-Horn's Philosophy to Designing Great Parks and Public Spaces

Great parks are more than just places to play. When careful planning and design come together, parks can provide beauty and tremendous environmental, economic, and social benefits to a community. Great parks should also balance the needs of all people for all times, be designed with nature, and promote the well-being of people—while seeking to be fiscally sustainable for immediate and future needs. During the early stages of planning and design, three powerful principles can concisely capture Kimley-Horn's philosophy to great park design:

- Inclusive: Great parks should be inclusive and equitable. Through the design of welcoming spaces, visitors of all ages, cultures, and genders should feel invited and safe. Parks that respond to their physical and social surroundings allow for a heightened level of context sensitivity and flexibility to adapt to everchanging needs—therefore promoting longevity within a community and creating life-long memories.
- **Beautiful:** Great parks should be beautiful. By weaving together a community's fabric of cultures, great parks can be recognized by all and form a foundation to human purpose and experience. Whether through sensory pleasure elevated by rhythm or proportion, or tactile experiences through the textures of a plant or the warmth of the sun, timeless design principles can intertwine emotion and pleasure to bring about beauty.
- Sustainable: Great parks should be environmentally responsible. Park spaces that focus on the three pillars of sustainability—environmental, economic, and social well-being—are often resilient, maintained through minimum reliance on resources, and contribute multiple benefits to community infrastructure and character. Creating great park spaces through a truly holistic approach means designing a symphony between nature and humans. By embodying this principle, great parks work with the environment and create an enduring legacy celebrated by all.

Kimley-Horn's philosophy to designing great parks and public spaces is the cornerstone to a collaborative approach. Through partnership and technical expertise, our planning and design process progresses through a sequence of development stages: learning, engaging, designing, and implementing. Each stage is based upon active client participation and consensus building. Our goal is to understand the unique needs of your community and help turn vision into reality.

### Parks and Recreation System Planning

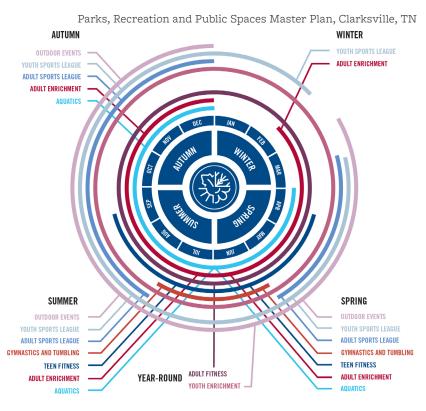
Parks are a foundation for high-quality, livable, and resilient communities. We believe that the principles of great park design can be applied to system-wide resources, improve equity and sustainability, and achieve multiple benefits with limited resources. Our honed approach to system master planning is tailored to each community and designed to simplify what can be a complex, long-range planning effort.

Today is a period of renewed opportunities for parks and recreation agencies to develop new strategies to meet community needs, priorities, and expectations. Kimley-Horn can develop a roadmap to bring public agencies together, improve our infrastructure, raise the quality of residents' lives, and celebrate the culture and history of our communities. Whether your community is seeking its first system master plan, an update to a previous plan or needs assessment, or CAPRA accreditation, we can provide a flexible planning process to accommodate your budget and schedule needs.

Our experience in system master planning includes small to large municipalities and county-to state-wide outdoor comprehensive recreation planning. The cornerstone to our approach is thoughtful, diverse, and inclusive public engagement—achieving meaningful dialogue by layering methods. Effective public engagement can be challenging; however, Kimley-Horn utilizes the most current techniques and tools to incorporate robust public outreach as part of your project.













## Park Master Planning and Design

Planning your community's next great park begins with a thorough understanding of the community's goals and needs to create a realistic vision. Kimley-Horn believes in elevating the idea of parks as fixed spaces to spaces that are designed to improve the natural and human environments around it.

Our approach utilizes universal design principles, cultural influences, and trends that make parks great. During early stages of planning and design, three powerful principles capture our intent: inclusive; beautiful; and sustainable. The best park master plans succeed because they meet the programmatic needs of a diverse community and match the budgetary and operational resources of the agency.

Whether you are planning a pocket park or a 2,000-acre state park, Kimley-Horn has a national team of experts to facilitate your master planning process.







# Greenway Planning and Design

Greenways do more than just connect people to the outdoors. Greenways can have tremendous economic impacts on communities and can enhance equity by connecting people to transit, schools, employment, and other destinations. Understanding the life-cycle costs associated with greenways and unique design challenges within floodplains or other environmentally sensitive lands can help you better understand budgets and schedules and establish realistic implementation plans.

Linking hundreds of communities across the United States, Kimley-Horn's greenway planning and design practice has the expertise to plan your entire trail network or design the last mile of connection. Whether your greenways are paved or unpaved, need to connect to transit, or require expertise on greenway dedication ordinances, design guidelines, wayfinding, and maintenance best practices, Kimley-Horn can plan and design your greenway system.

In many communities, simple options for greenways have been already developed. Our expertise brings experience with grade-separated crossings, rights-of-way acquisition, utility coordination, floodplain modeling and design of structures such as bridges or culverts. Kimley-Horn can also assist you in identifying and securing alternative funding sources for greenways and blueways. We work collaboratively with our other services to bring to life your community's vision and project.

# Athletic Complexes and Facilities

Sports stadiums, golf courses, amphitheaters, athletic complexes, and even ski resorts are unique and present design and funding challenges that require innovative and creative solutions to meet the needs and circumstances of the project.

To develop a facility into a state-of-the-art venue, one must balance site planning, property design, infrastructure issues, permitting, local and federal regulations, stakeholder coordination, and financial feasibility, among many other factors—all while ensuring your project stays on schedule. You need an experienced team with specific athletic experience and technical design knowledge of similar facilities to keep your project in the game and help make your ambitious plans a reality.

Whether you are developing a local sports complex or a multi-million-dollar stadium, Kimley-Horn has the sports and entertainment expertise to advise you in every phase of the project, from site evaluation and selection to final engineering, construction observation, and inspections. Our market experience in this sector encompasses a wide range of facilities and clients, including colleges/universities, municipalities, private developers, and professional sports teams, including the MLS, NFL, MLB, NBA, NHL, and NASCAR.







### Passive Parks

Every passive park is comprised of a unique combination of natural and man-made features as well as specific needs of the community for the site. The physical interplay pedestrians have with elements of a park, both natural and man-made, plays a significant role in determining the park's functionality, usability, and success. At the core of any great passive park must be reasons for its existence.

Kimley-Horn's approach to passive park planning and design is based not only on stakeholder desires but also on a strong land conservation and ecological stewardship ethic. This perspective is ingrained in all of our work. Designing for sustainable landscape functions considers current land uses of the site and surrounding parcels; how habitats and corridors function both on a site and beyond; and the political or ownership boundaries that nature may or may not recognize. This broader landscape ecological perspective overlaid with human needs and land use desires examines the relationships between human and natural ecosystems that protect and promote conservation.













## Aquatics

Whether you need a community-wide aquatics master plan or you are ready to take your project to the next level with design of a water park, family aquatic center, or splash pad and spraygrounds, we have you covered. Our expertise includes the ability to build public consensus, helping to bring your aquatic project from imagination to realization.

Providing you with an award-winning team, recognized as leaders in public outdoor aquatic facility planning and design, Kimley-Horn has the proven expertise and latest innovations in design, costs, and bidding trends.

Through the planning and design of over 120 aquatic projects across the country, Kimley-Horn has developed the new 'Gold Standard' for aquatic programming and is a leader in recreation-driven aquatics. Our specialization includes large outdoor water parks that can attract over 150,000 users annually. We're also experienced in family aquatic centers, which bring together aquatic attractions for the entire family into one location.

#### Urban Parks

Successful urban parks are thriving places that encapsulate the best that cities have to offer. Strategically located within the heart of an urban district or linked to a unique cultural or historic building, urban parks can function as an activity node, place of respite, community green, or venue for public activities. The design of urban parks is a dynamic undertaking that involves a combination of consensus building and facilitation, analysis, technical expertise, creative design, enthusiasm and respect for history, and an understanding of the importance a park can play in economic development.

The most successful urban parks have certain elements that are proven to draw people to them. These destination elements should be flexible in their programming and have multiple uses associated with them. Kimley-Horn's planning and design philosophy merges planning, design, and placemaking principles with sustainable infrastructure and development to build urban parks that have a strong sense of place and add lasting and sustainable value to a community.

Our planners and landscape architects work closely with our clients to take an early and proactive approach to urban infrastructure, urban mobility, and project funding. Our collaborative and inclusive approach to consensus building engages the public as part of the process, educates them on the issues, and invests them in the solution.







