



active, vibrant+ diverse opportunities



Why is Activation, Vibrancy, and Diversity needed?

Vibrant and activated parks and recreation spaces are indicators of safety and overall healthy park use. Inclusive park and recreation space activation refers to the interaction of park and recreation users and the presence of diverse populations. Diversity includes people of different ages, economic backgrounds, abilities, racial and ethnic groups, gender identities, and more. The mixing of diverse groups and positive interactions increases one's tolerance of others, a sense of collective civic identity, and overall cohesion. Activation provides features and activities of interest to entice people to visit, use, socialize, take part in group activities, volunteer, be active or engaged, relax, and/or find reasons to linger.

Diversity refers to the variety of park offerings that cater to many people, or the flexible use of space. Parks and recreation features and design that contribute to active use, social gatherings, or opportunities for relaxation (such as playgrounds, sports courts, bodies of water, picnic tables, community gardens, ADA pathways, and wildlife viewing) and programs (including events, social gatherings, and sports programs) may vary by park type and in response to local needs and interests. Program diversity attracts diverse people and makes for a more inclusive park and recreation system.

In addition, it is critical to use available green spaces efficiently and effectively. Multiuse, multifunctional park and recreation space is the integration of different functions at different times in the same place. The versatility in the design of park and recreation spaces and programs contributes to the vitality of a community by maximizing use of the space for day, night, week, month, and annual uses.

A pickleball court may double as a basketball court with the simple addition of hoops. Or, a plaza space with café seating during special events may also be programmed to be used as splash pads during the summer.