

Recreational Development

General

The soils are rated according to limitations that affect their suitability for camp areas, picnic areas, playgrounds, and paths and trails. Not considered in these ratings, but important in evaluating a site, are location and accessibility of the area, size and shape of the area and its scenic quality, the ability of the soil to support vegetation, access to water, potential water impoundment sites available, and either access to public sewer lines or capacity of the soil to absorb septic tank effluent. Soils subject to flooding are limited in varying degrees for recreational use by the duration of flooding and the season when it occurs. Onsite assessment of height, duration, and frequency of flooding is essential in planning recreational facilities.

Camp Areas

These are tracts of land used intensively as sites for tents, trailers, campers, and accompanying activities of outdoor living. Camp areas require such site preparation as shaping and leveling in areas for tents and parking areas, for stabilizing roads and intensively used areas, and for installing sanitary facilities and utility lines. Camp areas are subject to heavy foot traffic and some vehicular traffic. The soils are rated on the basis of soil properties that influence the ease of developing camping area and the performance of the camping area after development. Soil properties that influence trafficability and promote the growth of vegetation after heavy use are also important.

Picnic Areas

Picnic areas are natural or landscaped tracts used primarily for preparing meals and eating outdoors. These areas are subject to heavy foot traffic. Most vehicular traffic is confined to access roads and parking lots. Soils are rated on the basis of properties that influence development costs of shaping the site, trafficability, and growth of vegetation after development. The surface of picnic areas should absorb rainfall readily, remain firm under heavy foot traffic, and not be dusty when dry.

Playgrounds

These are areas used intensively for games such as baseball, football, and similar activities. Playgrounds require a nearly level soil that is free of stones and that can withstand heavy foot traffic and still maintain adequate vegetation. Soils are rated on the basis of properties that influence cost of shaping, trafficability, and growth of vegetation. Slope and stoniness are the main concerns in developing playgrounds. For good trafficability, the surface of playgrounds should absorb rainfall readily, remain firm under heavy foot traffic, and not be dusty when dry.

Paths and Trails

Paths and trails are used for walking, horseback riding, and similar uses, and should require little or no cutting and filling in site preparation. Soils are rated on properties that influence trafficability and erodibility. Paths and trails should remain firm under foot traffic and not be dusty when dry.

See the National Soil Survey Handbook, Part 620, for criteria used in rating specific uses.

Recreational Interpretations

General

The purpose of these interpretative ratings is to help engineers, planners, and others understand how soil properties influence behavior when used for recreational uses such as camp areas, picnic areas, playgrounds, and paths and trails. Soils are rated for the uses expected to be important or potentially important to users of soil survey information. Ratings for proposed uses are given in terms of limitations. Only the most restrictive features are listed. Other features may need to be treated to overcome soil limitations for a specific purpose.

Soils are rated in their "natural" state, that is, no unusual modification of the soil site or material is made other than that which is considered normal practice for the rated use. Even though soils may have limitations, it is important to remember that engineers and others can modify soil features or can design or adjust the plans for a recreational use to compensate for most degrees of limitations. Most of these practices, however are costly. The final decision in selecting a site for a particular use generally involves weighing the costs for site preparation and maintenance.

Limitation Ratings

1. Slight - is the rating given soils that have properties favorable for the use. The degree of limitation is minor and can be overcome easily. Good performance and low maintenance can be expected.
2. Moderate - is the rating given soils that have properties moderately favorable for the use. This degree of limitation can be overcome or modified by special planning, design, or maintenance. During some part of the year, the expected performance is less desirable than for soils rated slight.
3. Severe - is the rating given soils that have one or more properties unfavorable for the rated use, such as steep slopes, bedrock near the surface, flooding, or a seasonal high water table. This degree of limitation generally requires major soil reclamation, special design, or intensive maintenance, which in most situations is difficult and costly.

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| Soil name and map symbol | Camp Areas | Picnic Areas | Playgrounds | Path and Trails |
|---|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| AaB ADAMS | Slight: | Slight: | Moderate: slope | Slight: |
| AaC ADAMS | Moderate: slope | Moderate: slope | Severe: slope | Slight: |
| AaD ADAMS | Severe: slope | Severe: slope | Severe: slope | Moderate: slope |
| AbD ADAMS | Moderate: large stones, slope | Moderate: large stones, slope | Severe: large stones, slope | Slight: |
| AdA AGAWAM | Slight: | Slight: | Slight: | Slight: |
| AdB AGAWAM | Slight: | Slight: | Moderate: slope | Slight: |
| AdC AGAWAM | Moderate: slope | Moderate: slope | Severe: slope | Slight: |
| AdD AGAWAM | Severe: slope | Severe: slope | Severe: slope | Moderate: slope |
| B.P. BORROW PITS | Limitation: variable | Limitation: variable | Limitation: variable | Limitation: variable |
| BgB BELGRADE | Slight: | Slight: | Moderate: slope | Slight: |
| BgC BELGRADE | Moderate: slope | Moderate: slope | Severe: slope | Slight: |

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|---|--|---|---|----------------------------------|
| Bo BIDDEFORD | Severe: percs slowly, ponding | Severe: excess humus, percs slowly, ponding | Severe: excess humus, percs slowly, ponding | Severe: excess humus, ponding |
| BuB2 BUXTON | Severe: percs slowly, wetness | Severe: percs slowly, wetness | Severe: percs slowly, wetness | Severe: wetness |
| BuC2 BUXTON | Severe: percs slowly | Severe: percs slowly | Severe: percs slowly, slope | Moderate: wetness |
| CfB CHARLTON | Moderate: small stones | Moderate: small stones | Severe: small stones | Slight: |
| CfC2 CHARLTON | Moderate: slope, small stones | Moderate: slope, small stones | Severe: slope, small stones | Slight: |
| CfD2 CHARLTON | Severe: slope | Severe: slope | Severe: slope, small stones | Moderate: slope |
| ChB CHARLTON | Moderate: large stones, small stones | Moderate: large stones, small stones | Severe: large stones, small stones | Slight: |
| ChC CHARLTON | Moderate: large stones, slope | Moderate: large stones, slope | Severe: large stones, slope, small stones | Slight: |
| ChD CHARLTON | Severe: slope | Severe: slope | Severe: large stones, slope, small stones | Moderate: slope |
| Ck COASTAL BEACH | Severe: flooding, too sandy, wetness | Severe: excess salt, too sandy, wetness | Severe: flooding, too sandy, wetness | Severe: too sandy, wetness |
| Du DUNE LAND | Severe: slope, too sandy | Severe: slope, too sandy | Severe: slope, too sandy | Severe: too sandy |

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|---|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| EmB ELMWOOD | Severe: percs slowly | Severe: percs slowly | Severe: percs slowly | Moderate: wetness |
| EmC2 ELMWOOD | Severe: percs slowly | Severe: percs slowly | Severe: percs slowly, slope | Moderate: wetness |
| G.P. SAND AND GRAVEL PITS | Severe: small stones, too sandy | Severe: small stones, too sandy | Severe: small stones, too sandy | Severe: small stones, too sandy |
| Ha HADLEY | Severe: flooding | Slight: | Slight: | Slight: |
| HfB HARTLAND | Slight: | Slight: | Moderate: slope | Moderate: erodes easily |
| HfC2 HARTLAND | Moderate: slope | Moderate: slope | Severe: slope | Severe: erodes easily |
| HfD2 HARTLAND | Severe: slope | Severe: slope | Severe: slope | Severe: erodes easily |
| HkB HINCKLEY | Moderate: small stones | Moderate: small stones | Severe: small stones | Slight: |
| HkC HINCKLEY | Moderate: slope, small stones | Moderate: slope, small stones | Severe: slope, small stones | Slight: |
| HkD HINCKLEY | Severe: slope | Severe: slope | Severe: slope, small stones | Moderate: slope |
| HrB HOLLIS | Severe: depth to rock | Severe: depth to rock | Severe: depth to rock, small stones | Slight: |

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|---|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|-------------------------|
| HrC HOLLIS | Severe: depth to rock | Severe: depth to rock | Severe: depth to rock, slope, small stones | Slight: |
| HrD HOLLIS | Severe: depth to rock, slope | Severe: depth to rock, slope | Severe: depth to rock, slope, small stones | Severe: slope |
| HsB HOLLIS | Severe: depth to rock | Severe: depth to rock | Severe: depth to rock, large stones | Slight: |
| HsC HOLLIS | Severe: depth to rock | Severe: depth to rock | Severe: depth to rock, large stones, slope | Slight: |
| HsD HOLLIS | Severe: depth to rock, slope | Severe: depth to rock, slope | Severe: depth to rock, large stones, slope | Severe: slope |
| Lc LEICESTER | Severe: wetness | Severe: wetness | Severe: wetness | Severe: wetness |
| Le LEICESTER | Severe: wetness | Severe: wetness | Severe: large stones, small stones | Severe: wetness |
| Lk LIMERICK | Severe: flooding, wetness | Severe: wetness | Severe: wetness | Severe: wetness |
| Md MADE LAND | Limitation: variable | Limitation: variable | Limitation: variable | Limitation: variable |
| MeB MELROSE | Severe: percs slowly | Severe: percs slowly | Severe: percs slowly | Slight: |
| MeC MELROSE | Severe: percs slowly | Severe: percs slowly | Severe: percs slowly, slope | Slight: |

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|---|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Mf MADE LAND | Limitation: variable | Limitation: variable | Limitation: variable | Limitation: variable |
| MkB MERRIMAC | Slight: | Slight: | Moderate: slope, small stones | Slight: |
| MkC2 MERRIMAC | Moderate: slope | Moderate: slope | Severe: slope | Slight: |
| MkD2 MERRIMAC | Severe: slope | Severe: slope | Severe: slope | Moderate: slope |
| NgB NINIGRET | Severe: wetness | Moderate: wetness | Severe: wetness | Moderate: wetness |
| On ONDAWA | Severe: flooding | Slight: | Moderate: flooding | Slight: |
| Pa PEAT | Severe: excess humus, ponding | Severe: excess humus, ponding | Severe: excess humus, ponding | Severe: excess humus, ponding |
| MUCK | Severe: excess humus, ponding | Severe: excess humus, ponding | Severe: excess humus, ponding | Severe: excess humus, ponding |
| PbB PAXTON | Moderate: percs slowly | Moderate: percs slowly | Moderate: slope, small stones | Slight: |
| PbC PAXTON | Moderate: percs slowly, slope | Moderate: percs slowly, slope | Severe: slope | Slight: |
| PbD PAXTON | Severe: slope | Severe: slope | Severe: slope | Moderate: slope |

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|---|--|--|--|-------------------------|
| PfB PAXTON | Moderate: percs slowly | Moderate: percs slowly | Moderate: large stones, slope | Slight: |
| PfC PAXTON | Moderate: percs slowly, slope | Moderate: percs slowly, slope | Severe: slope | Slight: |
| PfD PAXTON | Severe: slope | Severe: slope | Severe: slope | Moderate: slope |
| Py PODUNK | Severe: flooding | Moderate: wetness | Moderate: flooding, wetness | Moderate: wetness |
| QU. QUARRIES | Severe: depth to rock | Severe: depth to rock | Severe: depth to rock | Slight: |
| RhC ROCK LAND | Severe: depth to rock | Severe: depth to rock | Severe: depth to rock, slope | Slight: |
| HOLLIS | Severe: depth to rock, large stones | Severe: depth to rock, large stones | Severe: depth to rock, large stones, slope | Slight: |
| RhD ROCK LAND | Severe: depth to rock, slope | Severe: depth to rock, slope | Severe: depth to rock, slope | Severe: slope |
| HOLLIS | Severe: depth to rock, large stones, slope | Severe: depth to rock, large stones, slope | Severe: depth to rock, large stones, slope | Severe: slope |
| S.I. STRIPPED LAND | Limitation: variable | Limitation: variable | Limitation: variable | Limitation: variable |
| Sa SACO | Severe: flooding, ponding | Severe: ponding | Severe: flooding, ponding | Severe: ponding |

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|---|--|--|--|----------------------------------|
| ScA SCANTIC | Severe: percs slowly, wetness | Severe: percs slowly, wetness | Severe: percs slowly, wetness | Severe: wetness |
| So SCARBORO | Severe: excess humus, ponding | Severe: excess humus, ponding | Severe: excess humus, ponding | Severe: excess humus, ponding |
| SuC2 SUFFIELD | Severe: percs slowly | Severe: percs slowly | Severe: percs slowly, slope | Moderate: wetness |
| SuD2 SUFFIELD | Severe: percs slowly, slope | Severe: percs slowly, slope | Severe: percs slowly, slope | Moderate: slope, wetness |
| SxB SUTTON | Moderate: percs slowly, wetness | Moderate: percs slowly, wetness | Moderate: slope, small stones, wetness | Moderate: wetness |
| SxC SUTTON | Moderate: percs slowly, slope, wetness | Moderate: percs slowly, slope, wetness | Severe: slope | Moderate: wetness |
| SyB SUTTON | Moderate: percs slowly, wetness | Moderate: percs slowly, wetness | Moderate: large stones, slope, wetness | Moderate: wetness |
| SyC SUTTON | Moderate: percs slowly, slope, wetness | Moderate: percs slowly, slope, wetness | Severe: slope | Moderate: wetness |
| SzA SWANTON | Severe: percs slowly, wetness | Severe: percs slowly, wetness | Severe: percs slowly, wetness | Severe: wetness |
| Tn TIDAL MARSH | Severe: flooding, percs slowly, ponding | Severe: excess salt, percs slowly, ponding | Severe: flooding, percs slowly, ponding | Severe: ponding |
| Wa WALPOLE | Severe: wetness | Severe: wetness | Severe: wetness | Severe: wetness |

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|---|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|------------------------|
| Wg WHATELY | Severe: percs slowly, ponding | Severe: percs slowly, ponding | Severe: percs slowly, ponding | Severe: ponding |
| Wh WHITMAN | Severe: ponding | Severe: ponding | Severe: ponding | Severe: ponding |
| Wn WINOOSKI | Severe: flooding | Moderate: wetness | Moderate: flooding, wetness | Moderate: wetness |
| WrB WOODBIDGE | Moderate: percs slowly, wetness | Moderate: percs slowly, wetness | Moderate: slope, small stones, wetness | Moderate: wetness |
| WsB WOODBIDGE | Moderate: percs slowly, wetness | Moderate: percs slowly, wetness | Moderate: large stones, slope, wetness | Moderate: wetness |