

RECREATION INTERPRETATIONS

GENERAL

The soils are rated according to limitations that affect their suitability for camp areas, picnic areas, playgrounds, paths, trails, and off-road motorcycle 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

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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.

OFF-ROAD MOTORCYCLE TRAILS

Off-road motorcycle trails are primarily for recreational use. Little or no preparation is done to the trail, and the surface is not vegetated or surfaced. Considerable compaction of the soil on the trail is expected. Soils are rated on properties that influence erodibility, re-vegetation, trafficability, and dustiness.

REFERENCES

(1) National Soil Survey Handbook, Part 620.
<http://soils.usda.gov/technical/handbook/detailedtoc.html>

(2) Soil Data Mart
<http://soildatamart.nrcs.usda.gov/Survey.aspx?State=WV>

(3) Web Soil Survey
<http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/>