

PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS

PARKS

A well-planned neighborhood park can well serve the leisure needs of area residents and be aesthetically pleasing. Green space is an important feature in any area, but to built urban neighborhoods, this space may provide the only outdoor recreation area for nearby residents.

Historically, parks functioned similarly to the way they do today. Arcas were established for active and passive recreation. Play equipment was available as were benches and walkways. Many times, the park served as a meeting area and featured a bandshell or gazebo for picnics and concerts.

Brick, stone, wood, and iron are effective materials to enhance a park set in an historic area. Plants from an earlier era are appropriate, also. The *Landscape Lawns and Gardens* section describes historic plant material. Color should be provided by the plantings with other elements, such as benches or play equipment, taking a subdued, secondary role.

Lighting is important, also, and should be designed and scaled to pedestrians. It should be decorative and suit the other materials used in the park.

