

Read the “What Kind of Park?” passage set.

What Kind of Park?

Passage 1: Public Parks

by Jose Hernandez

1 A park is an open space for people to enjoy. Parks may be large or small. They may be open spaces meant to be kept as they are. They may also be neat, landscaped areas.

2 Parks can be local, state, or national. Local parks are usually much smaller than state or national parks. They have picnic areas, playgrounds, sports fields, and gardens. Some communities now have parks for specific activities. There are parks for birdwatchers. There are parks for people who want to walk their dogs.

3 Communities only have a certain amount of land to build parks. They have to decide which type of parks they are going to build.

“Public Parks” written for the Utah State Office of Education.

Passage 2: Birdwatching Parks

by Sonja Rojas

4 If you want to see and hear birds, a birdwatching park is a great place to do it. A birdwatching park is an area where birds and their habitats are protected. Cities can easily build birdwatching parks. They fit in the same space as their other local parks.

5 Local birdwatching parks are a great place to see birds as they travel from place to place. The parks are also home to birds that stay around all year. In these parks you can see the birds the way they are in nature.

6 Many people like to watch and study birds. They are called birdwatchers. Birdwatchers enjoy taking pictures of birds. They sometimes also record bird songs and calls. Watching the birds is a great way to learn about nature.

7 Walking through a bird park is also great exercise. Many people who do not watch birds can still enjoy bird parks. They can go walking or biking in them. However, you will enjoy a bird park more if it is quiet. Loud noises scare birds away.

“Birdwatching Parks” written for the Utah State Office of Education.

Passage 3: Dog Parks

by Matthew Jones

8 Dog parks are becoming more popular throughout the United States. There are about 83.3 million dogs in the United States. So, it is easy to see why dog parks are needed.

9 You can find dog parks on beaches. There are dog parks in the woods. There are dog parks with trails around lakes and rivers. There are even dog parks in large apartment complexes.

10 Some dog parks are just small areas where owners can let their dogs run free. Others are much larger. No matter the size, they are there to help dogs run off-leash. Some people are afraid of dogs running without leashes. So, not everyone uses dog parks.

11 Just like people, dogs need to exercise to be healthy. Dog parks are a great place for dogs to run and play. Some dog parks even have obstacle courses. At those parks, dogs can crawl under ropes or walk up ramps.

12 Dog parks also give dogs a chance to play with other dogs. Dogs need practice making friends with other dogs.

13 Dog parks help people too. You can exercise with your dog at a dog park. Dog owners get to talk with other dog owners. You can even learn about different types of dogs at a dog park. People learn by asking questions about other owners' dogs.

"Dog Parks" written for the Utah State Office of Education.

Writing Prompt

Write a 1-3 paragraph essay in which you give your opinion about why a dog park or a birdwatching park should be built in your community. Your essay must be based on ideas and information from the “What Kind of Park?” passage set.

Manage your time carefully so you can

- plan
- write
- revise
- edit

Type your answer in the space provided.