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By Hand

### **Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines**

In considering PWSC(2004-05)41 on the proposed construction of a district open space in Tsuen Wan, we undertook to provide the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines (HKPSG) for Members' reference.

The compilation of the HKPSG can be traced back to 1965. The purpose of the HKPSG is to provide general guidelines and guidance to ensure that, during the planning process, the Government will reserve adequate land and provide appropriate public facilities to facilitate social and economic development and to meet the needs of the public. From time to time, Planning Department makes additions, deletions or revisions to the planning standards to keep pace with government policies and the changing needs of society, such as urban design and greening. Since its re-editing in 1990, the HKPSG has had 41 revisions, including as many as 15 revisions of a whole chapter.

/To .....

To ensure public access to the most up-to-date version and uphold environmentally friendly principle, Planning Department has since early 2004 ceased producing paper copy of HKPSG but would post update(s) on each of the 12 HKPSG chapters<sup>1</sup> on the department's website once available. For Members' easy reference on relevant guidelines concerning PWSC(2004-05)41, please find attached the summary of HKPSG Chapter 4 on "Recreation, Open Space and Greening". For the full version of HKPSC, please kindly click on the link – [Planning Department](#) – to the website and press the icon "Technical Document".

Members are requested to note that the HKPSG should only serve as a reference. When implementing the planning for districts, government departments would have to take into consideration characteristics of the districts, development constraints and availability of resources, to name a few.

I should be grateful if you would help distribute this letter and the summary of the HKPSG Chapter 4 on "Recreation, Open Space and Greening" to Members of the Public Works Subcommittee. Please feel free to contact the undersigned should you need further information. Thank you.

Original Signed

(Mrs Elina Chan)  
for Secretary for Financial Services  
and the Treasury

Encl.

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<sup>1</sup> The 12 HKPSG chapters are : Introduction (Ch 1), Residential Densities (Ch 2), Community Facilities (Ch 3), Recreation, Open Space and Greening (Ch 4), Industry (Ch 5), Retail Facilities (Ch 6), Utility Services (Ch 7), Internal Transport Facilities (Ch 8), Environment (Ch 9), Conservation (Ch 10), Urban Design Guidelines (Ch 11) and Miscellaneous Planning Standards and Guidelines (Ch 12). The general arrangement of topics starts from "activities in places" (with residential densities as the origin) through "movements in circulation space and links" and ends in "conservation of the environment".

# Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines - Summary

## Chapter 4 : Recreation, Open Space and Greening

### I. Recreation and Open Space

1. Recreation ranges from home entertainment such as playing mah-jong and watching television, through passive activities such as strolling and playing tai-chi to active games and competitive sports. The planning standards and guidelines set out in this section is to provide an equitable basis for the planning, distribution and design of open space and recreation facilities.
2. Open Space is required to meet both the active and passive recreational needs of the populations, either within the residential neighbourhood ("Local Open Space") or centrally located to serve a wider area ("District Open Space"). "Regional Open Space" at prominent locations in the urban areas, serves the catchment area larger than that served by "District Open Space" and "Local Open Space" and it may also serve as major tourist attractions. Green Open Space such as Amenity Areas, Country Parks, Green Belts and Coastal Protection Areas are excluded from the Open Space standards set out below.

Open Space Category	Standard	Remarks
Regional Open Space (at least 5 ha in size and a maximum building site coverage of 20%)	no set standard	50% counts as District Open Space in the Metro Area
District Open Space (at least 1 ha in size and a maximum building site coverage of 10%)	10 ha per 100,000 persons (i.e. 1m <sup>2</sup> per person)	Subject to slope correction factor*  Active to passive ratio of 3:2 is applied  Not applicable to industrial, industrial-office, business and commercial areas, rural villages and small residential developments in the rural areas
Local Open Space (at least 500m <sup>2</sup> in urban areas and a maximum building sites coverage of 5%)	10 ha per 100,000 persons (i.e. 1m <sup>2</sup> per person)	Subject to slope correction factor *  No active to passive ratio  Primarily for passive use  In industrial, industrial-office, business and commercial areas, the standard is 5 ha per 100,000 workers (i.e. 0.5m <sup>2</sup> per worker)

Note: \* Slope Correction factor is used to examine whether the sloping part of a site is suitable for active or passive recreation use. Consequently if the land which does not suitable for the purpose, the area of open space provision will have to be adjusted accordingly.

3. The standards of major recreation facilities and recreation buildings are summarized in the following tables:

**Table 1 : Recreation Facilities**

<b>Facility</b>	<b>Standard</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
<b>Indoor</b>		
Badminton court <sup>(2&amp;3)</sup>	1 per 8,000 )	– Provided in indoor recreation centres/indoor games halls, leisure centres or purpose-built facilities in composite developments
Squash court	1 per 15,000)	
Table Tennis table <sup>(2&amp;3)</sup>	2 per 15,000 or 1 per 7,500)	
Fitness/Dance hall	1 per indoor recreation centre/indoor games hall	
Gymanasium	1 per district	
Swimming		
swimming pool complex	1 per 287,000	
leisure pool	1 per district	
<b>Outdoor</b>		
Tennis court <sup>(1)</sup>	2 per 30,000	– Minimum 2 courts
Basketball court <sup>(1, 2 &amp; 3)</sup>	1 per 10,000	– Full or half court in public housing estates
Volleyball court <sup>(1)</sup>	1 per 20,000	
Football pitch	1 per 100,000	– Football pitches within sports grounds do not count towards standard due to their inaccessibility to the general public
Mini-Soccer pitch		
5-a-side <sup>(4)</sup>	1 per 30,000	– Provision for both facilities
7-a-side <sup>(4)</sup>	1 per 30,000	
Rugby/Baseball/Cricket pitch	1 per district	– To be accommodated in multi-purpose grass pitches
Athletics	1 per 200,000-250,000	– To be accommodated in sports ground/sports complex
Roller Skating rink	300 m <sup>2</sup> per 30,000	
Jogging Track	500m-1,000m per 30,000	– May be provided in district open space or as part of pedestrian circulation system
Childrens' Playground <sup>(3)</sup>	400 m <sup>2</sup> per 5,000	

Notes:

1. Facilities which may also be provided indoors. However, indoor provision within Indoor Recreation Centres or Indoor Games Halls on a share facility basis is normally considered as a bonus and does not count towards the HKPSG. In the absence of outdoor space, indoor provision within dedicated, purpose-designed, facilities may be countable.
2. Facilities which are normally provided in public housing estates as either indoor or outdoor provision. For outdoor provision, informal facilities such as kick about areas or basketball shooting areas, and courts of minor sub-standard size, may be acceptable in public housing estates which have obvious site constraints.
3. Facilities which are normally to be provided in public housing estates.
4. Optional facilities to be provided in public housing estates where site conditions permit.

**Table 2 : Recreation Buildings**

<b>Facility</b>	<b>Standard</b>	<b>Site Area</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
Indoor Recreation Centre / Indoor Games Hall  (a) Type A	1 per 15,000-24,999	To be determined at detailed design stage subject to advice from LCSD/Arch SD	Current standard applied in rural area with* 4 x badminton, or 1 x basketball, or 1 x volleyball court plus 1 x Activity/Dance 1 x Fitness Training
(b) Type B	1 per 25,000-49,999	To be determined at detailed design stage subject to advice from LCSD/Arch SD	Current standard with*: 4 x badminton, or 1 x basketball, or 1 x volleyball plus 3 x Squash Courts 1 x Activity/Dance 1 x Fitness Training
(c) Type C	1 per 50,000-65,000	0.6 ha (i.e. 100m x 60m)	Current standard with*: 8 x badminton, or 2 x basketball, or 2 x volleyball 2 x tennis plus 3 x Squash Courts 1 x Activity/Dance 1 x Fitness Training

<b>Facility</b>	<b>Standard</b>	<b>Site Area</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
Leisure Centre	1 per 50,000	0.6 ha	May be provided as an alternative to IRC/IGH*
Sports Ground/ Sports Complex	1 per 200,000- 250,000	3.0 ha	400m track (all weather), grass infield for athletics (field events), seating capacity for about 10,000 spectators in standard designed sports ground
Swimming Pool (i) standard	1 complex per 287,000	2.0 ha	min. per 900 m <sup>2</sup> pool size
(i) leisure	1 per district	0.6 ha - 2 has subject to advice from LCSD	
Indoor Stadium  – multi-purpose      – sports	Territorial facility based on need	To be determined at detailed design stage subject to advice from LCSD/Arch SD	Two existing i.e. Hong Kong Coliseum and Queen Elizabeth Stadium, and one under planning in Fanling
		To be determined at detailed design stage subject to advice from HKSD and LCSD	There may be a need for one such facility, but project feasibility and implementation aspects subject to further study.
Outdoor Stadium	Territorial facility based on need	4.5 ha - 6.0 ha	4 sites reserved on existing plans, including one already developed i.e. Hong Kong Stadium. Project feasibility and implementation aspects of the other three proposals subject to further studies.
Water Sports Centre	No set standard	To be determined at detailed design stage subject to advice from LCSD/Arch SD	To be located at suitable inshore recreation areas and subject to EIA

Note: \* Provision level of activities to be determined on an individual district by district basis.

## II. Greening

3. It is the Government's greening policy to enhance the quality of our living environment through active planting, and proper maintenance and preservation of trees and vegetation. The target is to bring noticeable improvements in urban greenery, improve the quality of existing greened areas and maximize greening opportunity during the planning and development stages of works projects.
4. A holistic and balanced approach should be adopted to strengthen the commitment to greening. Every practical opportunity should be explored for provision of greenery. Notwithstanding, at least equal, if not higher, priority should be given for greening when compared with other technical requirements.
5. The greening guidelines for various land uses are summarized in the following table. Users may need to refer to the more detailed technical guidelines available in other sources as appropriate.

**Table 3 : Greening Guidelines**

<b>Greening Guidelines</b>
<p><b>1. Site Development</b></p> <p>(a) Preparing master landscape plan to provide guidance on planting works</p> <p>(b) Preserving existing vegetation as far as possible</p> <p>(c) Periphery planting with landscape strip</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• for tree planting, a 3 m wide planting strip and a min. of 1.2 m soil depth</li><li>• for other plantings, a min. of 1m wide planting strip</li></ul> <p>(d) Landscape buffers to mitigate environmental nuisance</p> <p>(e) Planting on vacant sites awaiting for development</p>
<p><b>2. Residential/Industrial/Commercial Developments</b></p> <p>(a) Achieving the standards for open space with emphasis on soft landscaping</p> <p>(b) Encouraging the provision of podium and communal sky gardens</p>
<p><b>3. Visually Sensitive Uses</b></p> <p>(a) Quarries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• full landscape reinstatement including mass tree planting and erosion control after quarry excavation</li><li>• re-grading quarry faces to slopes with max. gradient of 1:1.5 to retain soft fill for planting</li><li>• planning for restoration works well before the end of the quarry activities</li></ul> <p>(b) Utility Services Facilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Periphery tree planting and amenity buffer strips for screening visual blights</li><li>• Minimizing the damages of erection of pylons to existing vegetation or re-instatement be undertaken</li></ul> <p>(c) Port Backup and Open Storage Uses</p>

- providing 1 m - 2 m wide planting strip at site periphery to screen off visual impacts of stacks
- tree pits are to be provided at 4 m-5 m interval

#### **4. District and Local Open Spaces**

- (a) Achieving the standard of 1 m<sup>2</sup> / person for district and local open spaces respectively
- (b) Preparing landscape plans for parks, gardens, promenades and sitting out areas to maximize the greening opportunities
- (c) For active open space, at least 20% of the land for soft landscaping, half of which for planting large trees
- (d) For passive open space, 85% of the land for soft landscaping, 60% of which for planting large trees
- (e) Using native plant species in urban fringe parks

#### **5. Roads and Highways (including local access roads)**

- (a) Tree planting along central dividers and paving
- (b) Preferably 3 m wide amenity planting strips along pavements
- (c) Raised planters, either fixed or movable may be used at difficult or narrow sites
- (d) On new roads, locating underground utility services and manholes away from planter beds and tree pits
- (e) Avoiding the growing of trees / shrubs that obscures the visibility of road signs, traffic lights, CCTV, red light cameras, bus stops and intersections, etc. and sight-lines of pedestrians and drivers, and light of lamp posts

#### **6. Slopes**

- (a) Slopes should be covered by vegetation
- (b) Existing trees on slopes should be retained or transplanted to other locations as appropriate
- (c) Introducing planters at toe, on the crest, on berms and in adjacent paved areas
- (d) Soil pockets in coreholes should be provided on hard surfaces for creepers and other climbers, grass and shrubs

#### **7. Drainage and Water Works**

- (a) Planting more trees alongside existing nullahs
- (b) Drainage channels should be planned with greenery in new development as far as possible
- (c) Adopting an integrated approach in designing drainage and water works to avoid interference to planting and service maintenances
- (d) Exploring opportunities for tree planting whilst observing the following restrictions:
  - no trees / shrubs with penetrating roots be planted within 3 m from the centre line of any existing or proposed watermains and 3 m from the edge of drainage pipes;
  - clearance distance can be reduced to 1.5 m if the size of watermains affected are below 600 mm;
  - rigid root barriers may be required if the clear distance between the proposed tree and the pipe is less than 3 m and the barrier must extend below the inverted level of the pipe;
  - no planting within the space of 1.5 m around the cover of any hydrant valves or the covers of WSD's valves, nor within a distance of 1 m from any hydrant outlet