C R I T E R I A

DIVISION OF STATE PARKS

DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Board approval
11/5/65
no signed copy in file

NOTE:

The following material is based on a report prepared by a committee of the National Conference on State Parks appointed by President Flickinger, consisting of K. R. Cougill, Chairman; George Albrecht, Ernest Allen, Charles H. Flory, H. W. Groth, U. W. Hella, Leonard L. Huttleston, Thomas Morse, Charles G. Saucers, which was adopted by the board of directors at the 1954 annual meeting of the Conference and it is here presented in the belief that the criteria may serve as standards for use by the state.

A logical classification of the different elements of which a state park system is composed will contribute more to the essential understanding of the system and its significance. In this field, broad national experience has resulted in classification, criteria and standards which can generally be accepted. Sound judgment competently employed makes for successful application. Classification is an efficient means for determining appropriate development, use and administration of all units in a comprehensive system. The following criteria have been adopted by several states, providing for a very successful understanding of relative park values.

Therefore, the Division of State Parks is adopting the following criteria for evaluating and classifying units for Hawaii state parks within the state parks system.

CRITERIA FOR EVALUATING AREAS PROPOSED FOR INCLUSION IN STATE PARKS SYSTEMS

State parks systems are usually comprised of areas of scenic, scientific, historical, archaeological, or other recreation significance of statewide or even national importance, or at least of sufficient importance to attract visitors from large sections of the state or states. Each area should possess unique, outstanding or high quality interest or possess the potential for the development of that interest. The system, as a whole, should (1) conserve and preserve outstanding examples of the state's national and cultural resources for the inspiration and benefit of the public, and (2) provide non-urban recreation opportunities for the state's citizens and visitors that are normally beyond the responsibilities of the state's political subdivisions.

(1) State Parks. Relatively spacious areas of outstanding scenic or wilderness character, often times containing significant historical, archaeological, ecological, geological, and other scientific values preserved as nearly as possible in their original or natural condition and providing opportunity for appropriate types of recreation where such will not destroy or impair the features and values to be preserved. Commercial exploitation of resources is prohibited.

(2) State Monuments. Areas, usually limited in size, established primarily to preserve objects of historic and/or scientific interest, and places commemorating important persons or historic events. The only facilities usually provided are those required for the safety and comfort of the visitors such as access, parking, water, sanitation, interpretive devices, and sometimes facilities for picnicking, and other recreation facilities.

(3) State Recreation Areas. Areas selected and developed primarily to provide non-urban outdoor recreation

opportunities to meet other than purely local needs but having the best available scenic quality. Hunting and some other recreation activities not usually associated with state parks may be permitted. Commercial exploitation of resources is usually prohibited.

(4) State Beaches. Areas with frontage on the ocean or other bodies of water, designed primarily to provide swimming, boating, fishing, skiing, surfing and other water recreation. This classification is basically similar to "State Recreation Areas" above, except that beaches are water recreation areas. Other coastal areas acquired primarily for scenic and scientific values, are included in the classification of "State Parks".

(5) State Parkways. Elongated or "ribbon" parks featuring a motor road for non-commercial traffic (providing there is another motor road for such) connecting parks, monuments, beaches, historic sites, and recreation areas or otherwise affording an opportunity for pleasant and safe driving. Access may be controlled by the administering agency and may be provided only at designated intervals and roadside developments should be controlled to prevent undesirable uses. As an adjunct to the motor road, appropriate facilities such as turnouts, picnic areas, and other recreation developments may be provided where space and other considerations permit.

(6) State Waysides. Relatively small areas along highways selected for their scenic or historical significance and providing opportunity for the traveler to relax, enjoy a scenic view, read a historic marker and interpretive information board or have a picnic lunch or swim. Such areas could be administered by a highway department or county, however, the larger and/or more scenically, recreationally or historically significant waysides may be administered as units of a state park system.

(7) State Park Reserves. Areas possessing natural, scenic, historic and wildlife qualities which in total or individually outweigh other values the area may possess, when evaluated in the long run public interest. The purpose of this classification is the protection of these primary values for future public use and enjoyment. Such areas should possess qualities and resources for which there is an anticipated future need, though there may presently be no urgent need for public use. Such areas may presently be difficult of access, or otherwise not presently readily available for public use, though future availability is anticipated. Commercial, private or other uses may be made of State Park Reserves, but only insofar as such other uses do not adversely affect or modify the established primary values, and such uses may be permitted to continue until the area is needed for public use.

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION OF STATE PARKS

1. Quality. State or National significance exists in (a) inspirational landscape and wilderness values that would attract visitors from all sections of the state or from outside the state or which in the foreseeable future would possess such qualities and attractiveness if adequate protection and access were made available, and (b) areas that are adjudged by competent authority as best examplifying the natural landscape of the major physiographic divisions and provinces of the State as shown by accepted classification.

2. Adaptability to effective treatment. An important factor is adequacy of area boundaries to include reasonably consolidated physiographic unity to permit proper protection, development, and administration. In many cases an important factor may be a determination of whether there are present scenic elements requiring the kind of protection that park status can give or whether, in the main, the scenic elements can be preserved and used more

profitably by some other form of public reservation, or device such as zoning. Another important factor may be the practicability of developing facilities required for health, safety and comfort of the visitors.

CRITERIA FOR THE SELECTION OF STATE MONUMENTS

A. State Monuments of Historical or Archaeological Interest

1. The prime requisite is historical or archaeological significance.

   The chief determining factor is that the area or structure must possess either certain important associations which entitle it to a position of high rank in the history of the nation, state or region in which it lies; or, in the case of a structure, be in itself of sufficient antiquity and artistic or architectural significance to deserve a position of high rank, even though not having other important historical associations. These qualities exist in:

   (a) Such historic structures or sites as are naturally the points or bases in which the broad political, social or cultural history of the nation, state or region is best exemplified and from which the visitor can grasp the larger patterns of national, state, or regional history.

   (b) Such monuments and areas as are significant because of their associations with key figures or important events in national, state, or regional limits or because of their relationship to other monuments or areas.

   (c) Structures or sites exemplifying in a high degree the history and achievements of aboriginal man in Hawaii or of outstanding scientific importance for the light that they shed on this subject.

   Structures or sites of recent historical importance relating to events and persons within the last five decades (50 years) should not, as a rule, be eligible for consideration under the standards set forth above.

2. Suitability, as measured by the following standards, will be an important consideration.

(a) Surviving historic remains. While it is sometimes possible to justify the preservation of an historic site even though no physical remains have survived, the deciding factor in most cases will be the presence of important original structures or other physical remains.

(b) Other physical characteristics. The encroachments of business, industry, housing, and traffic upon a structure or site must be considered if historical values are thereby seriously impaired and public use and appreciation inhibited.

(c) Location with respect to accessibility, necessary utilities, and protection is a factor to be considered.

(d) The adaptability of the historic property to effective treatment in the interest of public use and enjoyment will be considered. The cost of necessary treatment and development must not be beyond the means of the sponsoring agency or individual undertaking the project.

(e) The extent to which the integrity of the historic structure or site has been preserved will be an important consideration. Integrity is the composite quality connoting original workmanship, original location and intangible elements of feeling and association. Generally speaking, it is better to preserve than repair, better repair than restore, better to restore than to construct. However, when a project calls for the restoration or reconstruction of historic structures which have long been destroyed, it is important that such work be done in accordance with scientific methods and with principles of good taste.

(f) Closely allied to (c) is the question of reasonableness of the cost of proper maintenance of the area and its developed features.

(g) The proposed boundaries of the historic monument project should be adequate to insure proper preservation of historic features and public appreciation of their historic significance.

(h) It is desirable for the project to have a place in national, state or regional plans for the preservation of historic sites and monuments.

(i) The proposed program of public use of historic structures and sites should be consistent with their proper and dignified preservation and with reasonable public access to them.

3. In the cases of historic or prehistoric areas which are to be operated for the State by cooperating societies or groups, consideration should be given to the responsibility of the proposed administering agency as determined by (a) legal authority, (b) adequacy of financing, and (c) competency of staff.

B. State Monuments of Scientific Interest

1. Quality. State significance exists in (a) areas which best portray the natural processes that have formed the earch and its plant and animal life, (b) areas which portray some specific natural process so dramatically and arresstingly as to be unique or of statewide interest, and (c) areas which contain the best remaining examples of native plant and animal species, bird species, ecological relationships, and other rare natural objects and conditions.

2. Adaptability to Effective Treatment. Areas should be chosen in individual instances on practical grounds as well as on the basis of scientific considerations. The most important factor in many cases may be susceptibility of the object or phenomena of scientific interest to preservation within practical limits of the state parks program. The preservation of phenomena of scientific interest which may not be practicable because of lack of spectacular or dramatic aspects,

however, may be found to be practicable by the selection of other attractions to arouse the necessary public support. It is improbable, for instance, that the scenic quality, the geological significance or the wildlife, taken alone or separately, would qualify an area for a state monument or park. However, the combination of these three interests, together with outstanding recreation potential has often proven to be adequate justification for the establishment and preservation of a park.

SUPPLEMENTAL CRITERIA FOR THE SELECTION OF STATE PARKS AND STATE MONUMENTS

1. Distribution of Areas in the State Plan. Since natural scenery and objects of historic or scientific interest are where you find them, selection of such areas on a geographical basis may not be possible. Areas that best portray exhibits of the various types of natural scenery, objects, phenomena, plant, and animal life, historical objects, or places commemorating important persons or historic events should be selected unless they are otherwise adequately protected and made available for appropriate public use.

2. Balance. Logical balance among the various scenic, scientific, and historical types should be sought so that a well-rounded pageant of the State's natural and cultural heritage may be preserved and presented to the public. Areas of extraordinary value, however, should be selected regardless of balance.

3. Accessibility. Preservation of areas of unique or unusual scenic, scientific, or historical interest is justifiable even when they are remote and difficult to reach. It should be recognized, however, that the element of use by the people is one of the principal considerations and the selection of a site that will be visited by thousands of people each year is to be preferred to one that is so remote that only a few people will be able to visit it.

4. Availability. If the best areas are not available because of practical and insuperable obstacles, the best available areas should then be chosen.

CRITERIA FOR THE SELECTION OF STATE RECREATION AREAS

1. Quality. Adaptability for provision of recreational opportunities and location with respect to population distribution are primary factors in selection of recreation areas. However, within the limitations imposed by these two considerations, scenic and inspirational values should be given every consideration. (Most reservoir areas would fall within this category).

2. Distribution. Selection of areas should be determined primarily on the basis of providing adequate, non-urban recreation opportunities accessible to people. Geographical distribution and relationship to concentrations of population are paramount. In some instances, however, exceptional and extraordinary recreational potentialities may warrant the selection of more remote and inaccessible areas.

3. Balance. Logical balance among areas providing opportunities for various kinds of recreational activities and the relation of these areas to population distribution should be sought so as to provide a well-rounded system to meet the recreational needs of the people. In doing so, consideration should be given to the other kinds of areas in the system and to areas and programs of other agencies at all levels of government.

4. Adaptability to Development. Selection should be dependent upon the suitability of an area for the kinds of recreational uses intended and the practicability of developing required facilities. For an example, water supply should be investigated for quality and adequacy for the provision of swimming facilities.

CRITERIA FOR THE SELECTION OF STATE BEACHES

1. Quality. State significance exists in fine stretches of beach land, expecially on the ocean, lakes, rivers, reservoirs, that will attract visitors from a considerable section of the state, states or region for recreation as well as scientific interest. These areas may or may not possess other important features such as dunes or interesting vegetation. Stability of beach, a gradual and safe slope under water and freedom from undertow or rip tide are important.

2. Distribution of areas in state parks system. A direct relationship exists between the location of population concentrations and the need for beaches intended primarily for recreational use. However, because of the present and future need for public beaches and because remaining suitable beach lands are being rapidly acquired and developed by private interests, almost any available, sizeable beach on the ocean should be considered.

3. Adaptability to Development and Use. Preference should be given to the selection of areas that not only provide a good beach but also adequate space for parking, picnicking, structures for service and visitor use, and camping as permitted.

4. Accessibility and access. Areas that are readily accessible to concentrations of population are usually given preference because of their proximity to users and existence of developed highways--other factors being approximately equal. Because of the scarcity of suitable beach lands and the fact that they will attract unusually large numbers of people, construction of expensive access roads, artificial protective works, etc., is often justified.

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION OF STATE PARKWAYS

1. Location. Since only a considerable volume of pleasure vehicle traffic can justify establishment of a parkway, location should be directly related to (a) pleasure traffic requirements of a general nature, or (b) necessary for reaching or connecting established or proposed units of the park system. This usually means proximity to, or connection with, concentrations of population.

2. Quality and adaptability to development. Within limits of the general location determined, the parkway route should be selected that will provide the greatest interest to the traveler in the way of scenic attraction and places of historic and scientific interest. The parkway is characterized by (a) adequate protection against undesirable roadside developments, (b) safe and pleasant alignment and profile, (c) access and border roads, (d) preservation of the existing character and quality of the countryside, (e) effective and appropriate roadside grading and planting, (f) turnouts for

observation of especially interesting scenes, or emergencies, (g) wayside developments for picnicking and relaxation and, on occasion, more elaborate parks and recreation developments, and (h) necessary service structures such as gasoline stations, restaurants, utility buildings, and police stations.

3. Right-of-way. Except in most limited and unusual circumstances 200 feet is generally considered a minimum width for a parkway and then only in metropolitan sections. The standard for national parkways of 125 acres per mile, or an average width of 1,000 feet is extreme for most state parkways because of their frequent location in more urban surroundings. Something between these two extremes would seem desirable for parkways, depending upon character of the terrain, proximity to urban developments, and land values.

4. Availability. In rural sections, where there is usually considerable freedom of choice of location, land values and willingness of owners to sell at reasonable prices are important considerations. In urban sections there is usually less latitude in choice of location and here the avoiding of condemnation should carry less weight in determining location.

CRITERIA FOR THE SELECTION OF STATE WAYSIDES

1. Quality, Location and Size. Areas along the highway may be selected for their unusual and interesting scenic, scientific or historic features regardless of location or interval. Other areas, which are designed primarily to provide places to picnic or to rest and relax to avoid road fatigue or "sleeping at the wheel", are usually selected on some mileage basis, say 30 miles intervals. Within a distance of 5 miles of the desired interval, unless there are overriding factors, the more scenic areas or areas from which good views may be obtained, should be selected. Existence of mature trees and other vegetation is highly desirable. Availability of sufficient space to permit desired developments without crowding--usually from a 3 to 5 acres--is important. Occasionally, the selection of much larger areas, perhaps up to 500 acres may be

warranted because of exceptional scenic values, availability of the site, or other unusual considerations; however, such an area would normally be included in one of the other categories.

2. Adaptability to Development. Small scenic overlooks and places of historic interest seldom present much difficulty in the simple development required. Larger areas intended for picnicking and camping present problems of more parking space, water supply, sanitation, and a greater degree of separation from the highway. The availability of space, water, and possibilities of providing sanitary facilities at minimum cost are essential consideration.

CRITERIA FOR THE SELECTION OF STATE PARK RESERVES

Quality, location and size. Areas should be selected after careful evaluation of uses to which the lands can be put and potential future needs for these uses. This classification is primarily a means of holding state owned lands in reserve to meet future recreation needs. Natural, scenic, historic and wildlife values, taken together or individually, should qualify the area for a state park, state monument, state recreation area, state beach, state parkway or state wayside, as detailed above, except that whether reserves are of national, state or local significance is of no great consequence at the time of selection and designation. The potential classification of the area when it becomes available or needed for public use should be borne in mind at the time of selection and the applicable criteria applied for its evaluation, location in relation to other planning factors, establishment of boundaries, etc. Management specifications should also be spelled out carefully at the time of selection and designation in order that the essential and primary values can be preserved for future public use. Management should be by the Division charged with the responsibility for the management of the uses proposed, in coordination with the Division of State Parks.

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Director
Division of State Parks

APPROVED

BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

_____, Chairman

_____, Member

DATE:_____