

DESIGN A POCKET PARK

There is a two-acre lot in _____ (your town) that is going to be developed into a “pocket park”. You (yes, you) have been asked to provide some advice on the park design in order to make it more environmentally friendly.

PARAMETERS:

- Though it used to have several houses, they have been torn down and the area is currently covered in turf grass.
- There is a 10 X 10 foot shed that will remain on the property to store tools and supplies.
- There is a creek running along one side of the lot, near the shed.
- The park must contain a walking trail, a playground and a parking area for cars.

What can you include in your design to address the urban ecological issues of soil compaction, runoff, erosion, heat islands and habitat simplification? Draw your design!

From Wikipedia, A **pocket park** (also known as a **parkette**, **mini-park**, **vest-pocket park** or **vesty park**) is a small park accessible to the general public. Pocket parks can be urban, suburban or rural, and can be on public or private land. Although they are too small for physical activities, pocket parks provide greenery, a place to sit outdoors, and sometimes a children's playground. They may be created around a monument, historic marker or art project.

In highly urbanized areas, particularly downtowns where land is very expensive, pocket parks are the only option for creating new public spaces without large-scale redevelopment. In inner-city areas, pocket parks are often part of urban regeneration plans and provide areas where wildlife such as birds can establish a foothold. Unlike larger parks, pocket parks are sometimes designed to be fenced and locked when not in use.

