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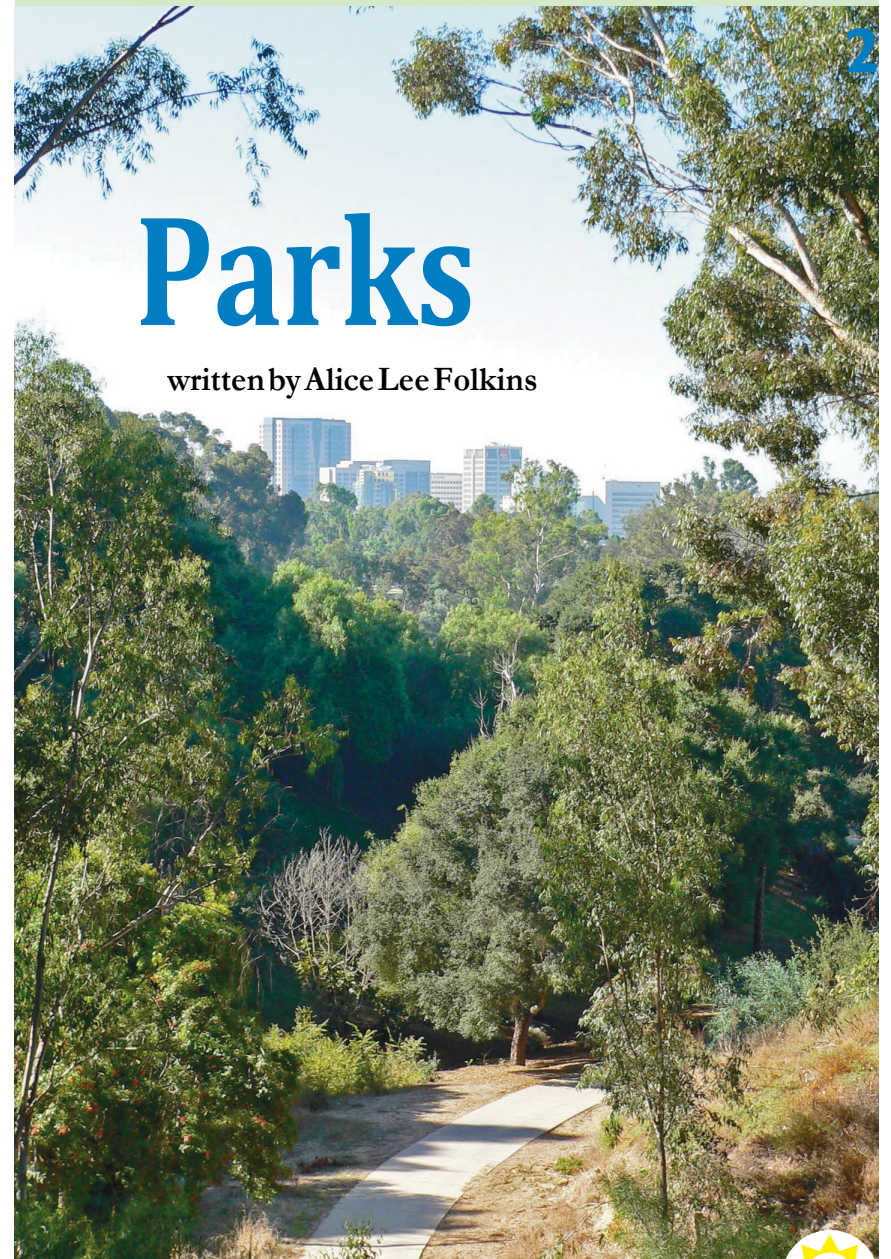
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Level C

Places to Visit in Summer

# Parks

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Summer Reads™ 

**Parks**

## Introduction

# Parks

Wherever you live, there is a good chance that there is a park close to your home. In a park, you can enjoy being in the open air. You can see different kinds of trees. You can hear birds sing.

Parks are also great places to walk and to play with friends. There is usually open space where you can run and play games like tag or soccer. Some parks have places where children can climb, swing, and slide.

Even if you live in a very big city, there is likely a park close to you. Visit parks in your town or neighborhood this summer. You'll find that they are great places to enjoy the outdoors and friends.



**Parks**

## Your Local Park



Most cities have neighborhood parks. Some are downtown among stores and office buildings. Others are near houses and apartment buildings. Even the smallest towns often have at least one park. There are many things to see and do at local parks and it seems that no two parks are exactly alike. People of all ages visit local parks. Some people sit on the grass and read. Others visit with friends. Some just enjoy a quiet moment sitting in the sun.

Photo: City Park, Cadillac, Michigan.  
Released into the public domain by Max Melstrom.

Many children live in apartment buildings and do not have enough open space to play sports. It is a good thing that some local parks have soccer and baseball fields and basketball courts. Anyone can join in a game of soccer, baseball, or basketball. Or you can plan ahead and be part of a team that plays every week.

Local parks usually have spaces for people to do much more than play sports. Some people go for hikes on trails. Other people see how many different kinds of birds they can spot. If the wind is right, some people fly kites. In some parks, there is a stage where people can listen to music in the open air. There are many things to do at parks. People can enjoy the outdoors without having to go very far from home.

**Parks**

## Animals in Parks



People are not the only ones who use parks. Sometimes people bring their dogs to local parks so that they can enjoy the outdoors. Parks with grass fields are good places for dogs to run and play games with their owners. Parks with lots of trails are good places for owners to walk their dogs. Not all parks let owners bring their dogs and even those that do often have rules that pet owners need to follow.

Besides dogs, other animals may visit or even live in a local park. For example, city parks are very good places to see birds as they travel between their winter and summer homes. In big cities, local parks are sometimes the best and only places for these traveling birds to rest, sleep and eat.

Some wild animals may live in your local park. Animals such as squirrels, raccoons, mice and rabbits often live in local parks. When you visit a park, you are likely to see squirrels, because squirrels are active during the daylight hours. But other animals, like raccoons and mice may also be present. You may not see them because these animals are usually active at night when most people do not visit parks. While people enjoy the parks during the day, raccoons, mice or rabbits are fast asleep in their homes.

**Parks**

## Skateboard Parks



Some parks are built for one, and only one, purpose. Skateboard parks are an example of a park built for only one purpose — skateboarding! There are not many of these parks but those that have been built are designed just for skateboarding. These parks have smooth surfaces with ramps and curves. The ramps and curves let skateboarders do special tricks on their boards.

Skateboarding began in the 1950s. At that time, skateboarders needed to ride their boards on streets or sidewalks. Many people found that skateboards made a lot of noise. Towns began to ban skateboarders from skating near stores and homes. Skateboarders needed a special place where they could ride their boards.

One of the first skateboard parks was built in 1974 in Santa Cruz, California. It was a simple design with only basic surfaces like a bowl on which skaters could ride. Many more skateboard parks have been built since those early days. Today's skateboard parks are larger. This means that many skaters can use the park at the same time. Today's skateboard parks also have new features. Some of these new features are things you might find on the street like stairs and handrails. Other features let skaters ride upside down, such as the full pipe. These newer skateboard parks let skaters try out new tricks.



## Parks

## Rate your thinking and reading

✓ Put a check each time you read one of the chapters of the book.

★ Give yourself a star for Sharing if you told someone about something you learned from reading the chapter.

✚ Give yourself a + if you can tell that your reading is getting smoother.

	1st Read	2nd Read	3rd Read	Sharing	Smoother
Introduction					
Your Local Park					
Animals in Parks					
Skateboard Parks					

## Comprehension questions

## Your Local Park

1. Parks are places where people can\_\_\_\_\_.

- ☐ enjoy being outside
- ☐ play sports
- ☐ meet friends
- ☐ all of the above

2. What are some things that you like to do at your local park?

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## Animals in Parks

3. True or false? Some parks allow owners to bring their dogs to the park.

- ☐ true    ☐ false

4. At a park, you might see\_\_\_\_\_.

- ☐ birds
- ☐ squirrels
- ☐ dogs
- ☐ all of the above

## Skateboard Parks

5. What is a feature you might expect to see in a skateboard park?

- ☐ Spoon
- ☐ Bowl
- ☐ Pen
- ☐ The light

6. Why did people build skateboard parks?

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