

Policy Name: Sustainable “Green” Practices
Section: 3000 Operational: 3100 Administrative
Policy Number: 0000

Purpose: To specify the Park District’s commitment to developing a range of sustainability practices across area disciplines.

Reference: None applicable

Policy:

Natural resource protection and sustainability are among the guiding premises in the Park District’s mission statement and have been indicated as a priority through community surveys associated with the agency’s Comprehensive Plans.

Opportunities for using sustainable practices occur both in maintaining the Park District’s land inventory as well as in on-going Park District operations. Sustainable practices are defined as those practices which reduce environmental impact, enhance health, and minimize use of natural resources.

Through its system of parks, passive open space and conservation easements the Park District is committed to providing a “green” infrastructure important to wetland functions, clean air, storm water filtration and healthy wildlife habitat. To facilitate these attributes and more, the Park District will seek to demonstrate a leadership role in sustainability. Whenever feasible, the Park District will integrate sustainable practices and principles in its operations. Examples of what this could include are as follows:

- 1) Plan and build using the best possible sustainable practices; mandate design and building practices that conserve energy and natural resources; reduce and/or recycle storm water; use “green” building materials; and investigate lifecycle costing, bidding and purchasing alternatives.
- 2) Use “green” architecture techniques when considering new construction, such as use of US Green Building Council and Energy and Environmental Design Program (LEED).
- 3) Encourage surface drainage systems, reuse of storm water for irrigation, and use of permeable paving to allow storm water to infiltrate the ground and recharge aquifers.
- 4) Retrofit outdated irrigation systems and install low-water use landscapes.
- 5) Install low flow water technology or provide for safe recyclable water resources uses where applicable.
- 6) As appropriate, incorporate sustainable principles and management guidelines into park planning process.
- 7) Consider the overall system when reviewing site design applications and the Park District’s regulatory comment. Include wildlife considerations, non-motorized networks, drainage, and green infrastructure.
- 8) Foster water quality, wildlife, and recreation aspects in the Park District’s larger ponds and wetlands.
- 9) Continue commitment to environmentally sound pest management policies as per Integrated Pest Management policy.
- 10) Abide by most current technology that reduces overall environmental impact when purchasing new equipment
- 11) Utilize purchasing techniques that reflect the Park District’s commitment to sustainability. Use existing resource information on sustainable purchasing techniques, such as but not limited to, King County (www.metrokc.gov/procure/green/bulindex.htm). Some examples of these include the purchase of EPP

(Environmentally Preferable Purchasing) products, purchase of recycled paper products, energy efficient vehicles and renewable energy. Wherever feasible, purchase from local vendors and manufacturers.

12) Establish and update district-wide standards for maintenance and repair.

13) Enforce emissions standards for equipment; enforce the limits for single-stroke engines and conform to voluntary requirements for ozone curtailment.

14) Manage recreational uses of fuel-powered watercraft to minimize pollution.

15) Provide staff with training resources to remain current with sustainability trends and best-management practices, particularly with plant selection, maintenance, irrigation design and management, and weed control.

16) Assist and educate the general public and community groups as they seek to implement their intention and group mission statements to incorporate sustainable practices.

17) Work to foster applicable community-wide sustainability practices where feasible, such as grow local agriculture programs and carbon off-set, or similar and successor programs.

18) Reduce, reuse, or recycle materials as much as possible.