



TITLE: ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

EFFECTIVE DATE: 3/1/2020

REFERENCE NUMBER: AD012

CAPRA STANDARD(S): 7.8

NEXT REVIEW DATE: 3/2025

RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY: Director

PAGES: 2

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this policy is to define the initiatives, standards and responsibilities for employees to follow while caring for park land and facilities and providing programs and activities to the public. This policy also provides steps to integrate sustainable practices in the planning, design, development, use and management of parks and facilities where feasible.

POLICY:

All employees are encouraged to integrate these sustainable practices in their daily duties and activities. Staff should focus first in changes it has control over within the City's parks, open space area, recreation and community facilities and NB PARD offices. Next, staff should discuss and consider implementation of practices during master planning and construction of new facilities and programs.

The following is a list of sustainable practices and goals for the department:

Water Quality and Consumption

- Require installation of smart irrigation systems to monitor for system leaks
- Reduce use of irrigation in periods of drought and rain
- Install refillable water fountains where practical
- Replace restroom fixtures with water efficient models where practical
- Install riparian zones around waterways to filter water/storm runoff

Chemical Use

- Ensure Chemical Applicators Licensing is strictly adhered to
- Limit use of chemical around waterways
- Choose less toxic chemicals where practical

Opportunities for Healthy Activities in Nature

- Increasing opportunities for walking, biking, public transit
- Conserving and maintaining trail systems
- Creating park connections to active transportation network
- Providing opportunities for fishing, paddling

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Public Engagement and Education

- Offering environmental education opportunities
- Setting up educational kiosks and displays in public areas
- Entering partnerships that promote sustainable practices
- Providing staff training on sustainable practices

Energy Conservation

- Turn off lights when leaving a room
- Adjust HVAC systems when buildings not in use
- Integrate alternative energy generation system during new construction when feasible

Climate Protection/Air Quality

- Do not leave vehicles/machinery idling
- Reduce use of machinery during Ozone Alert Days
- Promote planting of trees

Environmentally Friendly Building Practices

- Use of LED lighting
- Use of low-flow plumbing/water stations/water recycling
- Use of environmentally friendly cleaning supplies

Waste Reduction

- Recycling
- Providing special event recycling bins and collection
- Reducing the use of disposable containers

Purchasing

- Consider where products will be sourced from and accompanying freight; choose local sources when practical

Green Infrastructure

- Constructing rain gardens, bioswales
- Using natural systems to prevent erosion
- Preserving wetlands

Responsible Natural Land Management

- Planting drought-tolerant, native and regionally appropriate species
- Preserving/Increasing tree canopy
- Controlling invasive plants with less toxic means
- Following sustainable turf management practices
- Following Integrated Pest Management practices
- Restore endangered eco-systems on park lands when able

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Protecting and Managing Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat

- Controlling and managing invasive species
- Managing human-wildlife interaction
- Protecting species in need of conservation