



Rockford Park District Operating Policy SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

Priority Result I states that, “*Well maintained park space and recreational facilities meet the recreational needs of this and succeeding generations of District residents,*” and,

Priority Result I.B.iv. states that, “*Increased acreage converted to natural areas for preservation and wildlife habitat.*” and,

Priority Result I.C. states that, “*Sustainability will be emphasized in development, construction, operation, repair and replacement of parks and facilities.*” and,

Board Policy 2.5.A ASSET PROTECTION states that, “*The Executive Director shall not allow the RPD’s assets to be unprotected, inadequately maintained or unnecessarily risked.*” and,

Board Policy 2.5.A.11 ASSET PROTECTION states that, “*Accordingly, he or she shall not engage in practices, procedures or purchases, which are not environmentally responsible, except in instances where there is excessive added cost.*”

Purpose

The Rockford Park District is committed to providing well-maintained facilities and assets that are clean and attractive, in good repair, preserved, and positioned for long-term use and sustainability.

The purpose of this policy is to embrace the principles and practices of sustainability to insure that RPD assets will remain and be preserved for future generations.

The Rockford Park District, since its inception in 1909, has been a leader in providing parks and recreation opportunities and facilities. The District has 177 parks & facilities, 4,896 acres of land, 82 playgrounds maintained by RPD staff, 1,500 acres of natural areas, 216 improved athletic fields, and 18 canoe and boat access points. The Park District is the steward of these public assets.

Objective

Establish and implement a sustainability program for all Rockford Park District assets.

Responsibilities and Accountability

1. RPD Sustainability Team, Capital Planning & Asset Management department, Purchasing department and Maintenance Services division will be responsible for the development and establishment of the sustainability program.
2. Maintenance Services will be responsible for the Recycling/Waste Production area of the policy.
3. Capital Planning & Management (CPM) will be responsible for the Energy and Development portion of the policy. CPM in coordination with the Maintenance Services division will also be responsible for the Open Space/Natural Areas portion of the policy.



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4. Purchasing department will be responsible for the Purchasing and Environmental Health & Toxin Reduction portions of the policy.
5. The Sustainability Team Chair will be responsible for the Education portion of the policy.
6. The various departments will be responsible for the reporting on their respective areas of the policy.

Frequency of Policy Review

This policy shall be reviewed annually to assist with the development of sufficient internal control to achieve the safeguarding of District Assets. The Sustainability Team Chair will ensure that the procedure is updated and modified, if necessary, after each review.

Policy and Procedure

I. Policy

It is the policy of the Rockford Park District to implement a sustainability program for its parks and facilities. The main principals and concepts that District staff should implement into their daily operations and decision making practices are:

1. Implement procedures that will minimize the demand for products and assess short, medium and long term impacts and costs.
2. Implement systems and processes that will minimize the demand on staff, energy and natural resources.
3. Implement processes for waste reduction, recycling and resource recovery programs.
4. Implement systems to motivate, monitor and measure sustainability efforts.

II. Procedure

The sustainability program will incorporate these concepts and principals where feasible within our organization for the well-being of our community and our environment. The Park District will shape and direct its culture by adopting these principles.

The first IPRA Environmental Report Card was completed in September 2013. The District will be evaluated every five (5) years. The Priority Results I monitoring report shall include the annual evaluation of the general policy area contained within this policy.

Definitions

Sustainability means to use resources (money, staff, materials, land, programs, partnerships, etc.) more efficiently and in ways which benefit the environment, social and economic aspects of our community. The Brundtland Commission of the United Nations in March of 1987 defined sustainable development as “development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.” That statement has been changed and applied to all areas of sustainability.

As defined by the EPA, “Sustainability is based upon a simple principle: Everything that we need for our survival and well-being depends, either directly or indirectly, on our natural environment. Sustainability creates and maintains the condition under which



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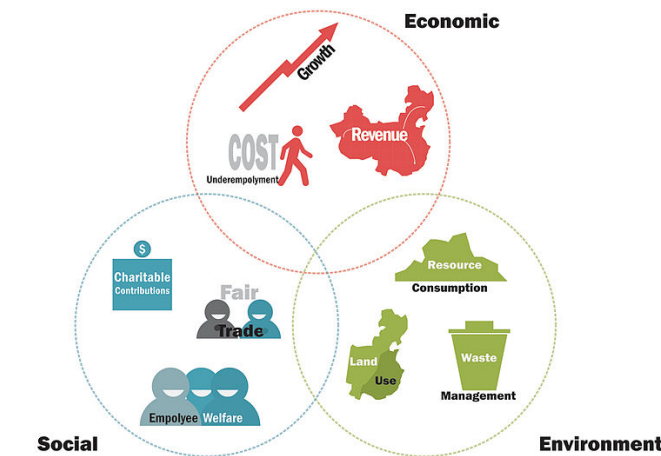
humans and nature can exist in productive harmony; that permit fulfilling the social, economic and other requirements of present and future generations.”

Using these definitions and interpretations as a guideline, The Rockford Park District, its staff, volunteers, sponsors, vendors and contractors, must practice methods that minimize our impact on our resources (Natural, Economic, Personnel, and Material). A sustainability policy should balance the needs of the ecological, economic and social dimensions of our constituency. Healthy ecosystems and environments are necessary to the survival and flourishing of humans and other organisms.

Sustainability Model

The United Nations World Commission on Environment and Development developed a standard in 2007 called the “Triple Bottom Line” which is now the benchmark for all organizations to target. The Commission stated that “A sustainable society does not rely extensively on non-renewable resources as a basis for its economy. A sustainable society reduces consumption of renewable resources to levels that can be replenished by nature.”

The “Triple Bottom Line” is a common theme for decision-making in a sustainable society. The Triple Bottom Line refers to the considerations of economic sustainability, environmental sustainability and social equity aspects of a particular decision.



General Policy Areas

1. Recycling / Waste Production (reduction of waste, garbage production)
 - Decrease the amount of waste produced by the Rockford Park District
 - Maximize composting of green waste & food waste
 - Develop programs for waste organic materials
 - Reduce the use of disposable products
2. Energy (renewable, efficiency, transportation efficiency, water use)
 - Improve energy efficiencies in parks and in daily administrative practices



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- Replace and renovate obsolete energy or resources in efficient infrastructures
 - Implement the use of “green standards” - solar, wind, hydro, and geo-thermal resources into renovations and design plans
 - Reduce the consumption of materials and resources
 - Reduce the amount of fleet and facility emissions
 - Implement practices that conserve water
3. Purchasing (reduce amounts purchased, purchase sustainable products, local sourcing, product lifecycle)
 - Increase the purchase of recycled materials
 - When possible recycle and reuse current materials
 - Increase the purchase of items which minimize negative environmental impacts
 - Maximize the purchase of products with longevity
 - Where possible purchase from local vendors or producers of products
 4. Open Space / Natural Areas (protect, restore, water quality)
 - Implement practices and systems that protect water quality and reduce storm water runoff
 - Enhance, restore and protect existing natural resources
 - Ensure compatible park and recreation uses adjacent to natural resources
 5. Environmental Health & Toxin Reduction (chemical use, pesticides, air quality, solvents, plastics)
 - Promote the use of environmentally friendly cleaning products
 - Reduce the use of pesticides and other toxic materials
 - Whenever possible purchase products with the health and safety of the employees, patrons and environment in mind
 6. Education (internal and external awareness, sign)
 - Provide training for staff and the community to work in a sustainable manner
 - Provide incentives for staff who work in a sustainable manner
 - Promote awareness of sustainability and natural resource protection
 - Hold workshops and trainings, provide resources and promote awareness of sustainable practices
 7. Development (upgrade equipment and facilities, LEED Building, retrofits)
 - Implement the use of “green standards” - solar, wind, hydro, and geo-thermal resources into renovations and design plans
 - Ensure sustainable development of property
 - Encourage pedestrian and bicycle transportation to and through sites

Distribution

All Rockford Park District Staff. Upon its passage by the Board of Commissioners, this operational standard shall be placed on the Rockford Park District intranet for reference by District staff.