

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Revised: 9/22/09 8:00 A.M.

Bureau of Recreation and Conservation (BRC)
Administrative Policy/Grant Guidelines

SUBJECT: Promotion of Green Recreation, Park, and Trail Projects

EFFECTIVE DATE: 10/5/09

BACKGROUND: The Bureau of Recreation and Conservation encourages applicants/grantees to develop “green/sustainable” recreation, park, and trail projects that are practical and facilitate the conservation of natural resources. The Department and the Bureau have adopted this policy to strongly support community and applicant efforts to become more green/sustainable. The Bureau is encouraging green/sustainable projects to help generate associated economic and environmental benefits across the state. Assistance will be provided to help communities become healthier and more sustainable places to live.

The concept of sustainable/green design recognizes that humans are an integral part of the natural world and that a healthy environment must be maintained if the human community itself is to survive. Sustainable design expresses this through projects that exemplify the principles of conservation and encourage the application of those principles. Sustainability requires a mindset that recognizes the impacts of every design choice on the natural and cultural resources of the local, regional, and global environments.

POLICY:

The Bureau is encouraging grant applicants/grantees to incorporate best management practices and sustainable site concepts into their grant projects. Applicants/grantees should include in their planning, development, or acquisition project, concepts taken from the pages on “Green Project Principles”. These principles include techniques and practices to consider implementing on site; and should be added to the grant proposal and scope of work. The principles are: “Maintain and Enhance Trees and Natural Landscaping”, “Connect People to Nature”, “Manage Stormwater Naturally”, “Conserve Energy”, and “Integrate Green Design and Construction”. A combination of these principles can lead to improved quality of life, cost savings, and protection of valuable natural resources.

Scorecard:

A self-evaluation scorecard titled, “*Green/Sustainable Project Scorecard for Grant Applicants*”, has been created and is based upon the *National Sustainable Sites Initiative* guidelines. This scorecard is an educational/self-awareness tool to be filled out by applicants for C2P2 grant

funding. The scorecard is meant to help assist you with filling out the “Green and Sustainable Project Principles” criteria section within the grant application project narrative. A copy of the scorecard can be obtained from the following link:

http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/brc/grants/SCORECARD6_18_09FINAL.doc

Grant Application Criteria:

BRC has worked with internal and external stakeholders to frame the types of sustainable/green practices that we would like to encourage grantees to integrate in their projects. The Bureau worked with the National Sustainable Sites Initiative, integrating criteria from their guide of prerequisites and credits and aligning them with the Bureau’s grant program. As a result of this collaborative effort, new grant selection criteria have been developed. There will be a section within the grant application narrative for applicants to add their project goals that include green principles.

Assistance:

There are a number of materials available to offer applicants/grantees assistance on what types of things are considered green/sustainable practices for park development. Some of these resources can be found at the following links:

[Creating Sustainable Community Parks](#)

[Green Principles for Sustainable Park Development](#)

Green Grant Program website

<http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/brc/grants/greening/greeninggrants.aspx>

This policy remains in effect until revised or rescinded.