

**COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA**  
**Department of Conservation and Natural Resources**

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

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

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** October 5, 2009

**REVISED DATE:** November 7, 2013

**BACKGROUND:** The Bureau of Recreation and Conservation encourages communities and grant applicants to develop “green/sustainable” recreation, park and trail projects that are practical and facilitate the conservation of natural resources. The Bureau is encouraging green/sustainable projects to help generate associated economic and environmental benefits across the state.

The Bureau’s Greening Parks and Sustainable Practices [website](#) is a tool to help communities and grant applicants determine the types of green/sustainable elements that may be appropriate for their project or site. The website includes information on “Materials Selection & Construction”, “Conserve Energy – Operations & Maintenance”, “Connect People to Nature”, “Natural Landscaping & Trees” and “Manage Stormwater Naturally/ Green Infrastructure”.

**POLICY:**

The incorporation of green/sustainable practices is a Bureau priority. Grant applicants are encouraged to incorporate these practices into their projects and should describe the techniques/practices being considered in the grant proposal and scope of work. It is expected that applicants funded through the Community Conservation Partnership Program will follow through with the green/sustainable elements identified in the project’s grant application. Alterations to the scope of work, after the grant has been awarded, must be discussed and approved by the DCNR Project Manager.

**Green Park Award:**

The Department, in partnership with the Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society (PRPS), offers an annual award to recognize excellence in the public park community for those that demonstrate the integration of green/sustainable park practices. View the Award’s webpage at: <http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/brc/grants/greening/casestudies/greenparksaward/index.htm>

**Technical Assistance:**

There are a number of resources available to offer assistance on green/sustainable practices for parks, trails, recreation facilities and conservation areas. Some of these resources can be found at the following links:

- [Creating Sustainable Community Parks](#)
- Greening Parks and Sustainable Practices website:  
<http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/brc/grants/greening/greeninggrants.aspx>
- Pennsylvania's Interactive Sustainable Park Design Model  
<http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/brc/grants/greening/greenandplayfulparks/interactiveparkdesignmodel/index.htm>

This policy remains in effect until revised or rescinded.