



PORTLAND PARKS & RECREATION

Healthy Parks, Healthy Portland



Sustainability Plan

November 2007

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Introduction



In keeping with the City's commitment to sustainability, each bureau has been asked to prepare an individual sustainability plan that links with City of Portland sustainability goals and policies. The individual plans are intended to encourage short and long range goals, track performance, increase accountability, improve inter-bureau collaboration, communicate each bureau's sustainability efforts and promote Portland's role as a national leader and model for other communities. Initial review of the plans, performance tracking and the Annual City Sustainability Report are under the purview of the Office of Sustainable Development (OSD).

Leading governmental organizations and businesses believe that sustainability should be integrated as a triple bottom line: social, environmental and economic sustainability. Recent thinking has included consideration of an historical or cultural factor.

PP&R has linked its thinking around sustainability with other local, national and international principles including City of Portland; State of Oregon Executive Order – Sustainability for the 21st Century; United Nations Environment Program; International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives; and World Business Council for Sustainable Development.

A bureau-wide "Green Team" was formed consisting of key Bureau staff working in relevant disciplines to cooperate in the planning effort.

In a late June 2007, half day workshop, the PP&R Tier One managers and Green Team members:

- Established a bureau sustainability commitment statement
- Selected an operational framework for sustainability
- Determined roles and responsibilities for completing and implementing the plan

After a series of four meetings, the PP&R Green Team and project leaders have developed a plan which:

- Summarizes existing sustainability actions
- Develops short and long-term sustainability goals
- Commits PP&R to short and future outcomes
- Prioritizes three projects for 2008-2009
- Provides performance measures for accountability
- Develops an employee communication strategy to further bureau sustainability goals



Sustainability Vision and Goals



CITY OF PORTLAND SUSTAINABILITY GOAL

In 1994, City Council adopted the Sustainability City Principles summarized below:

City of Portland will promote a sustainable future that meets today's needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs, and accepts its responsibility to:

- *Support a stable, diverse and equitable economy*
- *Protect the quality of the air, water, land and other natural resources*
- *Conserve native vegetation, fish, wildlife habitat and other ecosystems*
- *Minimize human impacts on local and worldwide ecosystems*

PARKS & RECREATION VISION STATEMENT

Portland Parks & Recreation Vision Statement declares that:

Portland's parks, public places, natural areas, and recreational opportunities give life and beauty to our city. These essential assets connect people to place, self, and others. Portland's residents treasure and care for this legacy, building on the past to provide for future generations.

Parks & Recreation has taken the core message of the City's Sustainability Principles and vision statement, to create a Sustainability Vision founded on five (5) goals.

1. Park owned and managed natural resources are protected and enhanced for future generations.
2. Sustainable communities enjoy equitable access to diverse recreation programs and parks facilities.
3. Green Building and new technology options are applied to capital building, major park maintenance landscape projects and bureau work practices.
4. Toxic and fuel consumptive practices will be minimized for public safety and environmental health.
5. Resource conservation – energy, water, stormwater and recycling practices are prioritized and improved throughout the PP&R system.



Current Sustainability Practices



Early on, in the sustainability plan process, staff surveyed current sustainability practices across the bureau. The results of this internal evaluation were extremely positive in both the breadth and depth of the bureau’s current commitment to sustainability. Below is a list of these practices.

PROJECT AREA	CURRENT PRACTICES
Community Connections	Community connections have been greatly increased through the Parks Board, new outreach coordinators, all the friends groups, volunteer activities and staff outreach to neighborhoods
Cultural Resources	Historical and cultural resources of the City continue to be protected
Development Practices	Construction design incorporate methods to maximize sustainable maintenance practices
Diversity/Equity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staffing assigned to reach minority communities • Language barriers at Community Centers reduced • Continual improvements in ADA access
Dogs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dog park system established to control off leash problem in parks • Recycled materials used where possible – bags, chips, fences, kiosks
Energy Conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of Solar panels to heat East Portland Community Center & Wilson pools • Increased retrofits to Community Centers and Parks to improve energy efficiencies
Green Building	Gold LEED standards are required for all new building construction
Health & Fitness	Focus of sports, classes and fitness programs targeted to improving healthy city residents
Information Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trip reductions and staff efficiency increased through teleconferencing • Paperless practices used for filing and reviewing meeting materials
Land Acquisition	Active acquisition of Natural Areas, Parks and Open Spaces
Life Cycle Assessment	Asset management plans are completed for most pools and community centers
Natural Areas Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementing restoration projects that improve natural areas • Management practices reduce user impacts to natural areas • Support of environmental and outdoor education programs
Outreach/Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased programming for Environmental Education, outdoor recreation & volunteer programs • Enhanced marketing in events and activities to communicate healthy practices • Community outreach through zone staff, project committees and Workforce and Community Alliances outreach team
Paper Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Printer and zerox paper recycled • Office, kitchen and desk recycling encouraged
Purchasing	Participate in City sustainable purchasing practices
Recycling/Waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved recycling at community centers • Improved waste disposal at parks • Improved event recycling program

Current Sustainability Practices

Social & Cultural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilities, programs, activities and opportunities available through parks and recreation contribute to community building and community enrichment • Volunteers and Friends groups and cooperation with other agencies are involved whenever possible
Stormwater/Watershed Protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Innovative design on projects like Jamison Square, South Park Block 5 and South Waterfront Greenway
Sustainable Landscapes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replanting high water landscapes and naturalizing areas • Increased turf management practices to reduce maintenance and water use • Increased incorporation of stormwater landscapes to improve water retention in Parks
Toxic Materials Reduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commitment to best management practices through adoption of an Integrated Pest Management • Salmon Safe certification for City Parks
Transportation (fuel, trips, etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing transition to bio-diesel
Urban Forest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leading city-wide improvements in urban forest tree protection • Mitigation of development and redevelopment impacts to the Urban Forest through aggressive tree planting
Water Conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased use of Maxicom system used for efficient turf irrigation • Drought tolerant landscape incorporated into Park management • Wells planned for several large parks and sports fields

PP&R Sustainability Action Plan



The intent of the PP&R action plan is to directly link a commitment from the bureau to specific actions that will carry forward the values of the City’s larger sustainability vision (page 4). The action plan is organized around the bureau’s five sustainability goals. Each goal and its objectives are designed to challenge both the bureau and the city to achieve a higher standard of responsible social, environmental and economic stewardship. The actions/projects proposed are the tools for achieving a sustainable future that meets today’s needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.

GOAL 1: Park owned and managed natural resources and ecosystems are protected and enhanced for future generations.				
Objective 1.1 Urban Forest Canopy....				
<i>Action/Project</i>	<i>Short Term Outcome</i>	<i>Future Condition</i>	<i>Measurement</i>	<i>Responsible Party</i>
Implement Urban Forestry Action Plan & Performance Measurements developed	Performance Measurement system developed in 2008 per Action Plan	Effectiveness of actions can be monitored & improved	2008 completion of Performance Measures and system implemented	City Nature – Urban Forestry and City Team
Tree Code Revisions to Protect Forest	Code revised for clarity and effectiveness	Protection and expansion of urban forest	To be set up as part of code revision	City Nature & Bureaus of Planning & Development Services
Objective 1.2 Natural Area Land Acquisition				
<i>Action/Project</i>	<i>Short Term Outcome</i>	<i>Future Condition</i>	<i>Measurement</i>	<i>Responsible Party</i>
Metro Bond Land Acquisition	Purchase additional natural areas within Portland	Increase of natural area acreage and expansion	PP&R/Metro Bond Acquisition program to set performance measurement goals	City Nature with Metro, BES & partners
Objective 1.3 Increase Bio-diversity and Create Balance with Living Systems				
<i>Action/Project</i>	<i>Short Term Outcome</i>	<i>Future Condition</i>	<i>Measurement</i>	<i>Responsible Party</i>
South Waterfront Greenway Project – 6 segments Reclaim industrial land for recreation & habitat	Complete Central District by 2009	Entire greenway & riverbank restoration complete by 2015	Progress based on segments completed. Full value is achieved when all segments are complete	Parks Bureau with city agencies and developers
Natural Areas Invasive Species “best of the best” implemented	300 acres treated in 2008-2009	20 year program to raise habitat condition of all properties	Acres treated per year	City Nature

Sustainability Action Plan

GOAL 2: Sustainable communities enjoy equitable access to diverse recreation programs and park facilities.				
Objective 2.1 Foster continuous learning opportunities from childhood to seniors promoting healthy & balanced lifestyles				
<i>Action/Project</i>	<i>Short Term Outcome</i>	<i>Future Condition</i>	<i>Measurement</i>	<i>Responsible Party</i>
Ensure equitable access for under-served populations and reach out to residents of all ages and abilities	Outreach increased and barriers to participation reduced	Access to park services successfully broadened	Need to establish a measurement	Site managers, Disabled & Senior Recreation, outreach coordinators
Objective 2.2 Historical and cultural assets are preserved and protected				
<i>Action/Project</i>	<i>Short Term Outcome</i>	<i>Future Condition</i>	<i>Measurement</i>	<i>Responsible Party</i>
Implementation of Cultural Resources Management Plan	Establish program and implement initial phase of Action plan	Complete Phases 5 & 6 covering 161 park sites Evaluate key buildings	Protection level of Phase 1 Cultural resources identified	SFBD (Strategy, Finance & Business Development) with Parks Services
Objective 2.3 Access to green space creates high standard of livability in all neighborhoods				
<i>Action/Project</i>	<i>Short Term Outcome</i>	<i>Future Condition</i>	<i>Measurement</i>	<i>Responsible Party</i>
Parks System Plan and Land Acquisition strategy complete	Identify system and land gaps and needs	All residents live within 1/2 mile of a park/open space	Acres acquired increases annually	Parks Planning & SDC
Objective 2.4 Community is engaged in cultural and artistic programs, events & classes				
<i>Action/Project</i>	<i>Short Term Outcome</i>	<i>Future Condition</i>	<i>Measurement</i>	<i>Responsible Party</i>
Arts & Cultural Enrichment opportunities are available to the public at affordable cost	Classes, public gardens, exhibits & concerts in the parks promote Portland's livability	Larger city network of arts & culture sites, programs and classes	Attendance and scholarship tracking	Workforce and Community Alliances and Park Services
Objective 2.5 PP&R creates positive and lasting impact on public health				
<i>Action/Project</i>	<i>Short Term Outcome</i>	<i>Future Condition</i>	<i>Measurement</i>	<i>Responsible Party</i>
Recruit Youths to PP&R Friends groups	Establish outreach and recruitment program	Succession of younger volunteers secured	Recruitment goals are met and volunteers retained	Alliance Coordinator and staff liaisons
Expand Community gardens to city areas with new growth & higher density housing	Identify sites Add one garden in a new growth area	Gardens established in high density areas	Track new garden enrollment, use and demand	Workforce and Community Alliances
Objective 2.6 Revenue diversification and development				
<i>Action/Project</i>	<i>Short Term Outcome</i>	<i>Future Condition</i>	<i>Measurement</i>	<i>Responsible Party</i>
Sponsorships, business development and outside funding sustain PP&R in meeting community needs	PP&R grows private public – partnership opportunities	Outside funding sources provide sustainable, annual contribution to PP&R budget	Sponsorship, grants & business partnerships are tracked and this funding increases	SFBD – Marketing and Business Development

GOAL 3: Green Building and new technology options are applied to capital building, major park maintenance landscape projects and bureau work practices.				
Objective 3.1 New Parks buildings meet or exceed the City's Gold LEED standards				
<i>Action/Project</i>	<i>Short Term Outcome</i>	<i>Future Condition</i>	<i>Measurement</i>	<i>Responsible Party</i>
East Portland Community Center Indoor Aquatic Center	Aquatic Center completed and operative	Building operated and maintained with sustainable practices	Meets City LEED standards	Architecture Team
Objective 3.2 Manage stormwater in parks as a renewable resource & to protect water quality				
<i>Action/Project</i>	<i>Short Term Outcome</i>	<i>Future Condition</i>	<i>Measurement</i>	<i>Responsible Party</i>
Rainwater Pavilion at Tanner Springs South Park Block 5	Design treats & reduces stormwater outflow on site	Provides creative site retention & treatment of stormwater	Design is effective and stormwater runoff is decreased	Parks Bureau with partners
Objective 3.3 Sustainable landscape practices and products are emphasized in PP&R				
<i>Action/Project</i>	<i>Short Term Outcome</i>	<i>Future Condition</i>	<i>Measurement</i>	<i>Responsible Party</i>
Park re-design and major landscape maintenance projects include more sustainable practices	Develop a broader list of habitat friendly products and practices that can be specified on projects	Parks design and maintenance staff use "green" materials and practices	Bureau develops and follows a Habitat Friendly Guidance Manual	SFBD and Parks Services
Objective 3.4 PP&R develops it's own green standards				
<i>Action/Project</i>	<i>Short Term Outcome</i>	<i>Future Condition</i>	<i>Measurement</i>	<i>Responsible Party</i>
Develop LOW IMPACT DEVELOPMENT (LID) standards for PP&R	LID Model established and tested	LID practices institutionalized	Tract comparison of standard versus LID practices	SFBD and Parks Services
Objective 3.5 Use information technology to assist staff in developing sustainable office practices				
<i>Action/Project</i>	<i>Short Term Outcome</i>	<i>Future Condition</i>	<i>Measurement</i>	<i>Responsible Party</i>
Conduct a bureau-wide Technology Audit that compares existing use of resources against options for meeting the bureau's larger sustainability goals	Determine technology gaps, poor use practices and analyze cost benefits for bridging the gaps	Future purchases, management and operational practices use technology more efficiently	Final audit report will provide guidance for bureau technology purchases and use	All Divisions and Finance
Conduct a pilot project using four (4) park sites to establish a Video conferencing network	Video conferencing model tested and evaluated	Video conferences used regularly in lieu of vehicle trips	Track emissions prevented through reducing vehicle miles	Parks Services and Finance

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Goal 4: Toxic material use in parks and facilities and fuel consumptive practices will be moderated for public safety and environmental health.				
Objective 4.1 Aquatic facility improvements provide increased public health & safety for users				
<i>Action/Project</i>	<i>Short Term Outcome</i>	<i>Future Condition</i>	<i>Measurement</i>	<i>Responsible Party</i>
Conversion of remaining two PP&R indoor swimming pools to ultra violet filters	Reduced use of chlorine & improves air quality	Future pools install similar or improved system	Improvement in air quality and water conservation measured	Aquatics
Objective 4.2 Reduce presence of toxic materials in park landscape				
<i>Action/Project</i>	<i>Short Term Outcome</i>	<i>Future Condition</i>	<i>Measurement</i>	<i>Responsible Party</i>
Dog waste problem needs to be quantified, alternatives proposed & public educated	Quantify the problem; provide alternatives and develop public education process	Reduce drastically the amount of dog waste hauled from parks	Set goals for reducing the volume of dog waste annually yet meeting public need	Parks Services
Playground project removes all lead paint on play equipment and old wood structures	Project plan and funding in place to resolve problem	Materials removed and replaced with safe alternatives	Percent of known materials removed annually until completed	SFBD and Parks Services
Objective 4.3 Reduce use of toxic materials in landscapes maintenance practices				
<i>Action/Project</i>	<i>Short Term Outcome</i>	<i>Future Condition</i>	<i>Measurement</i>	<i>Responsible Party</i>
Expand Pesticide Free Parks & Salmon Safe Program	Identify new parks to add to program	Programs are operate system wide	More parks are permanently added to program	City Nature and Parks Services
Objective 4.4 Mitigate and reduce emissions that contribute to climate change				
<i>Action/Project</i>	<i>Short Term Outcome</i>	<i>Future Condition</i>	<i>Measurement</i>	<i>Responsible Party</i>
Explore and enhance transportation alternative options for bureau employees and parks users	Travel reduction options and incentives explored with PDOT	Multi-modal options are promoted for park users and staff	Vehicle miles traveled to Parks facilities reduced	Parks Bureau with PDOT
Replace PP&R vehicles and equipment with bio-diesel, electric energy and environmentally friendly fuels	Prepare vehicle and equipment replacement plan for this purpose	Parks operates an environmentally friendly fleet of cars & equipment	Evaluate progress of replacement plan annually	Parks Services with City Fleet Services

GOAL 5: Resource conservation – energy, water, recycling and re-using – practices are prioritized and improved throughout the PP&R system.				
Objective 5.1 Optimize recycling opportunities & reduce waste stream to landfill				
<i>Action/Project</i>	<i>Short Term Outcome</i>	<i>Future Condition</i>	<i>Measurement</i>	<i>Responsible Party</i>
Pilot Recycling Project in selected parks next to schools and skateparks	Tests ways to separate waste in a functional and cost effective manner	Recycling in all parks and buildings	Create waste reduction measurement as part of the pilot project	Parks Services
Objective 5.2 Facilities, programs and new projects use energy efficiently				
<i>Action/Project</i>	<i>Short Term Outcome</i>	<i>Future Condition</i>	<i>Measurement</i>	<i>Responsible Party</i>
Install Liquid Pool covers on 7 outdoor pools (Heatsavr)	Reduction in heating and water bills	Potential long term energy & water savings	Track individual pool utility bills for savings	Aquatics
Objective 5.3 Facilities, programs and new projects use water efficiently				
<i>Action/Project</i>	<i>Short Term Outcome</i>	<i>Future Condition</i>	<i>Measurement</i>	<i>Responsible Party</i>
Complete installation of Maxicom System for park irrigation	Bring 2-3 parks on line a year until system is complete	System can be linked to weather data for optimum efficiency	Water use per park – before and after installation of system	Parks Services
Finish water audits in all major & minor buildings and provide phased retrofit to low water use appliances	Water audits completed & baselines established. Retrofit program set up	Retrofits complete. All buildings maintained for water efficiency	Track annual water bills for each building	Parks Services & Building managers
Objective 5.4 Ecological building footprints determine baseline for maintenance efficiency				
<i>Action/Project</i>	<i>Short Term Outcome</i>	<i>Future Condition</i>	<i>Measurement</i>	<i>Responsible Party</i>
Create a baseline model (ecological footprint) to determine optimum maintenance strategies for each PP&R major building	Create model for each building director and facilities manager to determine baseline	Develop strategies to reduce ecological footprint to pre-set goals	Track effectiveness of baseline approach for each building annually using utility bills as one guide	Parks Services
Objective 5.5 Best management O&M practices promote re-use of products				
<i>Action/Project</i>	<i>Short Term Outcome</i>	<i>Future Condition</i>	<i>Measurement</i>	<i>Responsible Party</i>
Materials re-used either on-site or in another area of the park system – such as wood chips, compost and logs	Reduces landfill fees and saves purchasing costs	The loop is closed by recycling park materials within the system	Need to define a clear measurement	City Nature, Parks Services, Community Gardens



Priorities for 2008-09



The bureau's current strength, in relationship to its Sustainability Plan, is management and protection of natural areas and ecosystems (Goal 1) and in providing services that support sustainable communities (Goal 2). In 2008-09, the bureau will focus on moving forward, completing and evaluating key projects to support its other three sustainability goals.

One priority project for each of these three goals has been chosen from the Action Plan.

Goal 3: Green building and new technology options

Objective 3.5: Use information technology to assist staff in developing sustainable office practices

Conduct a bureau Technology Audit that compares existing use of resources against options that might better meet the bureau's larger sustainability goals.

Goal 4: Moderate toxic materials in the parks and reduce fuel consumption

Objective 4.1: Aquatic facility improvements provide increased public health and safety for users

Convert operation of two remaining PP&R indoor swimming pools to ultra violet filters in order to minimize use of chlorine and improve air quality.

Goal 5: Resource conservation practices

Objective 5.1: Optimize recycling opportunities and reduce waste stream to landfill

Pilot recycling projects in selected park sites next to schools and at existing skateparks to determine cost and feasibility of program city-wide.



Employee Communication Plan



Parks and Recreation “Green Team” will provide leadership within the bureau on sustainability practices. The bureau will offer staff incentives, public encouragement and recognition for innovative ideas and successful projects.

Key communication actions at PP&R will include:

- Management encourages innovation and sustainability leadership.
- Green team members implement and continue to improve on Sustainability Plan.
- Employee “green” recognition program initiated by the bureau.
- PP&R website provides updated information on green projects and new directions.
- Staff provides outreach to volunteers, event sponsors and park users on bureau’s sustainability practices and projects.
- Green Team members provide a regular update on PP&R sustainability actions in Paydirt.

SUMMARY AND NEXT STEPS

- PP&R sustainability projects proposed for 2008-09 need budgets and work scopes.
- PP&R will develop performance measures for projects selected for 2008-09 funding.
- Bureau will develop and implement the first elements of its Communication Plan.