

BUREAU OF RECREATION AND CONSERVATION

Title: Green and Sustainable Infrastructure in Community Park, Trail, and Waterway Projects		
Issued by: Bureau of Recreation and Conservation	Effective Date: 10/5/09 Scheduled Review: Annual	Document Number: 2300-016
Reviewed: 12/14/23	Revised: 11/7/13, 10/24/17, 12/5/18	
Approved By: Tom Ford, Bureau Director	Program Area: All	

AUTHORITY

Act 18 of 1995, Section 306, Community Recreation and Heritage Conservation. The Department shall have the power to administer Federal and State programs for grants and loans to local governments, municipal authorities and nonprofit organizations for community and regional projects involving the planning, acquisition, rehabilitation and development of public park, recreation and conservation areas, facilities and programs.

SCOPE

Provides directive for administration of the Community Conservation Partnerships Grant Program

PURPOSE

The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), Bureau of Recreation and Conservation (Bureau) encourages communities and grant applicants to incorporate “green and sustainable” infrastructure elements in park, trail and rivers development and rehabilitation projects. The term “green and sustainable” refers to practices that offer environmental benefits or that reduce the impacts of human activities on the environment. The Bureau supports green and sustainable infrastructure projects that generate associated economic and environmental benefits and provide opportunities to leverage other funding sources.

DCNR’s [“Green and Sustainable Community Parks”](#) webpage contains resources to assist communities and grant applicants with determining the types of green/sustainable infrastructure elements that may be appropriate for their project or site.

POLICY

- A. The incorporation of green and 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 application.
- B. 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.
- C. When considering green infrastructure elements at project sites it is important to ensure that the public recreation facilities proposed are compatible with the green infrastructure BMPs proposed (see examples below).
- D. Eligible project costs, including the match, must be directly related to the project site being developed. On a case by case basis, the Bureau may consider costs that are being applied adjacent to or traversing

the project site (i.e. buffers, swales, etc.). Stormwater infrastructure that supports the development of recreation amenities can include grey stormwater infrastructure, green stormwater infrastructure and nature-based solutions. The determination of whether the infrastructure proposed (grey or green) supports recreation amenities will be at the sole discretion of the Bureau. The Bureau will also consider whether the proposed infrastructure is consistent with provisions in the Donated and Dedicated Property Act.

EXAMPLES:

- A. Commonly used types or mechanisms of Green Infrastructure are referred to as Best Management Practices (BMPs). Examples of BMP's supported by DCNR for community park, trail and waterway development and rehabilitation projects include:
1. Rain Gardens
 2. Cistern and Rain Barrels
 3. Vegetated Swales
 4. Pervious pavement and pavers
 5. Porous asphalt
 6. Vegetated ("Green") Roofs
 7. Riparian Buffers
 8. Naturalized Infiltration Basins
 9. Tree and Native Plantings
 10. Pollinator Gardens
 11. Interpretive Signage

DISCLAIMER

The policies and procedures outlined in this guidance document are intended to supplement existing requirements. The policies and procedures herein are not an adjudication or a regulation. There is no intent on the part of DCNR to give the rules in these policies that weight or deference. This document establishes the framework within which DCNR will exercise its administrative discretion in the future.

PAGE LENGTH

2 pages

EFFECTIVE DATE

Immediately. This policy is to be reviewed and updated every year.

EXPIRATION

This policy remains in effect until revised or rescinded.

Tom Ford, Bureau Director

12/14/2023

Name/Title of Bureau or Office Director

Date