

## **Stewardship and Sustainability Policy**

**Policy No.: 200.017**

**Resolution No.: RR95-06**

**Date Approved: 11/27/06**

**Date Procedures Approved by Executive Director: 11/27/06**

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**POLICY: (Approved by the Board of Park Commissioners.)**

**Purpose: Metro Parks Tacoma strives to be a leader among its governmental peers and to set the example for non-profit and for-profit organizations within our region with regard to stewardship and sustainability of our park lands and facilities, efficient use of public dollars, excellence in educational programming and conservation of resources to deliver the programs and products district tax payers have come to expect.**

### **Policy Requirements:**

**Section I. Metro Parks Tacoma is committed to sound environmental practices and sustainable operations. This policy serves to implement item 3.2 of the Strategic Parks and Program Services Plan: Promote conservation ethics and environmental sustainability by adopting green practices throughout the parks and recreation system. The focus of this policy is on capital projects, maintenance and operations activities, program service delivery, and providing educational leadership.**

**Section II. The Board of Park Commissioners understands *sustainability* to mean: Meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Sustainable practices seek to balance a concern for continuing growth and development of the community and region with the needs of the planet.**

**Section III. For Metro Parks Tacoma, sustainable practices shall be defined as those that: reduce initial and ongoing adverse impacts to the environment, protect or increase the ecological function of landscapes and natural areas, and provide for the comfort, health and safety of park facility visitors and staff.**

**Section IV. All departments shall be committed to include sustainable practices in all capital projects, maintenance and operations activities, and program service delivery for the purpose of water and energy conservation, promotion of recycling, conservation and enhancement of habitat, and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. Metro Parks Tacoma shall provide adequate resources for the implementation of this policy, including program monitoring, project evaluation, and staff training.**

**Section V. The Executive Director shall be responsible for developing a comprehensive procedure for implementing this policy that includes items such as a review of current practices and conditions, and a process for implementing best practices based upon review results; adoption of capital project sustainability guidelines; determining application of Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standards, and a method of evaluating results of this work and communicating the results to the public.**

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**ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES: (Adopted by the Executive Director.)**

**A. GENERAL PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.** The Executive Director shall, at minimum, provide an annual report to the Board of Park Commissioners that describes the outcome of the implementation of this policy. The report shall include an assessment of current practices and progress toward targeted goals.

**B. EMPLOYEE PROCEDURE.** Department heads shall be responsible for the implementation of this policy within their departments and are encouraged to establish intradepartmental Green Teams that assist with its implementation as it pertains to capital projects, maintenance and operations activities, program service delivery, and the provision of educational leadership. Green Teams will focus on these topics: water conservation, energy conservation, waste reduction, wildlife habitat, and reduction of pollutants including greenhouse gases.