

KETTERING ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION PLAN



CITY OF KETTERING

PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURAL ARTS DEPARTMENT

Created: March 2011
Reviewed: March 2016
Reviewed: November 2020

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION PLAN

POSITION STATEMENT

It is our imperative as leisure professionals to take a leadership role in preserving the quality of the natural environment through environmental planning, environmental management and by integrating environmental education in our provision of quality recreation opportunities. It is our intent to serve as a role model and assume a leadership and partnership role in demonstrating and practicing sound environmental policies and practices.

Specific Policy Areas/Environmental Actions

I. Protection of Biosphere

To protect our natural resources and strive to eliminate the release of any pollutants that may cause environmental damage to the air, water or earth or its inhabitants.

Environmental Actions

- A. Promote the reclamation, acquisition, protection and environmentally sensitive management of open space areas, wetlands, river corridors, natural habitat areas, greenways and trails.
- B. Develop relationships with land trusts, preservation and conservation organizations to assist in open space preservation.
- C. Seek ways to return lands for natural and public use.
- D. Enforce any federal and state Endangered Species Protection Acts.
- E. Preserve and restore watershed lands and work to provide appropriate recreation on these lands.
- F. Establish an Integrated Pest Management Program that includes cultural methods such as:
 1. Select appropriate plant species and their proper location.
 2. Use preventative maintenance procedures.
 3. Promote early detection of problems.
 4. Use, where possible, natural control methods.
 5. When necessary, use safe, proper pesticides in only the amounts necessary.
- G. Incorporate environmental impact considerations in the design process for all projects.
- H. Reduce air pollutants such as smoke, fluorocarbons from spray cans, fumes from cleaning solutions and paints through policies that restrict the purchase and use of such products and policies that control "second hand" smoke.
- I. Establish a Stormwater Management Plan that includes personnel training and audits.
 1. Integrate Municipal Facilities Pollution Prevention and Good Housekeeping Program (PPGHP) practices to reduce possible discharge of pollutants from all City of Kettering facilities, including Parks Maintenance Center.

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II. Sustainable Use of Natural Resources

To conserve non-renewable natural resources such as water, soils and forests through efficient use and careful planning.

Environmental Actions

- A. Continue tree planting and replanting programs.
- B. Support and adopt a local ordinance to protect heritage trees.
- C. Practice soil management for erosion control.
- D. Develop and implement a water conservation training program for maintenance and landscape design personnel.
- E. Audit and promote retrofitting facilities with water conservation hardware.
- F. Make use of less turf and water intensive plantings and more use of native/drought resistant species.

III. Reduction and Disposal of Waste

To minimize the creation of waste, especially hazardous waste, and whenever possible to recycle materials and use recycled materials. To dispose of wastes through safe and responsible methods.

Environmental Actions

- A. Waste Prevention (Volume and Toxicity) actions as follows:
 - 1. Compost and reuse all landscape wastes (leaves, grass clippings) for the agency and the community.
 - 2. Use sand on park roadways when feasible in place of salt or other chemicals.
 - 3. Encourage staff use of reusable mugs in place of disposable cups.
 - 4. Encourage reuse of materials and leftover materials (food containers for crafts, latex paints for art projects, etc.)
 - 5. Ban the release of balloons at park events.
- B. Recycling (Volume and Toxicity) actions as follows:
 - 1. Provide opportunities for staff to recycle aluminum, glass, office paper, newspaper, computer paper and corrugated paper.
 - 2. Explore opportunities for park and facility users to recycle glass and aluminum on site.
 - 3. Recycle batteries, anti-freeze, motor oil and freon whenever feasible.
- C. Utilization of Recycled Materials as follows:
 - 1. Use of in-house recycled landscape materials such as wood chips and compost.
 - 2. Use of recycled products such as biodegradable bags and recycled paper for all printing contracts and copy paper where feasible.
- D. Office Practices as follows:
 - 1. Print and photocopy on both sides of paper.
 - 2. Post memos in a centralized area or circulate one copy with a routing slip.

3. Reduce the amount of junk mail by writing to: Mail Preference Service, Direct Marketing Association, 11 West 42nd Street, P.O. Box 3861, New York, NY 10163-3861.
 4. Consolidate and share newspaper and magazine subscriptions.
 5. Make use of electronic mail system.
- E. Participate in citywide toxic material and pollution monitoring and cleanup program, including a program of response to any toxic spills that involve park lands.
 - F. Make an inventory of all hazardous materials. Train staff in the handling and storage of such materials according to state and federal standards.

IV. Wise Use of Energy

To improve energy efficiency and conservation operations.

Environmental Actions

- A. Conduct an energy audit and improve efficiency by retrofitting, converting to fluorescent light and requiring all new lighting to be energy efficient.
- B. Improve efficiency of heating and cooling system by promoting use of renewable energy (solar, wind, geothermal), weatherizing and installing energy efficient systems whenever possible.
- C. Plant trees as windbreaks and to provide shade.
- D. Encourage employees to use mass transit, car pooling, bicycling or walking.
- E. Develop a plan to reduce mileage driven by evaluating current practices such as reducing deliveries, meetings, etc. Use teleconferencing as an energy-saving method.
- F. Maintain all equipment to reduce emissions and fuel consumption.
- G. Explore model alternatives and experimental sources of power and energy to reduce the consumption of energy.

V. Use of Environmentally Sensitive and Safe Products

To use products or services that minimize adverse environmental impacts and that are safe to use.

Environmental Actions

- A. Buy and use only phosphate-free, biodegradable soaps and detergents.
- B. Encourage the elimination or reduction in use of petroleum-based inks, paints, stains and wood preservatives in signs, construction, maintenance and graphic material. (Explore and pursue alternatives such as soy inks, non-toxic paints and stains.)
- C. Eliminate use of wood preservatives containing copper naphthenate, discontinue use of creosote ties and develop and use alternate solutions to use of pressure-treated woods.
- D. Encourage the use of paper, wood or other biodegradable products in place of plastic products.
- E. Eliminate use of styrofoam products by employees and concessionaires using park lands.
- F. Where possible, eliminate the use of all CFS products including aerosol sprays containing ingredients that impact the ozone.

- G. Encourage the use of an environmental policy statement on bidding documents.

VI. Environmental Education/Interpretation

To provide citizens with innovative and creative programs that enhance the public awareness of the department's mission to preserve, manage and promote an appreciation for the natural resources.

Environmental Actions

- A. Create and provide programs and facilities that connect people with nature and provide ways to develop an awareness, appreciation and understanding of our natural world.
- B. Promote leisure activities that are the least environmentally consumptive.
- C. Provide opportunities that interpret the cultural, historical, scenic and aesthetic resources that are a part of the local environment.
- D. Develop and present programs that strive to develop an environmental ethic in citizens' daily lives.
- E. Serve as a role model and encourage wise use and reuse of resources by employees at work and at home.
- F. Work with other interested groups to develop and enhance a strong environmental ethic.
- G. Work with schools and other neighborhood associations to create environmental education opportunities in parks and open space areas.