

Philadelphia Department of Parks and Recreation

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Building on our vision, mission and goals, we will:

Develop and Equitably Distribute New Urban Green Spaces.

- Achieve the GreenWorks Philadelphia goal of 500 new acres of green public spaces in the city by 2015 and the GreenPlan Philadelphia goal of every resident living within a 10 minute walk of green, open space by 2028.
- Ensure that all residents are adequately served by parks and recreation centers
- Preserve and enhance existing public green space
- Develop an integrated interconnected system of parks, trails and habitats
- Ensure that there is a trail within a half mile of all residents by 2028
- Undertake the greening of schoolyards in partnership with the School District
- Promote the use of appropriate park and vacant lands for urban agriculture, including both community gardens and business enterprises

Develop High Level Practices and Expand Leadership in

“Out of School Time” Activities.

- In an inclusive environment, provide a broad range of “out of school time” offerings, including after school programs, camps, environmental education programs, sports, cultural arts, youth development and traveling programs.
- Expand efforts to link and engage youth in new outdoor activities, to discover different adventures, and to learn new skills in Philadelphia’s outdoor spaces.
- Develop strategic and supportive partnerships that keep youth safe and advance positive youth development principles
- Provide high quality programming focusing on the environment, historical and cultural assets.
- Use park land to broaden participant experiences.
- Provide experiences and information that will introduce youth to green jobs as well as careers in recreation, the environment and cultural/historical arts.

Implement a National Model for Natural Resource and Urban Forest Management.

- Achieve the GreenWorks Philadelphia goal of 300,000 new trees by 2015 and the GreenPlan Philadelphia goal of 30% tree coverage by 2028
- In addition to urban forestry and street trees, address invasive plants, wildlife and stormwater management
- Provide wide-ranging public benefits, such as improved air and water quality, reduced energy consumption and stormwater run-off mitigation
- Establish new and expanded partnerships, community outreach and education initiatives
- Engage more volunteer organizations and individuals
- Use this work as an economic development tool

Provide High-Quality Facilities to Showcase Urban Outdoor Recreation and the City's Environmental, Cultural and Historical Assets.

- Use the facilities to provide and expand wide-ranging, diverse and high quality programs (guided and self-guided) for participants of all ages fully utilizing the Department's outdoor recreation, environmental, cultural and historical assets
- Produce, promote and provide venues for local, national and international special events.
- Use these programs to promote stewardship and interest in the Department
- Use facilities to connect kids and adults to the outdoors, while improving the health of all participants
- Use the facilities, trails athletic fields, cultural and historical assets to unify and connect neighborhoods
- Increase visitation to parks, cultural and historical assets, trails and recreation facilities, while providing a safe environment
- Provide a positive economic impact for neighborhoods, the department and the City

Imbed “Green” Practices Throughout the Department.

- Foster green and sustainable practices in employees’ and users’ daily lives
- Provide comprehensive recycling at all facilities and parks
- Implement a resource conservation plan for the Department’s facilities, vehicles and equipment
- Develop an integrated pest management program
- Integrate green building practices in all construction and renovation projects where practical
- Purchase and use green maintenance products and practices