

Chapter 12

Physical Resource Management

CAPRA Accreditation Standards

0.6 Resource Management Plan

Standard: A resource management plan should address all resource based parks.

Commentary: The resource management plan should be an integral part of land use planning. It should include natural, historical, and cultural resources. It also must provide for sound environmental practices.

Suggested Evidence of Compliance: Provide a copy of the natural resource management plan with date of adoption.

* 7.8 Natural Resource Management

Standard: There shall be written environmental sound standards and procedures for development and maintenance of the agency's natural resources, with particular attention to protection and preservation of especially-sensitive land and water areas.

Commentary: Such special areas would include environmentally unique areas, wetlands, riverbanks, and woodlands valuable for erosion control, nature study, wildlife habitat, water supply reservoirs and water recharge areas. Critical elements include species selection for trees and shrubs, integrated pest management, knowledge of plant succession communities, and woodland ecology.

Environmentally sound practices should be integral to all operations, including recycling, hazardous wastes control, etc.. Even if the agency does not own/control the natural resource, there should be sensitivity to the environment and work with other agencies to meet environmentally sound standards.

Suggested Evidence of Compliance: Provide copy of standards and procedures.

7.9 Environmental Sustainability

Standard: The agency should have a written environmental sustainability policy that addresses energy conservation, environmentally preferable purchasing, water conservation/quality protection and sustainable design/construction of buildings and facilities.

Commentary: Parks and open spaces are essential green infrastructure providing carbon reducing landscapes that help clean our air and water, recharge aquifers and reduce storm water runoff. As stewards of these public spaces, parks and recreation agencies should set the example for environmental stewardship by employing best practices in environmental sustainability related to energy use, water management and consumption, product selection and facility design.

Suggested Evidence of Compliance: Provide the agency's environmental sustainability policy and examples that demonstrate its implementation.