

**HOFFMAN ESTATES PARK DISTRICT
POLICY MANUAL
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ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

Consistent with our organizational mission and values, the park district is committed to providing a leadership role in the development and use of sound environmental policies, practices and educational opportunities. By prescribing to the following philosophy and principles, the park district is striving to establish a high standard of leadership and competency in maintaining and improving the quality of our environment.

Philosophy

As community leaders we have the responsibility to create an awareness of the critical roles our parks play in protecting our environment, as well as their value as living laboratories for educating the citizens of our community, particularly our children.

Parks build a sense of community unification and social interaction; as such, adequate park lands need be accessible as amenities and common space for all community members, regardless of ethnicity, age, physical ability, or economic and social status.

Public policy must focus on promoting parks and outdoor recreation as lands that make communities more livable and desirable and serve as a driver of effective economic development strategies as they tend to attract businesses, tourists and the creative work force.

As an engaged agency we will advocate for adequate funding and support to protect our natural resources and establish innovative strategies for developing a new generation of environmental stewards.

We have a responsibility to develop sustainable practices in land and facility design, maintenance and management that serve as models for our community and residents.

We need to promote the reclamation, acquisition, protection and management of open space areas, including wetlands, creek corridors, natural habitat areas, ponds, greenways and trails.

We will strive to practice environmentally sound maintenance practices, minimizing energy use, recycling waste whenever possible and following integrated pest management guidelines that allow us to control pests and infestations with a minimum of disruption to the environment.

We will champion the cause to preserve, enhance and interpret the scenic and aesthetic resources that are a part of our Hoffman Estates environment.

Principles

The Hoffman Estates Park District will, to the greatest extent practical:

Purchase and Use of Environmentally Safe and Sensitive Products

Purchase products for use in facility and parks operation which minimize negative environmental impact and take into consideration the effects of product production, transportation, use, storage, disposal and cost.

Wise Use and Protection of Air, Water, Soil and Wildlife

Actively seek and implement ways to conserve and protect water and soil, enhance air quality, limit the production and release of damaging pollutants, while protecting park users, plant and animal life.

Wise Use of Energy Resources

Actively seek and implement ways to conserve energy resources and investigate methods of applying alternative energy technologies into everyday situations.

Reduction and Handling of Waste

Reduce waste production, reuse and recycle materials from facility and park operations, and handle hazardous and all other wastes according to lawful and safe disposal procedures.

Open Space Planning and Preservation

Protect, restore / reclaim marginal park land to indigenous natural communities such as grasslands, woodlands and wetlands, and promote the reclamation, acquisition, preservation and management of other open space areas, including natural corridors, waterways, greenways and trails.

Determine and monitor the carrying capacity of our parks so that decision makers and the general public are knowledgeable of when there is a need for expansion or modification to existing park resources.

Environmental Education and Interpretation

Foster a community sense of stewardship of the environment and aesthetic appreciation of resources. Provide education and interpretation opportunities for staff, program participants and the general public which increases appreciation for the natural world and promote environmentally conscious lifestyles, emphasizing selective consumption and low-impact resource use.