



South Suburban Parks and Recreation is committed to continuously improving our stewardship of the resources entrusted to us by our Community.

The following are the sustainable measures we implement to save tax dollars, improve the health of our residents, improve the natural environment, protect natural resources and save energy.

Energy Conservation

Energy conservation strategies save money and reduce the District's carbon footprint. Some energy conservation measures we have taken to date include:

- Replacement of outdated metal halide lighting fixtures with new energy efficient T5 and T8 florescent lighting at the recreation centers, ice arenas and office facilities.
- Making efforts to turn off lights, computers and electronic equipment when rooms are not in use.
- Installation of programmable thermostats at some facilities.
- Installation of software to manager energy use for computers.
- Installation of occupancy sensors in restrooms, offices, and kitchens to turn off lights when the area is not in use.
- Use of photovoltaic arrays to power irrigation pumps.
- Minimized energy loss in some buildings by replacing aging infrastructure. Examples include: replacing skylights and windows with low-e windows to reduce solar heat gain; insulation with higher R-value to reduce heating needs in the winter months; and replacing aging HVAC equipment with Energy Star rated furnaces, hot-water heaters and air conditioning units.
- Use of renewable energy concepts such as passive solar heat gain utilizing south facing windows and solar mass to heat a building.
- Regular maintenance of filters, belts and coils on HVAC equipment helps keep equipment operating at peak efficiency.

Air Quality

Air quality measures improve the environment and reduce the brown cloud. Some air quality measures we have implemented are:

- Installation of magnetic locks on park restroom facility doors reduces staff trips to lock and unlock doors.

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- Installation of software to remotely control District computers which reduces trips to facility locations.
- Implementation and the use of GIS technology to develop routing plans and combining trips to reduce routine maintenance vehicle miles traveled.
- Annual tree and shrub plantings in the parks and along the trails help cleanse the air by intercepting airborne particles, reducing heat, and absorbing such pollutants as carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, and nitrogen dioxide. Trees remove this air pollution by lowering air temperature, through respiration, and by retaining particulates.

Water Quality and Conservation

Conserving water in our parks, along our trails and in our facilities is important to South Suburban Parks and Recreation. Water conserving measures implemented to date include:

- Use of computer automated irrigation controllers that automatically shut-down the irrigation system if there is break in the line.
- Use a variety of water conserving irrigation systems including: subsurface drip, bubbler and micro-spray technologies to efficiently deliver adequate irrigation to trees, shrubs and flowers.
- Installation of low flow toilets and motion activated faucets in restrooms.
- Use of Xeriscape design principles in tree, shrub and perennial beds and the use of native or site-adapted plant selections.
- Use of mulch and compost in our landscape beds to reduce water loss through evaporation.
- Conversion of low use irrigated bluegrass turf areas to non-irrigated natural grass areas in our parks and along trails to reduce water use.
- Non-potable well water is used at many golf courses and park sites to reduce the need for purchasing treated water in times of drought.

Waste Diversion

Together we can divert waste going to landfills or our water system by the recycling of materials:

- Sponsorship of an annual Christmas tree drop-off in January where trees are chipped and used for mulch in parks, diverting the trees from landfills.
- Sponsorship of the 'Poo Free Parks' program, which provides bio-degradable bags in parks and trails to clean up dog waste in parks. Picking up pet waste, improves water quality by reducing pet waste reaching the creeks and streams.
- Implementation of district wide recycling in our parks and facilities.

- Diversion of plant waste from landfills by composting within the horticulture and forestry departments as well as reusing or recycling planting containers.

Use of Recycled Materials

The re-use of recycled materials helps reduce the waste that is going into landfills.

- We have an example of a successful reuse of a former landfill for sports fields at David A. Lorenz Regional Park. The design includes recycled materials in the asphalt parking lot, infield sports mix at ball fields, and reusing concrete from Stapleton Airport for parking blocks and retaining walls.
- Use of materials in playground structures that have recycled content in the steel and plastic.
- Use of recycled content in fences and benches.
- Use of recycled tires for infill at our synthetic fields.

Human and Environmental Health

We are working to improve our health and environment by improving habitat for both residents and our resident wildlife.

- Use of integrated Pest Management practices to best identify and treat pest and diseases. The horticulture and forestry department has reduced fungicides use at the War Memorial Rose Garden.
- Implementation of corn gluten as pre-emergent herbicide in tree wells at outdoor pools to minimize the exposure to users by chemicals.
- We were awarded grants for tree plantings along the South Platte River to improve the habitat, environmental quality and aesthetics of this heavily travelled corridor.
- Wetlands projects on the creeks, streams and lakes have been installed to clean water before it is put back into the drainage system.
- Perches, snags and deadfall are left in open space areas to provide habitat for wildlife.
- Our recreation facilities, parks and trails foster healthy living by promoting both indoor and outdoor activities to reduce nature deficient disorder and obesity among children and adults.