Green and Sustainable Park Award

Purpose:

The Green and Sustainable Park Award recognizes one public park that demonstrates the integration of green and sustainable park practices into the development, maintenance, and operations of the space.

Application Requirements:

The agency must submit a narrative description of the nominated park site describing the actions and best practices taken to develop, maintain and /or enhance the green & sustainable park. Projects must be complete. Projects still in the planning or development phase are not eligible.

Award Selection:

Applications will be evaluated by the Green and Sustainable Park Awards Subcommittee. The Award will be presented at the Annual PRPS Conference and scored based on the criteria provided.

Criteria:

1. Site Related Principles			
Protects critical habitat for species of special concern.			
The site is a brownfield or previously developed site.			
Resuses or recycles salvaged materials, rocks, soil and plants onsite			
Fosters stewardship for Pennsylvania's recreation areas and natural, cultural and historic resources.			
Uses recycled content materials			
Uses regional materials to reduce energy used for transportation, strengthen regional economy and identity			

2. Natural Landscaping Priniciples			
Removal and/or management of invasive species.			
Protects environmentally sensitive lands for health, habitat and biodiversity through acquisition, conservation easement, plann and zoning or other conservation measures			
Enhanced tree cover.			
Composts vegetation trimmings and organic matter onsite to generate mulch for site plantings			
Creation, and/or preservation of native wildflowers, trees and warm season grass meadows.			

3. Connect People to Nature			
Enhances recreational amenities to fit the needs and expectations of underserved people			
Provides a connection between health and outdoor recreation			
The site is connected by walkways, bikeways or greenways to key places in the community.			
The site includes interpretive signage to build awareness and educate site users on various sustainable management			
Site programming promotes environmental stewardship awareness and a connection to the outdoors.			
Provides opportunities for passive recreation and interaction with nature (interpretive trails, viewing areas, sensory gardens,			
Community and volunteers were involved in site design and preparation.			
Enriches the understanding of the natural, cultural, and historic aspects of the outdoors through technology.			
Provides optimum site accessibility (meeting all Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) guidelines), safety, and way-finding.			

4. Manage Stormwater Naturally			
Contains natural stormwater management features (rain gardens, bioswales, rain barrels, etc.).			
Creates or enhances riparian buffers.			
Promotes groundwater infiltration and eliminate runoff through the use of permeable surfacing on parking lots, courts, trails, walkways, etc.			
Protects, enhances or repairs wetlands, floodplain functions, seasonal pools, riparian areas/wetland buffers and/or streams.			
Restores soil disturbed during construction to support healthy plant growth and water infiltration			

5. Conserve Energy/Integrate Green Design. Maintenance and Construction Practices			
Develops appropriate plan(s) for preservation of natural resources (site design, maintenance, operations, forest stewardship)			
Strives to protect night skies.			
Green design and construction practices will be integrated through the use of "LEED" guidelines.			
Impacts to the existing landscape will be minimized to the extent possible given the project objectives. For example, site topography (steep slopes, hillsides, forests, and rock outcroppings), trees, soils, etc. will be protected.			
Measures taken to reduce the amount of energy used on the site.			