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.

The use of AI (Artificial Intelligence) in creating award submissions is not prohibited, but it is strongly discouraged. AI-generated content often appears artificial and resembles other AI-generated material, which can harm your submission.

Award Selection:

Green Park Award applications are evaluated against the criteria below, and a winner is selected by the Green Parks Committee. Award nominations are evaluated on:

- Site location and site design
- Water conservation
- Natural landscaping in use of native species
- Materials selection and construction
- Connecting people to nature
- Operations and maintenance
- Environmental stewardship messaging
- Building Climate Resiliency
- Reducing our Carbon Footprint

The award is presented during the Annual PRPS Conference. The Award will be presented at the Annual PRPS Conference and scored based on the criteria provided. This project helps support the **2025-2029 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan** (SCORP), view here.

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.

Submit nominations online: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Z92BPFG

*Submit nominations by **January 5, 2027**. Note that the Committee reserves the right to move any entry to a more appropriate category based on the information provided.*