



ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

Statement of Philosophy

The community and the Oak Lawn Park District are increasingly aware of the environmental issues, which affect the quality of life within the District. It is the intent of the Oak Lawn Park District to set an example in the development and use of sound environmental policies, practices and educational opportunities.

By incorporating the following environmental principles and practices and by prescribing to our Statement of Philosophy, the Oak Lawn Park District shall set a high standard of leadership and competency in maintaining and improving the quality of the environment.

Environmental Principles

The Oak Lawn Park District will to the greatest extent practicable:

- A. Promote the acquisition, protection and environmentally sensitive management of open space and natural habitat areas.
- B. Protect, enhance and interpret the historic natural resource heritage exemplified by Oak Lawn's prairie remnant and wetland- wildlife refuge.
- C. Design, develop and maintain parks, facilities and natural areas in a manner that enhances and protects the environment through conservation of soil, water and energy; by minimizing the adverse impact on air and water quality; by reducing waste; and by utilizing utilities in the most efficient manner possible.
- D. Facilitate recycling practices that utilize renewable resources and minimize the use of nonrenewable ones.
- E. Practice integrated pest management, which reduces or eliminates the District's dependence on pesticides.
- F. Abide by the federal and state Endangered Species Protection Acts in order to avoid adverse impacts on endangered or threatened species during park operations.
- G. Function as a role model within the community by actively promoting public awareness and educational programs, which encourage environmentally sensitive lifestyles for staff and residents.

Environmental Practices

- A. The District shall develop relationships and agreements with public and private organizations and individuals in order to have open space and natural habitats preserved and/or managed.
1. Habitat preservation and restoration at Chicago Ridge Prairie and Wolfe Wildlife Refuge with the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission and the Volunteer Stewardship Program.
- B. The District will adequately plan and construct, using the latest available information, new and renovated open space areas and facilities. These projects will not negatively impact the environment and will conserve soil, water and energy resources and protect indoor and outdoor air quality.
- C. The District has determined that it is in the best interest of the health, safety and welfare of persons using District buildings and vehicles that smoking be prohibited.
1. Buildings. Smoking is prohibited on all building properties owned or controlled by the Oak Lawn Park District, including parking lots.
 2. Vehicles. Smoking is prohibited in all motor vehicles owned, leased or otherwise used by the Oak Lawn Park District.
 3. Signs. "No Smoking" signage shall be appropriately posted in all public areas of the District.
- D. The District recognizes the importance of both safe and attractive parks and open space and has established a balanced Integrated Pest Management Program. This program utilizes cultural methods that include:
1. Select appropriate plant species and their proper location.
 2. Use of preventative maintenance procedures.
 3. Practice monitoring to detect problems early.
 4. Utilize, where possible, natural control methods.
 5. Test for better application methods.
 6. Minimize overall pesticide use.

Where and when pesticide use is necessary, the standardized and uniform procedures for the application and safe handling of pesticides will be adhered to.

- a. **Administration.** The District will comply with the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act and the Illinois Department of Agriculture regulations governing the use of pesticides. Compliance includes state licensing of all employees involved with the implementation of this program.
 - b. **Education.** Pesticide Licensed Staff will participate in training sessions and periodic recertification sponsored by affiliated professional organizations designed to improve the supervision, safe handling and application of pesticides.
 - c. **Characteristics.** Pesticides used by the District in the form of herbicides, insecticides or fungicides will be of the "General Use" classification. "Restricted Use" pesticides are prohibited.
 - d. **Notification.** Pesticide application notices will be posted 24 hours prior to the treatment and will remain up until 24 hours after completion of treatment. Posting will otherwise comply with Illinois EPA requirements for the application of pesticides.
 - e. **Application.** General use pesticides used by the District and registered with the Federal EPA will always be used according to specific label directions and procedures to ensure safe and effective application, storage and disposal.
 - f. **Calibration of equipment** and application rates will be according to manufacturer's recommendations so that minimal amounts of pesticides are applied.
- E. The District is committed to reducing solid waste by utilizing renewable or reusable resources as well as minimizing its dependence on nonrenewable ones.

Achievement of the following objectives will be targeted:

- 1. Maximize aluminum collection at all indoor facilities and expand collection to all developed parks.
- 2. Increase paper collection by recycling newspapers, all office paper types and cardboard at indoor facilities.
- 3. Continue recycling of trees as wood chips and firewood.
- 4. Compost all leaves, grass and other landscape materials.
- 5. Recycle used oil.

6. **Incorporate glass recycling at all indoor facilities and developed parks.**
 7. **Incorporate plastic recycling at all indoor facilities and developed parks.**
 8. **Use recycled paper to the greatest feasible extent.**
 9. **Use recycled products, such as Durawood, biodegradable bags, recycled paper, etc., in all feasible situations.**
 10. **Continue the use of paper products in place of Styrofoam or plastic and phase out environmentally damaging products.**
 11. **Recycle batteries, antifreeze and Freon whenever feasible.**
- F. Comply with all other applicable federal, state and local regulations and guidelines.**
- G. The District has assumed and will continue an environmental leadership role for public and private agencies by participation in the Model Community Program.**
- I. The District will encourage other park districts and affiliated agencies to adopt similar policies and become responsible environmental stewards.**

**Approved by the Board of Commissioners
March 10, 2008**