Creating Sustainable Community Parks

A Guide to Improving Quality of Life by Protecting Natural Resources

Prepared by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation & Natural Resources
Traditional Parks
Sustainable Community Parks

Example - Groff’s Mill Park

www.awra.org
Potential Benefits of SCPs

- Reduce crime
- Build community
- Improve health
SCP Benefits Continued…

- Attract workers and tourists
- Protect the environment
- Save money
Compiling Inventories and Plans

www.naturalheritage.state.pa.us
Connect Landscapes

Jackson Township

Legend
- core habitat
- supporting landscape

forested blocks
- 1-125 acres
- 125-250 acres
- 250-1,000 acres
Minimize Impact of Facilities

- Location and Size
- Sources of Energy
- Materials
Sustainable Park Buildings

www.wikimedia.com

www.sru.edu
Ricketts Glen State Park
Olewine Nature Center

www.hmdb.org
Sustainable Sites™

- Hydrology
- Soils
- Vegetation
- Materials
- Human Well-Being

www.sustainablesites.org
Highlights of the program:

- Carbon management inventory tool
- Suggested BMPs
- Education and outreach products

www.nps.gov/climatefriendlyparks
Natural Storm Water Management

- Minimize paved surfaces
- Capture and reuse water
- Clean it naturally
Sustainable Surfaces

- Paving blocks
- Porous concrete
- Porous asphalt
Sustainable Parking Lots and Roads
Sustainable Playgrounds

Safeplay Systems
Landscape Structures
Rain Gardens

www.watershedactivities.com
Green Roof
Plants for Natural Stormwater Management

Paul Wray, Iowa State U, www.bugwood.org

Terry Spivey, USDA, www.bugwood.org

Aura Stauffer - DCNR

K. Owen Prusack, Chester County Parks
Emmaus Community Park
Things to Consider...

- Staffing

- Public perceptions
Example – Groff’s Mill Park
Public Acceptance

Warwick County Park – Chester County, PA
Schenley Park
SCP Conferences

• **Conference #1**
  – For Lehigh Valley and surrounding area
  – October 29, 2008
  – DeSales University

• **Conference #2**
  – For south-central PA
  – Spring 2009
  – Location TBD
Any Questions?

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