



OPRD Sustainability Plan Update 2017 - 2020

Date: September, 2020

Introduction:

The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) is organized to provide outstanding experiences in Oregon’s most beautiful and historic places. At its core the agency provides sustainable recreation experiences to current and future visitors to the park system. This commitment to sustainability has been repeatedly re-affirmed by the Oregon State Park Commission through the Natural Resource and Environmental Management Policy (COM 20-0) and the Centennial Horizons Strategic Vision Plan, which laid out several areas of department focus through the year 2022. This strategic vision sets out key objectives including:

Principle 1 – Saving Oregon’s Special Places

Principle 2 – Connecting People to Meaningful Outdoor Experiences

Principle 3 – Taking the Long View

Combined these provide powerful guidance to agency staff and stakeholders. This guidance has helped the agency achieve many of the items in the 2014 sustainability plan, as well as explore new ways to incorporate sustainability into the everyday activities of the agency.

Update (August 2020)

While OPRD was making significant progress in sustainability, the recent COVID crisis has reduced our sustainability in many ways. Reductions of park staff, threat of cross contamination, and lack of financial resources are but a few obstacles parks face in COVID times. OPRD has made a commitment to adapt wherever possible and to investigate ways to overcome some of the challenges, but many will be beyond reach until normalcy returns.

Strategy Area: Resource and Material Use

Action	Descriptions	Econ	Environ	Comm
Achieve 3% reduction in fleet fuel/mileage	One of the largest costs and environmental impacts of agency operations is the use of fuel and driving miles on fleet vehicles. OPRD has been actively reducing the size, number of vehicles and miles driven since July of 2013. The goal is to achieve a reduction of 3% in fuel usage and miles driven compared to the 11-13 biennium.	X	X	
Update: OPRD is monitoring the change caused by reduced staff and single passenger COVID restrictions. Preliminary data shows reduction still exceeds 3% but additional data is needed. OPRD has turned in several passenger vehicles as a result of staffing reductions.				
Green Chemistry Implementation	OPRD has for many years been using green chemicals in janitorial operations. The agency will develop the next level of material use and purchasing guidelines to direct agency purchases to meet the directives of the Green Chemistry Executive Order 12-05.	X	X	X
Update: OPRD continues meet this goal even during COVID as they meet guidelines.				

Long Term Goals

Create Internal Innovation Fund	A constant barrier to park projects to improve sustainability is a lack of funding or technical expertise. The agency will re-establish the internal innovation fund to help share the costs of efficiency projects.	X	X	
Update: OPRD funding shortfall has significantly reduced the available funds. Small projects will be considered on a one by one basis. Partial restoration of the funds on 11/20/20.				
Mowed Turf Reduction Project	Mowed turf is an expectation of many parks, but requires a significant investment of personnel time, equipment usage, and water usage. This project will develop a statewide strategy to reduce the agencies mowed areas. It will focus on maintaining levels of service without significant impacts to park aesthetics though landscape plans that replace mowed turf with native plants/shrubs or alternative landscaping.		X	
Update: On the positive side, reductions of staffing has resulted in major service reductions that include mowing and watering. Staff are concentrating mainly on fire breaks and weed management areas and less on landscaping.				
Develop model for utility use by site type	OPRD currently provides utilities to visitors based on customer expectation. The agency has only rough calculations on the energy use by site type (RV, Tent, Cabin/Yurt, and support infrastructure). OPRD will develop better metrics to help plan for future energy costs, and make better development decisions to reduce costs.	X	X	
Develop building and park improvement standards that are more sustainable.	OPRD will develop minimum development standards for the construction and rehabilitation of common style buildings such as restrooms or showers. These standards will target ways to reduce energy consumption and the use of sustainable building materials.	X	X	
Reduce deferred maintenance through enhanced preventive maintenance planning	OPRD will develop a long-term strategy for incorporating the latest condition assessment data into our computerized maintenance management system as to identify highest return on our investment and further extend the life of assets.	X	X	
Update: Major funding and staff reductions have significantly reduced OPRD's ability to perform or fund preventive maintenance however, the agency has made it a priority to address projects that extend the life of an asset or stops further deterioration. Update 11/20 – partial funds restored.				

Balancing Agency Needs with the Natural Environment

Action	Descriptions	Econ	Environ	Comm
Develop Sustainability Chapter for all new Park Master Plans	As part of the OPRD commitment to incorporating sustainability to park operations, OPRD will develop a sustainability section for each park master plan. This section will outline site specific actions for park operations. These site specific actions can also help connect the general public to OPRD sustainable actions through the planning process.		X	X
Develop a checklist to guide park staff in measures to reduce their electrical usage.	Electricity use is one of the largest environmental impacts of agency operations. However, most energy usage is from visitors not staff actions. This action will create a minimum standards checklist of efficiencies that parks staff will need to incorporate into their facilities and in turn reduce their overall electrical use.	X	X	
Update: COVID has reduced our electrical usage due to closed facilities. Those locations that are open may experience increased usage due to extra ventilation but will be offset by closures.				
Develop Sustainability evaluation for building condition inspections	OPRD routinely conducts building condition assessments to evaluate maintenance needs. These assessments will be expanded to identify improvement areas like: weatherization and insulation, lighting efficiencies, and water-saving technologies		X	
Update: Included in the Critical Systems Inspections (CSI). – On hold due to COVID travel restrictions				

Long Term Goals

Develop off-the-grid park facilities	OPRD is looking for park facilities that could be developed or retrofitted to meet customer service needs but require no grid energy connection.			X	
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Development of Learning Systems

Action	Descriptions	Econ	Environ	Comm
Implement sustainability into Employee Orientation and IMPACT Training	OPRD is currently revising and updating employee orientation training. OPRD's commitment to sustainability can be added to this training.		X	X
Update: IMPACT Training includes statewide Green Chemical training – No change (IMPACT on hold)				
Develop GIS Layer for Pesticide and Herbicide Application	Currently our field applications of Pesticide and Herbicides are tracked on paper. Information is dispersed at a park level. Better decision making and adherence to agency IPM practices can be developed through creating a GIS Layer for		X	X

	applicators.			
Update: Pilot Project has been started. Statewide application will take place after pilot – No change				
Statewide Let's GO program	OPRD has been looking to connect parks and recreation to historically underserved populations. The Let's GO program is currently a regional pilot program designed to attract new park users to recreational activities and parks.		X	
Update: Let's GO program placed on hold due to COVID. Universal Access program in high gear.				
Internal and External Sustainability Recognition	OPRD has several programs for recognition of internal efforts. Sustainability can be included as an award or recognition category. Recognition can also be extended to external grant and partnership opportunities.		X	X