



Best Practices

The Florida Recreation and Park Association adopted a comprehensive Strategic Plan in 2015. That Plan is based on four foundational pillars – Health, Community Building, Environmental Sustainability and Resiliency, and Economic Impact/Development.

The Association is in search of Best Practices in each of these four areas, which can serve as a resource for parks and recreation professionals. We realize that “Best Practice” can be broadly applied and the meaning varies depending on the environment and industry one works within.

For the purposes of the FRPA Strategic Plan, the Association’s Board of Directors has adopted and will apply the following definition:

FRPA Strategic Best Practices – Methods, professional guidance, benchmarks and technical expertise centered around a FRPA strategic pillar (Health, Environment, Community Building, Economic Impact) that are evidence-based or proven through experience to support positive results and may be replicated or utilized by other parks and recreation agencies toward achieving a similar desired outcome.

“Evidence-based or proven through experience” indicates that the best practice has had some research, or long term monitoring conducted to show that the practice is having a positive outcome when applied. For example: When applying the best practice of mowing and over-seeding in this manner, for a period of one year, we have been able to extend the life of our turf by 6 months thus reducing expenses \$X; OR When integrating physical activity and nutrition education in our after school programming, we partnered with the University of XYZ to measure increased health of participants, and have shown a 24% reduction in BMI of participants.

We realize that there may be a plethora of “success stories” that are not evidence based, but have produced positive results for an agency, and may also have value as a shared resource.

Submissions will be evaluated by the Best Practice Workgroup to determine if the submission meets the criteria of “Best Practice” as we have defined, or if it should be catalogued as a “success story”.



Best Practice Submission

Agency: Cape Coral Parks and Recreation Department

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Area of Best Practice: ECONOMIC IMPACT PILLAR: Partnering with Sports Commissions and other local businesses and organizations for events and activities on park property

Summary of Best Practice: We have just rolled out our new Fun-Mobile. We have repurposed one of our fleet vehicles to serve as a community interactive recreation vehicle. It has been paint wrapped and outfitted with work space counters, storage cabinetry, a computer workstation, solar panels, a PA system, tv display, special lighting, an overhang canopy, power outlet, and Wi-Fi hotspot. The purpose of this vehicle is to show up and/or create activities at various park facilities in our City to promote programs within our department and allow for registrations on-site. The self-sustaining Fun-Mobile will have the ability to host events complete with music, lighting, and video while also taking registrations and payments for Parks and Rec programs.

Frequency Best Practice is Applied: 2-3 times per week as the schedule allows

Who Performs the Best Practice Function within your Agency: full-time and contract in-house recreation staff

Positive Outcome of the Best Practice: It has only been to a couple events so far but we have received positive feedback from citizens.

Awards/Recognitions/Designations Received as a Result of the Best Practice: The Fun-Mobile had an insert feature in our City's *On The Move* quarterly newsletter.

Grants or Funding Received (if any): The car wrap was donated by one of our local printing shop partners and some of the other features were funded by one of our local Sheriff's community partnerships.

What other Best Practices would you suggest we collect? **Health, Community Building** (field of practices directed toward the creation or enhancement of **community** among individuals within a regional area (such as a neighborhood) or with a common interest).?

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