



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: City of Hialeah Department of Parks and Recreation

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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: (include description of the practice, reason for adopting/implementing best practice, measurement of effectiveness of the practice, what is your evidence that the practice is working, etc.)

The City of Hialeah Department of Parks and Recreation is solely responsible for the programming of our park facilities. These programs/activities are mainly carried out by in house staff with the exception of a few specialized programs/activities. Some of these programs/activities include:

- Flag Football
- Baseball
- Soccer
- Basketball
- Tennis
- Swimming
- Cultural Arts
- Community Service
- Zumba Classes
- Softball
- Cheerleading
- Volleyball
- Water Polo
- Synchronized Swimming
- Swim lessons
- Triathlete Training program

Our goal through these programs/activities is to help our children to achieve a healthy weight and make permanent lifelong changes that will lead to a healthier and productive lifestyle. The combination of fitness, education, nutrition, cultural and self-improvement/image courses, has proven to be very successful for our organization.

Along the way, we have and will continue to partner with organizations such as the Miami Marlins, Florida Panthers, Miami Dolphins, Miami Heat, University of Miami, Florida International University, Miami Dade College, Florida National University, Nova Southeastern University, ASA College, Le Cordon Bleu, NFL, MLB, NBA and local private and public schools. Our partnerships with Florida National University and ASA College are also very unique. Because of these partnerships, both our organization and theirs have been able to grow. We are the providers of the much needed facilities for these higher educational institutions. In return, they have pledged substantial financial support of programs and facilities.

In addition to these partners, we have established partnerships with Sedanos, Winn Dixie, Publix, and Presidente Supermarkets, Florida Health Department in Miami-Dade County, Coca-Cola, Florida Blue, Papa Johns, Navarro/CVS Pharmacies, Molina Healthcare, Leon Health Centers, Florida City Gas, Robeks, and Bettoli vending to name a few. All these partnerships have greatly enhanced our ability to improve our service to the community which we serve.

Frequency Best Practice is Applied: (daily, weekly, monthly, quarterly, bi-annually, annually)

- Daily

Who Performs the Best Practice Function within your Agency: (contracted, in-house parks staff, in-house recreation staff, citizens, etc.)

- It's a joint effort between our contracted vendors, in-house parks staff and in-house recreation staff.

Positive Outcome of the Best Practice (please summarize the evidence based benefit that has been derived by the agency from the best practice):

- We believe that our continued commitment with our current partners and the pursuit of additional support from new potential partnerships, will allow us to continue improving and expanding our services to the citizens of Hialeah. We also want inspire other communities to follow our lead and make these efforts possible in their communities. A great example of this has been our movement with the Health Department to help make Florida Tobacco-free. This year we celebrated our "10th Annual Tobacco Prevention Summit". These summits have led to our neighboring cities joining us and even have open discussions to bring the movement into their cities.

Awards/Recognitions/Designations Received as a Result of the Best Practice (please share any awards or designations received, or publications that have featured this best practice):

- This year we received an award from the Consortium for a Healthier Miami-Dade for our leadership and commitment for a Healthier Miami-Dade.

Grants or Funding Received (if any):

- We have received sponsorship in-kind donations and/or grants from many of the organizations mentioned above.

What other Best Practices would you suggest we collect?

- N/A

Submit this Form electronically to charla@frpa.org

Type directly onto this document, and submit as a Word Document. Please DO NOT pdf the form.