

**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 Winter Springs \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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**Area of Best Practice:** ENVIRONMENTAL PILLAR: Managing Community Trees
ex: selection/design per area/inventory/selection/maintenance/public relations/etc.

**Summary of Best Practice:** Our community trees are part of our *infrastructure* and are a valuable asset. Trees perform many essential biological functions that benefit all of us and our environment in

substantial, measurable ways. Trees are living entities and have basic biological requirements for survival and growth. We actively manage and protect our trees to maintain their health, function, safety, beauty, and value.

We are a Tree City USA.

**Frequency Best Practice is Applied:** Annually, year round maintenance and Arbor Day program in place.

**Who Performs the Best Practice Function within your Agency:** Urban Beatification office has 2 FT employees and 2 PT employees to manage and service community trees. We do have a certified arborist on staff.

**Positive Outcome of the Best Practice** : lower maint costs, fewer tree replacements, better air quality, reduction in soil erosion, improved wildlife habitat, enhanced shade areas.

**Awards/Recognitions/Designations Received as a Result of the Best Practice** : Tree City USA

**Grants or Funding Received (if any): None**

**What other Best Practices would you suggest we collect?**

**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.