



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: ENVIRONMENTAL PILLAR: Managing Community Trees
ex: selection/design per area/inventory/selection/maintenance/public relations/etc.

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.)

- Our Municipal Urban Forestry approach whether it be within our parks or in the common passive areas throughout our city including streets and swell areas is to mature a belief within our citizens that a tree canopy is vital for the community infrastructure and for the wellness of our environment.
- The biggest challenge that we face is a limited budget to maintain our trees and replanting. The more we defer tree maintenance, the more likely we will face future tree structural issues including a diminished tree canopy. Many cities like us are facing these challenges but identifying this challenge will provide us with a goal to improve upon. The following are our goals to maintain and improve our tree canopy:
 - To improve community vitality and wellness through trees.
 - To sustain a green and vital infrastructure.
 - To improve our tree inventory and maintenance.
 - To educate our community the importance of tree canopy.
 - To improve community involvement.
 - Working with partners both local and nationally to help with the maintenance and replanting of trees.
 - Helping to make our community a greener place for all to enjoy.

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.)

- These services are provided by contracted and in-house park staff.

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

- The goal of our tree management practices is to maintain our current tree canopy and implement new trees to continue improving our environment for the benefit of our community and the health of our citizens.

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):

- N/A

Grants or Funding Received (if any):

- N/A

What other Best Practices would you suggest we collect?

- We would like to suggest customer service and retention of participants at parks and the programs that are offered through parks and recreation departments.

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.