

## DCNR's Top 10 Best "Green/Sustainable" Practices for Recreation and Conservation Sites

1. Minimize impacts or changes to the natural landscape; protecting steep slopes, hillsides, forests and tree cover, rock outcroppings, native vegetation, and soil structure
2. Promote groundwater infiltration; manage stormwater naturally by installing rain gardens, bioswales, naturalized basins, permeable surfacing, etc.
3. Protect and/or enhance riparian buffers to improve flood control and water quality, stabilize soils, control erosion, and provide wildlife corridors and habitat
4. Plant trees wherever possible
5. Manage invasive plants on the site; landscape with native plants to promote biodiversity
6. Use regional materials during construction and select products made from recycled-content when possible
7. Provide opportunities for passive recreation and interaction with nature (meadow trails, viewing areas, sensory gardens, spaces for relaxation where noise level is minimized, etc.)
8. Connect the site to key places in the community by safe and accessible walkways, bikeways or greenways
9. Include interpretive signage and/or programming to educate site visitors on various sustainable practices taking place within the park and build a sense of environmental stewardship to protect the site's natural resources
10. Reduce the amount of energy used on the site (use renewable sources of energy at gateways to sites and along pathways, use energy efficient fixtures and equipment, etc.)

By following the above practices you will be able to develop sustainable sites that are practical, conserve resources and have a positive impact on the environment.