

## **Sustainability Policy for Piedmont Park Conservancy**

The purpose of this policy is to work in conjunction with the Strategic Plan to provide direction on successfully incorporating sustainability actions and behaviors into all aspects of Piedmont Park Conservancy's operations. Sustainability is the lens that guides our mission as Park Stewards. It is a commitment to the social, economic and environmental factors that result in a Park that remains viable for future generations.

Piedmont Park Conservancy defines Sustainability as:

- The stewardship of natural and economic resources
- Promoting environmentally conscious practices in our operations, facilities and programs
- Reducing consumption and waste
- Engaging Park visitors and other stakeholders in the conservation and care of the Park with a focus on diversity, equity and inclusion.

To promote Sustainability as part of our mission as Park Stewards, Piedmont Park Conservancy will build a database documenting our baseline and enhancements, focusing on the following pillars:

### **1. Education and Engagement**

- a. Engage, empower and, encourage all employees by providing training opportunities to promote the Conservancy's sustainability goals
- b. Help employees understand the impact they can have through making environmentally conscious choices in their everyday work
- c. Communicate the impact of sustainability efforts through our education programs, brand materials, events, partnerships and donor interactions

### **2. Energy Efficiency and Conservation**

- a. Evaluate our carbon footprint and identify opportunities for reduction
- b. Adopt building standards that promote energy efficiency in existing buildings and serve as guidelines for capital improvement projects
- c. Assess our fuel use across operations
- d. Determine the costs of buildings, equipment, and operations over time and evaluate ways to be more fiscally sustainable

### **3. Waste Reduction**

- a. Model sustainable actions by prioritizing and providing education on "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle/Compost" in our offices as well as at programs, events and within the community
- b. Develop comprehensive waste management strategies for all activities and events in the Park, including coordinating with the City of Atlanta to provide criteria and expectations to event organizers of City-permitted events
- c. Develop guidelines for purchasing and procurement of sustainable products

### **4. Natural Resource Conservation**

- a. Prioritize native plants and control invasive species throughout the Park
- b. Implement strategies to protect biodiversity in the Park by conserving habitats for wildlife and maintaining natural areas
- c. Preserve and enhance the tree canopy in the Park

### **5. Water Conservation**

- a. Adopt strategies to conserve water by increasing water use efficiency where possible
- b. Implement strategies to improve water quality, including efforts to collect trash and minimize its impact on waterways
- c. Assess, preserve and enhance the waterways in the Park, including the wetlands, through habitat restoration, maintenance and storm water management