

Three Rivers Park District

(Excerpt 1994 – Policy Statement)

POLICY IX – RECREATION USE POLICIES

DISCUSSION:

The parklands of Three Rivers Park District have been set aside for the recreational and educational enjoyment of the citizens of suburban Hennepin County and the Metropolitan Area and for the preservation and protection of natural resources. It is the intent of the Park District to meet both county and regional outdoor recreation interests and needs within its system of parks.

Policy B establishes those general interest outdoor recreation activities which are considered basic system activities. They are outdoor recreation activities that attract a large number of people, are enhanced by the natural environment, and are consistent with general public regional park activities as identified in the Metropolitan Regional Park System Development Guide / Policy Plan. These are the system activities that are considered primary in the master planning process. Special uses may be planned or special interest recreation activities accommodated within parklands upon determination by the Board as to its appropriateness based on the evaluation criteria delineated in Policy C. Board approved special uses or special interest recreation activities may be located at only one park unit or geographically dispersed among regional parkland in a manner that reflects demand, the suitability of natural resources to support the activity, and consideration of operational efficiency and economy.

POLICIES

A. Park District's Role in the Provision of Recreation Activity

Three Rivers Park District shall provide areas and facilities that enable the public to participate in recreational activities that take place in or emphasize the natural setting and are suitably provided for within Park District resources. Emphasis will be placed on activities which have broad general appeal and are participant-oriented. The Park District will stress the provision of opportunities for recreation uses that occur on a self-directed basis. Such areas and facilities provided by Three Rivers Park District are those not traditionally offered by local recreation agencies and those which complement other outdoor recreation areas. Recreation uses must be of a wholesome character and not offensive to the general public.

B. General Interest Recreation Activities

The following activities shall be planned for throughout the system, consistent with parkland classification as follows:

- *Regional Park Reserve*

Activities for which major developments or facilities may be provided within the 20 percent active use area include: Picnicking, swimming, camping, boating, fishing, trail uses, nature interpretation, creative play, and low-organized field games. Regional park reserves are also intended

to provide areas for natural resources, open space, and wildlife observation and appreciation. Access to the 80 percent natural area is limited to those designated uses which have minimal impact on natural resources and wildlife.

- *Regional Park*
Activities for which major developments or facilities may be provided include: picnicking, swimming, camping, boating, fishing, trail uses, creative play, and low-organized field games. Regional parks may also provide areas for a diversity of other active outdoor recreation uses, as appropriate.
- *Regional Trail Corridor*
A variety of compatible trail uses may occur. Multiple use and multi-season use are primary objectives.
- *Regional Special Recreation Features*
The primary use is that for which the site is established or acquired. Those developments involving historic interpretation shall provide for a recreation experience through authentic presentation and interpretation of subject structures, objects and sites. Other activities may be permitted such as revenue generation, multi-season use and facility promotion.
- *System Planned Special Uses*
Activities other than those listed as system activities are permitted if consistent with management objectives and not prohibited under the Park District's ordinance, as determined by the process delineated in Policy C.

C. Special Interest Recreation Activities

The Park District will endeavor to provide for activities which have limited public participation, require special rules for using parkland, and are not planned for as a system activity. Appropriateness will be determined based on the Three Rivers Park District's parkland classification system, park ordinances, and through an analysis of the following criteria: demand and need, exclusiveness, facility availability, natural resources availability and limitations, need for exclusive permanent support structures, cost to the Park District, revenue potential, impact on other park users, risk and danger to participants and other park users, wholesomeness of the activity, emphasis of the natural setting, and appropriateness of Three Rivers Park District involvement.

Does not include all Recreation Use Policies.