

PROJECT ABSTRACT

(No more than 20 lines)

The Recycling Fitness Walk is a unique and innovative way to educate community park visitors by linking environmental health to physical health. Incorporating the park's focus on family-oriented and physical activities, recycling and waste reduction fitness is an added, innovative spin, geared to increasing the awareness of the need to focus on the health, or fitness, of our environment.

Signs will be posted throughout the walk area and at the 12 exercise stations informing visitors about what materials can be recycled, how to recycle them and what recycled materials were used to construct the walk. The messages will creatively link physical fitness to recycling fitness, encouraging both.

Recycled waste tire material is utilized throughout, on pathways and under exercise equipment, with educational explanation.

The Recycling Fitness Walk is a unique, innovative and highly visible method of illustrating the need for and how to recycle and reduce waste.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

(1 page)

The proposed “Recycling Fitness Walk” will be comprised of 12 recycling informational and exercise stations. The concept is to combine physical health and environmental health messages to promote fitness in both areas and will be geared toward both adults and children.

Each station will have signage showing visitors how to perform a physical exercise with parallel information about recycling. For example, a sign that explains chin-ups will also say something like, “Pull yourself up to new recycling heights by recycling newspaper, magazines and junk mail.” Side bends would encourage recycling with instruction to “Bend over your recycle bin to drop aluminum, tin and steel cans.” Instruction to walk a balance beam will also advise visitors to “Help sustain the delicate balance between man and nature. Recycle.” Signs will identify what recycled materials were used in construction of the walk exercise equipment.

The stations will be connected by a walkway surfaced with poured-in-place recycled tire material. This is a hard surface that will allow wheelchair access. Some of the stations (climbing equipment, balance beam) will have recycled tire crumb material as a base for improved fall/trip safety.

The walk area will be approximately 1,000 square feet. Equipment will be colorful, attractive and made from recycled material, as outlined in the budget section. Signs and equipment will be graffiti proof as much as possible as that is a concern of park maintenance staff. Project should be complete within a 12-month timeframe, from design to installation. Total cost is projected to be \$70,500.00.

Animal-shaped containers for collection of plastic and metal drink containers will be part of the project. There are currently no recycling collection containers in the park.

The proposed Recycling Fitness Walk project will be a positive, informative, attractive addition to Eagles Lakes Community Park that will provide education about and promote both recycling, waste reduction, family-oriented activities and physical fitness.

Criteria 1: TECHNOLOGIES

(1 page)

(35 points) 0-15 points for meeting one of the following sub-criteria, up to 10 more points for meeting two, and up to 10 more points for meeting all three. Note: applicant may adjust space used to address each sub-criteria.

Sub-criteria 1 – Not in common use in Florida

Although many county and city parks throughout Florida incorporate a variety of recycling containers into their waste management programs, no evidence was found during an internet search or during contact with Recycling Coordinators throughout the state that there are any other Recycling Fitness Walks that both educate visitors about the importance of recycling and also provide fitness facilities constructed primarily from recycled materials.

Many parks programs have recognized the importance of recycling and provide recycling containers for plastics and aluminum. In Collier County, however, the Parks and Recreation Department and the Solid Waste Management Department are taking the importance of recycling one step further by creating the Recycling Fitness Walk within an existing park.

Sub-criteria 2 – Novel application of an existing technology or process.

The recycled materials market focuses on materials designed to increase the use of durable benches, picnic tables and waste receptacles. Most public facilities now recognize that these recycled structures will last longer and are therefore more cost effective over the long term. In addition, public park programs have begun to procure solely recycled play structures for children's park areas for their durability and to eliminate the risk associated with chemically treated wood structures.

Collier County is taking the novel approach of using these recycled products as a means of providing education and awareness for visitors and users. The signs located at each station will explain the use of the station as well as how the user can take their newly learned knowledge home to their own environment and promote responsible recycling among their family and friends. Additionally, the stations will be arranged in a fitness trail pattern to promote physical activity and movement from station to station.

Sub-criteria 3 – Overcoming obstacles to recycling/waste reduction in new or innovative ways

Of the 251,377 persons (and growing) in Collier County, 20% of the population is Hispanic/Latino (2000 Census). Furthermore, over 55% of the population in the immediate vicinity of Eagle Lakes Community Park is Hispanic/Latino. In this area, and throughout the county, the cultural differences have made bringing recycling education and awareness to the population difficult. In many of the countries that our population originates from, waste collection and even more significantly, recycling, has not made it into the public consciousness or practice. Therefore, it is even more challenging to find ways of encouraging these practices in our community. The Recycling Fitness Walk will encourage the use of the recycled equipment and containers to enthruse the Hispanic/Latino visitor and to hopefully encourage them to take the importance of recycling home to their families and friends.

Criteria 2: TARGETS

(1 page)

(10 Points) Demonstrate innovative processes to collect and recycle or reduce these targeted materials/sectors: Construction and Demolition Materials, Commercial/Institutional Sectors, Waste Tires. Note: if the proposed project also includes materials/sectors other than those targeted by this criteria, the project will receive less than the maximum 10 points allocated for the criteria.

The Recycling Fitness Walk is a unique and innovative method to educate community park visitors on what items can be recycled and how to recycle them by linking the park's focus on family-oriented and physical activities. This link between physical fitness and waste reduction and recycling is the innovative spin, geared to increasing the awareness of the need to focus on the health, or fitness, of our environment. Signs will be posted throughout the walk area and at the 12 exercise stations informing visitors about what materials can be recycled, how to recycle them and what recycled materials were used to construct the walk.

Recycled waste tire rubber will be used extensively as poured-in-place, solid material on the pathways and loose crumb under climbing and other physical activity stations for increased trip/fall safety. These uses and an obstacle course made of tires planted in the walk area are innovative connections to physical and environmental fitness while promoting the three R's, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, by reusing waste tires and utilizing recycled waste tire material.

Criteria 3: BENEFITS

(1 page)

(35 points) Demonstrate the potential economic, environmental, and cost-effectiveness of the program's approach. Note: applicant may adjust space used to address each sub-criteria.

Sub-criteria 1 - Environmental Benefits (15 points)

- Methodology

Combining physical health and environmental health messages to promote fitness in both areas is an innovative methodology not being used anywhere else. No evidence was found during an internet search or during contact with Recycling Coordinators throughout the state that there are any other projects of this nature that both educate visitors about the importance of recycling and also provide fitness facilities constructed primarily from recycled materials.

- Toxicity

Utilizing recycled tire rubber mulch and recycled plastic lumber eliminates the possibility that CCA treated wood might be included in either construction of equipment or included in wood mulch and therefore contaminate play areas with toxic chemicals.

Sub-criteria 2 – Economic Benefits (10 Points)

Economic benefits of the Recycling Fitness Walk are to promote recycling by the use of recycled material in a highly visible and accessible venue. Also, by using recycled material in the construction of the walk, including recycled tire rubber surfaces and activity equipment, the market for sale of recycled material will be stimulated.

Landfill space will be saved by resulting increased waste reduction and recycling promoted by the fitness walk, which in turn helps keep disposal fees at current levels.

Promoting and teaching recycling and waste reduction which will in turn reduce waste and save natural resources has an overall environmental benefit that is hard to measure economically, but must be acknowledged as a future economical benefit.

Sub-criteria 3 – Cost Effectiveness (10 Points) Includes, but not limited to cost reduction, payback period, sustainability, and cost-effectiveness.

The walk is a sustainable, durable project that will continue to educate and promote recycling and waste reduction for many years. Payback of the investment will be the increased awareness for the need to recycle and reduce waste and how to do so which will save landfill space, help keep disposal costs low, save natural resources and promote environmental health, welfare and fitness.

Criteria 4: TRANSFERABILITY

(1 page)

(10 Points) Demonstrate transferability of technology and processes and specify how the project will promote transferability. Note: applicant may adjust space used to address each sub-criteria.

Sub-criteria 1 – Transferability of technology and processes (5 points)

The success of any project depends upon its ability to be transferable and duplicated in other areas. Not only can the Recycling Fitness Walk be duplicated in any other park in Collier County, the concept can easily be transferred to any jurisdiction that has a public park or community facility. The cost of equipment is relatively low and serves the dual purpose of providing an educational experience as well as opportunity for fitness. Equipment constructed of recycled materials is typically more durable than equipment made of wood and will serve any community over a longer period of time, thereby reducing the need to provide funds in the annual budget for replacement equipment and maintenance.

Sub-criteria 2 – How project will promote transferability (5 points)

Collier County will promote transferability of the Recycling Fitness Walk project via mentoring, publicity and public presentation. The combination of efforts will make it possible to reach the largest number of communities with the potential that they will duplicate and build upon the success of the project in Collier County.

Mentoring will take place at two levels. Firstly, Collier County Solid Waste staff currently participates in quarterly meetings of the Southwest Partners, which is a group of recycling professionals in Charlotte, Collier, Lee and Sarasota counties as well as many of the municipalities within. The focus of these meetings is to share experiences and successes with the other members and therefore lends itself perfectly to allowing Collier County to mentor these other communities concerning the Recycling Fitness Walk. It is anticipated that any one of these communities may request a site visit from Collier County staff to provide a presentation to the elected officials or administrators.

Secondly, Collier County will make every effort to spread the word about the project to communities outside the Southwest Partners group by sharing information via the Recycle Florida Today publication and list serve. Staff will offer to visit these communities and provide a PowerPoint or similar presentation concerning the project.

In addition to the mentoring campaign, articles and information will be provided to Recycle Florida Today and to other trade magazines. The recycling manager will also offer to provide a program during the annual Recycle Florida Today conference.

Criteria 5: LOCAL SUPPORT

(1 page)

(10 Points) Demonstrate local support for the proposed project in commitment of cash or in-kind matching funds.

- **00 points** **0% up to and including 1% of total project cost**
- **01 points** **Greater than 1% up to and including 10% of total project cost**
- **02 points** **Greater than 10% up to and including 20% of total project cost**
- **03 points** **Greater than 20% up to and including 30% of total project cost**
- **04 points** **Greater than 30% up to and including 40% of total project cost**
- **05 points** **Greater than 40% up to and including 50% of total project cost**
- **06 points** **Greater than 50% up to and including 60% of total project cost**
- **07 points** **Greater than 60% up to and including 70% of total project cost**
- **08 points** **Greater than 70% up to and including 80% of total project cost**
- **09 points** **Greater than 80% up to and including 90% of total project cost**
- **10 points** **Greater than 90% up to and including 100% of total project cost**

Total project cost is \$70,500 with \$7,500 of that covered by in-kind match. This is a 10% match.

Total grant request is \$63,000.

BUDGET

(1 page using Budget Table Template)

Describe the project's budget allocated by task and budget categories per the Budget Table Template available from DEP's Innovative Grants web site in Microsoft Excel digital format (www.dep.state.fl.us/waste/categories/recycling/pages/InnovativeGrants2004-05.htm).