**Cleveland Metroparks Sustainability Policy**

**Adopted August 17, 2017**

The Board of Park Commissioners of the Cleveland Metropolitan Park District serves as the policy-making authority for the Park District. Pursuant to Article 1, Section 1(a), the “Sustainability Policy” was offered for its first public reading on July 27, 2017.

Achieving sustainability is paramount to fulfilling the Park District’s mission of conservation, education and recreation. Cleveland Metroparks exists because of its ability to sustain quality recreational and educational opportunities for park patrons while conserving integral natural resources. To this end, Cleveland Metroparks updated its Strategic Plan in 2015, continuing its emphasis on sustainability.

Additionally, the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) Standard 7.8 states: AUGUST 17, 2017 84278 ACTION ITEMS (cont.)

The agency shall have an established policy on environmental sustainability that states the agency position on energy and resource conservation. The policy should address sustainable product purchasing; reduction and handling of waste; wise use and protection of land, air, water and wildlife; and sustainable design/construction of buildings and facilities.

Accordingly, the Employee Conservation Opportunities (ECO) Team has drafted a Sustainability Policy “to provide deliberate direction on specific focus areas and planned activities to continually and successfully integrate sustainability into Cleveland Metroparks’ fabric to further enhance the central vision that conservation has played in Cleveland Metroparks’ history and mission.” Focus areas include:

1. Ecological stewardship of land, water, flora and fauna

2. Water quality, conservation & stormwater management,

3. Energy efficiency and conservation,

4. Resource consumption & waste reduction,

5. Education & awareness,

6. Community resurgence, and

7. Trails and Open Spaces

The Sustainability Policy also calls for the development of a Best Practices Guide and Action Plan to achieve the goals set forth in each focus areas. To guide this work, the ECO Team meets quarterly and more often as needed to move projects forward and continually improve our endeavors toward operating more sustainably. Achieving sustainability is paramount to fulfilling the Park District’s mission of conservation, education and recreation. Cleveland Metroparks exists because of its ability to sustain quality recreational and educational opportunities for park patrons while conserving the natural resources citizens expect from the Park District.

This Sustainability Policy was adopted for implementation August 17, 2017 after a second reading before the Board. The full Policy is can be found on the Metroparks’ Board Meeting minutes page 84311.