



## Virginia Green Attractions Profile:



# Albemarle County Parks & Recreation Department

401 McIntire Road  
Charlottesville

"We are a Parks & Recreation Department, consisting of a centrally-located office and many beautiful parks across the County of Albemarle."

**Green Statement:** "Albemarle County signed an Environmental Management Policy in 2004 committing the County to environmental compliance, pollution prevent, and continual environmental improvement. The County has since implemented an Environmental Management System (EMS) and developed many 'green' and sustainability-related programs and projects towards our commitment. The Parks & Recreation Department has specifically committed to reduce pollution and green our operations. In furtherance of its commitment to preserving and protecting the environment and natural resources, the Department has a position dedicated to establishing and maintaining greenways and trails and preserving open space."

### CORE ACTIVITIES for Green Attractions

**Recycling.** Virginia Green facilities must have highly-visible locations/containers that provide the opportunity for guests to recycle aluminum cans, plastic and glass bottles, or other disposable products purchased at the facility. Recycling of cardboard, plastic, paper, and composting of waste foods is highly encouraged as well. This facility pledges that they:

- Offer the opportunity for guests to recycle: glass bottles, plastic bottles, aluminum cans
- Also recycle fluorescent lamps and batteries

**Minimize the use of disposable food service products.** The facility is required to minimize the use of disposable food service products and maximize the use of food service products that are recyclable or compostable in the food service area. When disposable food service items are used, the facility is encouraged to use products that are made from bio-based or renewable resources, and to provide for the collection / recycling/ composting of food service items disposed of on the premises. This facility pledges that they:

- Do not use any disposable containers, dishware, cutlery, or cups

**Reduce solid waste.** The facility must be actively working to reduce its solid waste generation. This facility pledges that they:

- Track overall solid waste costs
- Have a numeric goal to reduce overall materials that go to the landfill

#### *Buildings and grounds*

- Use green cleaning products that are dispensed in bulk
- Use latex low or no-VOC paints
- Properly recycle and/or dispose of thinners and solvents (required by law)
- Use integrated pest management (IPM)



- Minimize use of pesticides and herbicides in landscaping
- Set goal to develop standard operating procedures that ensure employees are trained to handle chemicals and spills properly
- Committed to pollution prevention and environmental protection in its day-to-day operations. Has adopted a Safer Chemical Management Policy that strictly prohibits the use of non-bio-based pesticides and herbicides such that only bio-based or "green certified" products may be used. As a result of the Safer Chemical Management Policy, has cut down the amount of chemicals applied in the parks dramatically over the last three years

**Use water efficiently.** The facility must have a plan in place and have taken steps toward reducing its water use. This facility pledges that they:

- Track overall water usage and wastewater costs

*Activities indoors*

- Have installed:
  - Low flow toilets (use 1.6 gallons per flush or less)
  - Automatic faucets or toilets in public restrooms

*Activities outdoors*

- Have installed rain gardens to manage storm water
- Have minimized impervious areas (paving, concrete, etc.)
- Maintain vegetative buffers around streams and ponds



*Transportation-related energy use*

- Have set goals to continue to reduce fuel usage, to use less energy (30% reduction by 2012)

**Conserve energy.** The facility must have a plan in place and have taken steps toward reducing its energy use. This facility pledges that they:

- Track overall energy bills
- Have established a numeric goal to reduce energy usage over time
- Calculate the environmental impacts of the facility's energy usage by using a pollution calculator

*Lighting*

- Use lighting sensors to turn on/off lights
- Use occupancy sensors to turn on/off lights
- Have adopted a policy/practice to turn off lights in unoccupied rooms
- Have installed high efficiency fluorescent ballasts and lamps (T-5 and T-8)
- Have installed LED Exit Signs

*Appliances and electronic devices*

- Use ENERGY STAR qualified appliances (commercial kitchens, heating and cooling, consumer electronics)
- Use ENERGY STAR qualified office equipment (computers, monitors, copiers, printers, etc.)
- Have adopted a policy/practice to turn off fans, computers, monitors and other devices in unoccupied rooms at the end of the workday or when otherwise not being used

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For more information on Albemarle County Parks & Recreation Department, see [www.albemarle.org/parks](http://www.albemarle.org/parks) or contact Sarah Temple at [stemple@albemarle.org](mailto:stemple@albemarle.org) or 434-296-5816.

**Virginia Green** is the Commonwealth of Virginia's campaign to promote environmentally-friendly practices in all aspects of Virginia's tourism industry. **Virginia Green Attractions** have been thoughtfully planned and designed to minimize their impacts on the environment. This attraction has met the established "core activities" for **Green Attractions** and has committed to communicate its activities to its guests.

For more information on **Virginia Green** program, see [www.deq.virginia.gov/p2/viriniagreen](http://www.deq.virginia.gov/p2/viriniagreen) or [www.viriniagreentravel.org](http://www.viriniagreentravel.org).



Virginia Green is supported through a partnership between the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, the Virginia Hospitality & Travel Association, and the Virginia Tourism Corporation.

