

**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION**



Open Government Report 2014

To institutionalize a culture of transparent and open government, accountability, and to expand opportunities for resident participation and collaboration, this Report describes how the DC Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) has and will continue to develop and enhance transparency, public participation, and collaboration. In accordance with Mayor's Order 2014-170, this report addresses the following topics:

1) Transparency

DPR operates in a culture of transparency with sister agencies, ANC's and community organizations and stakeholders. DPR uses a few key components to share information with the public, including DPR's website; press releases, which go out via gov delivery, and are posted on the website, facebook and twitter; and social media. To increase public access to information, DPR added a new outreach component in 2014, Nixle, to meet the demands of constituents who may not use social media. Nixle is a text messaging and email service, which allows the user to sign up for up-to-the-minute updates. By ensuring that DPR's website continues to host a FOIA/Open Government page, the agency continues to be transparent with all data and data sets.

2) Public Engagement and Participation

DPR continues to utilize a variety of mechanisms for the public to participate in agency decision-making. The most effective method is the town hall meeting model. DPR alerts the ANC, interested stakeholders and the community to the meeting and feedback is relayed at the meeting or via an online survey.

3) Collaboration

DPR has ensured that multiple community meetings are a part of agency projects (such as renovations, new facilities, playgrounds and park renovations); as well as that meetings and/or conference calls take place with government agencies, non-profit and private entities. Within departments, DPR uses email (DPR-all), conducts agency-wide meetings where all departments are represented and is always open to feedback and/or ideas from departments, division or staff. By engaging in open and constant communication, DPR is able to take a proactive role in engagement and cooperation both internally and externally. If a scenario arises whereas there is a concern in a community, with a sister agency or within a department at DPR, then DPR takes the concern seriously and may initiate a conference call with the appropriate parties and should the concern originate from the community, then a community meeting may be held in order to allow the community at large to voice their questions or concerns.