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Sustainable Park Design for the 21st Century Design Trust for Public Spaces, New York, NY 2008-2009

Winner of the 2011 Municipal Art Society of New York Masterworks Award for Best Green Design Initiative, High Performance Landscape Guidelines, 21st Century Parks for NY City set the stage for and continues to drive a paradigm shift in the way New York City is constructed.

Tavis Dockwiller, Fellow, Design Trust for Public Space was a primary author for the book crafting a work that created a new blueprint for how parks are designed, built, and maintained. Part how-to manual and part advocacy tool, High Performance Landscape Guidelines reflects a paradigm shift in thinking about the park system as vital green infrastructure.

Produced in partnership with the New York City
Department of Parks & Recreation, High Performance
Landscape Guidelines: 21st Century Parks for NYC is the
first document of its kind in the nation: a comprehensive,
municipal design primer for sustainable parks and open
space. The Guidelines cover every aspect of creating
sustainable parks, from design to construction to

maintenance, and feature hundreds of best practices for managing soil, water, and vegetation resources, as well as dozens of full-color photos and illustrations.

This 270-page document governs future activity for all 29,000 acres of New York City open space since the Parks Department has adopted these best practices in construction, maintenance, material selection and resource management as their new agency standards. From planted traffic islands to urban forests, High Performance Landscape Guidelines promotes cleaner air and water, increased biodiversity, lowered heat island effect, reduced energy usage and, of course, expanded opportunities for relaxation, recreation and environmental education for all New Yorkers.

"Parks are a crucial component of the urban infrastructure that will help our city address the challenges of the twenty-first century...With High Performance Landscape Guidelines, we've created a new blueprint for how parks are designed, built, and maintained."

- Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg, 2011