

Policy 3-4-12. Library Grounds

Adopted 10/18/2023

JCLD recognizes the burden extreme weather conditions, ongoing droughts, and catastrophic fires place on local communities. These events negatively impact tourism, wildlife, and the personal safety of patrons and potential patrons of the library. As such, JCLD is committed to conserving water resources vital to preserving Southern Oregon's natural beauty and long-term economic prosperity, including conscientious decisions when choosing how to landscape library grounds.

JCLD serves a large geographic area, from small rural communities to urban centers. Four library branches span areas with various tributaries, watersheds, and unique microclimates. As such, each JCLD location will continuously develop individual landscape plans to suit the varied needs and available resources of each location.

The Water Resources Commission (WRC) recommends best practices for water management and conservation. JCLD is committed to following their directives (ORS 536.360). Oregon rules compel local governments to conserve water resources and follow the planning goals set forth by the WRC (OAR 690-005-0020). JCLD pledges to responsibly steward the lands occupied by library facilities.

The Integrated Water Resources Strategy (IWRS), published by the WRC states, in addition to conscientious use of water, "Land management techniques, such as xeriscaping, maintaining healthy soils, planting drought-tolerant or native plants, and watering landscapes and plants when temperatures are cooler are also actions that can help conserve and make the best use of water resources." (WRC Statement, p. 121)

The State Parks and Recreation Department has sole jurisdiction and authority over state parks (ORS 390.111) Per Josephine County Parks Ordinance, the Board of County Commissioners has the sole authority to regulate county parks and the activities conducted in those parks (Josephine County Ordinance 12.05.040). As such, JCLD does not have the authority to create or manage public parks and does not intend to establish any parks on JCLD property. The purpose of this policy is to state JCLD's commitment to water conservation and support of the IWRS.