

LEADERSHIP AND COMMITTEES

Interim Leadership—Your Core Group

Newly-formed groups are often organized by several dedicated people who come together to create the group. These people aren't elected and don't need to be. (Sometimes this early planning stage is done by just one person, but then you don't really have a group yet.) Though the group usually has a chairperson who leads meetings, everyone should be equally involved in decision making. The core group should report back to and get feedback from the general membership (people who want to help the park but don't want to lead the organization).

Interim Committees

The members of your core group should each be responsible for different tasks, for example: working with Parks, recruiting members, writing by-laws, planning your first event, and contacting important people. (If your core group is big enough, you can assign more than one person to each task, creating interim committees.)

Elected Leadership

Hold an election when the group feels stable and established, when you've got members who regularly attend meetings, and when you've found out who you can count on and who has strong leadership skills. While all groups should have a President and a Treasurer, the rest is up to you. You may elect members to a general steering committee or to specific positions.

Standing Committees

When your group as a whole decides on its goals, you may find that some things are so central to your mission that it makes sense to form **standing committees**. Standing committees are part of an organization's permanent structure. Each committee should be led by a chairperson. Some examples of standing committees:

- ✓ Beautification (gardening and cleaning)
- ✓ Membership (recruitment and management)
- ✓ Fundraising/Finance
- ✓ Publicity and Public Relations (deals with press, advertises events)
- ✓ Safety (locks the park at night, works with police)
- ✓ Ecology (concerned with restoration and education in natural parks)
- ✓ Newsletter
- ✓ Event Planning

Ad Hoc Committees

Some projects come and go, so the committees that deal with them should come and go too. These **ad hoc committees** can be formed by the steering committee whenever they're needed, and dissolved when they stop being useful. They are also led by a chairperson.