



NATIONAL RECREATION AND PARK ASSOCIATION

For nearly 60 years, the **National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA)** has been a leader in the field of parks and recreation. Through our membership of more than 60,000 professionals and advocates, we're harnessing the power of parks and recreation to build stronger, healthier and more equitable communities.

We're helping park and recreation professionals continue to thrive so they can support the health and well-being of everyone, everywhere. We believe parks and recreation are essential to *all* communities — and so do the people who live in communities throughout the country. In fact, 90 percent of U.S. adults say that parks and recreation is an important local government service.

Learn more at nrpa.org.

NRPA LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)

For decades, the Land Water and Conservation Fund has been the mechanism to protect land and water resources, cultural sites, and promote recreation for all. Thanks to the Great American Outdoors Act passage in 2020, the LWCF was permanently funded at \$900 million. Key benefits of LWCF include:

- Leveraging royalties from federal offshore oil and gas leases rather than taxpayer dollars
- Securing a 1:1 non-federal cost match that has resulted in 75 percent of the program's funding spent on readily accessible, close-to-home recreation opportunities
- Allowing ORLP to successfully award more than \$45 million in grants to economically disadvantaged communities lacking outdoor recreation opportunities since the program's inception in 2014

To guarantee continued investment in land and water conservation, Congress can:

- *Ensure permanent authorization of LWCF's Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership (ORLP) through passage of the Outdoors for All Act.* Authorization would make the program permanent. This program provides LWCF funding to underserved communities.
- *Ensure adequate funding for LWCF State Assistance Program.* Each year, Congress must determine the amount of money allocated to each program under the LWCF umbrella. NRPA asks Congress to ensure fair and equitable funding allocation of funds.



Green Infrastructure

Local parks benefit their communities by helping them become more resilient to the effects of climate change through the implementation of green infrastructure solutions. Properly implemented green infrastructure can support improved human health, mitigate flooding, increase biodiversity, promote economic development and more.

NRPA supports green stormwater infrastructure initiatives, including increased funding for the EPA's Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) and its 10 percent Green Project Reserve set-aside — the largest

federal source of green infrastructure financing. NRPA also supports efforts to incentivize increased tree canopy cover to mitigate urban heat islands, such as the USDA Urban and Community Forestry Program, as well as efforts to conserve natural habitats for animal and plant species and to promote overall environmental justice. Centering these efforts around local park and recreation sites creates a win-win solution for improving environmental health, as well as human health and quality of life through increased access to the inherent benefits of park and recreation opportunities.



Grant Funding for Health and Wellness

NRPA serves as an implementing partner for various federal grant programs that foster improved public health and mitigate social isolation and substance misuse. We support increased funding for these programs, including programs within the CDC Office of Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (CDPHP) – the Nutrition, Physical Activity, and

Obesity Program; the Arthritis Program; and the Social Determinants of Health Program — as well as the DOJ Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) Youth Mentoring Grant Program and the program's set-aside for the Opioid Affected Youth Initiative.



Nutrition and Out-of-School Time Care

Local park and recreation agencies are leading providers of out-of-school time (OST) care and meal services to children, as well as meal services to vulnerable seniors and people of all ages through implementation of federal nutrition assistance programs. NRPA supports robust protections for SNAP and WIC, passage of an inclusive and expansive Child Nutrition Reauthorization (CNR) legislative package that increases flexibilities for healthy meal service,

increased funding and flexibilities for the USDA Farmers Market Nutrition Program, and more. NRPA also supports provisions of resources to increase availability of academic and other enrichment activities in OST settings, including supporting increased funding for the Department of Education's 21st Century Community Learning Center Program.