

## Editorial Guidelines for *Parks & Recreation* magazine

*Parks & Recreation* is the official monthly publication of the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA). NRPA's mission is "To advance parks, recreation and environmental conservation efforts that enhance the quality of life for all people." The magazine strives to inform both professional and citizen advocates on issues, trends, news and personality profiles that support NRPA's mission.

The editors of *Parks & Recreation* welcome article ideas, queries and suggestions. Because of the specialized nature of the magazine, submission of finished manuscripts is strongly discouraged. Instead, emailed queries of one to two paragraphs should be sent to Executive Editor Sonia Myrick at [smyrick@nrpa.org](mailto:smyrick@nrpa.org), and she will respond soon after considering the submission given the magazine's current editorial needs. Be sure to include a daytime telephone number as well as a bio, writing samples (PDFs or other easily readable attachments) and a link to your website, if appropriate.

Before you submit an editorial inquiry, please familiarize yourself with the magazine by perusing a few recent issues on <http://ezine.nrpa.org> or <http://www.nrpa.org/parks-recreation-magazine>. The current issue of the magazine is featured on the main page, and back issues can be accessed by clicking on the "Archives" tab toward the top left corner of the browser window.

Each month, the editors welcome feedback on the magazine and content found in previous issues through the "Letters" section, which gathers website comments, emailed feedback, social media responses and more from readers. For ease of publication, the editors request feedback letters to be limited to 300 words; however, longer feedback can be submitted but may be edited for publication.

"Community Center" is a front-of-book department consisting of short features and news highlighting current events in the field. Ideas for the Community Center section are welcomed. Article length ranges between approximately 250 and 750 words.

"People for Parks" focuses on interesting personalities and leaders in the field of parks and recreation, whether employees of a park and recreation agency, citizen advocates, public figures who support park missions, kids who help advance parks and recreation, or others. Submissions are welcomed for this section, and articles run approximately 400 to 1,000 words long.

The "Member to Member" department is devoted to ideas, essays and best practices written by members for the benefit of others in the park and recreation profession. Ideas for the Member to Member section are welcomed from members of NRPA. Article length ranges between 250 and 1,000 words.

Columns include:

- "Advocacy" — focuses on legislation and policy relevant to parks and recreation
- "Law Review" — explores legal precedents set by lawsuits affecting park and recreation agencies or industry suppliers
- "Future Leaders" — discusses issues relevant to and opportunities available for young professionals in the field of parks and recreation

- “Conservation” — examines environmental issues relevant to parks and recreation
- “Health and Wellness” — discusses case studies that showcase the health effects parks and recreation can have on communities
- “Social Equity” — focuses on opportunities for inclusivity that parks and recreation can provide

With the exception of “Law Review,” which is written by a dedicated columnist each month, the editors welcome submissions for *Parks & Recreation’s* monthly columns, which run approximately 1,000 words each.

Feature stories range between 1,500 and 2,500 words and explore issues, trends and people in greater detail. Authors are encouraged to focus their narrative lens on the people behind the story. Thus, in addition to extensive research and reporting, interviews with numerous subjects are typically required for feature-length articles, along with excellent, high-resolution photographs. *Parks & Recreation* strives to cover controversial and engaging topics relevant to the field of parks and recreation. Recent feature topics have included gun restrictions in parks, ethical questions related to public-private partnerships, dealing with populations of homeless people in parks, working collaboratively with mountain biking groups to reduce illegal trail building, etc. Due to the complexity of feature articles, assignments are generally given to experts in the field or proven writers, so freelancers looking to write feature articles for *Parks & Recreation* are encouraged to start with a few successful department pieces first.

“NRPA Update” shares news and updates from the association and is almost exclusively composed of staff-written content; however, the editors will be happy to consider submissions from other writers for this department.

“Operations” is a back-of-the-book section that mirrors Community Center. Articles range between 300 and 1,500 words in length and focus on operational aspects of parks and recreation. These articles should address issues and trends that impact operating agencies and facilities, rather than present a “how to”-style narrative. Recent topics have included swimming pool regulations, sustainable purchasing, maintenance issues and marketing trends, among others.

“Products” is a showcase of different offerings that may be of interest to park and recreation professionals. If you represent a product or company and would like to submit your item for consideration, please email Executive Editor Sonia Myrick at [smyrick@nrpa.org](mailto:smyrick@nrpa.org). Send a 100-word description of the item along with company contact information and a hi-res photo.

“Park Bench” is the last page of the magazine and presents a humorous, whimsical or inspirational look at the park and recreation field. Generally, the backdrop of the page is a full-size hi-res photo with no more than 300 words describing a park event, a historical find, an encouraging story, etc.

Again, the editors stress that preliminary queries are strongly preferred over completed manuscripts. To submit an editorial query or ask a question regarding the editorial submission process, please contact Executive Editor Sonia Myrick at [smyrick@nrpa.org](mailto:smyrick@nrpa.org).

Thank you for your interest in *Parks & Recreation* magazine!