

A man with a beard and sunglasses is holding a Great Horned Owl. The owl is in the foreground, looking directly at the camera with its large yellow eyes. The man is in the background, slightly out of focus. The image has a blue tint.

# WE ARE PARKS AND RECREATION

NRPA 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

STRONG  
CONFIDENT  
SELFLESS  
PASSIONATE  
DRIVEN  
ESSENTIAL



*In Berea, Kentucky, volunteers from community organizations such as Berea Kids Eat, Berea Community School and the local park and recreation department work together to distribute food to those in need during the COVID-19 pandemic.*

BEREA COLLEGE

## About the National Recreation and Park Association

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) is the leading not-for-profit organization dedicated to building strong, vibrant and resilient communities through the power of parks and recreation. With more than 60,000 members, NRPA advances this mission by investing in and championing the work of park and recreation professionals and advocates — the catalysts for positive change in service of equity, climate-readiness, and overall health and well-being. For more information, visit [nrpa.org](https://nrpa.org). For digital access to NRPA's flagship publication, *Parks & Recreation*, visit [parksandrecreation.org](https://parksandrecreation.org).



### ON THE COVER:

NRPA member Aaron Watson, Executive Director of the Mercer County Park Commission (New Jersey) holds an owl as part of their engagement programming.

## Letter from the CEO and Chairman of the Board

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The past year is divided into two parts — before the pandemic and living through the pandemic. It's hard to imagine, now, how we thought 2020 would unfold. We could not have foreseen cancelling our in-person Annual Conference. We could not have anticipated NRPA's entire workforce going remote. And we could not have predicted that the work we do every day to support park and recreation professionals — our community heroes — would become even more critical.

According to NRPA's Park Snapshot surveys, at the peak of pandemic-related shutdowns in the spring of 2020, nine out of 10 park and recreation agencies had their parks or trails open to the public. These cherished outdoor spaces became one of the few places where people could go to walk, exercise or experience green space. Where facilities or programs did have to close, many park and recreation professionals were reassigned to emergency pandemic response duties like food distribution, childcare services for essential workers, establishing overflow testing sites and more.

Parks and recreation has become an even more fundamental part of our daily life. And parks and recreation will be essential to communities coming together and healing. It will be even more imperative that we ensure equitable access to these cherished spaces and programs in the months and years to come.

We started this past year with a goal to elevate and establish the essential role of parks and recreation. The challenges set forth by a global pandemic, economic recession, fight for racial equity and climate change have given us that opportunity to show the world who we are.

We are strong.  
We are confident.  
We are selfless.  
We are passionate.  
We are driven.  
We are essential.  
WE ARE PARKS AND RECREATION.

With your support, we look forward to continuing this essential work.

Sincerely,



A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink.

Kristine Stratton, NRPA President and CEO



A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink.

Jack Kardys, Chair, NRPA Board of Directors

# WE ARE...

## ESSENTIAL

**82%** of U.S. adults agree parks and recreation is an essential local government service<sup>1</sup>

More than **190 million people** in the U.S. went to parks, trails or open space during the first three months of the pandemic<sup>2</sup>

**72%** of U.S. adults are more likely to vote for political leaders who make park and recreation funding a priority<sup>3</sup>

## STRONG

Local park and recreation agencies' operations and capital spending generated **\$166 billion** in economic activity and supported more than **1.1 million jobs** in 2017<sup>4</sup>

Since 2015, NRPA has supported the completion of more than **130** park improvement projects, positively impacting the lives of more than **1 million** children and families

NRPA represents more than **60,000** members

## DRIVEN

**587,942** people reached through NRPA partnerships in FY20

The typical park and recreation agency offers one park for every **2,281** residents served<sup>5</sup>

During an early peak in the pandemic, **96%** of agencies kept their trails open and **87%** kept their parks open for safe, physically-distanced activities<sup>6</sup>

## SELFLESS

**60%** of agencies offered emergency services during the pandemic including meal distribution, child-care, testing sites and more.<sup>7</sup>

Park and recreation agencies continue to provide critical services while **66%** face cuts to operations spending and **57%** face cuts to capital budgets<sup>8</sup>

## PASSIONATE

**23,000** professionals carry a certification from NRPA (CPRP, CPRE, AFO or CPSI)<sup>9</sup>

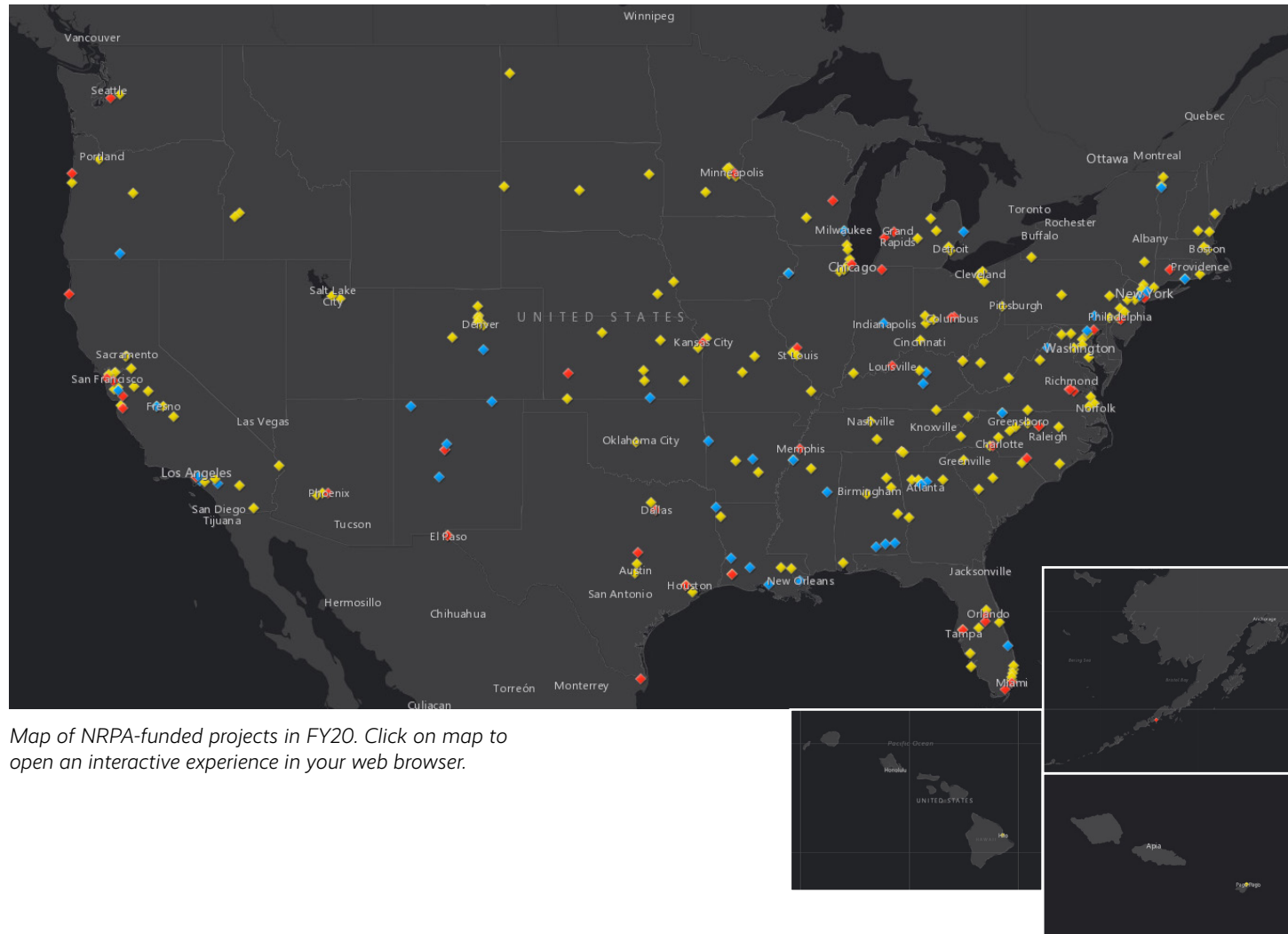
**51,558:** number of interactions with NRPA Education products including Annual Conference sessions, webinars, schools and certifications

# PARKS AND RECREATION

<sup>1</sup> 2020 NRPA Engagement with Parks Report, <sup>2</sup>2020 NRPA Engagement with Parks Report, <sup>3</sup>2020 NRPA Engagement with Parks Report, <sup>4</sup>The Economic Impact of Parks Reports, <sup>5</sup>2020 NRPA Agency Performance Review, <sup>6</sup>April 10, 2020 NRPA Parks Snapshot Survey, <sup>7</sup>October 2020 NRPA Parks Snapshot Survey, <sup>8</sup>June 26, 2020 NRPA Parks Snapshot Survey, <sup>9</sup>Certified Park and Recreation Professional (CPRP), Certified Park and Recreation Executive (CPRE), Aquatics Facility Operator (AFO), Certified Playground Safety Inspector (CPSI)



## 2020 NRPA Community Investments



## Exceptional Response to Unprecedented Times

### Navigating a Pandemic

While our response to COVID-19 began prior to March, our first published pieces with preparedness guidance were sent out on March 4, 2020. Since then, NRPA has produced more than 50 resources dedicated to helping park and recreation professionals throughout all stages of the pandemic. These resources have been accessed more than 125,000 times. At a time when no direct guidance for park and recreation professionals existed, NRPA swiftly stepped in to provide support.

One of the key actions NRPA took early in the pandemic was to release a joint statement of support for the safe use of parks. This statement encouraged municipalities to keep their parks open and urged the public to use them safely so parks could remain open. Over the course of a week, more than 1,000 organizations signed on to the joint statement. Along with the statement, NRPA was one of the first organizations to put forth infographics and signage for how to visit parks safely.

Concurrent to releasing materials about how to slow the spread of COVID-19, NRPA also was developing the steps agencies would need to consider on their path to recovery. [NRPA's Path to Recovery](#) resources boasts 13 sections of robust resources on everything from how to create a recovery team to specific guidance for playgrounds, senior centers and essential services.

NRPA also significantly increased its communication, networking, education and research assets to meet the demand for information. These included a new, regular

video update from NRPA President and CEO Kristine Stratton as well as a [regularly administered Parks Snapshot surveys to park and recreation professionals](#) to determine how they were responding to the crisis and what needs they had.

At NRPA, we know our work to recover from the pandemic will continue into the months and years ahead. Our Parks Snapshot surveys showed that nearly one in five park and recreation agencies are reducing operations spending by at least 30 percent with 66 percent of agencies facing a median reduction of 10 to 19 percent. We know from other historical economic hardships that we are going to have to fight hard for these budgets and we will. We will fight to preserve municipal budgets, look for opportunities to partner with others to accomplish shared goals and aggressively seek additional revenue streams to carry-on this essential work.





## Exceptional Response to Unprecedented Times

### Supporting the Fight for Racial Equity

This year has brought to light something we know all too well — discrimination based on race and ethnicity continues to be rampant. And while overt racism continues, discrimination created by centuries of racially based policies, practices and funding continues to exacerbate inequities. The fight for basic civil rights is ongoing when they should not even be in question. Police brutality, senseless killings, threats, acts of violence and the disproportionate COVID-19 and severe climate impacts experienced by people of color have underscored the immediate work that must be done to create a more equitable and just society.

NRPA formally adopted equity as a core pillar in 2012 and we are on a continual journey of not just ensuring equity in all that we do, but to becoming an organization that is actively anti-racist. We say parks are for everyone — the public spaces where anyone is welcome — but there is a difference between being open and being accessible, welcoming, and culturally relevant. NRPA seeks to address these gaps.

This past year, NRPA added to its numerous equity resources, including an [online framework for creating equity-based system master plans](#). Over the next year, we plan to add to these resources while also driving difficult conversations around diversity, equity and inclusion and what it means for NRPA and the profession as whole.

This work is not easy, but it is necessary for creating a more just world for all people. As the caretakers of our community gathering places and the providers of critical health and well-being programs, park and recreation professionals play a vital role in ending the injustices in our society.



DANIELLE MURPHY

NRPA member City of Takoma Park's Recreation Department (Maryland) showcases their Street Festival and passing on cultural heritage to the next generation at Celebrate Takoma in May 2019.

## Exceptional Response to Unprecedented Times

### Passage of the Great American Outdoors Act, Full and Permanent Funding for LWCF

NRPA has worked for decades with like-minded partners and allies to ensure full and permanent funding of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and, in 2020, we saw it through to fruition thanks to the passage of the Great American Outdoors Act. This passage, supported by an aggressive advocacy strategy and thousands of emails from NRPA members to members of Congress, is a huge win for our community heroes who work tirelessly to serve the public in urban and rural communities throughout the country. More importantly, it is a huge win for every person in the U.S., as this critical funding advances our goal of ensuring everyone has access to the benefits of quality parks and recreation.

Allegra “Happy” Haynes, executive director of parks and recreation for the city of Denver, Colorado gave a compelling testimony during a U.S. House Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands hearing earlier this year, in support of the Outdoors for All Act. “Historic disinvestment has left many low-income communities and communities of color without access to quality parks and recreation opportunities,” Happy said during her testimony. “We are on a mission to make sure that your race, income and zip code don’t affect your access to nature.” NRPA works with park and recreation leaders like Happy to push for the programs and investments their local communities need and advocate for these critical resources across the country.

Learn more about Happy and the passage of the Great American Outdoors Act:

Listen to the episode for the full story.



0:00

20:40

The Great American Outdoors Act Is Law, Part I — Episode 073  
Open Space Radio: Parks and Recreation Trends





## Our Strategic Direction

Over the next three years, NRPA will focus on creating change in five strategic areas. The following highlights successes we have had so far.

### Build a Movement

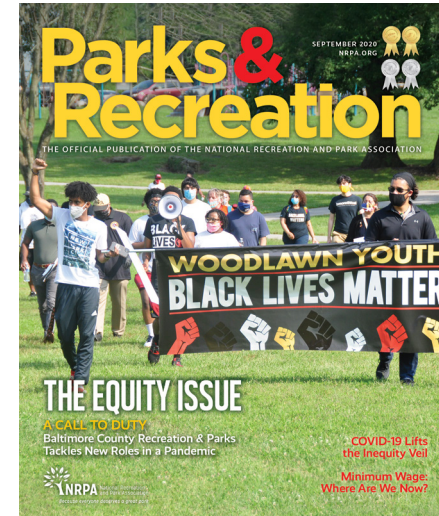
According to Merriam-Webster, a movement is an organized effort to promote or attain an end. For NRPA, that end is park and recreation professionals and agencies being recognized and properly funded for their essential contributions to create healthier, more equitable and resilient communities. While the pandemic has certainly highlighted parks and recreation's vital function, it has put funding for the field at risk.

However, despite (or because of) a pandemic, an economic recession and a racial reckoning, County Executive John Olszewski Jr. and Roslyn Johnson, director of Baltimore County (Maryland) Department of Recreation and Parks, got approval for a \$35 million bond referendum to support their All Parks for All People campaign and a backlog of deferred maintenance for their park and recreation infrastructure.

Stepping up to challenges certainly is not new for the department, but staff stepped up in a big way this past year. From serving more than 1 million meals during a six-month period to supporting civil rights protestors in their parks, the recreation and parks department has shown its worth and is being recognized for it.

Learn more about how Roslyn and the Baltimore County Department of Recreation and Parks are addressing equity and building in their community:

Read the full story.



Listen to the full story.



## Our Strategic Direction

### Ensure Access for All

Fair and just access to high quality park and recreation infrastructure is essential to creating healthy, resilient and economically vibrant communities. In the city of Chattanooga, Tennessee, parks planner Akosua Cook, AICP is not only a leader for park access locally, she is also committed to sharing her experience with park and recreation professionals throughout the country.

Akosua has been instrumental in securing NRPA grant support for projects in Chattanooga including a \$150,000 Building Better Communities grant to create a water and nature-inspired playspace project supported by long-time NRPA partner American Water Charitable Foundation. Ensuring that community members were engaged throughout the process was critical to the success of the project. Akosua's approach to community engagement is unique and worthy of replication. In addition to hosting traditional community engagement events, she also organized listening sessions to meet people where they live and work. For example, she held a series of listening sessions in local restaurant kitchens so that workers, who could not attend a traditional event, could have input in the process.

Today the new nature-based playground and STEAM outdoor classroom is a beautiful asset that connects the community to nature, fosters environmental stewardship and is part of an overall ecologically-focused park restoration organized by the city. Akosua continues to lead by example and share her insights with park and recreation professionals. She helped NRPA host their training for park

access grantees in Chattanooga where Akosua organized a history tour to help attendees understand the history of local park lands and cities through the perspective of Black Americans, indigenous peoples and people of color. Akosua's leadership in Chattanooga is a prime example of the best practices NRPA works to institute in communities throughout the country.

Learn more about how Akosua is helping to ensure access for all:

**Read the full story.**



**Listen to the full story.**





## Our Strategic Direction

### Advance Community Health and Well-Being

Park and recreation professionals are uniquely suited to help create a more fully integrated public health system. Their connection and reach into communities means they are able to connect community members with the health and well-being resources they need to thrive while advancing local solutions to our most pressing health, environmental and social challenges.

To address rising concerns around mental health and substance use disorders, including the social-emotional health of youth, NRPA launched the [Mentoring in Parks and Rec: Connecting Communities, Cultivating Leaders](#) initiative. One of the park and recreation professionals NRPA worked with on a pilot project is Kelly Kitchens, programming and special events coordinator for the city of Elizabethton (Tennessee) Parks and Recreation.

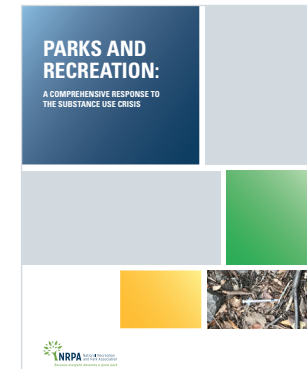
Through this initiative, Kelly has implemented a youth mentoring program in Elizabethton. Her partnership with Jilian Reece of the Carter County Drug Prevention Coalition has been instrumental in launching the program and supporting youth city-wide. Kelly and Jilian have worked to recruit and train mentors and match youth experiencing challenges, like poverty, substance use disorder, violence and other adversities, with caring mentors. In light of COVID-19, they were able to continue providing this important mentorship program by adapting their in-person meetings to a virtual platform. Kelly has worked tirelessly to plan and execute programming, activities

and events in support of the mentoring program, with the goal of making her community a better place to live, learn, work and play for all.

Integrating mental and behavioral health services and programs with parks and recreation is a key component of our vision of helping park and recreation professionals champion community wellness hubs nationwide.

Learn more about Kelly and NRPA's mentoring work:

**Read the full report.**



**Listen to the full story.**



## Our Strategic Direction

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NRPA believes that park and recreation agencies are perfectly suited to serve as community wellness hubs — trusted gathering places that connect every member of the community to essential programs, services and spaces that advance health equity, improve health outcomes and enhance quality of life. Community wellness hubs meet the unique needs of their communities, including access to healthy foods, physical activity, social connections, and connection to nature. Learn more about how park and recreation professionals can champion community wellness hubs in the video below.



*Click on video above to open and view video in your Internet browser.*

## Our Strategic Direction

### Build Community Resiliency

As one of the largest land managers in the nation, local parks are key to climate-change mitigation and adaption. In addition to our work on pollinator protection and volunteer engagement for habitat restoration, green infrastructure in parks is a key piece of conservation work that contributes to climate-ready parks and communities. In 2019, NRPA hosted our first National Green Infrastructure Certification Program targeted to park and recreation professionals. In the past year, we've been able to see how those professionals who went through that program are now making positive changes within their local communities.

Robert Antonelli, assistant commissioner at the City of Worcester Department of Public Works & Parks (Massachusetts), went through the National Green Infrastructure Certification Program, and he has since implemented a number of park designs that incorporate principles from the program. According to Robert, his green infrastructure training had been limited to on the job training prior to the program. "This program has allowed me to include more green infrastructure action items within our Open Space & Recreation Plan, which is currently under revision," he said.

*Trees are installed along a trail in Bernalillo County (New Mexico) to increase shade and provide green stormwater infrastructure benefits. Funding for the trail project was provided with grant support from NRPA and The JPB Foundation.*





## Our Strategic Direction

Kali Bronson, stormwater program compliance manager for Bernalillo County in New Mexico, applied for the certification program to expand her knowledge to better support implementation of green infrastructure in her county. Additionally, Kali and Bernalillo County, with grant support from NRPA and The JPB Foundation, recently completed an implementation project that installed green infrastructure and native plants along a one-mile stretch of a community trail that previously lacked shade or vegetation. The trail has greatly improved quality of life and the resiliency of the area. Through Kali's leadership, the project will also help connect the Rocky Mountain

Youth Corps to learn about and maintain the green stormwater infrastructure incorporated into this project. These local youth will be able to take this learned skill with them as they enter the workforce — a project that benefits them and the community now and into the future.

Kali and Rob are great examples of how dedicated professionals can make real change in their communities through the opportunities provided by NRPA and our network of park and recreation professionals.

Learn more about NRPA's resiliency work:

Read the full summary.

### Greener Parks for Health Resources

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Parks serve essential functions for recreation and green space in communities. Incorporating green infrastructure to create greener parks enhances community well-being and addresses climate-related health impacts. The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) has developed a suite of Greener Parks for Health resources ([nrpa.org/GreenerParksforHealth](https://www.nrpa.org/GreenerParksforHealth)) to provide park and recreation professionals with the tools and knowledge to communicate about, advocate for and institutionalize equitable access to greener parks.

These resources were designed as a package. They offer a roadmap for securing the necessary support and investments from community members, elected officials, park and recreation leadership, other municipal agencies, and partners to advance greener parks. Informed by research, cross-sector input from subject matter experts and an assessment of the field, the following resources were developed:

- Greener Parks for Health Communications Toolkit** – Provides evidence and values-based messaging to build community and leadership support, including one-pagers that provide facts and statistics on the environmental, health, economic and social impacts of greener parks.
- Greener Parks for Health Policy Action Framework** – Includes new and existing policies and funding mechanisms at the federal, state and local levels that have the potential to remove barriers, incentivize, and fund greener parks while building equity and increasing resilience.
- Greener Parks for Health Advocacy Toolkit** – Offers key actions tailored to specific audiences to advance cross-sector solutions for implementing greener parks.

NRPA envisions a future where everyone has equitable access to safe and inclusive green spaces, where greener parks are viewed as essential community infrastructure that provide environmental, health, economic and social benefits. While these resources were developed for park and recreation professionals, these individuals cannot realize this vision alone. It can only be achieved through community-led planning and decision making, as well as coordination with other municipal agencies and community partners.

Visit [nrpa.org/GreenerParksforHealth](https://www.nrpa.org/GreenerParksforHealth) for more information.



Greener Parks for Health Toolkit. Photo courtesy of NRPA.

Watch the video.

## GREENER PARKS



**REDUCE FLOODING**

**CLEANER AIR**

**3/4 GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE JOBS GO TO LOCAL RESIDENTS**

**GREEN SPACES OFFER OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE TO SOCIALIZE**

**TREE CANOPY LOWERS TEMPERATURE WHICH IMPROVES HEALTH**

**POSITIVE COMMUNITY IMPACT**

**NRPA** National Recreation and Park Association

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## Our Strategic Direction

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### Prepare the Profession for the Future

If the past year has taught us nothing else, it's that today's challenges and those that lie ahead, require creativity, innovation and collaboration. As we fight to continue building a movement to provide proper funding and recognition for parks and recreation, we also need to recruit the next generation of park professionals and equip them for the future. This includes setting parks and recreation up as a safe destination field of practice, sharing of innovative practices and ideas, and providing transformative professional development opportunities for emerging park leaders.

In the City of Los Angeles, the L.A. City Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP), has taken the challenges of the pandemic and turned them into opportunities for the city. When the city began to shut down due to COVID-19 restrictions, people experiencing homelessness were at risk. As the mass-care shelter and welfare arm of the city, RAP responded by transforming 24 recreation centers into shelters for people experiencing homelessness. More impressively, though, the city developed a plan to transition people experiencing homelessness from these temporary shelters to permanent housing.

Anthony-Paul (AP) Diaz, Executive Officer and Chief of Staff for RAP is helping prepare their staff for the future with a commitment to professional development. They have started a Racial Equity committee and one of their goals is to provide more professional development and opportunities for people of color in the department and

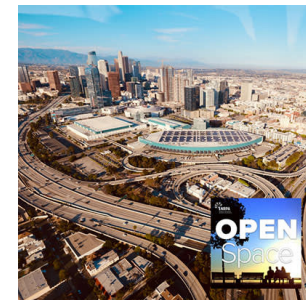
in the profession. According to AP, "Those who love parks often say, 'Parks make life better!' But how can we make park professionals better? If park agencies do not take concerted efforts to develop and equip their staff and emerging leaders, we are not fully developing accessible park agencies. We must tend to our own gardens to ensure a thriving and prosperous workforce."

Learn more about L.A. city's response to the pandemic:

**Read the full story.**



**Listen to the full story.**



## Looking Ahead

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As we look past 2020, NRPA has set its course to make considerable advancements in each of our strategic direction areas outlined in our [2021–2023 NRPA Strategic Plan](#). Additionally, continued response to and recovery from the pandemic provides opportunities for NRPA and the field to help re-envision the role of parks and recreation within communities. Specifically, NRPA looks to:

- Create long-term sustainability and elevation of the park and recreation field as an essential component to municipal government function and to creating equitable, resilient and healthy communities.
- Expand our commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) internally and externally through the hiring of a chief equity officer and expansion of DEI resources for the profession.
- Leverage funding, strategic partnerships and technical expertise to continue to push for increased access to park and recreation opportunities for all and reduce the historic gap in access for communities of color and low-income communities.
- Narrow the gaps in access to youth sports that have continued to increase and have only been worsened by the pandemic by providing training, technical assistance and grants to the field.
- Increase our digital education and content offerings as we support increasingly virtual professional development needs.
- Develop an aggressive legislative agenda that builds on the passage of the Great American Outdoors Act and permanent and full funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

Despite the challenges of the past year, NRPA is in a strong position to meet our goals and expand support for park and recreation professionals and the critical services they provide.



*NRPA members attend the 2019 Capitol Hill Day to advocate on behalf of parks and recreation.*



## Thank You

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NRPA thanks all of our incredible supporters for their cash and in-kind support this past year (July 1, 2019-June 30, 2020):\*

### Corporate, Foundation and Government Supporters

#### \$1,000,000 and above

The JPB Foundation  
Walmart Foundation  
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#### \$100,000 to \$499,999

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PlayCore  
PlayPower, Inc.  
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

#### \$10,000 to \$99,999

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## Thank You

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 DuraPlay, Inc.  
 Eco Chemical  
 Eco-Counter  
 EcoFINISH, LLC  
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## Thank You

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Kidstuff PlaySystems  
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Monster Mural, The  
MOTI™ Sports, Inc.  
Murdock/Super Secur Mfg. Company  
MyRec.com  
MyTCoat Commercial Outdoor Furniture

National Association of Chronic Disease Directors (NACDD)  
National Cooperative Leasing  
National Fitness Campaign  
National Recreation Systems Inc.  
Neptune Radio  
NetPlay USA  
NGI Sports, a Division of River City Athletics, LLC  
NiceRink  
NinjaCross™ Systems  
No Fault Sport Group  
Noratek Solutions Inc.  
North American Acquiring, Inc  
Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion  
Oglebay Resort & Conference Center  
Omega II Fence Systems  
Optum  
Outdoor Aluminum Inc.  
Paddle Wheeler  
ParkInk  
PearlWeave Safety Netting Corp.  
Pennsylvania State University  
PerfectMind  
Perry Weather Consulting  
PlanIT Geo  
Plastic Recycling of Iowa Falls, Inc.  
PLAY CLUB  
PLAY SYSTEMS SP. Z O.O.  
PlayGuard Safety Surfacing  
Pliteq Inc. | TREAD Bounce



## Thank You

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POINTMARKERS INC  
Polin Waterparks  
Polly Products  
Polyfix AB  
Pond & Company  
Precision Playgrounds  
Premier Polysteel Outdoor Furniture  
Productive Parks Software  
Profitable Food Facilities  
ProMinent Fluid Controls, Inc.  
Public Outdoor Ping Pong  
PumpTrax USA  
PYI, Inc.  
QNC, Inc./ Quik N' Crispy  
Rain Bird Corporation  
Rain Out, LLC  
RCP Shelters, Inc.  
ReCPro Software  
Recreation Resource Management  
Recreational Equipment, Inc.  
RenoSys Corporation  
Riteway LLC  
RJM Design Group, Inc.  
Robertson Recreational Surfacing  
Rocky Mountain Sunscreen  
Ropcamp  
Rumber Materials  
Rusty Oak Nursery Ltd.  
Salsbury Industries - Lockers.com  
SCORE Sports  
Scoremaster Goals  
Security Lines US

Shade Creations By Waterloo  
Silbo, INC.  
Smartwaiver  
SOLaware Technologies  
Sourcewell  
Southeastern Skate Supply Inc  
Speck Pumps - Pool Products, Inc.  
SpectraTurf  
Spectrum Products  
Splashtacular, Inc.  
Spohn Ranch Skateparks  
Spokes N Motion  
Sports Turf Managers Association  
SSCI - Background Screening Solutions  
Stancills Inc.  
StarGuard ELITE  
STARGUM  
Sybertech Waste Reduction, Ltd.  
Synthetic Surfaces Inc. / Nordot  
Adhesives  
T°CoolIPT  
Taylor Technologies, Inc.  
Think Green Promos  
Thruflow Inc.  
TMA Systems, LLC  
TOWELHUB.COM  
Tree Stake Solutions LLC.  
The Triax System  
True Bounce, Inc.  
True Pitch  
Tuff Coat Mfg., Inc.  
Turf Tank  
Tyler Technologies

Ultimate RB, Inc.  
UltraPlay  
Unity Surfacing Systems/Unity  
Creations  
Urban Fountains and Furniture  
USA Quickball  
USGreentech  
Valmont Composite Structures -  
Carsonite Brand  
Varsity Scoreboards  
VenTek International  
Water Technology, Inc.  
Water's Edge Aquatic Design  
We Pad It  
Wenger Corp  
Wertz Werkz Manufacturing  
Whitewater West Industries, Ltd.  
WickCraft Company  
Williams Architects  
Willoughby Industries  
Winterland, Inc.  
Wireless Telematics, LLC  
WLS Sports Lighting  
WMS Aquatics  
World Class Athletic Surfaces, Inc.  
Zamboni  
Zamorins Solutions Inc  
Zeager Bros., Inc.  
  
**Up to \$999**  
AmpliVox Portable Sound Systems  
AquaClimb  
Aquatic Access Inc.

## Thank You

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Aquatic Design Group  
Blue Rabbit Play, LLC  
Buena Vista Surrey Company  
Cedar Works  
Charities Aid Foundation of America  
Clemson University PRTM  
ELSEVIER  
Frostburg State University  
MAIS Software  
Northwest Missouri State University  
Oklahoma State University  
Old Dominion University  
Outdoor-Fit Exercise Systems  
Peak Software Systems  
The Public Restroom Company  
Randolph Rose Collection  
Safeslide Restoration  
SafeSoccer Goals  
South Padre Island (SPI) Nets, Inc  
Taylor Studios, Inc.  
University of Missouri-Columbia  
US EDirect Inc.  
Weston & Sampson Engineers, Inc.

### Individual Donors

#### \$1,000 and above

Anonymous  
Michael Abbaté  
Neelay Bhatt  
Zorah W. Bowman Trust Fund  
Hayden Brooks  
Kevin Coyle  
Jose Felix Diaz

Victor Dover  
Richard Gulley  
Jack C. Kardys  
Karen B. Kress  
Carolyn F. McKnight-Fredd, CPRP  
Dr. Joshua T. Medeiros, CPRP, AFO  
Patt Panzer and Carson Zullinger  
Charitable Fund Trust  
Ian Proud  
Kristine E. Stratton  
Nonet T. Sykes

#### Up to \$999

Amazon Smile  
Jodie H. Adams, CPRP  
Dottie Kay Alt, Ph.D.  
Deborah Atkins  
Ray Auchter  
Marilyn Bejma  
Susan Bernard  
Sue Bremner  
Derick Brinkerhoff  
Kong Chang  
Carter Chapman  
Elaine Chuang  
Kevin Clark  
Marcelo Costa  
CyberGrants LLC  
Bruno Douglas  
Jim Ervin  
Charlie Fabian  
FrontStream  
Bond Hedgepeth, CPSI

Dr. Stephen Holland  
Luke A Jacobsen  
Gloria Jedinak  
Rita Johnson  
Elizabeth Kelley  
Jayna Lang, CPRP  
Douglas Leris  
Joanna Lombard  
Katie Lowrie  
Deb Lynch  
Nury Márquez  
Emily McGinn  
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Network for Good  
Maria Olshansky  
Herman Parker  
Ann Richardson  
Kevin Roth  
Jennifer Schleining  
Schwab Charitable  
Yvonne Segal  
Lisa Shore, CPRP  
Jake Thiele  
Michael Timmons  
Paul Vassil  
David Wenner  
Melanie Will  
Philip Wu, M.D.  
Mark A. Young  
YourCause, LLC Vanguard Matching Gift Program

## Thank You

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### Parks Build Community: Catherine Street/ABC Park (Baltimore) In-Kind Donors

ACTIVE Network

Baltimore City Recreation and Parks

BCI Burke Playgrounds

California Sports Surfaces

Dero Bike Rack Co.

DuMor, Inc.

Epic Outdoor Cinema, LLC

GameTime

Gared Sports

Greenfields Outdoor Fitness

Johns Hopkins University

Most Dependable Fountains, Inc.

NC State University, College of Natural Resources

Physical Activity Research Center (PARC)

Pilot Rock Park Equipment

PlayCore

Playworld

Target

Vortex USA, Inc.

### Other In-Kind Donors

Anova Furnishings

Bison, Inc.

BSN Sports

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Cornilleau

Fun Express Oriental Trading Company

Gopher Sport

Equipment

Gyms for Dogs - Natural Dog Park Products

KirbyBuilt

Plastic Recycling of Iowa Falls, Inc.

Rusty Oak Nursery Ltd.

Sybertech Waste Reduction, Ltd.

UltraSite

Victor Stanley, Inc.

Patricia Wren

\*We regret any errors or omissions. For corrections, please contact Meghan Fredriksen at [mfredriksen@nrpa.org](mailto:mfredriksen@nrpa.org).

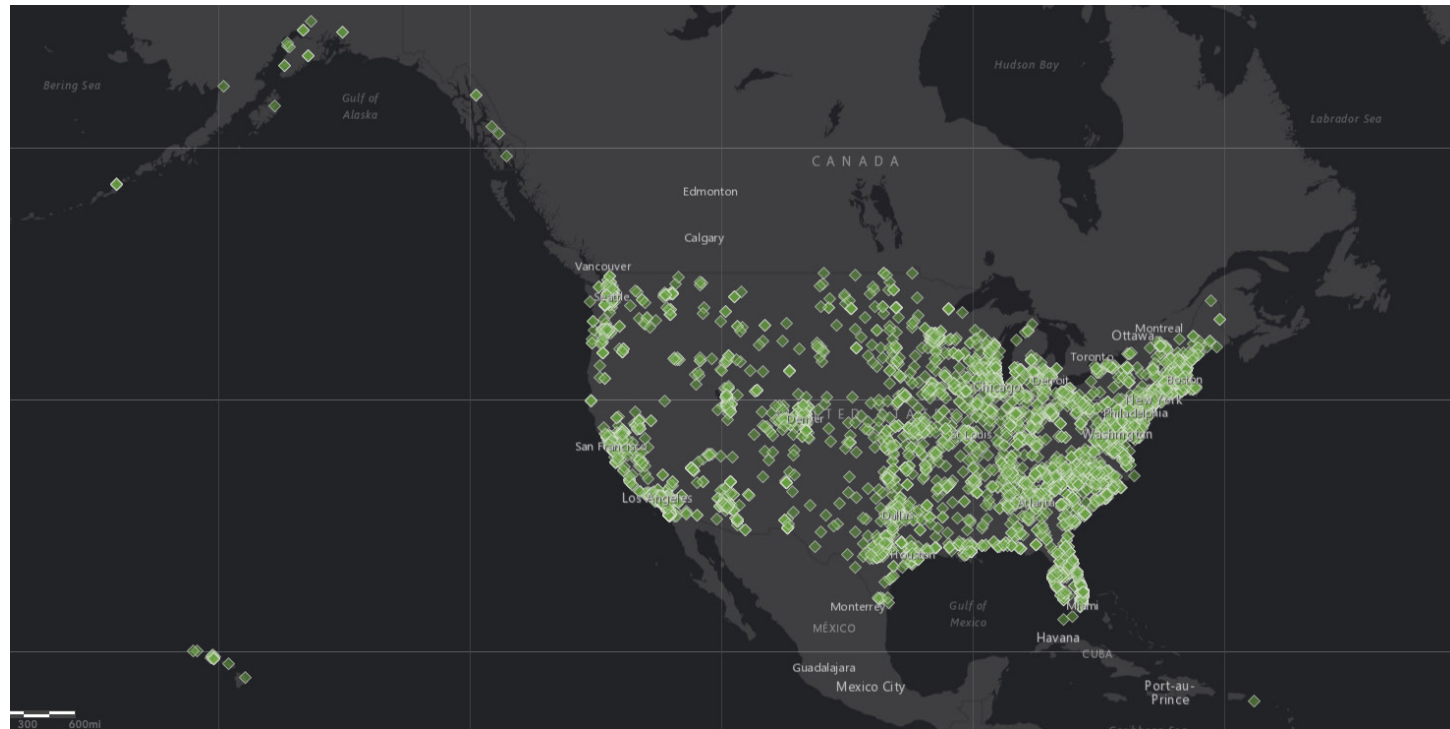


## Thank You

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### NRPA Members

Thank you to the more than 60,000 members that make NRPA a vibrant, forward-looking, innovative organization.



Map of the more than 60,000 NRPA members in the United States. Click on the map to open an interactive experience in your browser.

## How to Support Our Movement

As state and local governments face daunting financial challenges, funding for park and recreation departments are at risk. Our NRPA Parks Snapshot survey data shows that because of the pandemic, more than half of park and recreation agencies are already being asked to cut their budgets. And yet, when communities need them most, park and recreation agencies and professionals are there to serve the people who are most vulnerable.

As critical providers of health and well-being services, caretakers of our natural resources and champions of equity within our communities, we cannot allow the essential role of parks and recreation to be underfunded.



*In Berea, Kentucky, meals prepared by Berea College and Berea Community School food service kitchens are distributed to children using a school bus with help from park and recreation staff.*

This past year, NRPA was recognized by the American Society of Association Executives (ASAE) as one of [100 associations that will save the world](#). Saving the world, though, requires financial support and partners who can collaborate with us on this critical work.

### Ways to Give

You have the power to build strong, vibrant and resilient communities by supporting NRPA and the thousands of park and recreation professionals who make their communities better places to live, work and play. With your support, we can ensure access to safe, quality parks and recreation services that improve environmental, social and health outcomes in communities, now and into the future.

#### One-Time Contribution

Contributions of cash or securities help us advance health and well-being and climate-ready parks and put equity at the center of parks and recreation.

#### Monthly Supporter

Support the ongoing work of NRPA and the thousands of park and recreation professionals who make a difference in the lives of people every day by making a monthly gift to NRPA via electronic payment using a credit or debit card.

#### Gifts of Appreciated Stock

Gifting appreciated stock may be a great way to reduce or eliminate tax obligations and support the cause of parks and recreation. To make a gift of stock, please contact Meghan Fredriksen at 703.858.2190 or at [mfredriksen@nrpa.org](mailto:mfredriksen@nrpa.org).

## How to Support Our Movement



*Attendees of the 2019 NRPA Conference in Baltimore approach the finish line of the 5K Fun Run and Walk*

### Estate Gifts

Ensure the essential services and work of park and recreation professionals continue for generations to come by including a gift to NRPA in your will, trust, or as a beneficiary of a retirement or life insurance plan. For more information, please contact Nury Márquez at 703.858.2163 or at [nmarquez@nrpa.org](mailto:nmarquez@nrpa.org).

### Gifts Through a Donor-Advised Fund

If you already benefit from donor-advised funds, you easily can support NRPA with a donation through your donor-advised fund.

### Tribute Gifts

Make a gift to support the essential services of park and recreation professionals in memory or honor of someone special or to celebrate an important occasion, such as a birthday, wedding or holiday.

### Matching Gifts

Many employers will match their employees' contributions to NRPA, which can double or even triple the impact of an individual gift. Inquire if your company has a matching gift program and how you can access the match.

### Workplace Giving

Help support parks and recreation by designating NRPA in your workplace giving or payroll deduction work programs.

### Become a Partner

There are many opportunities for your company to meet its corporate social responsibility and employee retention goals while supporting close-to-home parks and recreation. For more information on how to partner with NRPA, contact Cassie Pais at 703.858.2151 or [cpais@nrpa.org](mailto:cpais@nrpa.org).

**Visit us at [nrpa.org/donate](https://nrpa.org/donate)**

## Board of Directors

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### As of June 30, 2020

- Jack Kardys, J. Kardys Strategies  
- Chair
- Michael P. Kelly, Chicago Park District  
- Chair-Elect
- Jesús S. Aguirre, CPRE, Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation  
- Treasurer
- Carolyn McKnight, CPRP, Eagle Methods Management Consulting  
- Secretary
- Michael Abbaté, FASLA, LEED AP, Abbaté Designs
- Hayden Brooks, American Realty Analysts
- Kong Chang, City of St. Paul Parks and Recreation
- Kevin Coyle, J.D., National Wildlife Federation
- Jose F. Diaz, Ballard Partners
- Victor B. Dover, FAICP, CNU Fellow, LEED-AP, Dover, Kohl & Partners Town Planning
- Richard B. Gulley, Balboa Park Conservancy
- Karen B. Kress, Park Advocate
- Joanna Lombard, University of Miami School of Architecture and Miller School of Medicine
- Joshua Medeiros, Ed. D, CPRP, AFO, City of Bristol Parks and Recreation
- Herman Parker, (former) City of San Diego Park and Recreation Department
- Ian Proud, PlayPower
- Kristine Stratton (ex-officio), National Recreation and Park Association
- Nonet T. Sykes, Atlanta Beltline, Inc.
- Xavier D. Urrutia, Alamo Colleges District
- Greg A. Weitzel, MS, CPRP, City of Las Vegas Department of Parks and Recreation
- Philip Wu, MD, (retired) Kaiser Permanente Northwest Region



*NRPA member Christie Bruner, Community Engagement Supervisor for the City of St. Petersburg Parks & Recreation Department (Florida) works with community members in 2019 as part of her work with Get Fit St. Pete.*



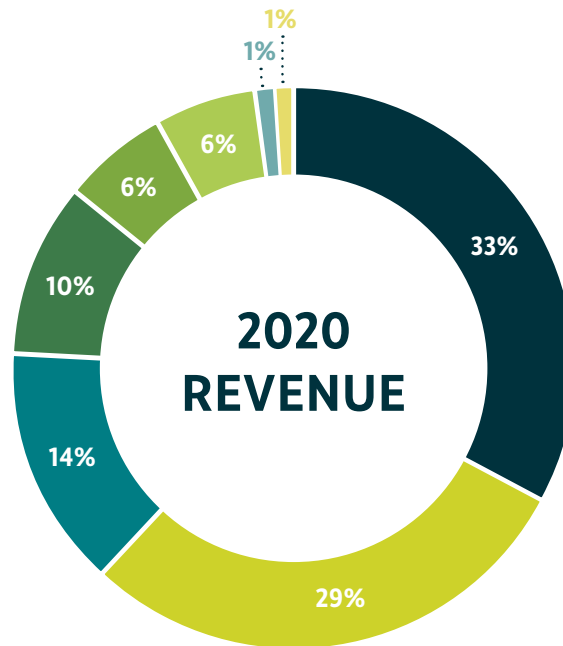
## Financials

REVENUE	2020	2019
Conference	5,574,142	5,343,452
Membership Dues	2,655,574	2,614,782
Education Services	1,945,431	1,882,620
Certification and Accreditation	1,234,382	1,342,758
Publications and Advertising	1,169,021	1,171,197
Grants and Contributions	958,159	648,057
Investment Income, Net	179,395	231,448
Other Income	80,745	122,692
Net Assets Released From Restriction	5,223,658	6,908,011
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>19,020,507</b>	<b>20,265,017</b>

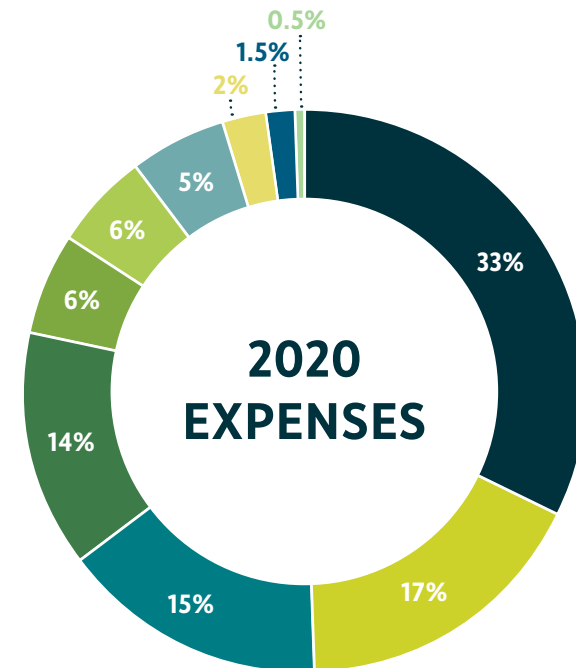
EXPENSES	2020	2019
Partnerships, Programs and Grants	5,759,579	7,235,352
Knowledge and Learning	2,689,785	2,841,284
Conferences	2,426,043	2,246,339
Marketing and Communications	1,036,163	946,338
Publications	1,022,413	981,508
Membership	980,610	887,252
Public Policy	449,220	652,416
Conservation	93,235	162,156
<b>TOTAL PROGRAM SERVICES</b>	<b>14,457,048</b>	<b>15,952,645</b>
Management and general	3,053,005	3,174,969
Fundraising	274,051	113,742
<b>TOTAL SUPPORTING SERVICES</b>	<b>3,327,056</b>	<b>3,288,711</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>17,784,104</b>	<b>19,241,356</b>

## Financials

NET ASSETS	2020	2019
Change in Net Assets	2,538,056	3,168,482
Net Assets Beginning of Year	14,060,900	10,892,418
<b>NET ASSETS END OF YEAR</b>	<b>16,598,956</b>	<b>14,060,900</b>



- Grants, Partnerships and Contributions
- Conference
- Membership Dues
- Education Services
- Certification and Accreditation
- Publications and Advertising
- Investment Income, Net
- Other Income



- Partnerships, Programs and Grants
- Management and General
- Knowledge and Learning
- Conferences
- Marketing and Communications
- Publications
- Membership
- Public Policy
- Fundraising
- Conservation