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.

NRPA is the voice for the park and recreation profession — we invest in and advocate for park and recreation professionals because we know that an investment in parks and recreation is an investment in building communities that thrive. The evidence is in the data and the countless stories of everyday people whose lives are better because of their local parks.
Parks and recreation provides a unique lens through which to view the collective trauma experienced by our world over the past two-and-a-half years. As community-makers, park and recreation professionals are in the business of addressing trauma head-on. They provide places to heal, programs to nourish and opportunities to mentor. Like a sports team that faces injury and loss, our park and recreation professionals have stepped up to coach, lead and work behind the scenes in our communities to change the score.

What’s the challenge? Our park and recreation professionals and agencies have experienced this collective trauma as well. They are simultaneously healing our communities while dealing with budget cuts, employment challenges, and their own mental health stressors.

What makes parks and recreation so powerful, though, is its unique ability to solve our communities’ toughest problems. Parks and recreation has the power and potential to tackle the impacts of climate change, reverse childhood obesity, combat loneliness and isolation, and create stronger and more equitable communities where all experience the benefits of parks and recreation.

In short, parks and recreation is integral to providing solutions for virtually every major challenge facing our communities today.

At NRPA, we are proud of how we have risen to the challenges over the past two-and-a-half years. Where it might have been easy to put our diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) work on the back burner until a more “ideal” time, we put everything we had into living our mission and placing equity at the center of everything we do.

This past year, we launched our Equity in Practice program comprising peer learning networks, a library of carefully curated and vetted resources, and a three-part certificate program that employs a train-the-trainer model to ensure we are multiplying the park and recreation professionals putting equity and inclusion into practice every day.

The pandemic made a clear case for why parks and recreation is essential. Media outlets like National Public Radio (NPR), The New York Times and the Washington Post are starting to see it, too. They recognize parks and recreation’s contribution to fighting climate change and acknowledge the need for nature and community connections in our increasingly polarized and tech-fueled lives.

Now, it’s up to us to keep that message front and center. This year’s annual report reinforces what we hold with the deepest conviction — parks and recreation can help solve our biggest problems. NRPA stands ready, with the support of our partners and funders, to rise up to the challenge.
WHAT IS PARKS AND RECREATION?

VALUABLE INFRASTRUCTURE
(Parks, Trails, Recreation Centers, Nature Preserves, Waterways, Greenways, Senior Centers)

VITAL PROGRAMS
(Childcare, Workforce and Youth Development, Youth Sports, Emergency Response, Environmental Education, Nutrition and Physical Activity Programs)

= ESSENTIAL SERVICES

165,000 full-time employees of local park and recreation agencies in the United States plus hundreds of thousands of part-time and seasonal workers¹

275 million visitors to a local park or recreation facility during the past year⁴

$218 billion in economic activity plus support for 1.3 million jobs²

84% of U.S. adults seek high-quality parks and recreation when choosing a place to live⁵

40 million youth participate in at least one local park and recreation program annually³

3 in 4 adults agree equity should be an important goal for their local agency⁶


A park professional and group of children engage in an activity. Photo courtesy of City of Southlake.
Centering our park practices in equity is essential not only to ensuring all people have access to the life-saving benefits of park and recreation, but also to healing our communities. Being intentional about co-creating our public spaces means thinking about everything from the amenities we provide to what we name a public space.

After Private Lori Piestewa’s death in 2003, several entities came together to rename Squaw Peak — a racist, misogynistic and offensive term— to Piestewa Peak, in honor of Private Piestewa. The new Ocotillo Ramada at Piestewa Peak continues to honor Private Piestewa’s legacy each year through the Piestewa Fallen Heroes Sunrise Memorial event.

Recent improvements to the park ensure the park is accessible to all who wish to visit it through amenities, such as Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)-accessible restrooms and trails. This community-centered design and engagement exemplifies equity in practice. Ensuring this takes place in every community across the country is what NRPA’s Equity in Practice program is all about.
WE RISE UP FOR
CLIMATE RESILIENCE

Parks are critical natural infrastructure that protect and restore our communities from the effects of climate change. Healthy, climate-resilient parks capture stormwater, support biodiversity, sequester carbon, improve air quality and so much more. Creating climate-resilient parks, however, requires understanding the unique needs, challenges and nuances of each park’s ecosystem.

Over the past four years, park staff and dedicated volunteers at Sylvan Rodriguez Park in Houston have painstakingly hand-collected prairie seed from remnant and restored prairies around Houston, propagated plants within the city’s greenhouse, removed invasive species, and restored 72 acres of land back to wetland prairie. In addition to the ecological benefits this restoration provides, it also educates through interpretive signage, creates citizen scientists and brings people together.

Creating lasting and endless benefits for the community is the power of local parks and recreation. Ensuring these best practices and lessons make it to communities across the country is the power of NRPA.
“Parks are not an amenity anymore. They are an absolute necessity. We must look at the risks we face. We have solutions and we can live in balance with nature. Parks will be a critical part of the solution.”

— Martha Schwartz
Noted urban design expert and professor in practice in landscape architecture at the Harvard University Graduate School of Design
Between 2020 and early 2022, NRPA worked with 15 communities to develop the Community Wellness Hubs model, which leverages park and recreation as an integral part of our public health system through the creation of trusted gathering places that connect every member of the community to essential programs, services and spaces. These Community Wellness Hubs specifically focused on supporting food access, improving food security, connecting people to social resources, and providing evidence-based nutrition education to improve healthy eating behaviors.

Across all agencies, 17.9 million meals were served to individuals, 228 food access points were established, 327 partnerships were formed or strengthened, and more than 31,000 households were provided with SNAP/WIC outreach. Together with our partners and members, we are using the power of parks and recreation to advance health across all dimensions of well-being.
2022 NRPA COMMUNITY INVESTMENT HIGHLIGHTS FROM JULY 1, 2021 TO JUNE 30, 2022

$4.8 million invested in local communities
465 communities supported through health, equitable access and resiliency grants/technical assistance

1,401,398 people impacted through NRPA partnerships and programs, including:
- 83% people living in low-income households
- 48% people of color
- 20% Hispanic or Latino

3,790 new certifications awarded to park and recreation professionals
29,961 online course registrations delivered to professionals
199 total accredited agencies

WE RISE UP

Photo courtesy of City of Southlake.
WHERE WE RISE

Click on the photos to learn more about the type of community investment created through NRPA partnerships and grant funding.

1 Photo of a moth in Tualatin, Oregon captured through NRPA’s Parks for Pollinators BioBlitz.

2 A group of stakeholders in Farmington, New Mexico review plans for the All Abilities Park design that was supported through an NRPA grant.

3 Liberty (Missouri) Parks and Recreation implemented remote physical activity programs for older adults as part of an NRPA pilot project.

4 Children sit under their town sign after planting flowers. NRPA supported Berwick with a grant to expand mentoring.
   Photo courtesy of Town of Berwick, Maine.

5 Two volunteers take care of a community garden that was established through an NRPA grant.
   Photo courtesy of Asheville (North Carolina) Parks and Recreation.

6 A child enjoys a Playball event hosted by Tampa (Florida) Parks & Recreation, Tampa Bay Rays and Mayor Jane Castor. An NRPA grant supported expanded access to sports opportunities in Tampa.
   Photo courtesy Tyler Schank and Tampa Parks & Recreation.
OUR KEY PROGRAM AREAS

EQUITY IN PRACTICE
Equity is at the center of all we do. We estimate that as many as 100 million people — 30 percent of the U.S. population — lack access to the lifesaving and life-enhancing benefits parks and recreation provides. We cannot rest until we close the gap.

CLIMATE RESILIENCE
Resilient and climate-ready communities depend on parks and recreation. Park and recreation professionals are one of the largest land managers in the nation and are key to climate change solutions.

HEALTH AND WELL-BEING
All people must have access to the spaces and services that improve individual and community-level health outcomes and enhance quality of life. Park and recreation professionals are key to a fully integrated public health system.

RESEARCH
NRPA is the ultimate resource for best practices, case studies, and comprehensive data about and for the field of parks and recreation. Our research offerings and publications are the best source for park and recreation insights.

CERTIFICATION AND ACCREDITATION
NRPA offers four certification programs for park and recreation professionals, as well as accreditation for park and recreation agencies. These programs demonstrate our field’s commitment to the highest standards of ethical and professional practice.

ADVOCACY
NRPA’s Public Policy team advocates for federal funding to ensure lasting investment in parks and recreation, as well as trains park and recreation professionals to be effective advocates at the local and state level.

EDUCATION
NRPA provides the most robust learning opportunities available to park and recreation professionals. From an extensive online learning catalogue to in-person schools and conferences to award-winning publications, we are preparing the profession for the future.

MOVEMENT BUILDING
Park and recreation professionals are experts in creating community. NRPA is an expert at giving them a community of their own. We provide members with spaces to collaborate, learn, grow and celebrate together. We promote the field through annual celebrations like Park and Recreation Month.
Our partners share our vision for a future where the full power of parks and recreation is recognized for creating a better life for everyone. Our partners invested more than $6.67 million in parks and recreation in 2022.

Centered on research, relationship-building, advocacy and innovation, the Business Council brings together company leaders to explore, share and deploy solutions that improve parks and recreation. In 2022, our inaugural year, we had 11 companies representing 18 business sectors.

Stewards include NRPA in their estate plans and, as of September 2022, have committed nearly $7.8 million in bequests and contingent residual gifts to preserving access to vibrant parks and recreation for generations to come.

Industry Supporters strengthen NRPA and park and recreation professionals through NRPA’s Annual Conference, Parks & Recreation magazine, sponsorship of education opportunities, and creation of innovative products and services.
NRPA thanks our supporters for helping to build strong, healthy, and resilient communities for all people through parks and recreation during this past year (July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022).

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS
INDIVIDUALS
Michael Abbate, FASLA, LEED AP
Kathy Abbott
Jesus Aguirre, CPRE
Ellen Beth Amicarelli
Beth Anderson
Anonymous (14)*
Raul Audelo
Dotty Ballantyne*
Kenneth Banks
Sue Brenner
Robert Carman
Keith Cowan
Kevin Coyle
Gabriel Crouch
Samantha DeSeelhorst*
Jose Felix Diaz
Victor Dover, FAICP, CNU Fellow, LEED AP
Angelou Ezeilo
Charlie Fabian
Robert A. and Linda L. Farnsworth
Christopher J. Fitzgerald
Lakita Frazier, CPRP
Meghan Fredriksen
Susan R. Goldman
Evan Grasser
Gustavo Hernandez
Bruce E. Keeler
Edward J. Koenemann
Susie Kuruvilla, CPRP, CPA
Joanna Lombard, AIA, LEED AP
Seair Lorentz
Nury Marquez
Mollie Marsh-Heine
Kellie May
Megan McDonnell*
Carolyn F. McKnight-Fredd, CPRP*
Joshua Medeiros, Ed. D, CPRP, AFO
Douglas C. Morris
Stephen M. Nabors
Maria A. Olshansky
Jean Ostrander (via Facebook Donations)
Karen D. Palus
Michelle A. Park, CPRP
Kathryn A. Porter
Jenny Richmond
Ellen and Pierre Rodgers
Kevin Roth
Mark and Marisa Ruhe*
Jennifer G. Schleining
Joyce Sharp
Lisa Shore, CPRP
Virginia E. Soybel*
Kristine Stratton
Maureen O. Sturgill, CPRP*
Nonet T. Sykes
Jennifer Urbaszevski-Grono
Xavier D. Urrutia
Monica Hobbs Vinluan, J.D.
Anne Wardle (via Facebook Donations)
Greg A. Weitzel, MS, CPRP
Leonard White
William A. Wiles
Philip Wu, M.D.
Mark A. Young

*includes a memorial or tribute donation

We regret any errors or omissions.
For corrections, please contact development@nrpa.org.

Find out how you can support NRPA and get involved at nrpa.org/give.

STEWARDS FOR THE FUTURE
NRPA thanks the following individuals who have included NRPA in their estate plans as of June 30, 2022.

Kathy Abbott
Anonymous (21)
Stacey Belhumeur
Bradley Buzzard
Zeshun Cai
Laura Chapman-Boardman
Scheryl Chinn
John Christiansen
Courtney Claycomb-Colbert
Donnie Corless
Ginger Corless
Atuya Cornwell
Catherine D'Anna
Joseph D'Anna III
Lele Engler
Timothy Francis
Ashley Gomez
Stacey Gordon
Sarah Goulet
David Grabowski
Caitlin Hayes
Beth Haynes
Charlene Hou
Natalie Kaplan
Jack Kardys
Diane Kardys
Elizabeth Keefe-Chamberlain
Sara Kelly
Kirsten Kenney
Brittany Kritzman
Margaret Mace
Colten Marble
Shawn Marble
Karolyn McCarty-Child

Daren McLaughlin
Erin McPeak
Margoli Mendez
Mike Miller
Ananda Morlock
Shannon Nazzal
Mohamed Nazzal
Wendy Neely
Malcolm Neely
Hyla-Monet Penn
Jonathon Penn
Sarah Pitcher
Carl Putzier
Joanne M. Putzier
Allison Ramsey
Carolyn Rose
Steven Rose
Caitlyn Sanders
Donna Sanders
Geoffrey Sanders
James Shannon
Mary Shannon
Emily Shrader
Andrew Sidoti
Michelle Stout
Kristine Stratton
Yashwanta Thakur
Adrienne Thakur
Kim Tucker
Tiffany White-Lapiere
Noreen Wilpizeski
Wai Lam Wong
Liza Young
Denise Zeiler
Carolyn McKnight-Fredd, CPRP — Chair
CEO/Owner, Eagle Methods
Management Consulting, LLC

Xavier D. Urrutia — Treasurer
Chief of Staff and Interim Vice
Chancellor for Economic and Workforce
Development, Alamo Colleges District

Joshua T. Medeiros, Ed.D., CPRE, AFO —
Secretary
Superintendent of Parks, Recreation,
Youth and Community Services, City
of Bristol Parks, Recreation, Youth and
Community Services

Michael Abbaté, FASLA, LEED AP —
At Large
Principal, Abbaté Designs LLC

Nonet T. Sykes — At Large
Chief Equity and Inclusion Officer,
Atlanta BeltLine, Inc.

Kristine Stratton — Ex Officio
President and CEO, NRPA

Kathy Abbott
President and CEO, Boston Harbor Now

Jesús Aguirre, CPRE
CEO, Waterloo Greenway

Rebecca Armstrong
CEO, NORTH

Lakita Frazier, CPRP
Chief Executive Officer, Women in Parks
and Recreation

Jose Felix Diaz
Executive Vice-President, Ballard Partner

Victor Dover, FAICP, CNU Fellow,
LEED AP
Cofounder, Dover, Kohl & Partners
Town Planning

Angelou Ezeilo
Vice President, Empathy, Ashoka Africa

Rick Gulley
Park and Recreation Board, City of
San Diego

Susie Kuruvilla, CPRP, CPA
Executive Director, Gurnee Park District

Mollie Marsh-Heine
Senior Vice President of Development,
Earthjustice

Joanna Lombard, AIA, LEED AP
Professor, Department of Public Health
Sciences University of Miami, School
of Architecture and Miller School of
Medicine

Arnold L. Randall
General Superintendent, Forest
Preserves of Cook County

Monica Hobbs Vinluan
Sr. Program Officer, Robert Wood
Johnson Foundation

Greg A. Weitzel, MS, CPRP
Senior Director of Mission Advancement,
Kids Around the World

Philip Wu, M.D.
(retired) Physician Consultant, Kaiser
Permanente Northwest Region
### FINANCIALS

#### REVENUE

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<tr>
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<th>2022</th>
<th>2021</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Conference</td>
<td>3,472,122</td>
<td>3,796,848</td>
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<tr>
<td>Membership Dues</td>
<td>2,205,290</td>
<td>2,055,253</td>
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<td>Education Services</td>
<td>1,561,450</td>
<td>1,212,960</td>
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<tr>
<td>Certification and Accreditation</td>
<td>1,479,551</td>
<td>1,220,042</td>
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<td>Publications and Advertising</td>
<td>1,543,241</td>
<td>1,363,045</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grants and Contributions</td>
<td>1,162,960</td>
<td>1,088,166</td>
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<td>PPP Loan Forgiveness</td>
<td>1,065,985</td>
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<td>Investment Income, Net</td>
<td>(709,282)</td>
<td>954,939</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Income</td>
<td>51,410</td>
<td>121,760</td>
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<td>Net Assets Released From Restriction</td>
<td>7,801,195</td>
<td>6,884,936</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL REVENUE</strong></td>
<td><strong>19,633,922</strong></td>
<td><strong>18,039,949</strong></td>
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#### EXPENSES

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Partnerships, Programs and Grants</td>
<td>6,669,420</td>
<td>7,294,035</td>
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<td>Knowledge and Learning</td>
<td>2,294,594</td>
<td>1,781,962</td>
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<td>Conferences</td>
<td>2,410,465</td>
<td>1,049,513</td>
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<td>Marketing and Communications</td>
<td>1,061,023</td>
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<td>Publications</td>
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<td>814,440</td>
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<td>Membership</td>
<td>1,040,715</td>
<td>996,898</td>
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<td>Public Policy</td>
<td>601,821</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL PROGRAM SERVICES</strong></td>
<td><strong>14,988,130</strong></td>
<td><strong>13,102,975</strong></td>
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<td>Management and General</td>
<td>3,658,418</td>
<td>2,615,650</td>
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<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>597,436</td>
<td>390,982</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL SUPPORTING SERVICES</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,256,155</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,006,632</strong></td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENSES</strong></td>
<td><strong>19,244,285</strong></td>
<td><strong>16,109,607</strong></td>
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#### NET ASSETS

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<th>2022</th>
<th>2021</th>
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<tr>
<td>Change in Net Assets</td>
<td>(4,789,245)</td>
<td>4,968,532</td>
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<td>Net Assets Beginning of Year</td>
<td>21,567,488</td>
<td>16,598,956</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>NET ASSETS END OF YEAR</strong></td>
<td><strong>16,778,243</strong></td>
<td><strong>21,567,488</strong></td>
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![2022 Revenue Pie Chart](chart1)

![2022 Expenses Pie Chart](chart2)
JOIN US.

WE RISE UP FOR
INCLUSION

WE RISE UP FOR
RESILIENCE

WE RISE UP FOR
PHYSICAL HEALTH

WE RISE UP FOR
MENTAL WELL-BEING

WE RISE UP FOR
ACCESS TO PLAY

WE RISE UP FOR
OUR COMMUNITY

Investing in NRPA is an investment in healthy, equitable and resilient communities through the power of parks and recreation.

LET’S RISE UP TOGETHER.

nrpa.org/join-us

A view of a valley from a hiking trail. Photo courtesy Forsyth County Parks & Recreation GA.