



## **BACKGROUND**

### **History**

On Aug. 14, 1965, The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) was created when five organizations merged to form a single entity. The five merging organizations were all involved in the support of park and recreation service providers in the public sector, and included the National Recreation Association, American Institute of Park Executives, American Recreation Society, National Conference on State Parks and the American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums.

### **Mission**

NRPA's mission is to advance parks, recreation and environmental conservation efforts that enhance the quality of life for all people. Through its network of 60,000 recreation and park professionals and citizens, NRPA encourages the promotion of healthy and active lifestyles, conservation initiatives and equitable access to parks and public space.

NRPA's vision is that everyone will have access to parks and recreation in sustainable communities. This vision is carried out through NRPA's Three Pillars: Conservation, Health and Wellness, and Social Equity. It is NRPA's goal that their members will demonstrate the impact they make in these three areas among their communities.

Headquartered in Ashburn, Virginia, NRPA works closely with local, state and national recreation and park agencies, citizen groups and corporations to carry out its objectives. Priorities include: advocating favorable legislation and public policy; continuing education for park and recreation professionals and citizens; providing professional certification, university accreditation, research and technical assistance; and increasing public awareness of the importance of local parks and recreation.

### **Leadership**

NRPA is governed by a board of directors, which is responsible for the formulation of policies that control and direct the affairs of the association. Board members are elected to three-year terms and board officers are elected annually. Board members are representative of NRPA membership, which includes: professional and citizen leaders in the park, recreation and conservation movement; park and recreation agencies and organizations representing the public, private, voluntary, commercial and industrial sectors; firms supplying park and recreation products and services; and, individuals and civic groups interested in the park, recreation and conservation field.

### **Support**

NRPA is a non-profit organization organized under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. NRPA is funded through membership dues, conference and event sales and charitable contributions. These funds are used to conduct research, education and policy initiatives in support of the mission and vision.

For more information about NRPA, go to [www.nrpa.org](http://www.nrpa.org) or contact Suzanne Nathan, Media Specialist, at 703.858.4748 or [snathan@nrpa.org](mailto:snathan@nrpa.org). For digital access to NRPA's flagship publication, *Parks & Recreation*, visit [www.parksandrecreation.org](http://www.parksandrecreation.org).