



Photo courtesy of Miami-Dade County



Photo courtesy of Adobe Stock

WHERE COMMUNITY GROWS

This year we celebrated the ways in which park and recreation professionals are central to growing and sustaining healthy, prosperous and resilient communities.

We know and are driven by some powerful truths:

- Park quantity, quality and accessibility are predictors of overall well-being.¹
- Climate-ready parks provide proven, cost-effective and sustainable environmental solutions.²
- A lack of green space correlates to a 33 percent higher rate of physician-diagnosed depression.³

With the support of our partners, **NRPA invested more than \$3.6 million into nearly 200 communities in 2023** to advance equitable and resilient parks, pollinator protection, youth sports, older adult physical activity programs and Community Wellness Hubs — trusted gathering places where all people can connect to social services. We also formed strategic partnerships with nongovernmental organizations and federal government agencies, like MENTOR and the National Park Service, to advance our mission and extend our reach.

The 2023 NRPA Annual Conference brought together more than 8,000 park and recreation professionals, suppliers and allies to learn and create community. Through all that we do, NRPA is ensuring that the people who strengthen and grow our communities have the resources, funding, education and research they need and deserve, as well as a **community of their own**.

Parks and recreation has the power to connect and heal our communities from the ground up. **NRPA works every day to champion the people who create healthy, equitable and resilient communities.**

You can help. Let's grow community together.

View a personal video from NRPA President and CEO Kristine Stratton and learn more in our 2023 Annual Report at:

nrpa.org/annual-report



2023 ANNUAL REPORT EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

¹NRPA, bit.ly/3RvDQqK
²NRPA, bit.ly/3RvDQqK
³NIH, bit.ly/44Z86xh



Photo courtesy of Lexington Parks and Recreation



Photo courtesy of Adobe Stock

PARKS AND RECREATION:



164K+

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

40M

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

280M+

people in the United States visited a local park or recreation facility during the past year⁴

\$218B

in economic activity, plus support for 1.3 million jobs²

9 IN 10

U.S. adults want their local park and recreation agency to ensure all community members feel welcome⁵

84%

of U.S. adults seek high-quality parks and recreation when choosing a place to live⁶

88%

of U.S. adults support their local park and recreation agency implementing sustainability initiatives⁷

¹NRPA, bit.ly/44XU7b8
²NRPA, bit.ly/3F4CZGI
³NRPA, bit.ly/3EMMxWI

⁴NRPA, bit.ly/3EMMxWI
⁵NRPA, bit.ly/44Ycywu
⁶NRPA, bit.ly/3EMMxWI

⁷NRPA, bit.ly/45XSCuW