



# Legislative Platform

The North Dakota Recreation & Park Association (NDRPA) believes public investment in parks and recreation is necessary to achieve positive economic, health, environmental and social/community benefits for all North Dakotans. Parks and recreation are essential public services and a valuable part of community infrastructure.

## 2025 Legislative Priorities

- Support government structures that provide local decision-making.
- Support continuation of state funding of park districts through established revenue sources, including the State Aid Distribution Fund.
- Support ongoing grant funding for the development and enhancement of outdoor recreation facilities, including the Outdoor Heritage Fund.
- Support the passthrough of federal dollars for parks, recreation, conservation and trails, including the Land and Water Conservation Fund and the Recreational Trails Program.
- Support access for all North Dakotans to physical activity, proper nutrition and healthy lifestyle options through parks, active transportation, healthy foods and recreation programming.
- Support state agency funding and programs that leverage local investment to maximize public parks and recreation opportunities.
- Oppose legislation or unfunded mandates that would be detrimental to parks, recreation and conservation.

## Benefits

Parks, open space, trails, greenways, water, recreation facilities, programs and services provide documented benefits: economic, health, environmental and social/community.

### Economic

- Attracts businesses and workforce
- Creates employment opportunities
- Attracts visitors
- Increases property values

### Environmental

- Purifies the air and water
- Manages stormwater
- Provides habitat for animals, fish and birds
- Connects children and adults with nature

### Health

- Improves physical, mental and social wellbeing
- Reduces health care costs
- Provides alternative and active transportation opportunities

### Social/Community

- Creates community image and sense of place
- Increases social connections and learning
- Offers safe, affordable and accessible spaces

NDRPA is a membership organization committed to advancing parks, recreation and conservation for an enhanced quality of life in North Dakota. NDRPA's more than 900 members include park districts and their board members and staff, as well as agencies, organizations and individuals interested in the fields of recreation, parks, conservation, trails, tourism, fitness, therapeutic recreation, health and wellness, and recreational use of natural resources.