

North Carolina Recreation and Park Association awards Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Grants to Local Parks and Recreation Departments

July 23rd, 2020

(Raleigh, North Carolina)- The North Carolina Recreation and Park Association (NCRPA) has awarded Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion grants to four North Carolina Recreation and Parks Departments. Greensboro Parks & Recreation, Wilmington Parks & Recreation, and Wake County Parks, Recreation, & Open Space were among recipients of grants to support their programs. The mini-grant program aims to further diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts in parks and recreation across North Carolina. These grants are made possible by funding received from the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina Foundation.

Before becoming eligible to apply for grant funding, grant coordinators successfully completed NCRPA's three-part Racial Equity Learning Cohort between January and April 2020. The training, facilitated by the Equity Paradigm, focused on systemic racism in our society.

"We believe parks and recreation has an important role in ensuring that communities have access to quality and equitable leisure experiences," said NCRPA Program Coordinator Diquan Edmonds. "In having grantees learn about systemic racism in our country and then providing funding to help combat these afflictions, we hope to positively impact communities across North Carolina."

The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Mini-Grants fund projects designed to increase equitable access to park and recreation programming & facilities, or provide training to park and recreation staff members. "By awarding grant funding directly to our eligible members, we hope to help educate more park and recreation professionals on equity issues in their respective communities," said Edmonds. In addition to awarding grant funding for staff training, Edmonds believes that funding creative ways to increase access to park and recreation offerings is vital to reaching all members of our communities.

The North Carolina Recreation and Park Association believes all members of our communities deserve quality, safe, and equitable park and recreation experiences. To learn more about NCRPA's commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion, visit their equity page [at this link](#).

About the North Carolina Recreation & Park Association: Founded in 1944, the North Carolina Recreation & Park Association (NCRPA) is the premier nonprofit education and advocacy organization, dedicated to the advancement of the park, recreation and leisure professions in our state. NCRPA empowers park and recreation professionals and citizen board members through educational opportunities that enhance their ability to change lives and impact communities on a daily basis for the citizens of North Carolina. For an overview of the programs and services offered by the organization, visit <http://www.ncrpa.net>.

###



Media Contact: Matt Carusona
Director of Programs and Marketing
NC Recreation & Park Association
883 Washington St, Raleigh, NC 27605
919-832-5868 | Matt@ncrpa.net

Program Contact: Diquan Edmonds
Program Coordinator
NC Recreation & Park Association
883 Washington St, Raleigh, NC 27605
919-832-5868 | Diquan@ncrpa.net