

# **Oregon Recreation and Park Association (ORPA)**

## **2020 Legislative Platform**

Park and recreation agencies make a dramatic and positive impact on Oregon's economy, natural beauty, and quality of life. The park and recreation industry also positively affects broader statewide policy objectives such as job creation, youth development, public health, crime prevention, and services for an aging population. In order to maintain and enhance the ability of parks and recreation agencies, professionals, and partners to conduct this work, ORPA advocates for the following policy issues that are key to success in our field.

### **A. Promote Active, Healthy Lifestyles Through Park and Recreation Services**

- ORPA supports legislation that recognizes park and recreation agencies as partners in providing opportunities for Oregonians to pursue healthy, active lifestyles; and, legislation that calls for and funds the formation of partnerships to provide such services.
- ORPA prioritizes legislation that will facilitate and fund anti-obesity programs; No Child Left Inside (Environmental Education and Experiences) initiatives; programs to increase physical activity among children, adults, and seniors; programs facilitating trail and pathway connectivity and active transportation; supplemental meal programs; and programs promoting the overall health and physical vitality of Oregonians.

### **B. Protect Lottery Fund Allocations to Parks and Natural Resources**

- ORPA opposes legislation that would divert constitutionally dedicated funds from park and natural resource uses.
- ORPA supports legislation that allows local and county park agencies to receive OWEB grant dollars.
- ORPA supports legislation that increases funding for local parks and trails.

### **C. Support Legislation that Protects Recreation Providers from Liability**

- ORPA supports continued immunity protection for landowners who allow public access to their lands free of charge.
- ORPA supports legislation on discretionary immunity and duty of care that further protects public landowners.

### **D. Support Initiatives that Promote Connecting Oregon's Citizens to Nature**

- ORPA supports legislation that facilitates the delivery of environmental education and interpretation for all ages, including support for funding for local park and recreation agencies, in cooperation with local and statewide partners, to provide environmental education and programs for K-12 school children.
- ORPA supports the Oregon Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights, the No Oregon Child Left Inside program, Oregon Heritage programs and other programs designed to connect Oregonians to the outdoors.

#### **E. Protect Financial Stability of Public Park & Recreation Agencies**

- ORPA opposes legislation that negatively impacts the ability of local governments to assess, collect, and use Park System Development Charges (SDCs), utility fees, local sales taxes, Oregon State Park and Transportation Department grants, and other similar funding mechanisms whose purpose is to support park and recreation development and programs.
- ORPA supports efforts to stabilize funding for Oregon's counties impacted by loss of timber payments.
- ORPA supports legislation that will restore funding for parkland acquisition and recreational facility acquisition and development through programs such as the Land and Water Conservation Fund.
- ORPA opposes any attempts to fundamentally alter the local government grant provisions of Measure 76.
- ORPA supports legislation that assures the continuation of high quality services and supports local job creation.
- ORPA generally opposes legislation that imposes unfunded mandates on park and recreation agencies and supports the legislature's consideration of the impact of any and all unfunded mandates on park and recreation agencies and services.
- ORPA generally opposes legislation regarding employment requirement, pay, benefits and rights that do not take into account the unique role of park and recreation employees who are often seasonal and part-time.