



# South Carolina Recreation and Parks Association "Creating Community through People, Parks and Programs"



## 2017-2018 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

*SCRPA strongly supports quality state and local parks, recreation and the protection of our state's valuable natural and cultural resources and opportunities while contributing to the local and state economy. We are also keenly aware that our profession provides a catalyst for the enhancement of commerce and tourism development.*

### **Promote Health and Wellness**

Promote and support legislation that has a positive impact on the physical well-being of all citizens.

### **Protect Environmental & Historical Resources**

Advocate the conservation of our natural & historic resources in not only established parks and conserved areas, but also for sites, which may be lost permanently to future development contrary to conservation. Support reauthorization and funding of the SC Conversation Land Bank.

### **Support Economic Development and Impact through:**

#### **Capital Development**

Support efforts to continually develop public parks and amenities so that they may be safe, attractive and realize their fullest potential economically (increasing property values and economic impact), while strengthening community image and sense of place. We strongly advocate for local governments ability to determine the best needs for their citizens. Included in these efforts is the issue of handicapped accessibility. Of particular interest are grants at all levels of government, including:

#### **Federal**

- \*Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)*
- \*Recreational Trails Program under Highway Transportation*

#### **Local & State**

- \* Accommodations Tax*
- \*Hospitality tax*

#### **State**

- \*SC Water Recreation Fund*
- \*SC Conservation Land Bank*
- \*Parks And Recreation Development*
- \*Sports Tourism*
- \* Undiscovered SC*
- \* Any other new programs or opportunities that may assist local agencies with the continued planning and development of public park lands and recreation opportunities.*

### **Strengthen Safety and Security through:**

#### **Crime Prevention & Safety Prevention Programs**

Support legislation that aids in the prevention of crime, especially through parks, recreation, cultural and other leisure services. Continue to promote wise use of leisure time for youth programs and gang prevention. Also, provide programs that offer citizens the opportunities to learn lifesaving skills (specifically drowning).

#### **Food Safety**

Assist SC DHEC with instituting new regulations for concession stands and food prep separate from restaurants.

### **Recognize Differences Between Private Day Care and Public Recreation Programs**

#### **A. Screening Processes, Background Checks and Training Programs**

Advocate for legislation that ensures background screenings and training programs for employees who may have significant contact with people of all ages, particularly children.

#### **B. Programs**

Advocate funding for leisure programs, particularly those such as the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program and others associated with juvenile delinquency, literacy and crime, at both the state and federal levels. Continue to partner with state agencies to ensure local public parks and recreation programs are seen as providers and potential recipients of grants that may reach all citizens and public park and recreation agencies of South Carolina.

#### **C. Facilities**

Recognize Community Centers are different than other for profit buildings that only have a single purpose.

### **Foster Human Development**

Support and promote programs for youth, senior citizens and the entire community that will help our citizens develop their interests and skills. Also, support programs that help community problem-solving and increase cultural awareness and unity.