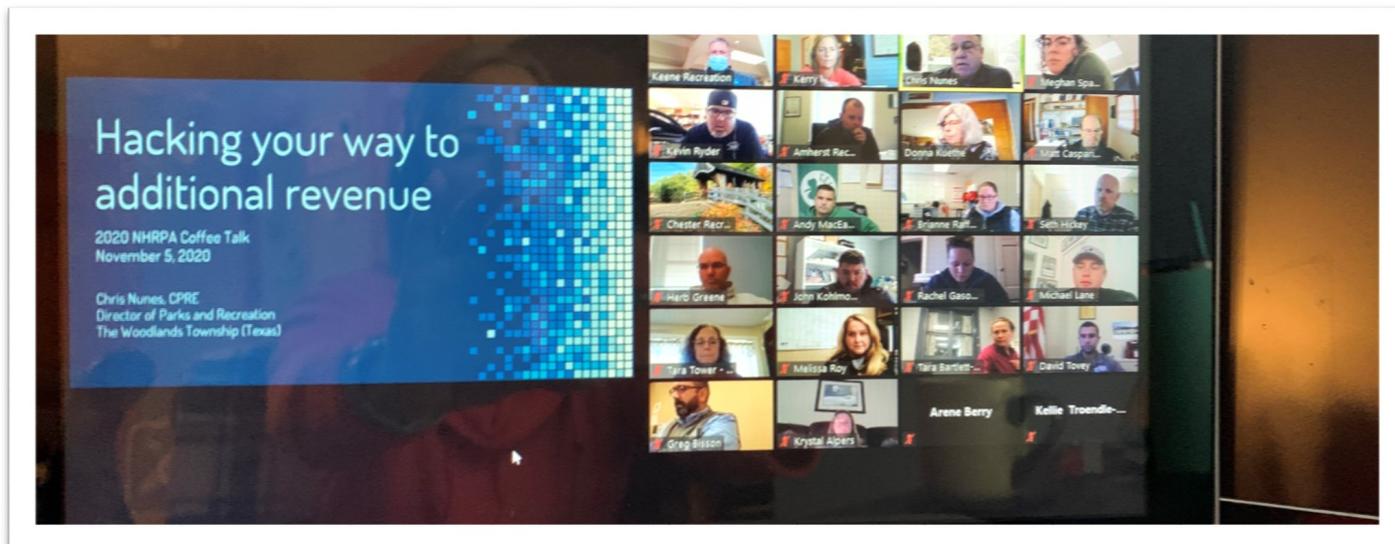


Winter 2021

REC CONNECT NEWSLETTER



Message from Executive Director

Happy New Year!

I think I have been waiting to say that since last March! 2020 was a challenging year for many of us both professionally & personally. I am looking forward to 2021 and getting back to in person workshops and events and seeing all of you! We can all see the “light at the end of the COVID tunnel” but we still have a little ways to go. I am hopeful that by late spring NHRPA can return to some in person events and by fall we should have the biggest NHRPA State Conference in years just so we can all get together!

I will say that 2020 taught me that we are a strong and resilient association! It was terrific to see so many of you join in the Coffee Talk sessions and a shout out to Andy Bohannon for scheduling fantastic speakers like Chris Nunes pictured above who shared a great session on generating revenue. I am excited to announce a new partnership with the Florida Recreation and Park Association to bring many additional virtual learning opportunities in the coming months. Details are outlined in the newsletter. My wish for 2021 is that we remember the lessons learned during 2020 and that we all take a little more time to laugh, be active and reach out to one another. I hope you enjoy the newsletter and be well in 2021!

Kerry Horne M.Ed., Executive Director, NHRPA

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NHRPA PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Greetings NHRPA,

As I write this I am sitting in my office listening to staff answer questions about 2021 Summer Camps, February Vacation Programs and Spring Youth Sports. Things almost feel like a typical January in a Parks & Recreation office. Our office is so optimistic we can make 2021 feel more like what we are used to and it appears from the registration numbers and phone calls that many of our residents are also excited about 2021.

2020 was a challenging one for many of us but I truly think our departments will be better off having been through it. We have found that kids are finding so much joy when they can interact with other kids in programs again. Our adult walkers said they were just happy to be out in the public with other real people and not staring at each other over a computer screen.

NHRPA has had to put a lot of our programs on hold for the year but just like my optimism above, I hope we can get back to seeing each other face to face at conferences, awards ceremonies and social events. It has been an absolute saving grace to see many of you during our Coffee Talks. If you have not attended a Coffee Talk yet, please do. Andy Bohannon has been putting together an all-star line-up of speakers and none have disappointed. I want to thank Andy for putting this together and I can't wait to see everyone in the next Coffee Talk.

Our amazing Executive Director, Kerry Horne, has been focused on our new Recreation Resilience initiative. Recreation Resilience will provide NHRPA members with mental health tools and resources for both our own use and for our staff. Be sure to check out the new Rec Resilience tab on our website. There is still time to register for the upcoming Mental Health Awareness" Caring for Yourself, Being There for Others workshop on January 21st. This is a huge passion of Kerry's and I know this session will be well worth your time.

See you soon and please remember to take time for yourself and get out and play. **Craig Fraley NHRPA President**

NHRPA Executive Board

President: Craig Fraley
Amherst Recreation

President Elect: Matt Casparius
Merrimack Parks & Recreation

Secretary | Tara Tower
Lincoln Woodstock Recreation

Treasurer | Arene Berry
Milford Recreation

Past President | Greg Bisson
Exeter Parks & Recreation

NHRPA Board Members

Tara Barker
Newmarket Recreation

Eric Feldbaum
Division of Parks & Recreation

John Kohlmorgen
Peterborough Recreation

Dan Sturgeon
Moultonborough Recreation



Craig & Chris Dillon, at NNERPC a few years back! Looking forward to NNERPC 2022!

NHRPA Calendar of Events—to see the full calendar or events [CLICK HERE](#)

1/20/21 @ 10am [Mental Health Awareness: Caring for Yourself, Being There for Others](#) (HealthTrust)

1/22/21 @ 2pm [NHRPA Aquatics Round Table Zoom](#)

1/28/21 @ 2pm [Everybody Plays: A Best Practice Guide to Multigenerational Design](#) (requires login)

2/9/21 @ 3pm [Top 7 Secrets to Writing Performance Appraisals](#) (requires login)

2/11/21 @10am [Now What? Managing Emotionally During Uncertain Times](#) (Primex & HealthTrust)

Important NHRPA Website Update

Please be advised that we will be changing our payment system as part of the NHRPA website. We will be leaving the PayPal system and using the Wild Apricot payment system that is integrated into the website. The change will take place before the end of January and I will update everyone as we move forward.

*** If you have an automatic payment set up through PayPal it will be discontinued once we join the new payment system. If you have access to your PayPal account please login and cancel any automatic payments with NHRPA.

We appreciate your patience as we make this transition and if you have any questions please contact

executivedirector@nhrpa.com

**PLEASE READ:
IMPORTANT
MESSAGE**

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Remembering Eric Worthington O'Brien

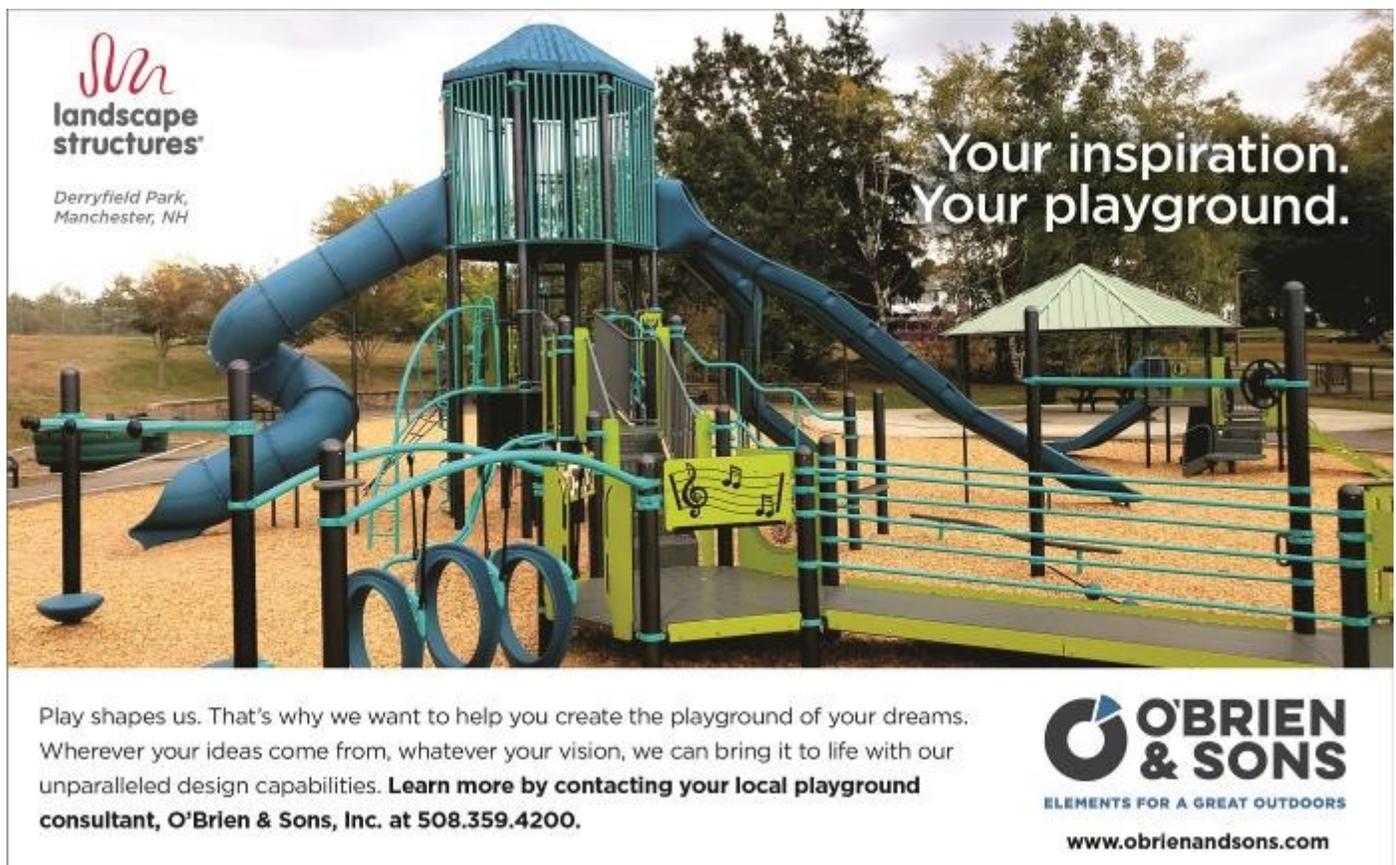


O'BRIEN, Eric Worthington Of Medfield, MA, Mattapoisett, MA and Norfolk, MA, died on January 7, 2021, peacefully with family by his side, after complications with pneumonia. He was 81.

Eric served in the United States Navy and then began his career as a sales representative for M. E. O'Brien and Sons, Inc., a family business. In 1983, he became the company's owner and President, working tirelessly to grow the business. M. E.

O'Brien and Sons is dedicated to assisting municipalities, developers and private corporations to design and build public spaces and urban landscapes. Eric's vision was to offer clients everything they needed to complete their recreation space.

NHRPA would like to extend our condolences to the O'Brien family. To learn more about Eric and his remarkable life, [please click here](#). Rest in peace Eric!



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"the kids and staff enjoyed your place and i appreciate the ease of reserving and paying" -camp director



16 Games & Attractions for 2021!

Rec Reflections... NHRPA Executive Board

Craig Fraley, NHRPA President, Amherst Parks & Recreation

What did you learn in 2020? Creativity can allow for most things to go forward.

What did you miss in 2020? Face to face interactions with people. In an industry where we are constantly trying to offer fun for people I found the lack of face to face interaction hard.

What are you looking forward to in 2021? Things getting back to somewhat normal with the good parts of the what we can take out of the pandemic. More family time, allowing time to exercise and less structure. I am also looking forward to running a program without having to look on www.nh.gov to see how we can make it "safe".

Matt Casparius, President Elect, Merrimack Parks & Recreation

What did you learn in 2020? We need to always look for new ways and better ways to serve our community. This year meant going back to the drawing board to try and adapt to changing regulations. No matter how well you are prepared; sometimes the answer is still no. Even with most of our programs cancelled this year, we were busier than ever dealing with "other" issues.

What did you miss in 2020? It's the first time in 25 years I haven't been involved in managing a camp program in the summer. I missed having our summer camp running with 200+ kids and staff a day running around the park. I missed our large scale events that we typically run with thousands of people in attendance - Our Easter Egg Hunt, 4th of July, Halloween, etc. I miss the social interaction that recreation provides.

What are you looking forward to in 2021? I am looking forward to a sense of normalcy returning in Summer 2021 with Camp, large events, etc. I am looking forward to the return to in person gatherings as opposed to Zoom Calls.

Arene Berry, Treasurer, Milford Parks & Recreation

What did you learn in 2020? I learned the importance of being able to adapt and make changes at the last minute. I learned the importance of leaning on others for support and of being that person to provide the support when someone else needed it.

What did you miss in 2020? I missed the interaction with the community and I missed normalcy.

What are you looking forward to in 2021? I am looking forward to focusing on bigger planning projects and moving them forward giving the community something to appreciate when they feel so much has been taking from them. This includes improving the conditions for our ice rink for next season, an ADA walking/biking path and the installation of fitness stations.

Tara Tower, Secretary, Lincoln Woodstock Recreation

What did you learn in 2020? What is truly important. Without the "lack of time" excuse, how what I valued as important and spent my time doing shifted, and I don't see it shifting back to where it was before the pandemic.

What did you miss in 2020? The social part of my job. I miss seeing family, and friends, and especially hugs!

What are you looking forward to in 2021? Hopefully an ease back towards "normal", but keeping some of the positive things we changed during COVID, both personally and professionally.

Rec Reflections... NHRPA Executive Board

Dan Sturgeon, Moultonborough Recreation

What did you learn in 2020? How to think outside of the box, roll with the punches, and keep a positive outlook.

What did you miss in 2020? Summer Camp Programs

What are you looking forward to in 2021? Opening back up our programming and being able to see all of our patrons again!

Eric Feldbaum, NH Division of Parks and Recreation (State Parks)

What did you learn in 2020? How to adapt on the fly. With COVID State Parks (recreation in general) saw a massive spike in popularity and use. For a very limited park system we were able to adapt to the increase in demands with the decrease in supply by implementing our reservation system. Once this system went live we were very surprised that our guests were pleased to know that they could make a reservation and show up anytime of the day and know they weren't going to be turned away due to over crowding.

What did you miss in 2020? Getting out around the State to interact with the local communities. Having to trade the in person interactions to virtual was a big change and I'm hopeful that we will get back to that soon.

What are you looking forward to in 2021? Getting a Covid-19 vaccine and getting back to normal while enjoying the outdoors with family and friends.

John Kohlmorgen, Peterborough Recreation

What did you learn in 2020? Patience! Learning how to plan only one month ahead instead of a half/full calendar season! Still frustrating but I'm working on it. Asking for help and how grateful to be apart of NHRPA asking recreation professionals questions and to lean on/discuss with during COVID and starting a new position.

What did you miss in 2020? Basketball, Kindness, Organizing/ planning normally! Vacations, Socializing face to face, Visiting Elderly family, Pool Season, Summer Camp, Sports Recreation Trips/Field Trips!

What are you looking forward to in 2021? Golfing, New programming ideas , Covid-19 Coming to an end! New ways of thinking and interacting, Continuing working with other recreation departments on events & programming.

Greg Bisson, Exeter Parks & Recreation

What did you learn in 2020? learned that everything is fluid and that people need to be able to pivot at a moments notice.

What did you miss in 2020? large gatherings! You always appreciate a successful event after it happens. Missing those events in 2020 was disappointing.

What are you looking forward to in 2021? a renewed appreciation for the small things we took for granted.

“Life is what happens when your busy making other plans.”

John Lennon

Aquatics Information

NHRPA Aquatics Round Table Zoom

Friday, January 22 @ 2:00pm



Aquatics Round Table for all Towns that have an aquatics facility either year-round or seasonal. The purpose will be to talk about how departments are planning for summer 2021 and what precautions they used last summer if they were open. [CLICK HERE](#) to register.

The zoom link will be part of your email confirmation!

Streamlined Aquatic Risk Management Virtual Course

March 24, 2021 from 10am—1pm Dr. Tom Griffiths and Dr. Rachel Griffiths

This course is a compact version of Aquatic Safety Research Group's popular full day in-person ARM. The most important information still is included, with take-home materials provided to supplement the online training. Participants will learn information that complements & enhances aquatic manager certification courses.

Topics include:

COVID-19 Guidelines for Aquatic Facilities, Strengthening Lifeguard Supervision, The Five Minute Scanning Strategy, Real Drowning Videos, Reducing Diving and Shallow Water Blackout Risks, Protecting Patrons, Kids, and Swimmers, Implementing Effective Signage Systems

The course is \$45.00 per participant. Facilities/organizations with 3 or more participants will receive a 50% discount. If you have any questions or are interested in enrolling, please contact info@AquaticSafetyGroup.com

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

The Granite State 90 Day Winter Challenge



Registration is open for the NH Governor's Council on Physical Activity & Health Challenge. The Granite State 90 Day Winter Challenge is to be physically active for 30 minutes or more every day in the months of January, February and March. Grab a buddy or a family member and walk, snowshoe, ski, build a snowman, join an online fitness class – move however you like for 30 minutes! Join the challenge and

you will have access to our 3 month Activity Calendar and online classes (Zumba, Yoga, Meditation, Cooking, etc.).

Register today at <https://nhmoves.org/> #NHMoves | #GranitesState90Day | @nhgcpah

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The advertisement features a blue and green color scheme. The logo "SGS TURF CARE" is prominently displayed in the center. Below it, three services are listed: "Lawn Care", "Irrigation", and "Athletic Fields", each accompanied by a blue water drop icon. At the bottom, the phone number "603-660-6061", a Facebook icon, and the website "www.sgsnh.net" are provided.

NHRPA joins FRPA for Virtual Education Sessions

We are happy to partner with the Florida Recreation and Park Association to bring you convenient Virtual Education sessions. Registration for each session is available now in the event section of our website. Each session offers 0.1 CEU and the fee is \$15. Registration closes two days prior to each session!

Details from FRPA: You will receive log in information no less than two days before the event from charla@frpa.org. (If you do not receive this information by then, please email charla@frpa.org.) To access the event, click on the link provided. Make sure your full name is included in your title as you enter the session so that the host can be sure you are allowed to be let in. You will be required to sign in via the chat box once the class begins. If you are unable to access the chat feature, you will be given further instruction during the session on how to record your attendance. FRPA would like to collect your feedback after the event so please be sure to complete the follow-up evaluation and instruction.

Session List: click on the session name for details ** *You will have to login to your NHRPA account to register for any of the sessions below as they have restricted registration and a fee.*

January 28 @ 2:00pm [EVERYBODY PLAYS: A BEST PRACTICE GUIDE TO MULTIGENERATIONAL DESIGN](#)

0.1 CEUs presented by Jill Moore and Jim Isaacs, Landscape Structures

February 2 @ 3pm—[TOP 7 SECRETS TO WRITING PERFORMANCE APPRAISALS](#)

0.1 CEUs presented by Ronnie Glotzbach, President/Owner, Bach Training & Development Corp.

February 17 @11am—[GREAT CUSTOMER SERVICE IS NOT ENOUGH](#)

0.1 CEUs presented by Bobbi Nance, President, Recreation Results

February 24 @11am—[DRAMA QUEENS, NARCISSISTS, BLAMERS...OH MY!](#)

0.1 CEUs presented by Jim Barnes, Assistant Village Manager, Village of Wellington

March 10 @ 11am—[TRENDS IN PLAYSACE DESIGN](#)

0.1 CEUs presented by Jill Moore and Jim Isaacs, Landscape Structures

March 16 @ 11am—[THE CHANGE CURVE: ACCELERATING CHANGE AND INCREASING ITS SUCCESS](#)

0.1 CEUs presented by Gabriel Castillo, CPRP, Founder/CEO of RecStar Consulting

March 25 @ 3pm—[INNOVATIVE BEHAVIORS: WHAT ARE THEY AND HOW TO PROMOTE THEM](#)

0.1 CEUs presented by Ryan Murphy, MA, MPS, CPRE, Emergency Management Officer (Training Specialist), Sarasota County Emergency Management

April 13 @ 2pm—[DIGITAL MARKETING THAT ROCKS](#)

0.1 CEUs presented by Gabriel Castillo, CPRP, Founder/CEO of RecStar Consulting

April 20 @ 11am—[USING SOCIAL MEDIA TO YOUR ADVANTAGE](#)

0.1 CEUs presented by Amy Zengotita, Parks and Recreation Director, City of South Daytona

More sessions coming soon!!

NHRPA Coffee Talk



Join NHRPA for a little "Coffee Talk" to start your morning! Your host is Andy Bohannon, Director, Keene Parks & Recreation. The confirmation email you receive after registering will include the link to the zoom meeting.

Guest speakers will be announced soon. Click on the links below to register

- [March 11, 2021—Coffee Talk & Business Meeting](#)
- [April 8, 2021—Coffee Talk](#)
- [May 13, 2021—Coffee Talk & Business Meeting](#)

An advertisement for Pilot Rock Site Products. The main image shows a man in a wheelchair and another man sitting at a green picnic table by a pond. Two inset images show a campfire in a black ring and a red bike rack. The text includes the slogan 'Enjoy the Outdoors...with Pilot Rock Site Products', a list of product features, and the company name 'Pilot Rock' with a registered trademark symbol. At the bottom, contact information and a list of products are provided.

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Rec Reflections... What Did You Learn in 2020?

"2020 taught us to live in the moment and the importance of being able to pivot!"

**Brianne Rafford-Varley,
Keene Parks & Recreation**

"Learned that we can still succeed even in tough times. We learned to get creative with programming and some great ideas came out of having to do things differently."

Dan Maclean, TTCC

"Not to take anything for granted and how to be even more creative, collaborative, and flexible. Also, how to successfully interview and hire coaches remotely, and to successfully have them deliver tennis programs during a pandemic in 19 communities across all six New England states where COVID-19 regulations were different in each state and kept changing throughout the year."

Eric Driscoll, USTA New England

"I re-learned the art of patience and creativeness. When you are in a position for a number of years, it is easy to do the same old things with minor adjustments. In a year where those "things" were shut down, it forced our creative brains to work. Not just with programming, but with daily tasks and future planning. In a year that was so terrible in many ways, it was really cool to be able and pause, take a look at our department as a whole and figure out what is missing, what was tired or what is awesome." **Kortney Dorow, Nottingham Parks & Recreation**

"Our department was able to pivot and adjust many of our programs. We ran a successful summer camp following the Governor's guidelines; daily check in process, majority of camp was held outside, reduced number of campers, no one other than staff and campers allowed in the building. Our Senior Citizens did surprisingly well transitioning to Zoom programming. We held book club, trivia and coffee socials via Zoom. Transitioning from the summer/fall to winter was a bit nerve wracking but with clear guidelines and new check in system we had a fun and safe pre-season basketball league!" **Laura Bryant, Concord Parks & Recreation**

"People just want to be together and enjoy interests they have in common- the simpler the better!"

Paul Butler, Kingston Recreation

"That we can adapt to most anything. Also, that some of the adaptations made our programs better than they had been."

Leslie Dion, TTCC

Rec Reflections... What Did You Learn in 2020?

2020 presented many challenges and opportunities to stretch me as an individual. Professionally I stay connected with online learning courses from Disney Institute, a bucket item that stays on my list for the in-person experience. However, I learned more about people's character, who was willing to place the extra effort forward, make things happen, or who was willing to be complacent and accept the status quo was good enough. If nothing from the pandemic, character became clear on every level of leadership. My high school yearbook quote from Horace Greely "Fame is vapor, Popularity and accident, but the one thing that endures is Character." I hope that in 2020, we all learned to look deep within ourselves to see who we are and where we want to go. **Andy Bohannon, Keene Parks & Recreation**

"We learned that even in these uncertain times our community is still willing to participate in our programs and put their trust in us to keep their kids safe while keeping them active. We were overwhelmed with community support even in a year full of cancelled programs, the people of our town really respect what we do for them." **Erin Trnka, Goffstown Parks & Recreation**

What we learned is to re-boot ourselves and move somewhat away from municipal offerings to private offerings, which in the end, saved our year. Though we've always offered some degree of smaller private displays, we did more of those this season than any season prior to 2020. A couple of marriage proposals, a small wedding, a private fourth of July display for a company outing and other various smaller, but rewarding and well needed displays throughout the summer and fall. The only municipal show fired all season was for Colebrook, New Hampshire's 250th anniversary - which was set to be a semi-proximate "pyromusical" which we had to scrap for a larger, wider display that folks could see from just about anywhere. The original show is in storage for anyone who wants it in 2021! Wink Wink. **Rob Jacobs, JPI Pyrotechnics, NHRPA VIP**

"I learned to come up with creative ways to offer programs -such as a drive-by and wave to the Easter Bunny and Santa Claus. It was amazing how important the annual events in Windham are in people's lives, and how much the residents look forward to attending them. I learned to take a deep breath, take a step back, and appreciate what I have. "

Cheryl Haas, Windham Parks & Recreation

"People just want something to look forward to even the smallest things; Virtual gets old fast; I don't miss Saturday morning basketball & crying is okay!"

**Melissa Shaw,
Colebrook Recreation**



"Sadness"

This kind of sums up all of 2020 but this was actually because his group missed out on a freeze pop. The world is in a global pandemic but he was sad about a freeze pop...awesome.

Milford Recreation Miracle on Elm Street

Submitted by: Andrew MacEachern

Milford Recreation was happy to be able to offer Miracle on Elm St as an alternative to the usually planned Breakfast with Santa. The Miracle on Elm St event worked as a holiday themed drive thru and involved businesses/organizations setting up booths or “Elf Stations” where they handed out goodies to registered cars while advertising their business.



Volunteering organizations included Shaw’s Supermarket, Kincaid Auto Repair, Milford Thrives, Bar Harbor Bank & Trust, Awesome Totes and More with Amy, Milford Rainbow Girls, and The Safety Chick. We thank them as this event wouldn’t have been possible without their support! We were able to sell all 80 available car tickets and had an approximate 170 kids show up and receive goodies. We think that this event worked incredibly well at both giving the kiddos a positive holiday experience and allowing

local organizations to advertise and interact with the community.

The event ran from 9-11am with registration broken into 4 time slots to ensure that the line didn’t get too long.



We would also like to thank Bob Thompson for donating his blow up decorations and really giving the event that holiday feel!



The TTCC was able to offer their Annual Santa's Village event in 2020!

Submitted by: Dan Maclean, TTCC

Dubbed "The Year of the Grinch", due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the TTCC's Santa's Village was an outdoor version in 2020. We had several volunteers set up a special Santa's Village scene outside including many trees, decorations & lights, holiday inflatables, a reindeer, elves, The Grinch, Mrs. Claus & of course Santa himself! Local families could drive right up and, staying in their vehicles, check out the scene and visit with Santa in a safe, socially distanced way. Each child received a bag of candy and a special commemorative ornament to hang on their trees. We have many folks that have collected these ornaments for years and were excited to see we carried on this fun tradition this year as well. The village saw over 500 eager visitors over the two days & the response from the community was overwhelmingly positive. These messages were posted on the Tapply-Thompson Community Center Facebook page:

- Seeing Santa was a little different this year, but the TTCC always does an awesome job.
- TTCC...you never cease to amaze me! Moving Santa's Village outside so our community could still partake in years of tradition was the best!!!
- THANK YOU FROM THE BOTTOM OF OUR HEARTS #wearenewfound
- I have been trying to find my words of gratitude, but nothing seems big enough. What the TTCC and this community has done for our children and families this year is so special. #lovewhereyoulive
- I stopped by the TTCC drive thru Christmas celebration. What a great job by Les and the crew. Wow! Over a 100 cars were greeted by Santa.
- What a wonderful way to still bring Santa's Village to our town. Please take advantage of a trip through the North Pole Lane on North Main St behind the middle school. Thank you for your creativity to bring this to the town.
- Love this idea and applaud the ingenuity it took to keep the tradition going through such strange and challenging times! As always, well done TTCC!
- What a wonderful way to bring the Christmas spirit to the town during unfortunate times!



I miss conferences! I enjoy renewing my passion for recreation with the energy and ideas I find at conferences and the annual reunion with colleagues I've met over the years. **Renee Sangermano, Jaffrey Parks & Recreation**

Summer Camp!

**Paul Butler,
Kingston Rec**

The kids while they were remote learning and the events that had to be cancelled.
Les Dion, TTCC

"Sometimes you will never know the value of a moment until it becomes a memory!"

Dr. Seuss

I missed the events - where I would see residents! I missed seeing the 400 senior citizens at the Senior Christmas Party, I missed hearing the oohs and aaahs at the fireworks show. I missed teaching classes too!

Cheryl Haas, Windham Parks & Recreation

Rec Reflections... What Did You Miss in 2020?

"Family, friends, colleagues, customers, vacation, and all the things we used to gather to do without worry." **Eric Driscoll, USTA NE**

I missed hosting community events that bring people together.

Brianne Rafford-Varley, Keene Parks & Recreation

"I missed the engagement and connections. No surprise here, the 2020 NRPA Conference had been on my radar for a long time, Orlando and home to one of my favorite vacation destinations for many reasons. The conference allows us to grow, connect and think big. It is the ultimate idea generator! However, I still missed our smaller NHRPA events, and so pleased to see everyone embrace the Coffee Chats, something I hope everyone took something away from at least once."

Andy Bohannon, Keene Parks & Recreation

"The harder the conflict, the greater the triumph."

George Washington

The respect for the outdoors, why would it be okay for you to leave your trash on the hiking trail? Privacy...online school, zoom meetings...brought people into my home that I did not want there. Camera off! The ability to be spontaneous- are they open, how far ahead do you need a beach pass guarantee it will rain that day, who has a bathroom open?

Melissa Shaw, Colebrook Recreation

**“Life isn’t a Matter of Milestones
But of Moments.”**

Rose Kennedy

We missed seeing all our regular customers, out in the field, excited for the night to come. But what we really missed is the roar of the crowd when the last of our finale takes to the sky - we know we've done a good job based on how loud the crowds can be. We miss working with all our friends at the over 200 different fire departments and stations across NH that always have our backs! ***Rob Jacobs, JPY Pyrotechnics***

I think the biggest let down this year was that Concord Parks & Recreation was unable to open any of our 7 outdoor pools. This is a HUGE part of our summer programming and was missed by the community and staff equally.

Laura Bryant, Concord Parks & Recreation

**“The Hardest Part About
Moving Forward is Not
Looking Back”**

Rec Reflections... What Did You Miss in 2020?

We were unable to offer several of our large scale programs this year such as lacrosse and summer camp. We were thankfully able to supplement with smaller scale programs to keep the community engaged.

Erin Trnka, Goffstown Parks & Recreation

The big events - we missed our Halloween haunted basement, Santa's village, senior lunches, and more! ***Dan Maclean, TTCC***

“I really missed getting the community together and putting on in person holiday events. In the past, those haven't been my favorite, I'll be honest. I love programming and that has been our focus that last few years, but when community events were taken away, it made me realize how important they are. They are filled with memories and all ages get to enjoy them. It reminded me to give these more thought moving forward. We did virtual and individual driven events that were successful, but now the challenge will be to combine the two as we move forward. A new challenge for sure! “

Kortney Dorow, Kingston Parks & Recreation

**“The Only Way To Do Great Work Is To Love
What You Do. If You Haven’t Found It Yet, Keep
Looking. Don’t Settle!” *Steve Jobs***

Professional Spotlight

Rene Boudreau, Director of Parks & Recreation, Town of Hampton

Number of years you have been with the department? 20

Why do you work in Recreation? I love the variety of the work. No day is ever the same as the previous. I love to see people enjoying themselves.

What is one challenge you face as a professional? The politics of course.

What is one program or event that you run that you would like to share with the membership? We use to run an Easter Egg Dig on the beach. It was unique to Hampton. We would bury 12,000 pre-packaged eggs and let the kids go crazy looking for them. The only problem is I realized we were not able to find all of the eggs and they would show up weeks later somewhere in the sand. So, I made the decision to change the location of the program, so we would not be adding to the beach pollution and potentially harming the wildlife. This decision was a big one for me. I took a bashing on social media. On the flip side, I also received letters from as far as Costa Rica, thanking me for making changes to help save the environment. This far outweighed the negative comments to me. We were not able to run the new Easter event last year, as COVID prevented us from our first run at the newer version.

Favorite place to take groups on a trip? When I was the programmer, I always somehow ended up at Hart's Turkey Farm. If we had a trip anywhere in the area, that would be our lunch spot. The Gobbler was my go to meal.



Rene kayaking on the Hampton River



Rene and his dog Roxy Skateboarding

Professional Spotlight

Rene Boudreau, Director of Parks & Recreation, Town of Hampton

Where did you go to school? Plymouth State College

What is your degree? BS in Outdoor Recreation

Where were you born? Portsmouth, NH

Where have you lived? I have stayed local to the seacoast. I have had short stints in Portsmouth and Seabrook Beach. I currently live in my childhood home, where I have lived since 2012

Favorite Recreational Activity? Anything that gets me outdoors. Winter time I am looking forward to snowshoeing, Spring through Fall I enjoy fishing and biking.

What is your favorite food? Pizza

What is your favorite movie? Field of Dreams

What is your favorite vacation spot? Ossipee Lake

What is your favorite type of music? Right now I am into Country music

What is your pet peeve? As a dog owner, people who think it is ok to let their dogs run off leash everywhere because their dogs are “nice”. This drives me nuts!

Finish this sentence. My dream is... professionally would be to be able to open a community center in Hampton for all ages. My personal dream would be to live somewhere on lots of acres with lots of animals, no traffic, TV or cell service.



What is your proudest accomplishment? Marrying my wife Rene.

Pictured here is Rene and his wife Rene at a Zack Brown Concert!

Rec Reflections...

What Are You Looking Forward to in 2021?



Laura Bryant, Concord Parks & Recreation—I think we are all hoping for a return of our usually fun and crazy summer. Hoping to be able to open the pools and have a safe and "normal" summer for all the kids in our camps as well as the Concord community.

Rob Jacobs, JPI Pyrotechnics—Bringing our special brand of magic to new venues, new people and firing some of the new product we couldn't in 2020. Most of all, we're looking forward to meeting all of you ! Picture to the right is called "miller time" - after the show is over!



Les Dion, TTCC— Hoping for some semblance of normalcy and in person contact. Picture to the left is from our teen council parent night.

Erin Trnka, Goffstown Parks & Recreation—

We are looking forward to returning to programs that we missed in 2020. We are also looking forward to creating new programs, events, and activities to offer to our deserving community!

Cheryl Haas, Windham Parks & Recreation—

I am looking forward to seeing all the residents out and about, attending events like the Fireworks, and Windham's Town Day. I miss everyone - from the little kiddos to the senior citizens!

Renee Sangermano, Jaffrey Parks & Recreation—I'm looking forward to taking what I learned in 2021 and applying it towards the future, especially Zoom. I actually like Zoom for board meetings as they eliminate my commute and I have seen an increase in member participation. I'm thinking of using it for part of seasonal staff training so I don't have to wait for all my college staff to be home.

"We keep moving forward, opening new doors, and doing new things, because we are curious and curiosity keeps leading us down new paths." Walt Disney

Rec Reflections...

What Are You Looking Forward to in 2021?

Andy Bohannon, Keene Parks & Recreation—We have several projects coming forward. A major renovation to Patricia T Russell Park, a project stemmed from an idea in 2012 and carried forward to 2021 to make an amazing concept a reality. To finally build a new skate park that has been discussed since 2010, but now ready to go with amazing community support fundraising \$200,000. Implementing a 2020 climate resiliency master plan for Ashuelot River Park, and making pool improvements, and enhancing the bike park built in 2020. All these projects are a result of our community through public/private partnerships and when connections happen, amazing awaits. I am looking forward in 2021 to celebrating with our community showing that their hard work paid off.



Eric Driscoll, USTA New England—Continued innovation, collaboration, and hopefully a return to what we knew as normal prior to the pandemic. One of the biggest things that impacted me professionally this year was how collaborative people were and the collective effort those in the tennis, recreation, and many other industries were to help each other and to find a way to engage and support those in our collective communities in a safe environment. The focus was on what can we do and how do we do it giving the current circumstance, and not what we can't do. This is a testament to the human spirit, creativity, and resilience.

Dan Maclean, TTCC—Getting back to some "normal" programming - realize it might not be right away, but really looking forward to when we can have big groups together socializing, not maintaining distance, not worrying so much... just recreating & having fun!



Brianne Rafford-Varley, Keene Parks & Recreation— Bringing back new programs and events we had planned for 2020! The photo is of our first ever Esports tournament! I just want to take a moment to share/highlight the overwhelming gratitude and gratefulness parents, kids, and families showed for all the programs we were able to offer. It was motivating and inspiring to see how thankful people were just to be able to participate!

Kortney Dorow, Nottingham Parks & Recreation— We are looking forward to getting our programs back up and running, getting our Legacy Leaders (55+) back to socializing with one another and bringing our community together in a safe way to celebrate the holiday's again. The picture of our Annual Legacy Leader (55+) Yankee Swap- Drive-through Parking Lot Edition! Through Covid-19, this was a group that I thought we would lose touch with for sure. But instead, the complete opposite happened. I had one participant who cannot leave her home very often that told me she couldn't remember the last time she was given a gift. This was really a special moment for our department.



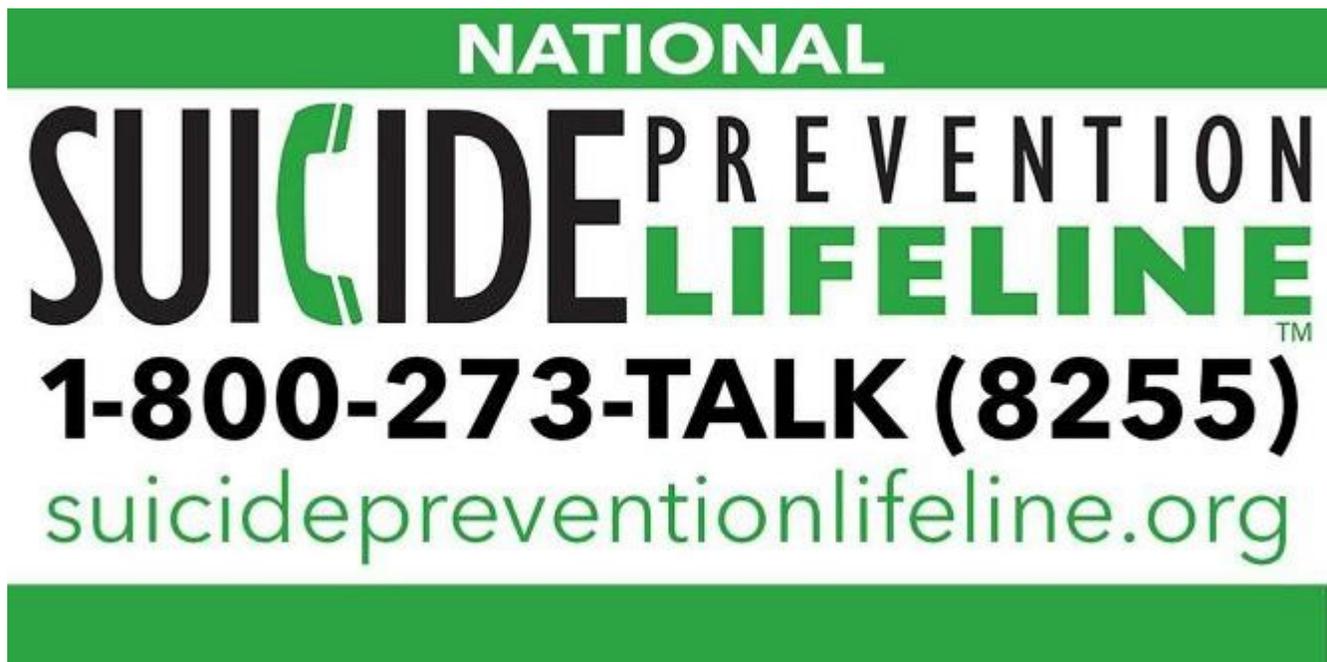
NHRPA Recreation Resilience 2021

In 2021 NHRHPA will work towards Creating a Culture of Resilience. We will offer a variety of presentations with the goal of providing tools and resources on mental health. 2020 was a tough year for all of us and as we move forward into 2021 we need to remember to take care of ourselves and those around us.

- Check out the new Rec Resilience tab as part of NHRPA website [HERE](#)
- Monthly webinars and new tools added to the website
- Register to participate in our first webinar that will take place on Thursday, January 20th at 10am. [Mental Health Awareness: Caring for Yourself, Being There for Others](#). Sponsored by HealthTrust.

“I can be changed by what happens to me. But I refuse to be reduced by it.”

Maya Angelou



NOW What? Managing Emotionally During Uncertain Times

February 11, 2021 from 9-10:30am

The second presentation in the Creating a Culture of Resilience series is sponsored by PRIMEX & HealthTrust. Presenter Lynn Lyons, LICSW will lead this session. All NHRPA members are welcome to join in this presentation.

Presented by: Lynn Lyons, LICSW and sponsored by PRIMEX

Description: As we navigate a year like no other, we all need strategies to manage the stress, frustration, and uncertainty of our current pandemic-dominated environment. What are the patterns you've fallen into? Have any of your emotional cracks become chasms? What's "normal" in the midst of what we're experiencing? This presentation describes the skills needed to care for yourself, your relationships, and your family, including how to increase flexibility, tolerate uncertainty, communicate effectively and replace catastrophic thinking with problem-solving.

Registration: <https://nhprimex.org/explore-training/single/emotional-management-feb-2021/>

** If your town or city is not a member of PRIMEX please use the guest registration button at the bottom of the registration page. When registering as a guest please put your first and last name, Title, Email and Phone number. In the company/Association part please put NHRPA.

PARKS AND RECREATION: ADDRESSING STIGMA ASSOCIATED WITH SUBSTANCE USE AND MENTAL HEALTH DISORDERS—NRPA

At NRPA, we believe parks and recreation is vital to community health and well-being. Access to these spaces, programs and services remains essential to community vitality and is a key factor in advancing health equity, improving individual and community-level health outcomes, and enhancing quality of life. Park and recreation professionals are uniquely positioned to create, in partnership and in power with community members and key collaborators, the people-centered community wellness hubs needed to address public health threats and harness the full potential of community to ensure all people can thrive.

How and Why this Resource Was Developed Addiction and mental health conditions can affect anyone, regardless of age, sex, race/ethnicity, background or socioeconomic status. These individuals must constantly battle stigma — the negative attitudes and beliefs directed toward an individual or group of people with certain characteristics, traits or circumstances. Stigma not only impacts society's ability to address and treat addiction and mental health conditions, but it also influences an individual's likelihood to seek and/or accept treatment due to feelings of shame, fear and guilt.

[CLICK HERE TO READ FULL PUBLICATION](#)

Rec Reflections... Final Thoughts

Andy Bohannon, Keene Parks & Recreation—I want to say thank you to the NHRPA family to staying connected, lifting each other up during trying times and coming together virtually each month for various topics. We learned from one another, after all who had a COVID plan in their back pocket, not most of us! Probably the biggest thing that impacted me professionally, was the overwhelming support of the community to move forward with projects, understanding why we needed to do what we did, and engagement opportunities that became abound. We pivoted so fast that we all had to be agile and mobile, something we thought we would like to get to one day, was here. Celebrate our success with the community and they will be you biggest supporters.

Erin Trnka, Goffstown Parks & Recreation— I grew significantly in the area of program development. Because we were unable to run our larger programs, we needed to supplement with smaller scales programs that we had never run before. I was exposed to a lot more planning, proposals, and presentations to boards than I had been in the past. The experiences I had this year will certainly help elevate my ability to create and run sound programs in the future.

Dan Maclean, TTCC— Well I think everyone was impacted at some point during 2020. I am thankful that we have been able to continue with programming, modified of course, and still be able to provide for our community. I would say what had the most impact on me professionally was seeing how we could pivot and offer different programming to meet the needs of the community and stay relevant. I was really impressed with how our organization did that and feel we have risen to the occasion time and time again.

Paul Butler, Kingston Recreation— Favorite memories from 2020—Santa's video calls to young people at Christmas time! People who enjoy Pickle ball getting together and enjoying Pickle ball as well as other interests making new friends along the way. People at our outdoor movie event in August saying it was the first time they had been out since March/ the beginning of the pandemic.

Melissa Shaw, Colebrook Recreation—If I thought long and hard I could probably think of a good story to share but that might bring on tears and I have a four hour cry free streak going so no story. I hope the kindness stays, the anger leaves, and my golf game improves!

Kerry Horne, NHRPA Executive Director— 2020 is a year we will all learned so much even if we didn't want to! I learned that you should ask people to smile (including yourself) when taking a group zoom photo :) I learned that we are STRONG and RESILIENT and that together we can accomplish many great things. I am truly blessed to be part of such a wonderful and caring association. 2020 is a year that we learned to be there for each other—yes even if that means virtually. As we move into 2021 let's not forget all we learned in 2020 as there were many valuable lessons we can build on!



Rec Reflections... Final Thoughts

Craig Fraley, Amherst Parks & Recreation— A week before the pandemic hit NH, Amherst Parks and Recreation purchased Buckmeadow Golf Course. We purchased this course out of our Recreation Revolving Account and had no idea we would be taking such a financial loss in the summer of 2020. With a lot of creativity and a great staff we were able to minimize our losses and initiate the first steps of converting a golf course into a park. I am really looking forward to things getting back to normal and this project taking shape. Make 2021 a great one!

Dan Sturgeon, Moultonborough Recreation— In June, I was transferred to the Department of Public Works & Transfer Station due to our programs being canceled due to COVID. Instead of being mad at the situation, I used it to learn and grow as a person. I was able to see things from a different view point. I was grateful that I kept a position with the Town and wasn't furloughed like a lot of recreation professionals. I was lucky enough to come back to my original job in August and had a new mindset.

Arene Berry, Milford Parks & Recreation—We have a summer swim team and for over 50 years we have partnered with the Rotary to hold a 2 day meet that would normally include 15 teams. It impacted me to see the number of people coming together to make this event possible during the pandemic. The support from the community and the Rotary was tremendous. Granted, the teams each swam their events at their own pool but connections were made during the meet and opening ceremonies were conducted over Facebook live. Lots of "out of the box" thinking happened.

Tara Tower, Lincoln—Woodstock Recreation— Seeing my staff step up to the challenge of modifying programs and facilities to run safely. They rock!

Leslie Dion, TTCC— Well I think everyone was impacted at some point during 2020. I am thankful that we have been able to continue with programming, modified of course, and still be able to provide for our community. I would say what had the most impact on me professionally was seeing how we could pivot and offer different programming to meet the needs of the community and stay relevant. I was really impressed with how our organization did that and feel we have risen to the occasion time and time again.

“In three words I can sum up everything I have learned about life: It goes on!”

Robert Frost



2021 NHRPA Sponsorship

NHRPA values the relationship we have with our commercial members. We are proud to offer the following three unique advertisement / sponsorship opportunities for 2021: NHRPA VIP, Rec Connect Newsletter Ad and NHRPA Monthly Sponsor.

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\$105 which includes the \$30 NHAHPERD membership fee will allow you access to view at least 14 days on your own time.

NHAHPERD's annual membership also gives you added opportunities to sign up for other state virtual conferences & workshops at their membership fees - some are free! Join NHAHPERD now— \$30 Professional; \$15 Student.

Holiday Scenes from Deb Brown Sandown Recreation



Drive by visit with the Easter Bunny provided a little "normalcy" during the pandemic.



Santa & Mrs. Claus didn't disappoint the kids this year with the help of the



Socially distant 'Halloween Flashlight Egg Hunt' with black and orange eggs; The kids had a ball!



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Webinar — Playground Inspection & Maintenance

Thursday, January 21, 2021 | 2:00pm - 3:15pm EST REGISTER WITH CODE: GAMETIME

For a playground to thrive, good maintenance is essential. Learn how to maximize your agency or school's playground maintenance efforts by properly identifying and correcting potentially hazardous conditions on the playground.

This interactive session will help you define your maintenance plan as a key to protecting your investment, managing risk, improving children's play experiences, promoting community values, and controlling expenses.

Group activities allow participants to identify procedures for correcting hazardous conditions and to develop inspection protocols and procedures for a sustainable playground maintenance program.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

Webinar—Society of Outdoor Professionals

From our partners at Outdoor Recreation Roundtable Rural Recreation Toolkit

Webinar January 21, 11am-12pm ET

Join the Outdoor Recreation Roundtable for the launch of this new comprehensive resource that showcases best practices, grants and technical assistance. Sourced from over 60 practitioners, this comprehensive resource will help communities build recreation economies around the United States.

Speakers:

Chris Perkins, ORR Fellow, Yale School of the Environment/Yale School of Management

Axie Navas, Outdoor Recreation Division Director, New Mexico

Toby Bloom, National Program Manager, Travel, Tourism and Interpretation, USDA Forest Service

Katie Allen, Director, Conservation Leadership Network, The Conservation Fund

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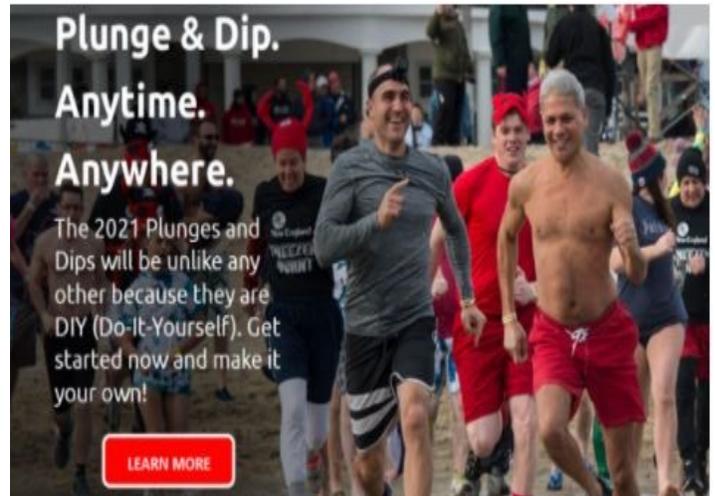



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[Amtrak Downeaster](#) trains continue to operate for those who need to travel. Learn more about the steps being taken to protect the health and safety of passengers. Click below to watch the video.

Passenger safety and comfort is our #1 priority




Watch later Share

NRPA News.....



NRPA Certification

If you have a certification through NRPA please be advised that some certifications have extensions due to COVID-19. To see if your certification has an extension please visit

[Click HERE TO READ MORE](#)



Top Trends in Parks and Recreation 2021

An analysis of the key topics and predictions that may impact the park and recreation field this year

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)



What Will the 'New Normal' Look Like in 2021?

For the past 10 months, terms like “social distancing,” “shelter in place” and “new normal” have been infused into our daily lexicon. And while we begin a new year with a record number of coronavirus (COVID-19) cases in the United States, we may start to see that speck of light at the end of the tunnel.

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)



NRPA Best Practices

Browse and download best practice guides, briefing papers, case studies, issue briefs, toolkits, frameworks, and other resources related to NRPA's programs and initiatives.

[CLICK HERE TO READ ARTICLE](#)



NH Recreation & Park Association
Get out and enjoy life!

THANKS FOR READING

*I hope you enjoyed the winter version of the NHRPA Rec Connect Newsletter. If you would like to submit an article, picture, advertisement or story the deadline for the spring newsletter is **April 1, 2021!** Submit information to executivedirector@nhrpa.com*

Contact NHRPA:

Mail: NHRPA, 172 Pembroke Road, Concord, NH 03301

Executive Director: Kerry Horne, M.Ed.—executivedirector@nhrpa.com

