

COVID-19 & Parks and Recreation

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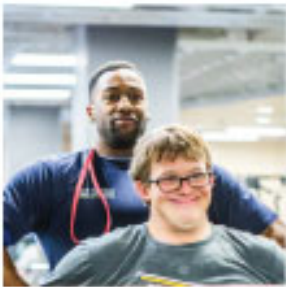




NRPA National Recreation
and Park Association

Because everyone deserves a great park





Build A Movement

Ensure Access For All

Build Community Resiliency

Advance Community Health And Well-being

Prepare The Profession For The Future

THE FIELD OF PARKS AND RECREATION

11 MILLION

acres of local and regional parks

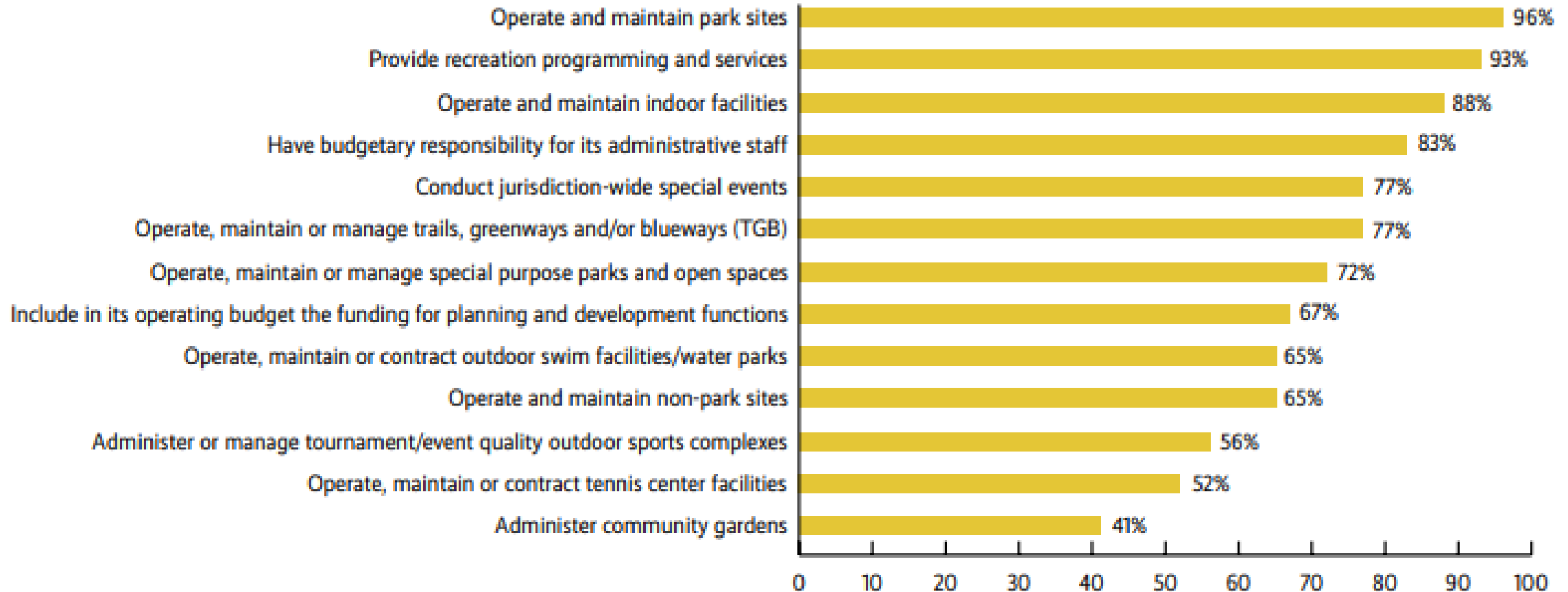
10,000 U.S. park and recreation agencies

One of the **largest** meal providers for youth during out-of-school time

\$154 BILLION

generated in economic activity annually

Key Responsibilities of P&R Agencies



Benefits of Parks and Recreation

The conditions in which we live, learn, work and play – including access to high-quality, close-to-home parks, green spaces and recreational facilities — influence a stunning 50 percent of our health outcomes as well as our overall quality of life.

It is well-documented that having access to quality parks and recreation is proven to improve physical and mental health, reduce crime and violence, increase access to healthy foods, drive community connection and boost economic activity.

NRPA'S PUBLIC HEALTH RESPONSE TO COVID-19

1. SLOWING THE SPREAD OF COVID-19

- Tools, resources and infographics aimed at slowing the spread of COVID-19 as well as supporting response and reaction measures.
- Guidance for common park and recreation spaces and programs, emergency planning, cleaning and disinfection guidance, workplace safety guidance, etc.

2. PATH TO RECOVERY – PHASED REOPENING TO MAINTAIN LOW TRANSMISSION

- Guidance to help park and recreation professionals devise plans for reopening that prioritize public health and safety. Find guidance for creating a recovery team, meeting essential public health indicators, assessing the risk of facilities and more.
- Resource database with sample models at national, state and local levels.

3. THE ESSENTIAL ROLE OF PARKS AND RECREATION

- Position statements, latest research, communications tools, advocacy tools, learning opportunities, weekly wrap-ups, local stories and more.

COVID-19: Parks and Recreation are Essential

- More than 190 million U.S. residents visited a park, trail or other public space at least once during the first three months of the pandemic.
- At the height of shelter in place orders, 75% of agencies kept some or all parks open and 86% of agencies kept trails open to allow for safe, physically distant use.
- Mayors from cities across the country noted that public appreciation of parks and recreation is at an all-time high.

NRPA PARK PULSE
Parks Are Essential, Especially During a Health Crisis

83% of adults find exercising at local parks, trails and open spaces essential to maintaining their mental and physical health during the COVID-19 pandemic.

WALKING **JOGGING** **HIKING** **BIKING**

59% of respondents say it is very or extremely essential to exercise in parks and green spaces to relieve stress and remain healthy during this crisis.

Numerous studies show there are physical and mental health benefits to spending time in green spaces. Local parks, trails and open spaces have recently become even more of a respite from stress. In March 2020, NRPA released a joint statement about using parks and open spaces while maintaining physical distancing. To date, more than 1,000 groups nationwide have signed on to voice support of the safe use of parks during this crisis. Visit www.nrpa.org/Coronavirus for more information.

Each month, through a poll of 1,000 U.S. residents focused on park and recreation issues, NRPA Park Pulse helps tell the park and recreation story. Questions span from the serious to the more lighthearted. The survey was conducted by Wakefield Research (www.wakefieldresearch.com).

Visit nrpa.org/ParkPulse for more information.

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OVER 60% OF AGENCIES ARE SUPPORTING ESSENTIAL COVID-19 RESPONSE SERVICES ACROSS MULTIPLE SECTORS



Most adults in the U.S. agree that it is important to use park and recreation facilities as **emergency distribution centers and shelters** during natural disasters, while nearly half of those polled believe park and recreation agencies should contribute **equipment and personnel** to respond to disasters.



COVID-19: Impact on Parks and Recreation

- Economic Impact
 - More than **90 percent of all agencies** have decreased their expenses
- Staff Capacity
 - Reducing staffing due to budget cuts
- Focus on Equity
 - Prioritizing disinvested communities and ensuring that amenities and services are reaching everyone
- Task Shifting/Greater Appreciation
 - Providing or supporting a host of rapid emergency response and relief services

Recovery & Transformation



Social and
Racial Justice
at the Core



Catalyst for
Community
Healing



Prime
Investment
for Economic
Revitalization

Recovery & Transformation



Holistic Approach
to Public Health



Recruiting a
Diverse Workforce



Upstream, Cross-
Sector Solutions



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