

# Forum Update

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## 2007/08 MRPA Board of Directors

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## President's Message

*Don Lewis, Tupelo Department of Parks and Recreation*

### MRPA GOALS [Continued from Nov. 2007 Forum Update]

#### Goal II

Work with the MRPA Board of Directors and committee chairpersons to increase the standing committee's involvement in the operation of MRPA.

#### Assessment:

The board of directors, parks and recreational professionals, and citizen leaders must present a consistent message that reflects the essential values of parks and recreational programs to our communities. In order to accomplish this goal we must get more people involved by offering a service that helps our members.

#### Objectives:

1. Establish a MRPA Policy and Procedures Manual so that we would have a standard set of procedures to follow.
2. Develop a standard outline for the manual.
3. Have each standing committee review and assess their goals.
4. Each standing committee would develop their section of the policy and procedures manual.

As of today the manual and standard outline has been presented to the MRPA Board and all committees. Their objective is to have their section of the manual completed by the January committee and board meeting.

As the Holiday Season fast approaches us please remember to slow down and enjoy the season. In our profession we are often out on nights, weekends, and holidays working in the parks. We all need to spend time with our families! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!

## Nike Funds Available for Youth Running Tracks

The Bowerman Track Renovation Program, administered by Nike's Corporate Responsibility department, provides grants to youth-oriented organizations that seek to refurbish or construct running tracks anywhere in the world. Special consideration will be given to existing running tracks in need of repair or refurbishment and tracks located in low- and moderate-income communities. Matching grants of up to \$50,000 are provided. Community-based, non-profit, or non-governmental organizations worldwide that serve youth ages 14-18 are eligible to apply. Requests are reviewed quarterly and will be accepted on an ongoing basis through May 31, 2009. Visit <http://www.nike.com> and search for Bowerman Track Renovation Program, call 503-671-6453, or contact

Manager, Bowerman Track Renovation Program  
Corporate Responsibility, Nike, Inc.  
One Bowerman Drive  
Beaverton, OR 97005-6453



## Operation REACH Funding

There is an exciting new opportunity from Operation REACH, Inc. Operation REACH, Inc. has issued a RFP to local entities and youth serving agencies to facilitate the launch of a National Demonstration Project for the Gulfsouth Youth Action Corp program, which is funded through the Corporation for National and Community Service and AmeriCorps. The purpose of the National Demonstration Project is to add capacity to, and enhance youth programs.

Operation REACH, Inc. will provide funding to the partnering agencies in the following states: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas. To learn more about the program you can visit the website at [www.thegyac.org](http://www.thegyac.org). Please note that letters of intent are due by close of business on December 7, 2007.

## Update from Clinton

This has been an exciting quarter for Clinton Parks and Recreation Department! Although the department is down by several staff members, we've found a sure way to keep the departments running even better than ever. Lawrence Ashford and Grady Turman received recent promotions within the department. Grady, a former Field Technician who has over 10 years experience in athletic field maintenance, has become the new Athletic Field Superintendent for the city. He attended Hinds Community College and Mississippi College majoring in Sports Management. Lawrence, a former Landscape Technician has over 25 years in landscaping and maintenance work and is the new Grounds Superintendent for the Parks and Recreation Department. These two men have proven themselves to be great assets to Clinton Parks and Recreation and will undoubtedly do great things in the future under their new rolls with the department. A new addition to the team as Special Services Coordinator is Chandra Fontenot. Chandra is a recent graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi's Therapeutic Recreation program. Her experience working with diverse populations during her internship, practicum work experiences and specialty programs through the University have prepared her to take on the task of planning special programs and events for the Clinton community. With these new editions to the staff the Clinton Parks and Recreation Department looks forward to continually meeting their goal of "Providing Something for Everyone".

## New Sportsplex Approved

The Noxubee County School District, Noxubee County Board of Supervisors, and the City of Macon have approved the development of a new sportsplex on Highway 45. The anticipated cost of the facility is \$1.2 million. It will serve as the permanent home field for the Noxubee High School Tigers and will also provide a state-of-the-art facility for community baseball, softball, and soccer leagues and tournaments. The School District will contribute approximately \$600,000, the

Board of Supervisors will provide \$100,000 plus \$200,000 in in-kind services and the City of Macon will provide \$100,000. Macon will also maintain the playing fields for the first five years, which is valued at approximately \$10,000 per year. The sportsplex will be built in two states over a two-year period.

## “Grizzly Adams Days” at Tishomingo State Park

Tishomingo State Park hosted “Grizzly Adams Days” November 16 – 18, 2007. The Yocona Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America conducts a Fall Camporee each year with 700 scouts and leaders attending this year's event. Grizzly Adams Days was a challenging weekend of teamwork and individual scouting skills. Patrols chose seven of fifteen “buckskins” (challenges) that required them to demonstrate their ability to survive the dangers faced by the famous bear trapper and mountain man, Grizzly Adams. The challenges were fun activities that tested their skills, their abilities to work together as mountain men, leadership and scout spirit. Some of the events testing the scout's mountain men skills were: repelling, rock climbing, raft building, rope bridge, trapping, orienteering, shelter building, fishing, log chopping, hatchet throwing, etc. The weather was fantastic, and a GREAT time was had by all.

“Tishomingo State Park has many amenities that most people do not know about. It is a beautiful park and events like this one help us expose our park and its beauty,” says Mississippi Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks State Parks Director, Ramie Ford.

## National Legislative Forum on Parks and Recreation

Registration is now open for the NRPA National Legislative Forum on Parks and Recreation. The Forum will be held at the Grand Hyatt in Washington, DC on March 12 - 14, 2008. Register by February 12 and save the late registration penalty.

Join us on Capitol Hill to advance the national agenda for parks and recreation. This is a critical time to be an advocate for parks and recreation. With the upcoming presidential and congressional elections, our voices must be heard.

***Help us advance national policies that promote health through physical activity, reconnect children with nature, and protect open space for conservation and recreation.***

Community advocates, citizen board members, citizen activists, senior staff, park commissioners, and city council members should all plan to attend this important gathering. As advocates, we must educate our national leaders about the importance of parks and recreation in our communities. Make an impact, share our mission, and change the course for parks and recreation. By working together, we can make a difference.

For more information visit [www.nrpa.org/forum](http://www.nrpa.org/forum), contact [conferences@nrpa.org](mailto:conferences@nrpa.org) or call 800.626.NRPA (6772).

## Certification Changes Coming

The National Certification Board is mandating that state associations with fewer than 100 certified professionals turn certification record maintenance over to the national office. Associations have until 2010 to complete this task. However, beginning in January 2008 some important changes will be implemented by the NCB.

As of January, no new applications will be accepted for the Provisional Park and Recreation Professional (PPRP) or the Associate Park and Recreation Professional (APRP) designations. Current designees will be evaluated for potential inclusion in the CPRP program.

Students who have not yet graduated from an NRPA accredited program with a major in recreation, park resources, and leisure services but are in their final semester may be able to qualify for exam status. They may complete the CPRP exam prior to the completion of the internship requirement and academic degree attainment. Certification may be granted upon passing the CPRP exam and after submission of official transcript/documentation verifying graduation. All students must apply through the NRPA office.

In order to qualify for the Certified Park and Recreation Professional status, a person must

- hold a bachelor's degree from an NRPA accredited program, verified by official transcript, and pass the CPRP examination;
- OR hold a bachelor's or higher degree from a regionally accredited education institution (from a non-NRPA accredited program), verified by official transcript, with a major in recreation, park resources, or leisure services; have no less than 1 year of full-time experience in a recreation, park resources, or leisure service position that encompasses each domain of the job analysis following the degree; and successfully pass the CPRP examination;
- OR hold a bachelor's or higher degree from a regionally accredited education institution, verified by official transcript, with a major other than recreation, park resources, or leisure services; have no less than 3 years of full-time experience in a recreation, park resources, and leisure position that encompasses each domain of the job analysis following the degree; and successfully pass the CPRP examination;
- OR hold a high school diploma, equivalency certificate, or associate's degree from a regionally accredited institution, verified by official transcript/documentation; have no less than 5 years of full-time experience in a recreation, park resources, or leisure services position that encompasses each domain of the job analysis following the diploma/degree; and successfully pass the CPRP examination.

Candidates are given 1 year after initial application approval to sit for the CPRP exam. Candidates may submit only documented CEUs earned after the successful completion of the CPRP exam.

## Employment Opportunity

The Brookhaven Parks and Recreation Commission has an opening for the position of Assistant Director. The position will be open January 2, 2008. Applications are being taken at the parks and recreation department's office or through the Mississippi Unemployment Security Commission. Qualified applicants must have a four-year degree in Recreation. Salary ranges from \$26,000 to \$30,000 a year depending on experience. If you need more information or if you're interested, contact Terry Reid at (601) 833-3791.

## Mobilizing Communities for Effective Volunteerism

Parks and Recreation professionals deserve strong leadership. As a result NRPA proudly introduces the first in a series of Management Practice Resources to focus on vital community issues. Operation TLC<sup>2</sup>: Making Communities Safe provides top-quality volunteer management resources that offer financial and administrative support-- all while enhancing the image of parks and recreation agencies.

Position your agency as a local and national leader! Be among the first 500 agencies to invest in making your community safe through Operation TLC<sup>2</sup> and receive the exclusive Charter Organization designation from NRPA.

With expert input, NRPA developed an orientation program to train new and veteran volunteers for service in park and recreation settings. Available on DVD, it enhances existing training programs and reinforces local policies so that every volunteer understands their role in ensuring the health and livability of their community.

Many of you learned about the Operation TLC<sup>2</sup> program during the Tupelo Conference. Contact NRPA today if you are interested in applying for a Charter Organization designation.

### 2008 Calendar of Events

#### MRPA Board Meetings

January 15 - 16 • Tupelo

April 23 • Jackson

August 6 • Vicksburg

#### District I

March 5 • Field Maintenance Workshop

#### District II

February 27 • Field Maintenance Workshop

#### Annual Conference

September 15 - 18 • Vicksburg

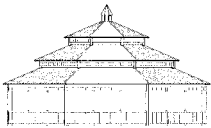
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