

# Maine Parks and Recreation







## Essential Public Services

### Parks and recreation professionals provide essential services.

We are dedicated to improving the quality of life for all, serving as a statewide advocate and a resource for promoting essential services through parks, recreation, and facilities. The conservation, health, and economic benefits of parks and recreation are well-documented. We are a vital part of the solution to many of society's problems, and can add to the policy considerations that impact our communities.

**Contact the Maine Recreation and Parks Association to learn more about the value of parks and recreation, ways to invest in parks and recreation service delivery locally, and discuss how you can become a parks and recreation advocate.**

The through line for parks and recreation departments across Maine is community, and we are an essential component of a healthy local infrastructure. This is achieved through:

-  Access to outdoor recreation opportunities by conserving and maintaining green spaces, parks, and trail systems
-  Providing diverse, equitable, and inclusive programs
-  Creating community, belonging, and a sense of civic pride
-  Collaborating with community partners on local initiatives
-  Promoting mental and physical well-being
-  Supporting economic development

**We are looking for partners to promote our message. Help us support parks and recreation departments across Maine!**

**FMI: [executivedirector@merpa.org](mailto:executivedirector@merpa.org) · (207) 272-4290**

#### Fundamental Roles of Municipal Parks & Recreation Departments

##### Promote Health & Wellness:

People who live near parks and have access to programs are both physically and mentally healthier than those who do not.

##### Programming & Education critical to childhood development:

Youth sports, STEM, summer camps, before and after school programs, and more.

##### Drive Economic Opportunity:

Local parks and recreation agencies in the United States generated \$218 billion in economic activity and supported more than 1.3 million jobs in 2019.

##### Unite people and strengthen communities:

From events to community centers, parks, trails, playgrounds, and fitness facilities, these amenities foster positive social interactions & increase social capital.

##### Provide essential and adaptable infrastructure

that make communities resilient in the face of natural disasters, climate change, local emergencies, and more.