

2017 NACPRO Legislative Agenda

The National Association of County Park and Recreation Officials (NACPRO) is a non-profit professional organization that advances official policies that promote county and regional park and recreation issues while providing members with opportunities to network, exchange ideas and best practices, and enhance professional development. NACPRO is an affiliate of the National Association of Counties (NACo) and the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA).

Adopted by the NACPRO Board of Directors on May 25, 2017

Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)

NACPRO supports a permanently authorized and fully funded Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) with a minimum of 40% of the annual LWCF appropriations allocated to the State Assistance Program, assuring that these funds are fairly distributed in all local level of governments (State, County and City). This includes funding for the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership (ORLS) urban competitive grant program. LWCF is scheduled to expire in October 2018.

Environmental Education (No Child Left Inside)

The No Child Left Inside Act (NCLI) strengthens and expands environmental education in classrooms by providing funds to encourage partnerships between school districts and parks, as well as other community based organizations. Major portions of NCLI were included in the new Elementary and Secondary Education Act (Every Students Succeeds Act) with Environmental Education identified as eligible for funding under Title IV. Part A of the new law.

Authorized at \$1.65 billion annually, NACPRO supports ample and robust funding for Title IV, Part A of the ESSA.

Protecting Existing Tax Policy

NRPA supports the protection of existing Federal tax policy which supports conservation and outdoor recreation. This includes preserving existing authority to issue tax-exempt municipal- type bonds, as well as tax incentives for conservation easement donations.

Work for a more effective definition of 'Waters of The U.S.'

NACPRO support NACo's work on a more effective definition of "Waters of the U.S.". NACo believes that local streets, gutters and human-made ditches should be excluded from the definition of "Waters of the U.S." (WOTUS) under the federal Clean Water Act. NACo calls on Congress to require the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to withdraw the new WOTUS rule and rewrite it in consultation and collaboration with state and local governments

Prevention and Public Health Grants

Prevention and Public Health Grants are grant programs funded through the HHS/Labor/Ed Appropriations and administered through the Centers for Disease Control that support state and community level programs that prevent and control obesity and other chronic diseases. This includes the CDC Arthritis Program, which provides funding for the sub-awards NRPA gives to community park and recreation agencies to implement the Arthritis Foundation Walk with Ease Interventions.

Workforce Health Improvement Program Act

Current law allows employers to deduct the cost of onsite exercise facilities. Employers lose this benefit if employees receive a subsidy to use an offsite exercise facility. The employee must also pay income taxes on the value of the subsidy as well. The Workforce Health Improvement Program Act would prevent employees who are offered a subsidized health facility membership by their employer from paying income taxes on the value of the benefit.

Personal Health Investment Today (PHIT) Act

This legislation would expand the IRS definition of medical expenditures to include physical activity as preventative medicine. This would allow individuals to use the pre-tax dollars in Flexible Spending Accounts and Health Savings Accounts to include expenditures such as; membership at a fitness facility, youth and adult sports league fees, exercise classes and other physical activities.

Child Nutrition Reauthorization

Every five years, the Child Nutrition Act must be reauthorized to continue funding for the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). SFSP and CACFP are managed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and provide the reimbursement dollars for after-school and summer meal programs at park and recreation agencies. Park and recreation agencies are the largest public provider of healthy meals and snacks to children outside of schools. The current authorization for the Child Nutrition Act, the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, has expired. It will be taken up for debate once Congress completes its work on the Farm Bill.

The Fixing America's Surface Transportation on Act (FAST)

Support dedicated funding for Active Transportation options, including trails and pedestrian projects primarily through title Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP), including the Recreational Trails Program (RTP) and Safe Routes to Schools, as well as Parks. Combined, these programs found in the federal surface transportation law "FAST Act", provide approximately \$800 million, annually for bike and pedestrian projects and to promote pedestrian and bicycling safety in local communities; The FAST ACT funds surface transportation programs until October 2021.

NRPA also supports providing additional resources to local communities to build network of sidewalks, bike lanes and paths with low-cost loans as part of the federal transportation financing program known as TIFIA.

Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)

The Community Development Block Grants are administered through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. These grants support local community development activities aimed at neighborhood revitalization, economic development, and improvement of community facilities, such as parks and recreation. Historically this program has provided up to \$100 million annually for park and recreation infrastructure.

RPPA Commercial Recreation Concessions Pilot Program Act

The RPPA Commercial Recreation Concessions Pilot Program Act would establish a pilot program allowing state and local governments to operate third-party recreational concessions in the same way that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) currently operates them under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act. This would allow Arizonans to enjoy more access to popular outdoor recreation activities, like horseback riding, mountain bike rentals, campgrounds, and ziplines on public lands.

- **Sponsor:** U.S. Senator Jeff Flake (*R-Ariz.*)
 - **Cosponsor:** U.S. Sen. John McCain (*R-Ariz.*)
- **Supported by:** Arizona State Parks, National Association of Counties, National Association of State Parks Directors, National Association of County Park and Recreation Officials, National Recreation and Park Association, and Maricopa County.

Let's Support Programs and Initiatives to Restore the Great Lakes

Support the continued existence of programs and legislation designed to protect and restore the Great Lakes, including the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, Sustain Our Great Lakes and the Great Lakes Fishery and Ecosystem Restoration Program.