



# 2015 Legislative Priorities

California Park & Recreation Society



CPRS believes there should be public investment in parks, open space and recreation to achieve positive environmental, economic, and health outcomes for all Californians. This investment can be financial, local, regional, and state policies, regulations, and laws.

## CPRS 2015 Legislative Priorities

- ❖ Support efforts to provide funding for the rehabilitation, development and capital improvements for local and state park improvements in order to enhance the active and passive recreational infrastructures in the state.
- ❖ Support the enactment of policies and encourage state funding opportunities to assist agencies in meeting sustainability objectives including energy and water efficiencies, active transportation enhancements, connectivity and mobility improvements and carbon sequestration through natural landscape management and protection.
- ❖ Oppose legislation that has a negative impact on the administration of park and recreation services and resource management including the sale of park lands and open-space, relaxations of park dedication fee requirements and the imposition of regulatory or statutory requirements that provide no added protections or benefit to California’s recreational consumer.
- ❖ Support access opportunities for all Californians to physical activity, proper nutrition and healthy lifestyle options through the promotion of active transportation, complete street implementation, healthy foods, youth programming and maximizing the usage of green space in urban/suburban and rural settings for personal enjoyment.

## Rationale

There are documented environmental, business/economic, health / personal, and community benefits associated with parks, open space, trails, greenways, water, recreation facilities, programs and services.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Natural Environment</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Cleans our air</li> <li>○ Purifies and provides adequate water supply</li> <li>○ Provides habitat for animals, fish, birds</li> <li>○ Connects children and adults with nature</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Business Environment</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Attracts businesses</li> <li>○ Creates employment opportunities</li> <li>○ Increases property values (business and residential)</li> <li>○ Attracts visitors</li> </ul> </li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Health / Personal Environment</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Improves physical, mental, and social wellbeing</li> <li>○ Reduces health care costs of chronic diseases (diabetes, asthma, heart disease, etc)</li> <li>○ Provides alternative &amp; active transportation opportunities</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Community Environment</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Creates the community's image and sense of place</li> <li>○ Increases social connections &amp; learning</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |
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Parks & recreation provides access to the serenity and inspiration of nature; spaces and places for play and exercise; opportunities for directed & organized recreation; positive alternatives for youth & activities that support social connections, human development, the arts & lifelong learning.