

PREFACE

Recreation and leisure touch the lives of all people in one way or another, whether through participation in sports and games, attending a theater production, visiting an art museum, traveling to another country, or simply enjoying your local park. A world without recreation and leisure is unfathomable—no parks, open space, swimming, lounging on beaches, or seeing other parts of the world just for fun. We often take these things for granted. The purpose of this text is for students to gain an understanding and appreciation of the value of the leisure-service industry from many perspectives. This text examines the profession from where it has been and where it is going. It is viewed from the standpoints of age, race, gender, and ethnicity, as well as societal and personal benefits. Furthermore, recreation and leisure is a viable career that employs hundreds of thousands of people in North America. A career overview includes the latest information in sport, tourism, nonprofits, therapeutic recreation, and more.

Recreation and Leisure in Modern Society is the eighth edition of a text that has been used by hundreds of college and university departments of recreation, parks, and leisure studies throughout the United States. It is designed for use in courses dealing with the history and philosophy of recreation and leisure on the world scene and, more specifically, with the role of organized leisure services today in American communities.

The book has been revised to reflect recent societal changes and the challenges that face leisure-service managers in the twenty-first century. It provides an in-depth analysis of the basic concepts of recreation and leisure, the motivations and values of participants, and trends in the overall field of organized community services.

Throughout the text, several important themes and emerging issues are emphasized, including:

- The changing nature of the political, economic, and social environment has forced park and recreation agencies to reevaluate traditional approaches to delivering public parks and recreation. Many communities are utilizing the human services approach by serving all segments of the populations. Many of these same communities and others, are also building super-sized recreation centers with membership fees and programs catering to upscale populations.
- Recreation and leisure increasingly are tied to the maturing fields of tourism and sport. Understanding these relationships is important for the success of leisure-service managers.
- Wellness will continue to be a major issue in the field, but obesity is the most immediate issue facing public parks and recreation agencies. Major efforts are being made to provide health and wellness opportunities, control obesity, and preserve cardiovascular health through parks and recreation.
- Tourism is the world's largest economy. Many communities are presenting themselves as a tourist destination in order to increase resources available to community members through jobs, attractions, and revenue generation.

- The baby boomers are beginning to retire and have a major impact on the parks and recreation profession. They have more discretionary income than ever before and are willing to spend it on experiences through travel and tourism, participation in programs, health and fitness, and adventure recreation.
- Sport is increasing its influence and importance in the local, national, and international arena. Youth sport are taking on the forms and actions of professional sport, frequently to the detriment of the participants. The Fan Cost Index depicts the actual cost of attending a professional sporting event. Sport and tourism have become major community partners emphasizing economic community development.
- There is a loss of an environmental ethic in the United States. Open space is shrinking due to community development of subdivisions, business, and more. Americans are using more than their share of natural resources: they comprise only 5% of the world's population, but use 25% of all natural resources.
- Globalization has impacted leisure through the ability to share models, lessons learned, adaptation to local settings, and the greater awareness a global perspective brings to the profession.
- Children are playing outdoors less despite the positive effects of being exposed to the natural environment.
- Socioeconomic status impacts leisure through available opportunities, activity choices, and ways in which leisure is experienced. Often urban communities provide expanding services at increasing consumer costs while inner-city urban areas continue to struggle to provide basic leisure services to residents.

The eighth edition represents the first major update of the twenty-first century. Society is changing so rapidly it is a challenge to capture the diversity and depth of change. The latest research, trends, and issues in the field are included in this new edition.

No discourse of change is complete without an intensified treatment of the impact of technology in our lives. There is an enhanced focus on social capital. As we find more competition for our time, the pace of American life in contemporary times and the impact on our definition of leisure is reviewed. The Hull House and its women have been revisited and expanded. The dramatic changes and historical accounts of leisure and recreation in the 1990s and early twenty-first century are strengthened.

Recreation therapy, as well as recreation's role in health and wellness, has taken on a great importance in the text and in daily life. As the Boomers move through the early stages of retirement, or what is called the "new retirement," the impact on generations, meanings of leisure, wealth, and the future are addressed.

The nature of work in the leisure profession has changed and it is acknowledged and shared. Leisure originally focused on public agencies. This is no longer the case. Leisure involves nonprofits, sport, and tourism agencies. This discussion has been expanded throughout the book, and sport and tourism are now separate chapters.

There are new real-world examples and updated research throughout. This text concludes with a discussion of the state of the profession and jobs in the field.

This text is meant to make readers think about the field and how it impacts their lives on a daily basis. Its aim is to make the reader appreciate the recreational opportunities that are available in North America. Lastly, it is meant to educate each reader on what it means to be a parks and recreation professional.

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