

# VERMONT RECREATION PARK ASSOCIATION CONSTITUTION

As Amended May 20, 1997, March 17, 2000, May 25, 2000, and May 18, 2007

## ARTICLE I

### Name

The name of this organization shall be the Vermont Recreation and Park Association. This organization is an affiliate of the National Recreation and Park Association.

## ARTICLE II

### Definition

The term "recreation and parks" includes, but is not limited to service to the total citizenry for its enjoyment, health, and general well-being through the continuous development and improvement of areas, facilities, and programs administered for recreation purposes by all levels of government, private, semi-private, religious organizations and agencies; institution; commercial establishments, as well as the leisure pursuits of families and individuals.

It also includes the acquisition, conservation, preservation and restoration of physical and natural resources. It includes the provision of services to special groups such as the ill, and physically and/or mentally challenged, and ages; and the education and training of lay and professional individuals for the worthy use of leisure.

## ARTICLE III

### Objectives and Powers

The objectives of this association are:

To unite into one effective organization all recreation and park personnel in the State of Vermont;

To encourage federal, state, and municipal governments to assume the responsibilities for adequate recreation and park programs, facilities, and services in the best interests of Vermont and local communities:

To encourage voluntary agencies, clubs, and civic groups, religious organizations, industry, business and commercial enterprise to assume their proper roles in the provision of a well-rounded, year-round recreation and park development in Vermont:

To assist in the establishment of standards of administration, supervision, finance, programs, and facilities;

### ARTICLE III (CONTINUED)

To encourage the cooperation and coordination of recreation and park programs and facilities development not only on all levels of government, but between private, semi-public, and commercial groups in communities.

To encourage study, research and long-range planning for recreation and parks;

To seek public support for the recreation and park movement;

To support and practice the wisest uses of our natural resources in the best interest of Vermont;

To recruit quality personnel for professional preparation in professional conferences and be active in their professional association;

To encourage recreation and park personnel to participate in professional conferences and be active in their professional association;

To support the purposes of the National Recreation and Park Association, and the New England Regional Council of the National Recreation and Park Association;

To comply with the policies and rules and regulations of the National Recreation and Park Association as they apply to affiliate of that organization.

### ARTICLE IV

#### Membership

Membership in this association is open to any individual, business, or organization interested in the recreation and park movement in Vermont who meets the requirements as provided in the bylaws.

### ARTICLE V

#### Officers

Section 1. The officers of the Association shall be a president, president-elect, secretary and treasurer.

Section 2. The officers of this Association shall be elected prior to the annual meeting of this Association for a period of two years or until their successors are elected.

### ARTICLE VI

#### Executive Committee

There will be an Executive Committee consisting of the officers, past president, four members at large appointed by the president and the executive director (ex-officio).

## **ARTICLE VII**

### Committees

- Section 1. The president, with approval of the executive committee, shall appoint for his term of office the chairperson of the following standing committees; program, legislative, newsletter, nominating, membership, awards and professional certification board.
- Section 2. Other committees may be appointed by the president as deemed necessary in the interest of this Association.

## **ARTICLE VIII**

### Interest Sections

- Section 1. An Interest Section shall be a recreation or park group of ten (10) or more members who have a common interest or who engage in a special field of recreation and/or park work such as local government, armed forces, parks, voluntary agencies, board members and therapeutic recreation.
- Section 2. Interest Sections shall be organized as provided in the bylaws.

## **ARTICLE IX**

### Executive Director

- Section 1. The Association may employ an Executive Director to help carry out the work of the Association. The Executive Director shall be responsible to the President of the Association. The Executive Director shall be a non-voting member of all committees and task groups.
- Section 2. The responsibilities of the Executive Director shall be defined in a job description approved by the Executive Committee.
- Section 3. The Executive Director shall be hired by the Executive Committee.

## **ARTICLE X**

### Amendments

This constitution may be amended by a three-fourths vote of the members in good standing present and voting at any meeting of this Association provided written notice of such amendments and copy thereof shall have been mailed to the members in good standing at least two weeks prior to such meeting.

**ARTICLE XI**  
**IRS REQUIREMENTS**

The following clauses shall be contained in the Constitution as required for tax-exempt status by the Internal Revenue Service.

1. Notwithstanding any other provisions of these articles, the corporation is organized exclusively for one or more of the purposes as specified in Section 501c (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, and shall not carry on any activities not permitted to be carried on by a corporation exempt from Federal income tax under IRC Section 501 c (3) or corresponding provisions of any subsequent Federal tax laws.
2. No part of the net earnings of the corporation shall inure to the benefit of any member, trustee, director, officer of the corporation, or any private individual and no member, trustee, officer of the corporation or any private individual shall be entitled to share in the distribution of any of the corporation assets on dissolution of the corporation.
3. No substantial part of the activities of the corporation shall be carrying on propaganda, or otherwise attempting, to influence legislation (except as otherwise provided by Internal Revenue Code Section 501 (h), and does not participate in, or intervene in any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public use.
4. In the event of dissolution all of the remaining assets and property of the corporation shall, after necessary expenses thereof, be distributed to another organization exempt under IRC Section 501 c, (3), or corresponding provisions or any subsequent Federal tax laws, or to the Federal government, or state or local government for a public purpose, subject to the approval of a Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of Vermont.
5. In any taxable year in which the corporation is a private foundation as described in IRC Section 509 (a), the corporation shall distribute its income for said period at such time and manner as not to subject it to tax under IRC Section 4942, and the corporation shall not (a) engage in any act of self-dealing as defined in IRC

Section 4941 (d), retain any excess business holdings as defined in IRC Section 4942 c, (b) make any investments in such manner as to subject the corporation to tax under IRC Section 4942, or (c ) make any taxable expenditures as defined in IRC Section 4945 (d) or corresponding provisions of any subsequent Federal tax laws.