Individuals who work in park and recreation management focus on enhancing the quality of life for communities and individuals. In a society built increasingly on experiences, public agencies are a primary source of opportunities for active and passive leisure experiences. Park and recreation management encompasses federal, state, and municipal agencies, military morale, welfare and recreation programs and increasingly commercial recreation. Municipal park and recreation agencies exist in almost every mid-sized and large community, as well as in many smaller communities. Park and recreation agencies touch every fabric of America’s life from quiet park settings to high-use sport fields; from neighborhood recreation centers to super-sized multi-million dollar community recreation centers; from pre-school activity programs to senior based programming.

The Department
The Department of Recreation and Sport Management prepares students for careers in the leisure service industry, including park and recreation management careers.

Employment Opportunities
Park and Recreation Management graduates will be prepared to begin careers in a variety of areas. A sampling of the types of positions available to park and recreation management graduates is provided on the following page.

Entry-level jobs offer a variety of starting salaries and offer excellent opportunities for rapid advancement. Some graduates may follow up the sport management degree by going to graduate school for a master’s and/or doctorate. Entry-level, full-time positions require prior experience. The experiences frequently come as part of a student’s academic program.

To be successful, students must be able to:
• Apply principles of resource management and stewardship.
• Establish constructive and supportive relationships with community members.
• Plan and facilitate recreation activities that promote positive community development and well-being.
• Build recreation programs that deliver experiences desired by community members.
• Evaluate effectiveness and efficiency of services.
• Understand and respect cultural and human diversity.
• Work with families, organizations, and the community.
• Secure and manage financial and human resources.
• Salaries: Entry level recreation professionals begin in the low to mid $30,000 range.

Military Recreation
• Morale Welfare and Recreation Branch of the Army, Navy, and Air Force
• Positions as center directors

Public Parks & Recreation
• Las Vegas Department of Leisure Services
• Clark County Parks and Recreation
• Henderson Parks and Recreation
• North Las Vegas Parks and Recreation
• Reno Parks and Recreation

Job Titles in Public Parks
• Director of Recreation and Parks
• Recreation Superintendent
• Parks Superintendent
• Recreation Supervisor
• Recreation Center Director
• Aquatics Director
• Senior Program Director
• Sports Director
• Recreation Leader
• Recreation Workers
• Park Planner
• Education and Training

State Agencies
• Nevada State Parks
• California State Parks
• Arizona State Parks
• Associate Park and Recreation Specialist
• Park and Recreation Specialist
• Pool Lifeguard
• Staff Park and Recreation Specialist
• Senior Park and Recreation Specialist

Federal Agencies
In Nevada there are opportunities for employment with:
• National Park Service
• Bureau of Land Management
• U.S. Forest Service
• U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
• Bureau of Reclamation
Additional Federal agencies include:
• Tennessee Valley Authority
• U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Job Titles in Natural Resource Management
• Park Rangers
• Park Police
• Park Managers
• Foresters
• Wildlife Managers
• Fish and Game Wardens
• Soil Conservationists
• Watershed Managers
• Range Managers

Nonprofit Center-Based Programs
• Boys and Girls Clubs
• YMCA of Southern Nevada
• Girls and Boys Town
• Salvation Army – Las Vegas
• Girls, Inc.

Nonprofit Specialized Agencies
• Easter Seals of Southern Nevada
• UNLV Gear Up

21st Century Community Learning Centers
• Big Brothers and Big Sisters
• The Arc
• Junior Achievement

University & Campus Recreation
• Program Director
• Fitness Director
• Facility Manager
• Director of Recreational Sports
• Intramural Sports Director
• Club Sports Director

Resort Recreation
• Resorts hire recreation directors as part of the resort amenities. Locations include:
• Scottsdale, AZ
• Hilton Head, SC
• Mohonk Mountain House; New Paltz, NY
• Orlando, FL
• Amelia Island, FL
• Captiva Island, FL
• Destin, FL
• Seabrook Island, SC

Special Interest Organizations
• Sierra Club
• Appalachian Mountain Club
• Outdoor Leadership Programs
• Youth Sport Organizations
• Arts Councils and Cultural Organizations
• Senior Travel Groups

Commercial Recreation
• Health Spas & Fitness Centers
• Family Fun Centers
• Family Aquatic Centers
• Sport Clubs
• Adventure Recreation Centers and Clubs