

Parks and recreation



What is parks and recreation?

Does the human use of natural resources for enjoyment, education, health, socialization and well-being intrigue you? You may want to consider a career in the field of parks and recreation where you'll help with:

- Planning, organizing and administering recreational activities, programs and services for diverse populations
- Educating the public through a variety of mediums including newspaper articles, field trips and brochures

Day in the life



Career path



How can I get experience?

General exposure/experience: Big City Mountaineers

Volunteer opportunities: Denver Parks & Recreation, Volunteer.gov

Youth employment: SPREE River Ranger Summer Program

Professional societies: Association for Outdoor Recreation and Education

Salary/pay range

The average salary for a Director of Parks and Recreation is:

\$22.82 per hour
(From Indeed)

Examples of careers

- Park Technician
- Park Ranger
- Parks Planner
- Recreation Coordinator
- Wilderness Ranger
- Director of Parks, Trails and Recreation

Skills

- Interpersonal communication
- Event coordination
- Program development and presentation



Career spotlight: Environmental educator

What they do

Environmental educators plan, develop and conduct programs to inform visitors about the historical, natural and scientific features of a park, open space or artifacts.

“My biggest fulfillment is seeing children light up when discovering nature for the first time,” said Mark DeGregorio, Education Program Manager at Rocky Mountain National Park.

Skills and education check

To succeed in the field of parks and recreation you must enjoy interacting with people of all ages and backgrounds, be knowledgeable about science, have good written and verbal communication skills and be creative.

Most jobs in parks and recreation require an associate’s degree or bachelor’s degree; however, some positions require no certifications – just a well-tailored skill set.



Want to learn more?

Visit nrcareers.org for the inside scoop on careers in natural resources!