

APOLOGIA

The Park Practice Program, cooperatively conducted by the National Conference on State Parks, the American Institute of Park Executives, and the National Park Service, U. S. Department of the Interior was projected to provide a means of exchanging views and concepts, structural and other technical designs, and operational information in concise and lucid form for the benefit of park and recreation people everywhere. How well this projection has succeeded is attested to by the growth of the Program through its acceptance by the professional, the student, and by commerce.

The section of the Program called GUIDELINE compliments the other two sections, DESIGN and GRIST, by affording an opportunity to study and to understand the viewpoints of others who have—at one time or another—been faced with topical problems, or who have purposefully set about the task of defining policy predicated upon research, experience, or both. In a larger sense, GUIDELINE may be considered as a signpost pointing a way for the policymaker or administrator in confrontation with his many decision—making problems.

Every path leads somewhere, and the very fact it is a path clearly demonstrates someone has walked it before. It is the dedicated purpose of GUIDELINE to provide more paths. But it does not advocate one path over another. Those who peruse its pages must sooner or later come face to face with the realization that the same solution seldom solves the same problem precisely and in every instance. Personal preferences and decisions as to which path to follow belong to the individual for whom these volumes were conceived to serve.

Providing as many and as varied writings by recognized authorities as may be possible on the wide range of subjects of interest to the possessors of this library shall be the principal concern of the Program. Thus, the reader shall be encouraged to fashion his own sound course of action in those matters which are of important concern.