

## CONCEPTS OF RECREATION

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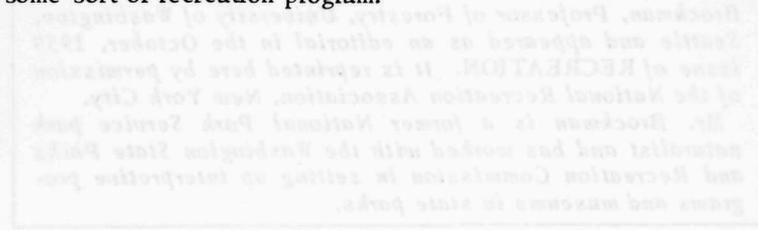
The term "recreation" is subject to a great variety of interpretations. This fact leads to many problems in the acquisition, planning, development, and administration of recreation areas, for people of various interests visualize different possibilities in identical areas. For example, hunters or fishermen, as contrasted with those who wish only to observe and study wildlife, are rarely in agreement on the recreation values of an area. The desires of skiers and nonskiers are often incompatible; and those who desire ready access to remote regions—and convenient accommodations when they get there—have distinctly different points of view from wilderness enthusiasts.

Such differences of opinion, resulting from lack of uniformity in general objectives, as well as from an incomplete understanding of the overall picture, are further complicated by the fact that the recreation possibilities of many lands are in direct competition with such activities as logging, mining, grazing, production of hydroelectric power or water supply, and the development of building sites. . . . recreation is many things. It involves any activity participated in, any time and anywhere, merely for the enjoyment it affords. Recreation may be purely physical; it may provide intellectual, esthetic, or emotional outlets; or combinations of these. In its broadest sense, it encompasses much more than mere physical activity. Second, the way spare time is used is very definitely individual in nature. Any activity that serves as recreation for one person may be work—or a bore—for another.

Further, recreation needs vary at different times with specific individuals. They not only change during periods of one's life, in accordance with physical ability and intellectual capacity, but often with different periods in one day, depending upon personal moods. The rewards of recreational activities, whatever their nature, depend upon the degree to which they provide outlets for personal interests: physical development, mental improvement, cultural growth, or social adjustment, not attainable in one's daily routine. Third, while proper use of spare time may be beneficial, improper spare-time activities can be affecting a lifetime. . . .

In our definition of recreation, the word "pleasurable" recognizes that recreation is fun. Maximum release from routine accrues to the individual only if he voluntarily selects some spare-time activity because of the pleasure it offers. But recreation should do more. . . . Constructive activities can enrich, broaden,

and develop individual capabilities and gratify man's natural desire for new and more satisfying ways of life. Indeed, more than a few individuals credit their interest in a particular vocation to an idea planted during their early years by inspired direction in some sort of recreation program.



The term "recreation" is subject to a great variety of interpretations. This fact leads to many problems in the acquisition, planning, development, and administration of recreation areas for people of various interests & abilities. It is not possible to have identical areas for example, hunting or fishing, as contrasted with those who wish only to observe and study wildlife, and who have no interest in the recreation values of an area. The degree of interest and activity are often incompatible; and those who desire ready access to remote regions and convenient accommodations when they get there—have distinctly different points of view from wilderness enthusiasts.

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In our definition of recreation, the word "pleasurable" is used to mean that recreation is fun. Maximum leisure time should be given to the individual only if he voluntarily selects some space-time activity because of the pleasure it offers. But recreation should do more. . . . Constructive activities can enrich, broaden,