



**Research, Education,
and Development
for Health, Recreation,
and Land Agencies**

Helping Communities Thrive



2015 Annual Report

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A Message From the Board of Directors

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

The choice to help communities thrive is guided through policy change, citizen engagement, and the built environment. With a specific focus on effectively increasing active living and translational research, GP RED's projects and partnerships around the country made substantial strides in helping communities achieve these goals over the past year.

GP RED believes community and individual well-being requires a multi-sector approach. As GP RED builds and expands best practices within the parks and recreation, planning, land management, transportation, and public health arenas, the knowledge base grows exponentially. Our education programs and research projects taught us that one of the most effective ways to prevent obesity and encourage physical activity is to connect non-motorized pathways and greenways with community landmarks. Our Surveillance and Management Toolkit (SMT) created new strategies for increasing physical activity. Initial research was geared toward a targeted age range of 10-14-year-olds, because this is a prime time to encourage healthy eating habits and good nutrition. SMT is ongoing in several locations, with a goal to reach 10 communities by 2017.

Our Safe Routes to Play (SRTP) initiative is a child-centered transportation planning process to engage youth in assessing safe and unsafe places in their community for independent, active travel. This process shows gaps in the transportation system. Communities in New Hampshire, Colorado, Ohio, and Maryland successfully assessed their communities and now have safer, more accessible routes from home, school, and work to play spaces, natural areas, and community recreation facilities. In 2016, we are looking for additional communities who want to increase youth participation in community planning with our Youth Engagement Strategies workshop.

Reaching more than 5,500 professionals with our mailings, and offering educational sessions worldwide, GP RED shares current research findings and emerging trends to broaden our reach and engage our many partners. In 2016, we will offer our 4th biennial Think Tank, a convening of the nation's great thought leaders to address current issues of importance in creating healthy communities.

With continued financial and in-kind support, we will build our foundation of organizational leadership, strengthen our capacity to create strategies that assist communities with complex challenges, and provide evidence based resources to practitioners.

Sincerely,

The GP RED Operating Board

Chris Cares, President

Teresa Penbrooke, Secretary

Karla Henderson, Treasurer

Rob Layton

Lora Polowczuk

Linda Smith

Cindy Heath, Executive Director

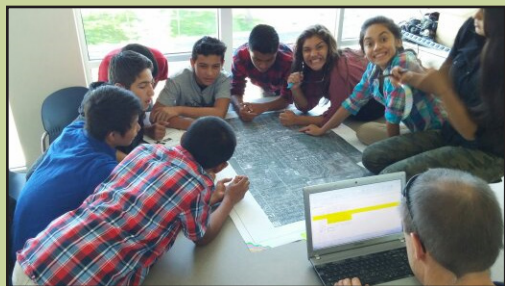
OUR MISSION

The Mission of GP RED is to facilitate the creation of inter-disciplinary, innovative, practical management tools and strategies intended to enhance and promote integration of health, recreation, and land management industries through research, education, and development.

2015 Initiatives & Accomplishments

Organizational and Leadership Development Workshops

- GP RED Faculty delivered national, state, and local education programs, reaching professionals in conservation, parks & recreation, planning, transportation, education, public health and urban design.
- A Youth Engagement Strategies workshop was developed for rollout in 2016 to train practitioners on including youth in community planning initiatives. Education content includes the use of PhotoVoice (participatory research), Umap the Community (Children's Environments Research Group), and the Youth Activity and Nutrition Survey (GP RED and East Carolina University).




Safe Routes to Play®

- S RTP involves engaging youth, policy makers, and community leaders in assessing barriers and solutions for safe access to recreation opportunities.
- S RTP identified challenges and increased opportunities for active transportation in Sheridan, CO.
- S RTP was featured as an initiative to improve safe access to parks in the National Recreation & Park Association's Park Access Report.

Surveillance & Management Toolkit™ (SMT)


- SMT is a community systems approach to identifying key modifiable factors that can help improve health through positioning of parks and recreation agencies and other partners as preventative public health providers.
- Strong positive outcomes in the form of coalition building, re-branding, and asset inventory and mapping have been in Liberty, MO, Arlington Heights, IL, and Halifax County, NC.



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RESEARCH BRIEFS
Translating Research to Practice



#5

Why Leisure Organizations Fail to Seize Community Development Opportunities: Suggestions for Improving Collaborative Success

John Henderson, Research and Evaluation Manager
The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission
GP RED Board Member

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August 2015

REDLine Surveys and Research Briefs

- REDLine Surveys are a succinct tool to identify trending multi-sector topics in the fields of parks and recreation, community planning and design, conservation, and public health. Surveys on emergency preparedness and response and research resources.
- Research Briefs on PhotoVoice, Positive Policies, Walkability, Community Development, and Research Resources have been produced and distributed to our national audience.
- Research results have been presented at local, state and national conferences.

USFS Peaks to Prairies Children's Forest Corridor Cost Share Agreement

- Five year Denver Metro area Children's Forest Corridor Strategic Framework completed with partner input to increase youth access to the outdoors under a Great Outdoors Colorado Grant in Pueblo, CO.

Our Funders & Project Partners

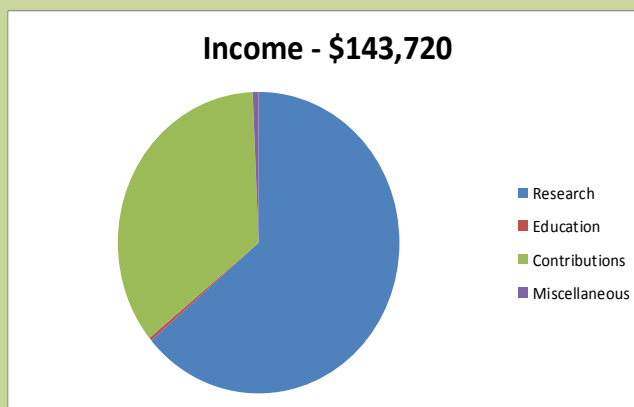
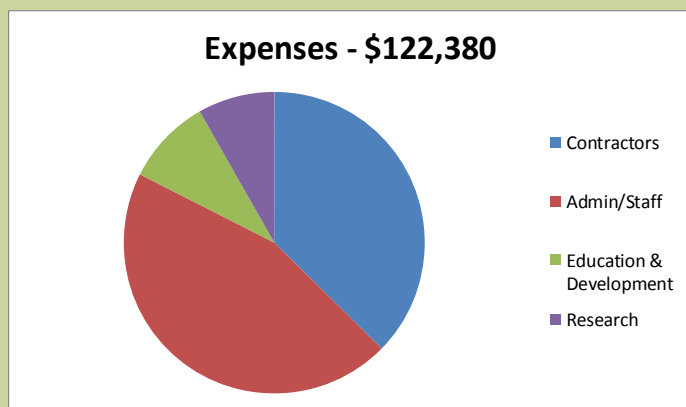
Major funding for GP RED's activities is provided by GreenPlay, LLC.



Additional support is provided from the organizations below and individual donors.



Income & Expense Report



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***Strategic
Leadership***

***Building
Healthy
Communities***

***Measuring
What
Matters***

Headquarters:

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