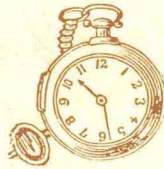


INTRODUCTION TO LEISURE SERVICES



7th Edition

H. Douglas Sessoms

Karla A. Henderson





Introduction to

LEISURE SERVICES

Seventh Edition

H. Douglas Sessoms

Karla A. Henderson

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Introduction to

LEISURE SERVICES

Seventh Edition

F O R E W O R D

The seventh edition of *Introduction to Leisure Services* continues the long history of describing professional parks and recreation begun by Harold D. Meyer and Charles K. Brightbill in 1948 with their *Community Recreation: A Guide to its Organization and Administration*. As one might expect, the profession, as reported in that pioneering text, is quite different from that which has evolved. Yet, the need to chronicle the events which have shaped it and the theories which undergird it remain. That has been true with all of the editions.

To Meyer and Brightbill, recreation and parks were separate but related professions. They viewed the provision of recreation services as a community responsibility that involved the private, public and commercial sectors; parks were the concern of foresters and natural resources specialists. In the second and third editions of their work, they began to view the two as one field of service—parks and recreation. The profession was taking form and in their tradition Meyer and Brightbill not only discussed the changes taking place, they were also giving the profession leadership with their advocacy and philosophical positions. Through their texts and other writings, thousands of students were influenced, including me.

In 1969, I joined Harold Meyer in revising the fourth edition of *Community Recreation*. Five years later I assumed major responsibility for its revision and was the sole author for number six, entitled *Leisure Services*. It was in this edition that a differentiation was made between parks and recreation and leisure services, a broader concept which has parks and recreation as one of its elements. That work was a descriptive analysis of the leisure service delivery system and those agencies which are at its forefront. Although some attention was given to the mass cultural aspects of society and the theories which underlie service delivery, the book continued to focus on the organizational components and issues confronting the system and the profession which gives it structure.

In this edition of *Leisure Services*, the seventh, Karla A. Henderson joins me as the second author. Together we have attempted to update the changes which have occurred in the field during the past decade and set a realistic framework for what we believe will occur as we approach the 21st Century.

Although this edition does not differ significantly in format from the previous work, its content is contemporary with particular attention being given to current trends in leisure services. We now have a much greater body of research from which to draw as well as an awareness of the need for parks and recreation to provide programs which reflect the diversity of society. We have

tried to use the history of the profession as a backdrop for examining current situations as well as a basis for explaining emerging social issues and their influence on the provision of services.

The current social setting of the United States does suggest that a wide range of settings and a wide variety of roles are now being performed by park and recreation professionals which will shape the professional preparation of future practitioners. We have also tried to describe for you the function, philosophy and structure of our major leisure service agencies, the issues confronting leisure service providers, and the directions which we feel the parks and recreation profession is moving. We acknowledge that many perspectives could have been taken in accomplishing this task, but we offer one which we feel appropriate to introduce you to the field of leisure services.

We are deeply indebted to many colleagues in the preparation of this work. They have been good sources of information, good critics, and understanding friends. Among them are our cohorts at the University of North Carolina—Lee Meyer, Charles Bullock, Deborah Bialeschki, Neta Lord and Jeanette Rozier. We are especially grateful to Richard Gitelson at the Pennsylvania State University, to Mark Havitz at the University of Waterloo, and to Leandra Bedini at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro who, along with Deb Bialeschki, provided materials for several of the chapters. We are appreciative to the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration and James Brademas of the University of Illinois for providing us with all the photos used in this text. We also want to express our thanks to Ching-Chang Hsaio who assisted with the library research and Anne Sessoms who aided in the typing and editing of the manuscript. Most of all, we are indebted to the professionals such as Brightbill and Meyer who have paved the way for us and to those who continue to be our mentors in moving this profession forward with their thought and deed.

H.D.S., 1994

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CHAPTER ONE

The Overview

In 1992, against a backdrop of a nagging worldwide recession and a sluggish United States economy, Americans spent over 400 billion dollars in their pursuit of pleasure. Expenditures for vacation trips, ocean cruises, tennis and golf matches, weekend outings, and other forms of recreation behavior were several billion dollars greater than were expenditures for national defense (according to the Academy of Leisure Sciences, 1993). Leisure and recreation continue to be a major force in the economic and social life of twentieth century America.

Work and leisure are interrelated activities. The exact nature of their relationship has long been the subject of speculation among economists, sociologists, and other social and behavioral scientists. Formerly it was believed that we would work no longer than it took us to maintain the lifestyle to which we had become accustomed, and that most workers would be content with subsistence and would stop working when their incomes rose beyond that level (U.S. Department of Labor [USDOL], 1980). That theory did not hold for long for workers seemed to enjoy the acquisition of goods made possible by higher wages.