From:	Kristine Stratton, NRPA President and CEO
To:	bbethune@cityofmyrtlebeach.com
Subject:	[External]Updates from the Field with Kristine Stratton
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NRPA - Because Everyone Deserves a Great Park

Weekly Parks Wrap Up

Brenda,

The last few weeks have been difficult. Amidst the fight for social justice, I am proud of the work park and recreation professionals are doing to support their communities in every way possible.

Thank you for starting the dialogue and for your work on becoming affirmatively anti-racist and continuing to build your diversity, equity and inclusion efforts.

This work is not temporary. It takes time, dedication and care. I look forward to what we will do together to ensure that every person in every community has access, feels welcome and can benefit from our park and recreation spaces and programs.

As our communities look for solutions to bring people together and

address long-standing disparities, let us remember and promote the role parks and recreation plays in building community — in supporting health, wellness and resiliency.

Our Parks Build Community initiative is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year. And that idea — that parks build community — rings truer than ever.

We have an opportunity in these most challenging times to step up and be leaders in creating healthier, more inclusive and more equitable communities. We continue to expand our community wellness hub strategies as well as our park access initiatives, and look forward to partnering with you on this important work.

Parks will be the essential catalyst for changing how our communities come together and interact with people from all walks of life. Our park and recreation professionals are valuable subject matter experts with diverse skills and lived experiences who have a profound devotion to their communities. They are stewards of our most precious resources and a driving force for community vitality. Parks have the power to bring people together, and NRPA is committed to working towards that goal.

Finally, as we seek to serve our communities in every way possible, we continue to be mindful of the COVID-19 pandemic and our responsibility to follow careful protocols that protect our park and recreation staff as well as our community members.

To support your efforts in navigating the pandemic, we continue to update our Path to Recovery resources, research and educational offerings to keep you as informed as possible. The most recent postings reflect guidance on playgrounds, which we know is important to all of you.

Thank you again for all you are doing to support and lead in your communities.

KristineSignatureSmall_825310.png

Kristine Stratton
NRPA President and CEO

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