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§ 2501. Congressional findings

The Congress finds that—

(a) the quality of life in urban areas is closely related to the availability of fully functional park and recreation systems including land, facilities, and service programs;

(b) residents of cities need close-to-home recreational opportunities that are adequate to specialized urban demands, with parks and facilities properly located, developed, and well maintained;

(c) the greatest recreational deficiencies with respect to land, facilities, and programs are found in many large cities, especially at the neighborhood level;

(d) inadequate financing of urban recreation programs due to fiscal difficulties in many large cities has led to the deterioration of facilities, nonavailability of recreation services, and an inability to adapt recreational programs to changing circumstances; and

(e) there is no existing Federal assistance program which fully addresses the needs for physical rehabilitation and revitalization of these park and recreation systems.

(Pub. L. 95-625, title X, §1002, Nov. 10, 1978, 92 Stat. 3538.)

SHORT TITLE

Section 1001 of title X of Pub. L. 95-625 provided that: "This title [enacting this chapter] may be cited as the 'Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Act of 1978'."

§ 2502. Congressional statement of purpose; complementary program authorization; terms and conditions

The purpose of this chapter is to authorize the Secretary to establish an urban park and recreation recovery program which would provide Federal grants to economically hard-pressed communities specifically for the rehabilitation of critically needed recreation areas, facilities, and development of improved recreation programs. This program is intended to complement existing Federal programs such as the Land and Water Conservation Fund and Community Development Grant Programs by encouraging and stimulating local governments to revitalize their park and recreation systems and to make long-term commitments to continuing maintenance of these systems. Such assistance shall be subject to such terms and conditions as the Secretary considers appropriate and in the public

interest to carry out the purposes of this chapter. It is further the purpose of this chapter to improve recreation facilities and expand recreation services in urban areas with a high incidence of crime and to help deter crime through the expansion of recreation opportunities for at-risk youth. It is the further purpose of this section¹ to increase the security of urban parks and to promote collaboration between local agencies involved in parks and recreation, law enforcement, youth social services, and juvenile justice system.

(Pub. L. 95-625, title X, §1003, Nov. 10, 1978, 92 Stat. 3539; Pub. L. 103-322, title III, §§31501, 31505(b), Sept. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 1888, 1890.)

AMENDMENTS

1994—Pub. L. 103-322 struck out "for a period of five years" after "development of improved recreation programs" and "short-term" before "program is intended to complement" and inserted at end "It is further the purpose of this chapter to improve recreation facilities and expand recreation services in urban areas with a high incidence of crime and to help deter crime through the expansion of recreation opportunities for at-risk youth. It is the further purpose of this section to increase the security of urban parks and to promote collaboration between local agencies involved in parks and recreation, law enforcement, youth social services, and juvenile justice system."

"SECRETARY" DEFINED

Secretary means the Secretary of the Interior, see section 2 of Pub. L. 95-625, set out as a note under section 2503 of this title.

§ 2503. Definitions

When used in this chapter the term—

(a) "recreational areas and facilities" means indoor or outdoor parks, buildings, sites, or other facilities which are dedicated to recreation purposes and administered by public or private nonprofit agencies to serve the recreation needs of community residents. Emphasis shall be on public facilities readily accessible to residential neighborhoods, including multiple-use community centers which have recreation as one of their primary purposes, but excluding major sports arenas, exhibition areas, and conference halls used primarily for commercial sports, spectator, or display activities;

(b) "rehabilitation grants" means matching capital grants to local governments for the purpose of rebuilding, remodeling, expanding, or developing existing outdoor or indoor recreation areas and facilities, including improvements in park landscapes, buildings, and support facilities, but excluding routine maintenance and upkeep activities;

(c) "innovation grants" means matching grants to local governments to cover costs of personnel, facilities, equipment, supplies, or services designed to demonstrate innovative and cost-effective ways to augment park and recreation opportunities at the neighborhood level and to address common problems related to facility operations and improved delivery of recreation service, and which shall exclude routine operation and maintenance activities;

(d) "at-risk youth recreation grants" means—

¹ So in original. Probably should be "chapter".