



# Michigan Recreation and Park Association Constitution

## ARTICLE I

The name of this organization shall be the Michigan Recreation and Park Association (MRPA).

## ARTICLE II

SECTION 1: The Michigan Recreation and Park Association is a dynamic, member driven organization committed to providing quality professional development, advocacy, programs, and services with fiscal integrity and progressive leadership for the park, recreation, and leisure professional.

SECTION 2: The Association shall adopt and be guided by a strategic plan. This plan will encompass three year periods and shall be reviewed annually by the Board of Directors. This plan shall detail the objectives of the Association.

SECTION 3: The Association is registered as a 501(c)3 non-profit private corporation. No part of any net earnings or funds collected by the Association shall accrue to the benefit of any member of the Association. Upon dissolution of the Association, all funds or assets remaining shall be distributed to a non-profit organization of similar purpose.

SECTION 4: The fiscal year of the Association shall be determined by the Board of Directors.

SECTION 5: The registered office shall be that of the Executive Director.

## ARTICLE III

### Eligibility

Eligibility for membership is determined by the administrative staff, under terms defined and approved within the MRPA Constitution, and provides for affirmative action/equal opportunity and general appeal purposes in compliance with state and federal laws.

### SECTION 1: VOTING MEMBERSHIP

- A. PROFESSIONAL: Individuals employed in the field of recreation, parks, tourism and related services for the improvement, preservation and maintenance of the quality of life in Michigan through public and private interests.
- B. VENDOR: Allows for members who provide goods and services to the industry.

### SECTION 2: NON-VOTING MEMBERSHIP

- A. ASSOCIATE: Individuals not eligible for Professional membership, not employed in the field include, but not limited to, volunteers, coaches, clerical staff, citizen advocates, seasonal staff, and/or full-time graduate students.
- B. STUDENT: Provides for undergraduate students.
- C. RETIREE: Provides for those individuals no longer employed in the field due to retirement.

## ARTICLE IV BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SECTION 1: The Board of Directors shall be the governing body of the Michigan Recreation and Park Association and shall be comprised of the following:

- A. Officers shall comprise the Executive Committee and include President, Past President, President Elect, Vice President, Vice President Elect, Secretary, and Treasurer.

- 1) Officers shall be elected by the membership and shall begin service following installation held at the Association's Annual Meeting.
  - 2) Term of office shall be one year for the President, Past President, President Elect, Vice President, and Vice President Elect. The Secretary shall be elected in even years and serve for two years. The Treasurer shall be elected in odd years and serve two years.
- B. State Representatives, elected by a vote of the membership of their region, and shall be elected to a two-year term.
- 1) State Representatives shall begin service following installation held at the Association's Annual Meeting.
  - 2) Regions 1, 3, and 5 shall be elected in odd years. Regions 2, 4, 6 shall be elected in even years.
  - 3) Geographic regions shall be defined in the Association's Manual of Procedures.
  - 4) The Board of Directors shall meet a minimum of 4 times per year to conduct regular business of the Association and not to include the annual Board of Directors Retreat or Board of Directors Orientation. More meetings may be called by the president.

## **ARTICLE V NOMINATION, VOTING ELECTION**

SECTION 1: Voting members shall have the right to nominate, vote and hold office in the Association.

SECTION 2: There shall be a Nominating Committee consisting of the immediate Past President (who shall serve as Chairperson), Secretary, and three at large members representing the regions currently open for election. The Nominating Committee shall act as an Election Committee for the purpose of effectuating and canvassing the vote. The Secretary shall declare the results. The official address of the Secretary shall be the Association's administrative office.

- A. The Nominating Committee shall prepare a slate for the President Elect, Vice President Elect, Secretary (even years), Treasurer (odd years), three State Representatives (as further defined in Article IV, Section 1:B) and the Great Lakes Regional Council representative (as defined in the MRPA Manual of procedures). A nominee shall not be placed on the ballot without his/her written permission
- B. Voting members shall have the right to nominate by petition by submitting fifteen member signatures. The petition nominees shall be included on the ballot. Written consent of the nominee shall accompany the petition.

SECTION 3: The election of the Executive Committee and State Representatives shall be by secret ballot.

- A. The persons receiving the plurality of votes cast shall be elected.
- B. In the event of a tie, another ballot vote shall be issued and completed within a one week (working day) period.

SECTION 4: The timetable for the nomination and election of the Board of Directors, State Representatives, and Great Lakes Regional Council Representative (as needed) shall be:

- A. On or before June 1 the Nominating Committee shall present a slate to the Secretary for approval.
- B. On or before June 10 the membership shall be notified of the proposed slate.
- C. On or before June 20 petitioned nominations shall be forwarded to the Secretary for approval.
- D. On or before July 1 the Secretary shall authorize the distribution of the official ballot to the eligible voting members.
- A. On or before July 15 the returned ballots must be received by the Secretary.

**ARTICLE VI  
QUORUM**

SECTION 1: There shall be a general membership meeting of the Association each year. The meeting may be designated as the Annual Meeting to be held during the Annual Conference. The number of eligible voting members present constitutes a quorum. A majority vote consists of 50% + 1 of the quorum.

**ARTICLE VII  
AMENDMENTS**

SECTION 1: This Constitution shall be reviewed a minimum of every five years. This Constitution or any section in the Constitution may be amended by using the following procedures.

- A. At any time an amendment is submitted, it must be in writing to the Constitution Committee who shall have sixty days to review the proposed amendment. The Constitution Committee shall submit the amendment to the Board of Directors at the next regularly scheduled or special meeting. The Board of Directors shall have 30 days to review the amendment.
- A. Upon approval of the Board of Directors at a regular or special meeting, the amendment shall be forwarded to each eligible voting member and shall become effective by a two-thirds affirmative vote of ballots cast
- B. The timetable for amendments to the Constitution shall be as follows:
  - 1) Within 30 days of Board approval a ballot shall be forwarded to each eligible member.
  - 2) The completed ballot must be received by the Secretary within 15 days.
  - 3) Upon a two-thirds affirmative vote of the ballots cast, the amendment shall take effect immediately.
  - 4) The Secretary shall notify the membership of the outcome of the vote.
- D. The Board of Directors reserves the right to hold hearings on any proposed amendment(s) to the constitution.

***“We Create Community Through People, Parks, and Programs!”***

Revised by membership vote in November 2005  
Revised by membership vote in August 2010