

FARM BILL REAUTHORIZATION: THE ROLE OF PARKS & RECREATION

The reauthorization of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (Farm Bill) is an opportunity for Congress to consider the role local park and recreation agencies can play in creating and enhancing community food systems. As the second largest provider of USDA summer and afterschool meal programs, park and recreation agencies have established a significant foundation of work in fighting hunger and improving nutrition for our nation's youth. We hope to build upon this success and create new opportunities for collaboration with local farmers, producers and distributors to assist in the execution of a nationwide healthy food pipeline.



The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) supports initiatives and programs authorized by the Farm Bill to support activities in the following areas:



Allow use of public lands by local farmers and producers to grow in park space and develop educational curriculums through gardening.



Increase access to fresh, local foods through the availability of farmer's markets at recreation centers.



Address food insecurity in communities by offering outreach and nutrition education activities available under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

NRPA ASKS CONGRESS TO:

Expand eligibility of the Farm to School Program to include local government and non-profit organizations that operate USDA summer and afterschool meal sites.



Provide enhanced mandatory funding and permanent mandatory baseline for the successful and innovative programs that support beginning, socially disadvantaged and veteran farmers; local and regional food markets; organic agriculture; and rural economic and community development, including, but not limited to:

- Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program
- Farmer's Market and Local Food Promotion Program
- Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentives Program

Develop pilot program to allow national nonprofit organizations with significant presence throughout the country to distribute funds and provide technical assistance to local affiliates to conduct SNAP outreach and SNAP-Ed activities.”



Questions? Email NRPA's Senior Government Affairs Manager, Kate Clabaugh (kclabaugh@nrpa.org)