

# Montana Recreation and Park Association

You can't solve a problem...

Great Falls, Montana

September 22nd, 2009

# You can judge the quality of any society by examining three



The condition of  
their  
children and  
elderly...



...The condition of their  
environment...



...How they use their free  
time!

# Unconscious Organizational Change

- The decline of civilizations, businesses, or sports teams that achieved great power, profitability or success began at height of its success, power, and or profitability. (Gates)

**You can't motivate people who  
are different from you with your  
values system**

# WHAT WE WANT!

- Find our gifts
- Positive vehicles for self esteem, independence, mastery, connection, power
- Lifelong learning, creativity, discovery, awe, and curiosity
- Big citizenship
- Social and cultural experimentation
- Live effectively in complex diverse communities
- Lifestyles are compatible with or environment—there are no environmentalist

# The Silent Dangers

The importance of being conscious of :

- How we talk about who we are and what we do
- Dualities
- Contradictions
- Unconscious biases and,
- Historical practices

- **The fall of any civilization, business, or sports team that achieved great power, profitability and success began at height of it success, power, and or profitability.  
(Gates)**

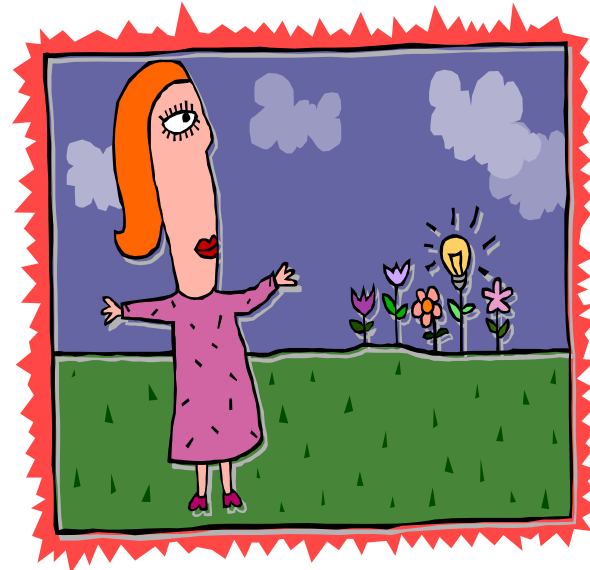
# How we describe what we do?

## Play--Recreation--Leisure

- Practical terms



- Poetry



# Discretionary time has been used for...

- Practicing survival skills
- Full use of the senses/Sensory Retrieval
- The restoration of the person –
  - Mind –body—spirit
- Building Community
- Locksmith/Expanding world
- Cultural tribes
- Finding Gifts
- Sacred Places “The Woods”

# Recreation is...

- Unobligated discretionary time activity



# Recreation is...

- ...the act of selecting, participating in, and re-living experiences that result in achieving and maintaining the balance required to live life fully and in the realization of human potential!

# Recreation is...

- **Recreation and leisure is the quintessential essence of replenishing the human soul . It refreshes and challenge our body's and minds and allows us the strength and courage to affect others in a positive manner"**

# Defining Leisure

- **Mechanical Time**
- **Unobligated**
- **Discretionary time**
- **A from of activity**
- **An expression of wealth and social status**
- **A state of mind**
- **Psychological time**
- **A feeling**
- **Freedom from obligation**

# Leisure...

- ...Isn't activity or time. It is a state of mind, a way of being, of being at peace with one's self and what one is doing. Leisure is inextricably tied to the condition of personal free and is prerequisite to the apprehension of reality. (Aristotle/de Grazia/Pieper)

# The trivialization of play

- They're playing!



- Spontaneous, imaginal activity --The process or activity by which we building creative and imaginal intelligence, take care of our bodies, build relationship skills and develop an understanding of our community and our world

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# Americans often confuse being...

- Free



- High

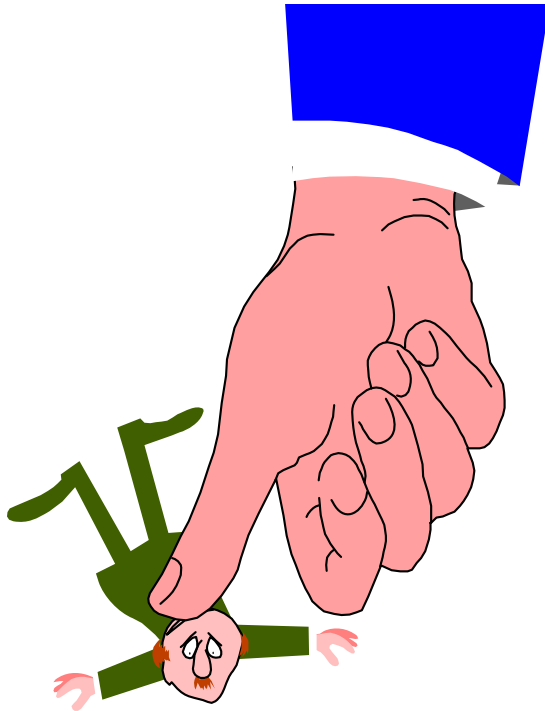


- Connected



# Freedom

- License



- Responsibility



# Dominion over the earth...

- Control of...



- Responsibility for...



- Organized Sport



- Spontaneous --  
Improvitational Play



# Ownership

- If they own a product -- we have to give them somewhere to use it



# Real Youth Development or Youth as “Pets?”

- Pets who must be protected at all cost
- Maturing, evolving human beings who must be enabled to experiment, grow, and develop with guidance--but on their own terms -- and in their own “sacred places”

# Its better if we are there

- Adult intervention into the historically sacred spaces and activities of young people



# Palaces vs. Places and Spaces

- The community center as a retail outlet Where we sell fun
- The community center as an enriching community gathering space

# Lip Service

- Building families and communities
- Fracturing families and communities

# Public Engagement

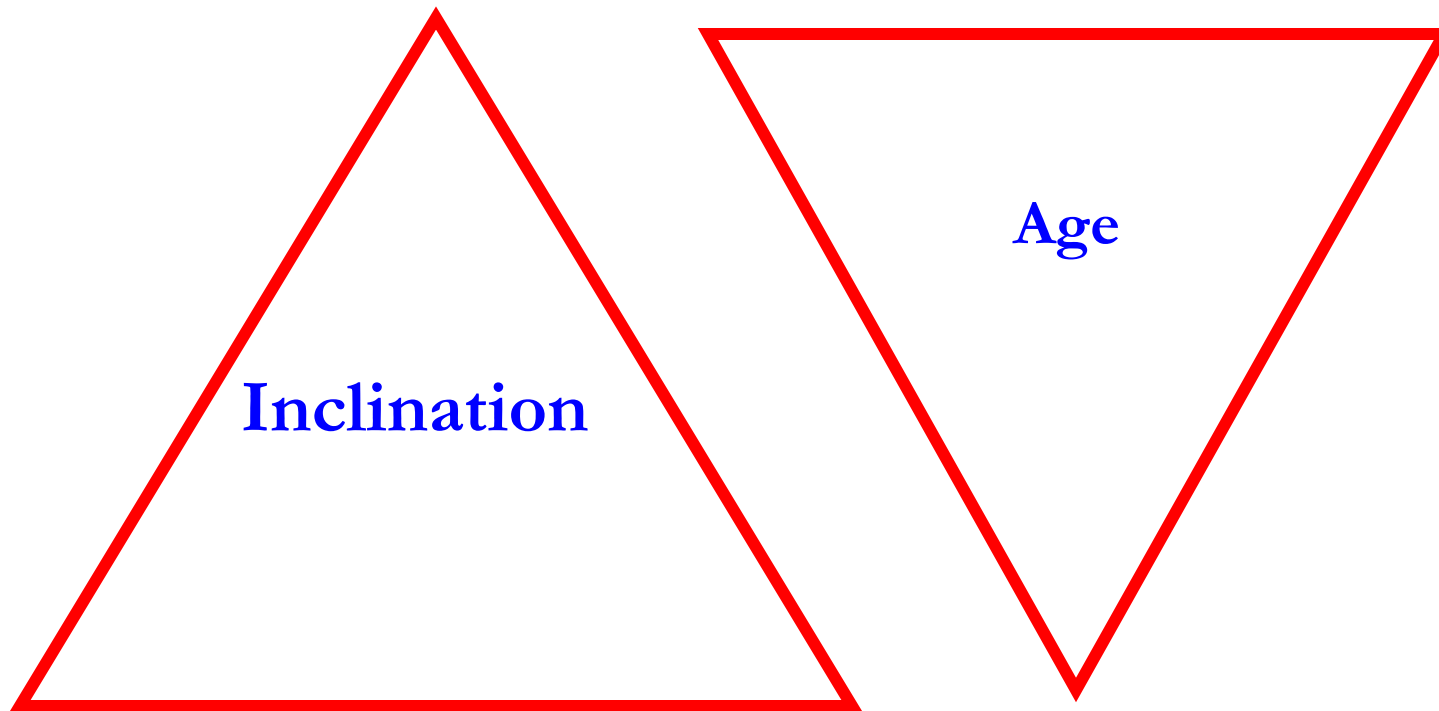
- An obligation
- A value/responsibility

# Innovation -- Creativity -- as Art

- The art product
- The creative lens



# Its their choice...



# What is our role?

- The architect/general contractor
- The service provider
- What needs to be done?
- Actually deliver the services?

# Activity vs. Reflection

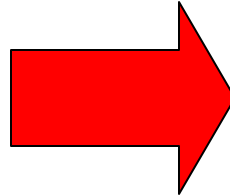
- Activity/noise
- Boredom



- Silence/introspection and self awareness --

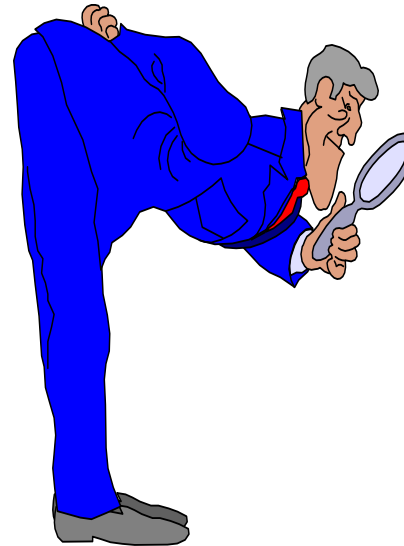


# Repetition and toxicity



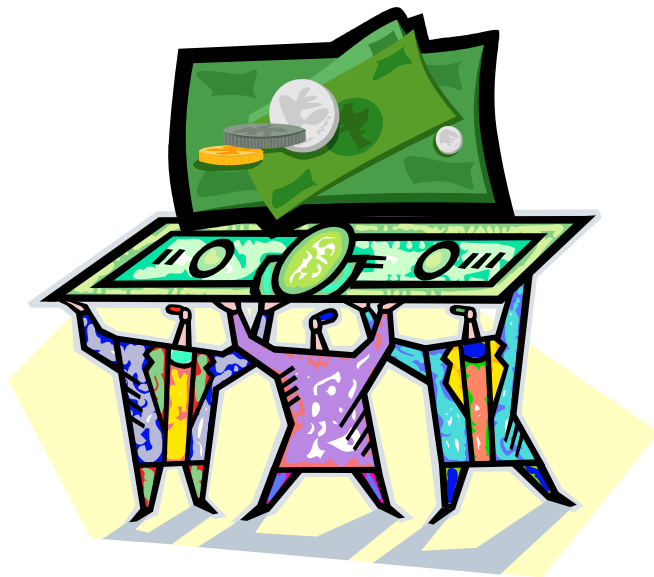
# Public Interpretations of Private Experiences

- Assuming understanding from observing the public manifestation of intensely private experiences



# Who is our master?

Generating revenue

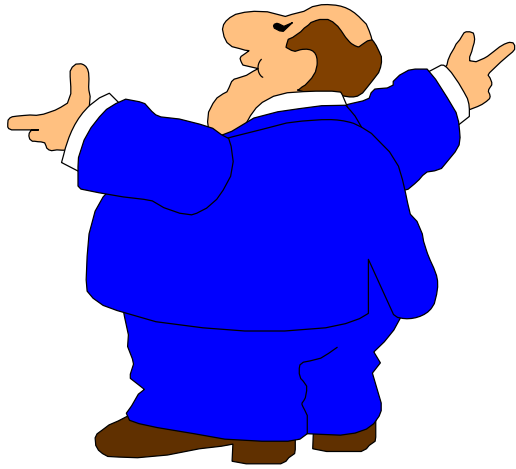


- Increasing human capital



# The public sector can't market or advertise

- **Aware users**
- **Aware non-users**
- **Non-aware users**
- **Non-aware Non-users**



**WILLING AND ABLE**



**WILLING BUT UNABLE**



**ABLE BUT UNWILLING**



**UNWILLING AND UNABLE**

# *People change for four reasons!*



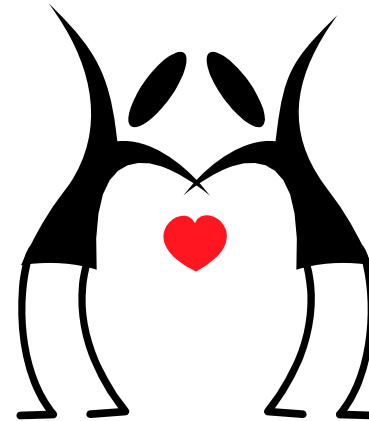
*Fear*



*Pain*



*To improve  
their position*



*Love*

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Americans are said to be alchemist in reverse. Alchemist took ordinary things and tried to make them extraordinary. We live and work in the presence of extraordinary things and allow them to become ordinary. As parks and recreation professionals we must be constantly moved and motivated by our compelling mission and the nature of our work. There is nothing ordinary about what we do.

We are the architects of holistic, comprehensive life enrichment systems! We create systems and programs that build personality and a sense of worth. Programs that encourage a sense of independence -- the gradual acquisition of a sense of power to act alone -- or in concert with others. Programs that prepare us to carry out useful and important actions -- to solve problems, and to reach goals. We are the departments of sacred places, individual and community celebration, of heroes, of rituals and rites of passage, of mythology and learning systems -- of cultural experimentation, of prevention, rehabilitation and re-creation -- of healing of self esteem and individuation -- of family and community bonding -- of life long creativity and fitness -- of discovery -- of hope. We feed the active imaginations and the souls of our citizens and communities---we are the individuals, the profession, the departments, the people of --

**PURE POSSIBILITY!**

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