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The Legislative Committee of the Texas Recreation and Park Society (TRAPS) has been hard at work over the interim to prepare for the 88th Texas legislative session and beyond. The *2023-2024 Public Policy Platform and Priorities* were approved by the TRAPS Board of Directors on August 9, providing a roadmap from TRAPS advocacy at the state and federal level over the next two years.

Funding for park and recreation agencies will continue to be at the forefront of member advocacy. TRAPS will support legislation that provides funding for the acquisition, development, and enhancement of public land through TPWD or federal grant programs, which will protect and increase recreational opportunities for future generations of Texans through both state and local parks.

Several items that impact municipal or county governance have been priority items for state leadership. TRAPS believes that municipalities and counties, which make up a large portion of TRAPS membership, are the key to strengthening local economies, enhancing quality of life, creating vibrant communities, and improving resident well-being. As outlined in the platform, TRAPS will oppose legislation that would create barriers to offering quality services to citizens.

Lastly, the parks and recreation industry has proven its worth to the communities that it serves through services and facilities that improve public health, create inclusive spaces for diverse populations, and increase the connection of those communities to nature and the outdoors. TRAPS will fully support legislation and funding that will expand these services to enhance public health and wellness.

For our legislative efforts to succeed, we will need the entire parks and recreation community. That includes your staff, parks board members, council members, citizens, friends, family, and anyone else that loves their parks. For more information on the legislative process and how to get involved, visit the TRAPS Legislation and Advocacy page.

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