

## CONVENOR'S SHEET

**The Topic:** Recreation Trends Staying ahead of the curve

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**Brief Summary** (main points; important perspectives; interesting ideas):

What are our vendors seeing for trends? What products are selling the most?

Knowing and looking at your demographics and learning about the recreational element of their culture will help you determine or keep you ahead of the curve. Baby Boomers and active seniors what are they wanting and going.

Connect with retailers in the industry (REI, Dick's Sporting Good, Hoigaards, etc) to find out trends and reality

How can we get it on PBS, Cable and radio access to other demographics (Mexican, Somali, Hmong, etc). in their shows.

Involving key people from other cultures in your designing of parks, programs, etc.

Cycles of sports (i.e. LaCrosse, Cricket) accommodating, communicating and educating participants on the use of the fields and how we need to share use facilities

How much lead time do we need to prepare for trends? Work systems can become barriers.

Can you really stay ahead of the trends? Due to funding and how things change, change facilities based on trends for how long? Programming maybe easier to stay ahead of.

What are you going to do when the information comes out that fewer people are using recreation services (i.e. golf courses, tennis courts, hockey, etc)

ATV's, recreational vehicles how are you planning for these uses?! This can be an entry level experience for children to the outdoors.

We respond to an itch and cannot respond to another itch because we are tapped out with funds and our facilities and programs suffer. Maybe we are getting to many individual itches and not have facilities that can respond to trends or the itch.

We tend to be reactive; we should take a generalist approach and take what they get. It is OK to be reactive.

Facilities cannot be everything to everyone, provide people with good information on where there is a facility. Know what your neighbors have and promote each other.

ATV training opportunities, MN state parks is doing the trails, it would be great to have people trained on using ATV's before they get on these trails.

Grounded in policies to be prepared and proactive to respond to new trends. Local, county, regional and state.

Stewards of land for the people that are using the parks and facilities. We are just a moment in time. It is a wave we are trying to get on.

Go to local neighborhoods to pick up people and bring them to parks (local, regional, state) to give them that experience (i.e. Phillips neighborhood)

How well do you ride the wave of change?

How well are we prepared to deal with different races or our people dealing with other people? (i.e. a Somali person has a negative experience with another guest and does not come back due to this experience and not your facility.)