



Art Thatcher, MPA, CPRP

Principal

Work Experience:

Art is a Certified Parks and Recreation Professional with 30 years of experience in public parks and recreation operations, programming and administration, volunteer board leadership, facility design and operations, and community engagement. Throughout his career, Art has concentrated on strategic and master planning, youth civic engagement and teen comprehensive planning, operations and facility management planning, outdoor adventure recreation development and programming, and community engagement facilitation. Art is a well known speaker at the local, state, and national level, and lecturer in the Parks, Recreation and Tourism Department at Old Dominion University. He was the 2014 President and Chair of the Board of the Virginia Recreation and Parks Society. He has become known as a national expert in working with coastal communities, including those that manage beaches as part of their parks and recreation systems.

- GreenPlay LLC, Project Consultant: 2013 - Present
- Bureau Manager of Recreation and Human Development – City of Norfolk, VA
- Information Technology Project Coordinator – City of Hampton, VA
- Manager of Parks & Recreation – City of Hampton, VA
- Director of Parks and Recreation – City of Poquoson, VA
- Operations Director, Norfolk FestEvents Ltd. – Norfolk, VA

Representative Project Experience

Project Manager

- Arlington County, VA – Sports Fields Use Study
- Bethlehem, NY – Parks and Recreation Master Plan
- Carbon Valley Recreation District, Colorado – Interim Executive Director
- Carbon Valley Recreation District, CO – Parks and Recreation Master Plan
- Caswell County, NC – Parks and Recreation Master Plan
- Darien, CT – Parks Master Plan
- Encinitas, CA – Parks and Recreation Master Plan
- Encinitas, CA – Financial Sustainability Project
- Erie County, NY – Parks and Recreation Master Plan
- Glenwood Springs, CO – Park, Recreation, Open Space and Trails Master Plan
- Gloucester County, VA – Needs Assessment for Parks, Recreation, and Tourism
- Maitland, FL – Parks and Recreation Master Plan
- Martin County, FL – Parks and Recreation Master Plan
- Rolesville, NC – Comprehensive Plan, Recreation Component
- San Diego County, CA – Parks and Recreation Master Plan
- San Gabriel, CA – Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan
- Sioux Falls, ND – Parks and Recreation Master Plan
- Wake Forest, NC – Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Arts Master Plan
- West Palm Beach, FL – Parks and Recreation Master Plan
- Winchester, VA – Needs Assessment

Principal-in-Charge

- Amherst, NY – Recreation and Parks Master Plan Update
- Clovis, CA – Parks Master Plan
- Manassas, VA – Parks, Recreation, and Culture Needs Assessment and Facilities Plan
- New Hanover County, NC – Department of Parks and Gardens Master Plan Update
- Santee, CA – Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update
- Wilsonville, Oregon, Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Master Plan

Education & Certification

- Old Dominion University, Masters of Public Administration, 2005
- Christopher Newport University, Bachelors of Science, 1981
- Certified Parks and Recreation Professional, National Recreation & Parks Association (NRPA)
- NRPA Director School, 2010; NRPA
- Aquatic Facilities Operator, 2010; NRPA
- Certified Pool Operator, 2013; National Swimming Pool Foundation
- Aquatic Supervisor, 2009; Boy Scouts of America
- School of Sports Management, 1990; NRPA
- Leadership Training Institute, 2014; VRPS
- The Business Institute for Parks, Recreation and Leisure Services, 2002; NRPA
- LEAD, Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service (UVA), 1999
- Lifeguarding/Waterfront, American Red Cross
- CPR/AED/First Aid, American Red Cross
- Wilderness First Aid, Wilderness Safety Council