

Gareth Jones, PhD has joined GreenPlay as Special Project Consultant.



GreenPlay, LLC is pleased to announce a great new addition to our consulting team. Gareth Jones, PhD has joined the firm as a Special Projects Consultant. Gareth earned his PhD in Parks, Recreation, and Tourism Management from North Carolina State University (NCSU), with a focus on sport-based youth development, community

capacity building, and collaborative approaches to recreation resource and program management. While at NCSU, Gareth also completed a graduate certificate in Geospatial Information Science (GIS). Prior to attending NCSU, Gareth earned his MS and BS in Sport and Recreation Management from Temple University.

In addition to his education and training in the field, Gareth has worked in a variety of roles in the non-profit, public, and private sector. He served as a regional representative for Play Rugby USA, a national non-profit organization focused on promoting youth development through rugby. As a research assistant at Temple University, Gareth provided summative assessment services for other non-profit organizations promoting youth development through sport-related programs. Gareth has also worked and researched with public parks and recreation departments, serving as a Youth Sport Program Coordinator for Haverford Recreation Department, and working with a large municipal parks and recreation program to study the design, implementation, and assessment of their youth development programs. Gareth has also worked as an independent contractor in the private sector with SP Plus Gameday, a global event planning organization that specializes in mega-sport events including the

Winter and Summer Olympics, Super Bowl, and Gold Cup. His event experience includes working in logistics and transportation for Super Bowl XLVI and the 2012 Republican National Convention.

Gareth draws on a diverse set of methodological proficiencies to study the spatial and social characteristics of communities that contribute to healthy lifestyles and positive developmental outcomes. In particular, Gareth utilizes GIS to build comprehensive inventory systems and resource maps for recreational services and programs. Using a variety of geospatial analyses, Gareth helps administrators and planners identify optimal locations for community assets. When necessary, he also utilizes more rigorous spatial statistics to assess the associations between the spatial and attributional characteristics of assets. He has also been trained in social network analysis (SNA), and deploys SNA methods to study social relationships at the individual level, and management structures at the organizational level. His research has been presented at a variety of domestic and international conferences, published in both academic and trade journals, and garnered recognition from professional organizations. Gareth was recognized by the Academy of Leisure Sciences with the prestigious Future Scholars Award in 2012.

Gareth is currently a postdoctoral research fellow at Temple University, and works on a variety of sport-based youth development projects associated with the Sport Industry Research Center (SIRC). When not teaching or conducting his own research, he lends his knowledge and expertise to GreenPlay and GP RED as a Special Projects Consultant to help communities. View his full [resume here](#).

Please join us in welcoming Gareth to the team. He can be reached at GarethJ@GreenPlayLLC.com.

