

Reducing Barriers: Through Outdoor Trainings and Gear Libraries

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feel free



**OUTDOORS
EMPOWERED
NETWORK**

Addressing The Need:

How to get more young people engaged in outdoor activities and connected to nature



One Solution:

Provide training and gear to empower community leaders to engage the youth they serve in outdoor activities

Forest Preserves of Cook County

Over 100 years old

70,000 acres of managed land

5 new campgrounds opened in
2015

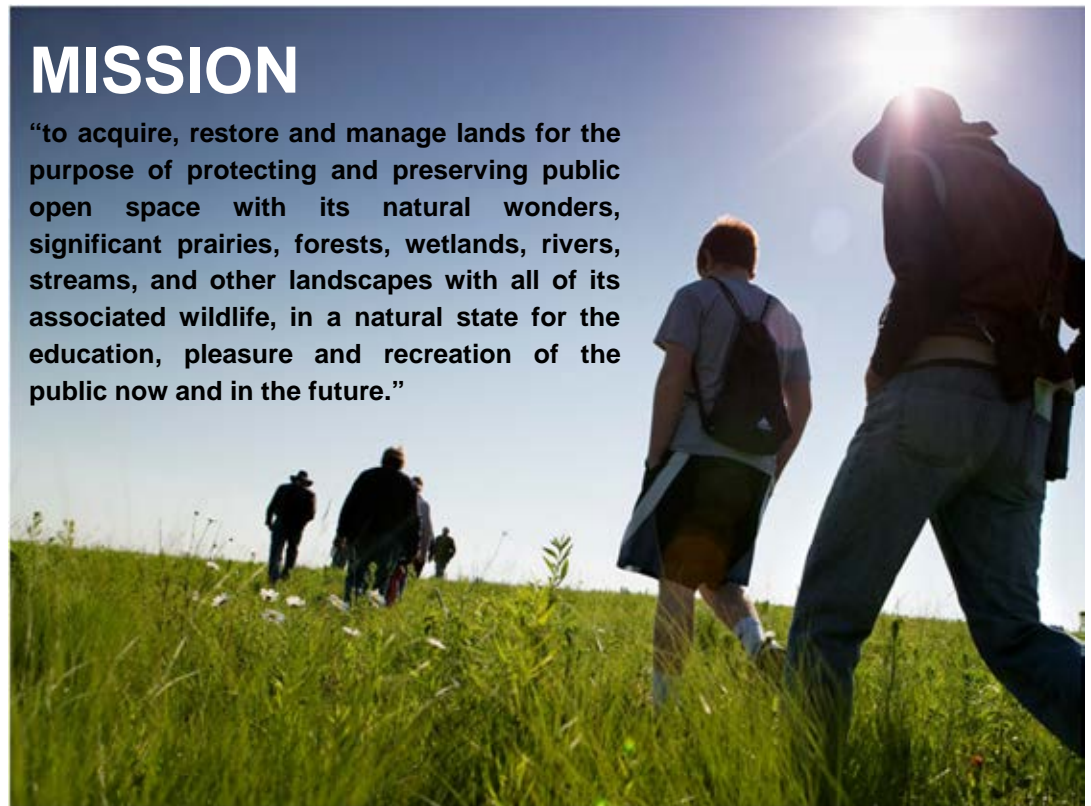
40 managed bodies of water

6 nature centers

Golf courses, pools, picnic
groves, etc.

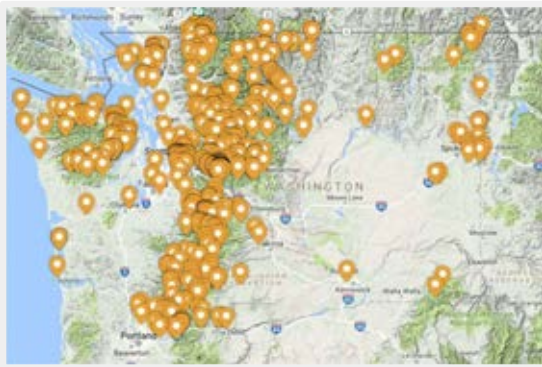
MISSION

“to acquire, restore and manage lands for the purpose of protecting and preserving public open space with its natural wonders, significant prairies, forests, wetlands, rivers, streams, and other landscapes with all of its associated wildlife, in a natural state for the education, pleasure and recreation of the public now and in the future.”



Washington Trails Association

WTA takes a multi-programmatic approach to inspire people to explore their public lands and become champions for them.



Inspire Hikers



Amplify Voices



Engage Volunteers



Empower Youth Leaders

Two Different Approaches to the Program Model

Washington Trails Association

Outdoor Leadership Training - launched 2013

- Utilize all public lands to facilitate hiking, camping, snowshoeing, and backpacking trainings
- Gear orientation at gear library (a storefront space in Seattle)
- Trained leaders have access to gear year round
- Reimbursable mini-grants up to \$250 are available for trip assistance

Forest Preserves of Cook County

Camping Leadership Immersion Course - launched 2014

New Campgrounds/Site Based

How to introduce camping to communities who “don’t camp”

Stigmas

Break down barriers to camping

Create lasting experiences for underserved communities

Community buy-in

Systems creation for long term growth

Key Elements of Programming

Training

Gear Library

Building Community Leaders

Transportation/Trip

Assistance



Experiential Trainings

Reduce barriers: experiential activities and personal growth

Gain Experience

Leadership skills (safety, trip planning, risk management, etc.)

Group activities (working with peers, learning from one another)

Hands on training with equipment

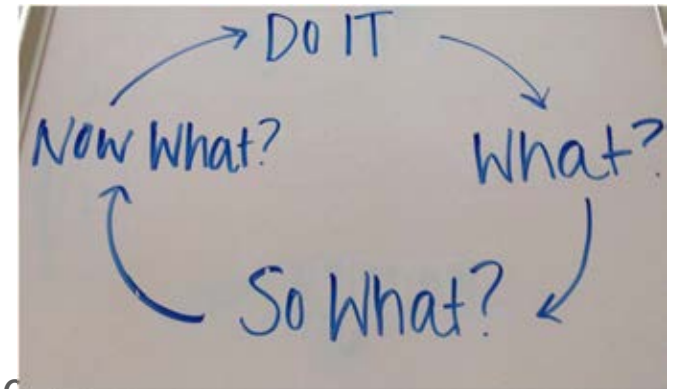
Address Stigmas

Fear of wildlife, night time, safety

Bait them with the transaction

Participate in a training and get use of free gear

Hook them with the transformational experience



Gear Libraries

Reduce barriers: cost, maintenance and management

FPCC

WTA



Building Community Leaders

Reduces Barriers: Build confidence and increase support

Trained Leaders

Gain confidence both personally and professionally

Institutional Support

School/organization administrators view additional support and resources as a benefit

Opportunities for Youth

Mentor youth to overcome challenges and fear



Transportation/Trip Assistance

Reduce Barriers: Logistics can hinder the success of an outing

FPCC provides free one-way bus for CLIC trips (drop-off from institution to campground).

Cost = \$200-\$400

WTA offers reimbursable mini-grants up to \$250 for trip assistance



FPCC Successes with campground “Site” model

Where leaders are trained they come back with their youth.

Total control of gear, does not leave site

Able to set own rules in terms of use, reservations, and transportation

Consistency of training



FPCC “Site” Challenges

Cook County is densely populated

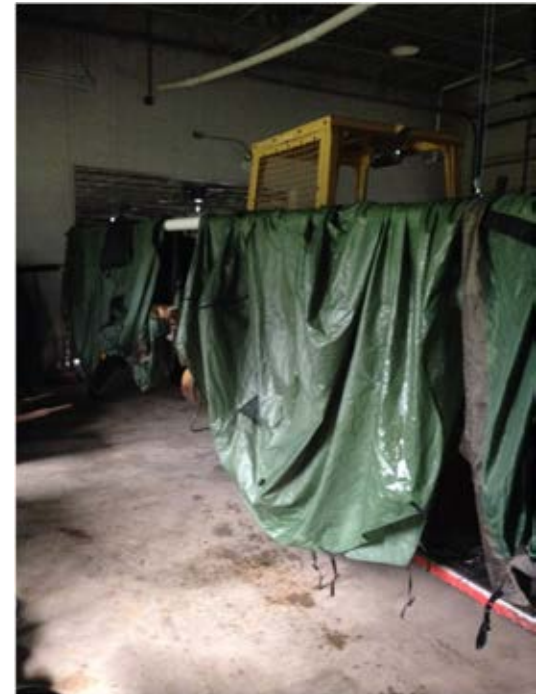
Wisconsin and Michigan

Storage and maintenance

Institutional support

Allowed time for growth

Cost



WTA Successes

Engage new communities with the organization

Multiplier effect

Filling a need in the community

Leaders are utilizing public lands in all regions of the state



One leaders outings over two years

WTA Challenges

Staffing

Outreach to target audience

Planning for growth



Outdoors Empowered Network

- Six Member Organizations
- 12,500 youth in 2016
- National Summit
- Support with Gear
- Technology
- Shared Metrics
- Consulting for start-up regions



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Questions?



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