



## RESUME OF JOHN R. HENDERSON

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### EXPERIENCE –

#### **Executive Director, Park Rx America, Washington DC, April 2017 to present**

Organizational development, strategic planning, and fund raising for a new 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Park Rx America promotes the concept of doctors prescribing visits to parks and other natural areas, so patients can receive the therapeutic benefits of being in nature.

*Accomplishments:* Doctors prescribing in the states of Maryland and Washington, and the District of Columbia. Park Prescription model featured on NBC Nightly News, November 2017

#### **Founder and President, Green Spaces for DC, Washington, DC, August 2011 to present**

Organizational development, strategic planning, and fund raising for a new 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Green Spaces for DC provides fiscal sponsorship services for unincorporated groups that require 501(c)(3) charitable status to qualify for grants and partnerships.

*Accomplishments:* Green Spaces for DC sponsors ten organizations.

#### **Research and Evaluation Manager, The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Parks and Recreation Prince George's County, 6600 Kenilworth Avenue, Riverdale Park, MD, July 2008 to July 2017.**

Project Manager for CAPRA (Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies) reaccreditation, manager of performance measurement program. Project manager for *Formula 2040 Functional Master Plan for Parks, Recreation and Open Space* and health and wellness action plan.

*Accomplishments:* *Parks & Recreation: 2010 and Beyond* needs assessment, departmental performance measures, 2014 CAPRA reaccreditation, *Formula 2040 Preliminary Functional Master Plan for Parks, Recreation and Open Space*

#### **Standards and Practices Officer, The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, 6611 Kenilworth Avenue, Riverdale Park, MD, July 2004 to July 2008.**

Advise departments and divisions of the Commission on performance management, facilitate strategic planning, and manage accreditation maintenance.

*Accomplishments:* CAPRA Accreditation, Bi-County Strategic Plan, Commission-wide performance measures, Investigative reports on Needwood Golf Course, Prince George's Park Police, and Olney Manor Park lighting bid protest, project status report on Carry-In, Carry-Out Trash program, project status analysis of Commission EEO/Affirmative Action Plan, training program on program evaluation and performance measurement

#### **Chief, Redevelopment Authority of Prince George's County, 9201 Basil Court, #155 Largo, MD 20774, April 2001 to May 2003.**

Chief of staff of staff of a governmental agency charged with the economic revitalization of inner-beltway communities in Prince George's County, Maryland outside the District of Columbia. The position managed a staff of 21 with direct report to an Executive Director and Board of Directors. The annual operating budget was \$2.5 million. Projects included land acquisition and relocation for an \$80 million redevelopment of a 33-acre site in Suitland, Maryland and a \$51 million project to develop live-work residences in three municipalities. Financing tools includes low interest loans, grants, loan guarantees, revenue bonds, tax increment financing, and tax credits. Projects featured extensive community involvement and partnerships with local community development organizations.

*Accomplishments:* Acquired \$10 million of residential and commercial property, including two office buildings via eminent domain, relocated 100 households and five businesses, facilitated successful application for \$6.5 million in low-income housing tax credits and \$8 million in HUD sec. 202 grant assistance, obtained state certifications for Gateway Arts and Entertainment District and Anacostia Trails Heritage Area.

**Director of Research Planning and Evaluation, Chicago Park District, 425 E. McFetridge Drive, 60605, August 1998 to December 1999.**

Represented the Park District on the NeighborSpace Board of Directors and the City of Chicago Public Art Committee. Managed a seven-person professional staff. Head the Chicago Park District Real Estate Committee, which typically facilitated 40+ simultaneous land assemblies. Leader of property acquisition task force. Represented the Park District on Midway Plaisance working group at University of Chicago. *Accomplishments:* Burnham Park Framework Plan, Jackson Park Framework Plan, South Shore Cultural Center Framework Plan, Midway Plaisance Master Plan.

**Manager of Research and Planning, Chicago Park District, 425 E. McFetridge Drive, 60605, February 1994 to July, 1998 and January 2000 to April 2001.**

Prepared \$300 million lakefront reconstruction plan with the City of Chicago and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Project manager for the \$6.5 million reconstruction of Casino Beach Jetty in Jackson Park. Part of the management team of a major initiative to cultivate the values of customer service and quality management at local parks -- responsibilities included project monitoring and evaluation and community outreach (Neighborhoods First: A Program Quality Initiative). Represented the Chicago Park District on the working group (along with the City of Chicago and the Cook County Forest Preserve District) that prepared a citywide open space plan for Chicago.

*Accomplishments:* CitySpace Plan (long range open space plan for Chicago), Shoreline Protection Plan for Chicago, NeighborSpace Corporation (turns vacant land into community gardens), Developer Openspace Contribution Ordinance, School Park Campus Program.

**Planning Supervisor, Chicago Park District, 425 E. McFetridge Drive, 60605, October 1989 to January 1994.**

Supervised policy planning, facilities and preservation divisions of the Office of Research and Planning. Responsible for long-range planning for regional park facilities, including Lincoln Park, Grant Park. and the South Shore Cultural Center. Coordinated strategic planning effort for the District. Team leader/facilitator for "Models of Excellence" total quality management projects sponsored by the Government Assistance Project of the Chicago Community Trust.

*Accomplishments:* Lincoln Park Framework Plan, Lake Shore Drive Median, Grant Park Design Guidelines., 1990 Land Policies Plan, 1993 Parkland Needs Analysis, Sculpture Conservation Program

**Acting Director of Planning, City of North Chicago, Illinois, November 1988 to April 1989.**

Analyzed and made recommendations on current zoning and annexation cases to the mayor and zoning board. Prepared a land disposition strategy for urban renewal land. Recruited and interviewed candidates for a full-time planner.

*Accomplishment:* Draft land disposition agreement for former urban renewal zone.

**Corporate Counsel and Executive Director, William E. Brazley & Associates, Ltd. (Architects and Construction Managers), Matteson, Illinois, June 1987 to September 1989.**

Prepared and reviewed contracts and specifications, handled zoning, annexation and real estate issues, prepared proposals and marketing materials, and acted as in-house planning expert.

*Accomplishments:* Northwest Airlines Cargo Building at O'Hare International Airport, City of Chicago Boulevards Study

**Director of Planning and Development, City of Harvey, Illinois, November 1984 to May 1987.**

Handled all planning, zoning, economic development and building matters for a municipality of 36,000 persons. Managed staff of 14. Position included functions of Building Commissioner and Zoning Administrator, plus management of tax increment financing district, enterprise zone, and development of a small business incubator.

*Accomplishments:* Residential Occupancy Certification Program, State of Illinois Enterprise Zone Designation, Establishment of South Suburban Technology Enterprise Center

**Associate, William D. Markle & Associates (Construction Consultants), Chicago, Illinois, November 1982 to November 1984.**

Prepared construction evaluation reports, managed survey research projects for Greater State Street Council and Urban Investment and Development Company.

*Accomplishments:* Greater State Street Council Survey, Hawthorne Center User Preference Survey (Vernon Hills, IL).

**Project Manager and Principal Planner, Perkins & Will Architects and Engineers, Chicago, Illinois, November 1980 to November 1982.**

Prepared site analyses for transport facilities in Chicago and Saudi Arabia, reuse feasibility studies for six suburban elementary schools, and an inner-city college master plan for the City of Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

*Accomplishments:* Concordia College Master Plan (Milwaukee, WI), Saudi Arabia Public Transport Study, Functional Design Specification for new Chicago Post Office.

**Housing Planner, Cook County Department of Planning and Development, Chicago, Illinois, 1973 to**

**1980.** Prepared County Manual of Housing Rehabilitation Policies and Procedures, prepared Housing Assistance Plan for the Community Development Block Grant Program, and conducted housing, zoning, and land-use research.

*Accomplishments:* Cook County Housing Assistance Plan, Manual of Housing Rehabilitation Policies and Procedures.

**Planner, Carl L. Gardner & Associates, Inc. (Land Planners), Chicago, Illinois, 1970 to 1973.**

Prepared comprehensive plans, corridor studies, court exhibits, historic preservation studies, and cost-benefit analyses. Performed land use and traffic surveys.

*Accomplishments:* Route 47 Corridor Study (Grundy County, IL), Shelby County, Indiana Master Plan.

**AFFILIATIONS -**

National Recreation and Parks Association Directors School: Instruction on Evaluation and Action Research, 2013 to 2017

Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies, Commissioner 2012 to 2017, Chair 2017

National Recreation and Park Assn, Executive Certification Examination Committee, 2011 to present 2017

Green Spaces for DC, President, November 2010 to present

GP Red, Advisory Board Member, September 2010 to present

Washington Parks and People, Board Chair, February 2009 to 2010

Maryland Recreation and Park Association, 2006 to present

National Recreation and Park Association, 2004 to present

Leadership Washington, Class of 2004

Society for Professionals in Dispute Resolution, Chicago Chapter, Board Member 1998 to May 2001

American Planning Association, A.I.C.P. (American Institute of Certified Planners) 1978 to present

Friends of Downtown, Chicago, Board Member, 1996 to May 2001, Secretary 1999

International Association of Public Participation Practitioners, 1998 to present

archi-treasures, Founder and President. 1998 to 2001

International Federation for Housing and Planning, 1982 to present

Lambda Alpha International, 1998 to present

NeighborSpace Corporation, Board Member 1999 to May 2001

North River Commission, Chicago, Board Member, Vice President of Housing 1985-96

North River Housing Development Corporation, Chicago, Board Member 1988 to present, President 1990-96

Academy of Information and Planning, President 1982.

**EDUCATION/LICENSES/CERTIFICATIONS -**

Certificate in Human Health and Natural Environments, Eppley Institute at the University of Indiana, 2020  
Certificate Public Health Fundamentals, Eppley Institute at the University of Indiana, 2019  
Certificate in Public Performance Measurement, Rutgers University, 2010  
Certified Park and Recreation Executive, National Recreation and Park Association, 2018  
Certificate in Public Participation, International Association for Public Participation (IAP2), 2004  
District of Columbia Bar, 2004  
Arbitration Training, Better Business Bureau of Chicago, certified 1997  
Mediation Skills Training, Center for Conflict Resolution, certificate of completion 1997  
Advanced Trainer Certification - Chicago Park District, 1996  
Total Quality Management Training, Chicago Community Trust - Government Assistance Project, 1992-93  
Certified Arbitrator, Circuit Court of Cook County, 1990  
Certified Building Official, Council of American Building Officials, 1987  
John Marshall Law School, J. D., 1979, admitted to Illinois Bar 1980  
Certified Planner, American Institute of Certified Planners, 1978  
Bachelor of Community Planning, University of Cincinnati, OH, 1972, Cum Laude

**PUBLICATIONS, AWARDS, AND PRESENTATIONS -**

World Leisure Organization Newsletter, Issue 23, February 2020, *Park Rx America participates in research on the health outcomes of medical prescriptions to visit parks,*  
Partners in Community Forestry, Cleveland, OH, November 2019 Presentation: Trees Rx: The Human Health Connection  
First World Forum on Nature Conservation, Shenzhen, China November 2019, Presentation: Parks + Health Maximizing the Benefits  
Nature Conservation Symposium, Cleveland, OH, September 2019, Presentation: Maybe We're Not Doomed After All  
International Trails Symposium, Syracuse, NY, May 2019, Presentation: Trails as Valued Health Resources  
American Planning Association National Conference, April 2019, Presentation: Experiences not Acres  
Leisure and Recreation Association of South Africa, September 2018, Presentation: Parks and Health: Maximizing the Benefits  
National Recreation and Park Association National Congress, Indianapolis, October 2018, Presentation: Are You Ready for Park Rx?  
World Leisure Organization, Sao Paulo, Brazil, September 2018, Presentation: Take a Park Prescription: A ParkRx social Media Case Study  
Congreso Parques Urbanos, Merida, Mexico, March 2018, Presentation: Parks and Health, Maximizing the Benefits  
American Planning Association, Tuesdays at APA, January 2018, Panel Moderator: Bringing Health and Nature to the Public Realm  
Northern Virginia Urban Forest Conference, November 2017, Panel Member: "Urban Forest for Your Health: How Trees Can Save Your Life" re Park Rx  
GP Red Think Tank, Annapolis, MD, November 2016. Presentation re Evidence-Based Community Development  
National Recreation and Park Association National Congress, New Orleans, October 2017, Panel Discussion re Equitable Provision of Park and Recreation Services  
National Recreation and Park Association National Congress, St. Louis, October 2016, Presentation: "Survey Mania: How to Develop Customer Satisfaction Surveys that Satisfy"  
National Recreation and Park Association National Congress, St. Louis, October 2016, Presentation: "Power Positioning Though Positive Youth Development"  
World Leisure Organization, Durban, South Africa, September June 2016, Presentation re Benchmarked Customer Satisfaction Surveys  
GP Red, Research Brief #5, Why Leisure Organizations Fail to Seize Community Development Opportunities: Suggestions for Improving Collaborative Success, August 2015  
World Leisure Organization, Mobile Alabama, September 2014, Presentation re Social Construction of Population, Why Leisure Organizations Fail to Seize Community Development Opportunities  
Maryland Park and Recreation Association Annual Conference, Ocean City MD, April 2014, Presentation on Safe Routes to Play

**PUBLICATIONS, AWARDS, AND PRESENTATIONS, Continued**

- Maryland Historical Trust, 2003 Preservation and Revitalization Conference, Easton MD, May 2003,  
Presentation regarding public participation in preservation.
- International Association of Public Participation Practitioners (IAP2), Annual Conference, Washington D.C.,  
May 2000, "Hidden Dimensions: Adding Richness to Process Evaluation through Facilitator and  
Participant Journals"
- "Government and Public Participation: Learning from Northerly Island," *Government Matters*: Newsletter of  
the Government Assistance Program, Egan Urban Center, DePaul University, Fall 1997
- Honor Award for Lincoln Park Framework Plan, American Society of Landscape Architects, 1997
- Illinois Parks and Recreation Association Annual Conference, taught continuing education course on strategic  
planning, "Management by Objectives with a Twist," January 1997
- President's Award for Lincoln Park Framework Plan, Illinois Chapter of American Society of Landscape  
Architects, 1996
- Honor Award for Lincoln Park Framework Plan, Illinois Chapter of American Planning Association, 1996
- International Association of Public Participation Practitioners, Annual Conference, Whistler, British Columbia,  
Canada, September 1995 (presentation on the Lincoln Park Framework Plan process)
- American Society of Civil Engineers, International Conference and Exposition on Marinas, Parks and  
Recreation Developments, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, June 1994 (presentation on the importance of public  
participation in park planning)
- World Congress, International Federation of Housing and Planning, Helsinki Finland, September 1993  
(presentation on recommended techniques for public participation in park planning)
- Superior Public Service Award, Outstanding Executive Employee, City of Chicago, April 1993
- "The Greening of Lake Shore Drive," *Inland Architect*, September/October 1992
- International Symposium on Urban Climatology, Moscow U.S.S.R., October 1982 (presentation on micro-  
climates around tall buildings)
- "Make Effective Use of Planning Consultants," *American City and County*, August 1981.

June 2019

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