

## Re: Society Code of Ethics Opinions

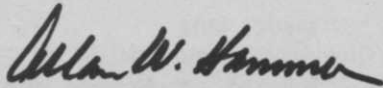
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## OPEN LETTER - CODE OF ETHICS

Attached is a copy of a letter sent to Mr. Henry T. Swan, President, American Park and Recreation Society, regarding the Code of Ethics of park and recreation personnel which a group of Bay Area directors take strong exception to.

We would appreciate your cooperation in publishing same in your magazine for other park and horticulturally-oriented people to review.



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SUPERINTENDENT OF PARKS  
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AWH:MC:hh

Enclosure

Mr. Henry T. Swan, President  
American Park & Recreation Society  
1700 Pennsylvania Avenue, N. W.  
Washington, D. C. 20006  
American Park and Recreation  
Society Code of Ethics

We have just read the Code of Ethics of our American Park and Recreation Society and although it is obvious that a great deal of time and effort was spent in the creation of this document, the Definition of Parks & Recreation has neglected to realize that although in many instances and at many levels, the definition is adequate, in Central California municipalities, this definition is inadequate and amounts to at best, a half-valid statement since it completely ignores the prime function of a municipal park man.

Let us be more specific. Within each municipality exists a variety of departments which perform a vari-

ety of tasks as related to man's environment and therefore his ability to survive — to cite examples: within the average land development there exists space consisting of approximately 30% allotted for right of way and other circulation or which an Engineering/or Public Works Dept. reviews plans and specifications and further inspects the construction of the paving, drainage, sewerage, lighting, etc., to assure the public safe and functional facilities; roughly 30% consists of building space for which a building department (or division) reviews plans and specifications and further inspects to make sure the structures are safe for human occupancy — the rest of that project is the landscape for which a park department must review plans and specifications for and inspect the construction of erosion control, drainage, irrigation, planting, etc., in

order to insure safety and "lungs for the city" with lifegiving oxygen for its public — leisure living is but one facet of this — survival is the key issue here.

Trees within each city are an absolute necessity in order to not only provide oxygen but also provide controls for wind, noise, erosion, and further have an effect on our very weather — leisure living and beauty are again byproducts but certainly not the key factor.

Large bodies of water within a community provide reservoirs for storm water, irrigation for landscapes, reserves for plants and animals and, in general, a vital branch of nature's cycle — leisure living is but one of many results. We could cite many more examples but feel we have made our point.

The Code of Ethics states that the Definition of Parks and Recreation is "Parks and Recreation provide the opportunities for leisure living which satisfy" etc., etc., — opportunities for leisure living are but one of many facets to numerous park men.

We as park men feel that if we were to define "Parks" it would have to be something like this: "Parks provide the means to acquire, preserve, plan, develop, review and maintain open space and further provide a beautiful, safe and productive landscape environment which in time provides such things as oxygen for human consumption, erosion control for human safety, beauty for visual enjoyment and opportunities to satisfy social needs for leisure living within orderly ecological guidelines.

We therefore respectfully submit that if those of you who are recreation oriented wish, adopt your definition of Recreation as stated in the Code do so but, please do not purport to represent those Park men who do not completely subscribe to your definition and philosophy.

Signed:

Allan W. Hammer, Director of Parks  
City of San Mateo, California  
Ted Harpenter, Park Supt.  
City of Fremont, California  
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