

CREATING

& MANAGING

public clothing optional
parks and beaches



American Association for
Nude Recreation



“... OVER 40 MILLION
AMERICANS
HAVE ENJOYED
SKINNY-DIPPING ...”



preface

A previous edition of this work was published by the American Association for Nude Recreation (AANR) in 1990. It was written, in large part, by George W. Harker, Ph.D., then of the faculty of the Department of Recreation and Leisure at Western Illinois University, under a commission from AANR. Prior to that, Dr. Harker had studied clothes-optional recreation patterns and potentials, mainly in Hawaii. Much of that work was aided by grants from The Nativist Society, Oshkosh, Wisconsin. We are grateful to Dr. Harker and The Nativist Society for their visionary efforts. The Nativist Society also generously contributed to the illustrations in this edition.

As the popularity of clothes-optional recreation has increased in North America, some changes have occurred at popular destinations. Readers and users of the previous edition should know that Moonstone Beach in Rhode Island has, for some years now, been closed to **all** recreation use, due to the need to concentrate on preserving habitat for endangered shore birds.

The true nature of social nude recreation continues to be misunderstood in some quarters. For example, at Hippie Hollow at McGregor State Park, near Austin, Texas, local officials have chosen to deny admission to persons under 18 years of age, eliminating the family character of the lovely bay on Lake Travis. That matter is now in litigation.

Nature has her say, as well. Keys and barrier beaches of the Gulf and Atlantic, favored for their isolation, can be substantially altered by storms and currents.

Robert Page, J.D.,
AANR Legal Counsel

acknowledgments

I am grateful to the following people and organizations for their contributions, reviews, information, and many helpful suggestions. Without their diligent efforts this work would not have been possible: Robert Amdor; Robert Page, J.D., legal counsel to AANR; Roslyn Scheer, executive director, AANR; Turner Stokes, AANR past president; Marilou Aguirre, AANR government affairs chair; Mark Storey of the Nativist Action Committee; The Nativist Society (especially Scootch Pankonin); and the Nativist Education Foundation.

Finally, I wish to especially thank Gregory Smith, president of AANR, and the Association's officers, trustees, and staff for their vision and commitment to this project.

Erich Schuttauf, J.D.,
Editor

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Printed in the United States
of America

ISBN 1-882033-07-8

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introduction

This guide is for the park administrator, recreation professional, or other public official asked to acknowledge or develop clothing optional areas within their park systems. In recent years the clothing optional park has become an accepted form of public recreation. With interest in nude recreation rapidly growing, the number of park administrators faced with requests for such parks is also growing. Many are relatively unfamiliar with the concept and are unsure about how to proceed.

Yet with all the clothing optional parks and beaches already operating across the country, there's a wealth of information learned from experience that can help address such concerns and questions. Park administrators creating the first public clothing optional areas 20 years ago had to be innovative and pioneering. Utilizing trial and error mixed with a healthy dose of common sense, they responded admirably to the challenge.

As a new millennium begins, there are now over two decades of their experiences to draw upon. A number of successful management techniques, which have stood the test of time, may be readily adopted by professionals like you. Those techniques have been researched, and collected here, for your convenience.

PART I:

**Clothing Optional
Parks and Beaches**



Clothing Optional Parks and Beaches

Russ, parks and recreation director for a midsize county located on the Florida coast, had just settled into his office chair with that first cup of morning coffee and was checking his voicemail. Among the messages was a call from Nicki, president of the county's convention and visitors bureau. "Please contact me as soon as possible," she requested. Her voice sounded urgent.

He no sooner reached Nicki on the phone than she struck him with a question that seemed a bit much for this early in the morning. "Have we got any places in this area for nude recreation?" she asked.

Russ stuttered and mumbled a bit, unsure of how to answer. Nude recreation? Why was she asking him a question like that? "I suppose there are some adult entertainment joints north of here, but I really wouldn't . . ."

"No, no, it's nothing like that," she interrupted. "I've been trying for a long time to line up a year's worth of lucrative charters with a German tour planner. We're pretty close to finishing a deal but now they want to know about the availability of places where their clients will be able to swim, sunbathe and relax outdoors in the nude."

"What *kind* of people are these?" The words slipped from Russ's mouth before he could think about what he was saying.

"Retirees mostly because they tend to take tours. But there's a sizable group of families along with the usual assortment of college students on vacation too. A number of these folks just enjoy the freedom of having nothing on. For them it happens to be more comfortable. Lets them feel

closer to nature. This nude recreation thing is real big in Europe. In Germany many beaches have a nude side and a clothed side.”

Nicki paused for a minute. “Anyway, the tour people said that with all the sun, sand and sea we’ve got down here they assumed we’d have our share of clothing optional parks and beaches, and they wanted to be able to mention a few in their brochures. So I said, ‘Sure,’ and I told them I’d get back to them on this when we talk next week.

“I didn’t want to lose this contract to one of the other places the tour organizers are talking to—there are a lot of hotel bookings on the line here,” said Nicki. “I’ve got no idea what our area has to offer in the nude parks and recreation department but I immediately thought of you and that you’d probably have the answer. *Please tell me we’ve got something.*”

A New Millennium, a New Way of Thinking . . .

Russ was getting his first introduction into a subject that many park, recreation and government officials are already talking about as the year 2000, and a new millennium, arrives. If you haven’t been asked about the availability of places where families can enjoy nude recreation in your community yet, chances are you will be.

There are several reasons why that’s so. First, people are much more health conscious these days; they’re into sports, fitness, recreation and the outdoors in general. They’re also a lot more concerned about their environment than they once were. Enjoying the outdoors without clothing is a natural extension of those sentiments. And as the previous story illustrates, clothing optional parks and beaches have already been popular across the Atlantic for quite some time.

The Growing Demand for Clothing Optional Parks and Beaches in America . . .

There's considerable evidence that what's been practiced in Europe for years has been rapidly gaining popularity throughout North America over the last decade:

- ***The Wall Street Journal***

According to an article published in the July 19, 1995, edition of *The Wall Street Journal*, average monthly parking revenues "quadrupled" at Haulover Beach in Dade County, Florida, after the county designated a quarter-mile stretch of it clothing optional. Hotel occupancy in the immediate area increased by 17 percent although, on average, statewide tourism dropped 2.5 percent that year.¹

- **Haulover Beach**

The popularity of Haulover Beach has continued to grow since publication of the article mentioned above. For example, *Frommer's '99 Guide to Miami & the Keys* contains the following accolades: "In Dade County, Haulover Beach, just north of the Bal Harbour border, attracts nudists from around the world and has created something of a boom for area businesses that cater to them."² Similarly, *The Unofficial Guide to Miami and The Keys* notes, "Haulover Beach

Park has a clothing optional (nude) section along its more than one-mile length. It's a beautiful park . . ."³

- **Roper Poll**

A Roper poll confirms that over 40 million Americans have enjoyed skinny-dipping in mixed company.⁴

- **American Association for Nude Recreation (AANR)**

The American Association for Nude Recreation (AANR) promotes both public and private nude beaches and parks throughout North America. Although AANR has roots dating to 1931, membership has grown dramatically within the last 10 years. Today, approximately 50,000 nudists and their families belong to AANR through more than 230 affiliated resorts and clubs. Half of AANR's members earn at least \$50,000 per year.⁵

" . . . monthly parking revenues 'quadrupled' at Haulover Beach in Dade County, Florida . . ."

■ ***The Orlando Sentinel***

In May of 1993, *The Orlando Sentinel* conducted an unscientific poll to gauge the intensity of its readers' opinions on the issue of nude sunbathing. As reported in the May 18th edition of the paper, more than 7,100 callers dialed in to respond to the question, "Should nude sunbathing be allowed in sections of Canaveral National Seashore?" 75 percent (5,330) answered "yes."⁶

- Two years later, *The Orlando Sentinel* again queried its readers by asking, "Should there be an area for nude sunbathing on public beaches?" Of the 2,742 callers who responded, 78 percent (2,137) answered "yes," as reported in the May 23, 1995, edition of the paper.⁷

■ **Opinion Research**

During a survey conducted by the Opinion Research Corporation in 1990, of those who were asked whether people who enjoy nude sunbathing should be able to do so without interference from officials as long as they do so at a beach that is accepted for that purpose, 74 percent answered "yes."⁸ These findings echo an earlier poll by the Gallup Organization in which 71.6 percent of those surveyed answered "yes" to that question.⁹

■ **Internet Poll**

As part of an unscientific poll conducted via the Internet,

parks and recreation professionals were asked the question, "Should people who enjoy nude sunbathing and swimming be able to do so at beaches accepted for that purpose?" Of those professionals who responded to the question over a three year period from 1992-1995, 77 percent answered "yes."¹⁰

■ ***San Francisco Bay Guardian***

The *San Francisco Bay Guardian* newspaper has been publishing an annual guide to nude beaches in California for the last 24 years. The 1998 edition of this guide lists 180 nude sites, including at least three beaches and three nude hot springs added that year alone.¹¹

■ **Baker Beach**

The Pacific Bell telephone company carried a listing for Baker Beach—one of California's best loved nude beaches—in its directory for years, noting, "The beach is popular with hikers, sunbathers and anglers fishing the surf for wily perch and striped bass. Along the shoreline, rock-clinging sea anemones thrive in tidepools. The northern end of the beach is 'clothing optional'."¹²

There are numerous recognized nude beaches and parks already operating in the United States and Canada. Information about a sizable, though by no means comprehensive, sampling is included in the Center Inset to this guide.

A Matter of International Tourism . . .

■ *The Wall Street Journal*

In a *Wall Street Journal* article dated July 19, 1995, the president of the Fort Lauderdale convention and visitors bureau called the availability of nude beaches one of the top five factors that international convention planners use to decide where to hold their meetings. She further stated, “As we increase our efforts to attract international conventions, that’s something we see more and more . . .”¹³

■ *European Customs and Manners*

European Customs and Manners, distributed by Simon & Schuster, is a guide designed to help business travelers avoid breaches of etiquette and “confidently make friends and do business in Europe.” The book’s section on dress in Germany advises, “If you go to a beach, don’t be surprised to see nude people of all ages.”¹⁴ The section on dress in Denmark repeats that thought: “At many beaches and pools, you’ll find women topless, and sometimes both men and women will be completely nude. Danes accept this nudity as normal . . .”¹⁵

■ *International Nudist Federation (INF)*

The International Nudist Federation (INF) serves as an umbrella organization to numerous national nudist associations from around the globe, including Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Russia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the Ukraine, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America. In a letter to Hawaiian tourism officials dated June 6, 1998, INF President Karl Dressen explained that many hundreds of thousands of Europeans want to “enjoy their vacations in the way they [live], naked on the beaches and areas intended for this. Europeans are, in fact, so used to having access to nudist (nudist) recreation areas that there are more than 800 official nudist holiday centers in Europe alone.”¹⁶

What You'll Find at a Clothing Optional Park . . .

Those parks and recreation officials who have never been to a nude beach or park may wonder what it's like. The truth is that one will find exactly the same kinds of folks doing the same things that you find in any park: sunbathing, swimming, playing a round of beach volleyball, kite-flying and building sand castles are all popular. Most visitors to the clothing optional park will, of course, choose to be unclothed. Experience shows that reports of inappropriate behavior are no more common in clothes-free areas than other beaches and parks. In fact, there's usually only two differences between such areas and "textile" ones.

First, clothing optional parks are usually much cleaner and litter-free. That's because nude visitors tend to be more concerned about their environment and preserving it than the average park patron. Not only do such visitors pick up after themselves, they are likely to leave a place in better condition than they found it.

Volunteer "support groups" also tend to form in places where public nude recreation is offered. These organizations often prove quite helpful to park and recreation departments (which may be operating on very tight budgets) in their maintenance efforts, as will be more fully explained in Part II.

Second, the clothing optional parks in your program are likely to become its most popular parks. Many people want to enjoy the outdoors free from clothes, and it shows in increased parking revenues, user fees and more patronage at area businesses.

". . . the clothing optional parks in your program are likely to become its most popular parks."

PART II:

**Participants and
The Players**



Participants and the Players

A fitting start to a discussion about clothing optional parks is to examine the key participants.

These include:

- (1) park users,
- (2) volunteer park support groups,
- (3) partnering businesses, and
- (4) the park's management.

Users . . .

As with any park, users are one of the most significant groups to be considered in the overall recreation picture. If you're wondering about the types of users who are likely to visit a clothing optional park, the most accurate answer is that they represent a cross-section of your community.

With the tremendous growth in the popularity of nude recreation, the typical visitor may be any age, either sex, any religious persuasion, a member of any political party, and from any economic strata. Users range from those trying it for the first time to those who wouldn't let a weekend go by without a trip to their favorite spot. There is really no "standard profile" of the contemporary average clothing optional park user.

However, there are indications that they do tend to be a bit more responsible than the average citizen. Studies conducted by Dr. Larry Gould, Associate Professor on the

Criminal Justice faculty at Northern Arizona University, provide some interesting information about their behavior. During a symposium about nude recreation sponsored by the South Florida Free Beaches (SFFB) and the Florida Bar Association's Constitutional Law Section, Dr. Gould presented findings that, as a group, those who regularly enjoy nude recreation are much less likely to be involved in criminal activity of any kind in the course of their daily lives. This included not only serious crimes and drinking and driving offenses, but minor traffic offenses as well.¹

Despite such findings, inaccurate assumptions about nude beach visitors are made. Frankly, misnomers have been circulated by people who oppose them. As with many other issues involving park usage, there is, inevitably, a fair share of questions about such issues as who will do what, and where. However, problems may occur if the questions are motivated by those opposed to a particular usage.

Think about when people first began rock climbing in parks. Most people did not have a problem with this usage *per se*, but did welcome assistance from park management in

the form of advisory signs answering some basic policy questions. How old should someone have to be to climb? What areas should be established for the activity? What steps should be taken to protect the natural face and beauty of areas open to climbers? What safety precautions should be mandated? In which cases, if any, should rock climbing guides and instructors be required to have certain qualifications?

But inevitably there were some people who simply did not like the presence of climbers under any circumstances. For these folks, their trump card was playing to fears of the unknown. "People may be hurt," "The environment will be hurt," were useful rallying cries. Thus, banning, rather than managing, rock-climbing users was the only "solution" offered by such opponents.

In the case of clothing optional parks, appeals are often centered in morality. Some opponents make veiled references to "attracting a criminal element." Others perpetuate the falsehood that women are somehow more vulnerable in these parks.

There's also a popular misconception that nude parks and beaches are only of interest to singles. Singles do constitute a significant portion of the users. But couples and families are also present in sizable numbers.

For the millions of North Americans and Europeans who regularly enjoy the outdoors clothes-free with their families, two of the most dis-

"... nude beaches and parks are, in every way, 'family' parks . . ."

turbing untruths are that establishing a nude section in a park will somehow drive away families or lead to “the nude section versus the family section,” as if no families would choose to be nude.

The truth is that nude beaches and parks are, in every way, “family” parks and nudity is fully compatible with a family setting. Anyone who has ever witnessed young children blissfully playing in the sand and water *au naturel* knows that it strikes a chord that grasps the very essence of our human condition. Clothing optional areas also provide excellent opportunities for mothers to comfortably breast-feed their infants. Pregnant women can enjoy the water without making a quest in pursuit of the elusive maternity-wear swimsuit.

For the park administrator trying to manage park operations, even a tiny minority of vocal opponents can occasionally make things difficult. Some useful management techniques in these situations are to be courteous, listen to the comment or complaint at hand, then address the matter with facts like these:

■ **Fact —**

As pointed out in Part I, numerous polls have demonstrated that more than 70 percent of Americans believe there should be places set aside for enjoying nude recreation within your parks;

■ **Fact —**

Those who enjoy clothes-free recreation are a legitimate, albeit underserved, user group participating in an activity that has become commonplace throughout the world. As such, these users are entitled to reasonable consideration in your overall recreation plan;

■ **Fact —**

As Dr. Gould’s study and numerous other studies have shown, nude users have equal, or better, standards of conduct compared with the average park user;

■ **Fact —**

As *The Wall Street Journal* has explained, the popularity of nude recreation is rapidly growing at home and abroad. With the need to attract tourism dollars (particularly foreign tourism dollars as the world becomes a smaller place), your community cannot afford to be without at least one clothing optional park if it is to remain competitive in this market.

Support Groups . . .

Another answer to those who may be skeptical about clothing optional parks is the advantage of the support groups that usually develop wherever these parks are created. In a time of tight budgets, these groups lend valuable volunteer assistance with cleaning, managing, maintaining, even raising funds for their favorite parks. The groups also help to instill a unique sense of etiquette that raises the standards for conduct beyond what you're likely to find on average.

Here are some examples of such groups in action:

■ **British Columbia, Canada**

At Wreck Beach in Vancouver, the support group is formally organized as the Wreck Beach Preservation Society. The group provides continuity in the operation of the park and its nude beach. Some examples of the nature of direct user services provided by the society include a first aid station on the beach. A cellular phone is usually kept on the beach in the hands of the society's director. This allows instant contact with police and emergency personnel. The group also provides informative brochures describing the park, including a list of "dos and don'ts" associated with nude beaches.²

■ **Florida**

South Florida Free Beaches (SFFB) has volunteers working virtually every day along the clothing optional stretch of Haulover Park in Miami to insure optimal beach conditions. Volunteers encourage park patrons to remove their trash and immediately report suspicious conduct to law enforcement. SFFB has worked with Dade County officials to get signs installed advising where nudity is, and is not, appropriate. In addition to serving as a liaison to county government, the group can arrange tours for parks and recreational staff from elsewhere who wish to observe a model nude park for ideas on establishing their own.³ In the fall of 1998 SFFB co-sponsored a legal symposium on the subject of public nude recreation that was widely attended by attorneys from throughout the country.⁴

The Central Florida Naturists (CFN) group has provided extensive support to both Playalinda and Apollo beaches on the Canaveral National Seashore. When a 1999 hurricane destroyed many of the "crossover" boardwalks that provide access to the beaches, CFN responded quickly to the situation by organizing efforts to raise thousands of dollars to repair the damage.

■ Massachusetts

The Sunchasers Travel Club routinely organizes efforts to improve traditionally clothing optional sections of the Cape Cod National Seashore. A June 1998 edition of *The Provincetown Banner* praised the Sunchasers for spearheading an annual cleanup day. During the event approximately 60 naturists from a variety of clubs throughout New England teamed up with National Park Service staff to clean nearly six miles of beach. New England-area nude recreation groups later helped raise money to buy new water-conserving showerheads to be installed in Cape Cod National Seashore visitor facilities.⁵

■ New Jersey

The Friends of Gunnison Beach took the initiative to begin a fund-raising drive to raise money for a new boardwalk within area “G” (a signed clothing optional area) of the Gateway National Seashore’s Sandy Hook, New Jersey, section. After months of collection efforts, the group turned the money over to National Park Service officials, who used it to install about 700 feet of new walk.⁶

■ Oregon

The Friends of Cougar Hot Springs has worked closely with the U.S. Forest Service to main-

tain, and improve, conditions at Terwilliger (also known as Cougar) Hot Springs near Eugene, Oregon. The springs enjoy a long tradition of public clothing-optional use.⁷

■ Wisconsin

Can you imagine having a volunteer support group that would actually assist your staff with distributing revised park rules and information? The Friends of Mazo Beach group did just that when the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources issued a memorandum detailing new policies about hours of operation, access road use, and other issues relating to management of the Mazomanie Wildlife Area. The club immediately issued the information to its members, and also published the policies on the club’s Web site.⁸

■ Vermont

The Ledges Users Group helps self-police the grounds along a section of the Harriman Reservoir near Brattleboro, Vermont.

“The springs enjoy a long tradition of public clothing-optional use . . . ”

The Ledges group clears brush and picks up litter along the access trails to the reservoir and has assisted with installing signs at the trail heads to let visitors know where they may encounter nude sunbathers. The group has also arranged clothing optional “cruises” with those who operate boat tours on the reservoir.⁹

■ **Nationally**

The American Association for Nude Recreation, based in Kissimmee, Florida together with its regional associations, supports the efforts of these groups with literature, government affairs information, publicity in *The Bulletin*, the association’s monthly newspaper, and more. AANR also mass produces a biodegradable beach etiquette card.¹⁰ (see *Center Inset G*)

Many of these groups receive similar support from The Naturist Society (TNS) based in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. From its inception in 1980, the society has been dedicated to preserving, and enhancing, opportunities for naturism (clothing optional recreation), with considerable attention for public lands issues. Many of the clothing optional parks referenced in this guide have become the successes that they are through TNS efforts.¹¹

“Partnering” Businesses . . .

At many clothing optional parks and beaches, an integral component is the partnering businesses that offer goods, services, and even park management services, to nude visitors.

Vendors

The most simple, and most common, example of a business partner is the concessionaires who provide the same services as in other parks. These run the gamut from selling food and beverages to renting beach chairs. About the only difference that vendors in clothing optional areas are likely to notice is an increase in business because these areas are popular.

Facility Proprietors and Partnering Groups

There’s no reason that the business-partnering concept cannot be extended well beyond the limits of simple vendors, however. Many ski resorts operate on lands leased from the U.S. Forest Service. The same is true for various campgrounds. Similar land sharing-arrangements could work quite well to serve nude users also. Privacy fencing, facilities and day-to-day management services could readily be provided on public lands under the stewardship of a company set up to charge user fees in exchange for those services. Naturally, in order for such business

partnering arrangements to happen, it requires initiative on the part of service providers. For that reason, we have included a brief unit dedicated to those in the private sector who are interested in tapping the clothing optional market.

Formal partnering groups have also teamed up with state and federal parks services to produce guidebooks and offer user services. The United States Department of the Interior's Bureau of Land Management's most recent guide to public lands in the west, entitled *Beyond the National Parks*, lists nearly two dozen groups helping to enhance visitors' experiences. The guide, for example, mentions that the California Association of Four Wheel Drive Clubs, Inc., has worked to map and identify trails where off-roaders are "sure to be challenged and witness spectacular vistas." Similarly, the International Mountain Bicycling Association promotes creative trail management practices that encourage trail use while protecting the environment. The group champions a set of riding ethics, while recommending several trails throughout the country that let cyclists "peddle their way through history," experiencing some of America's most beautiful places.¹²

If partnering groups can help government to make four wheeling and bicycling more workable, they can help make nude recreation more workable, too.

Government and Park Management . . .

A key ingredient to a successful clothing optional area is having sufficient communication and cooperation between government and the other "players," like users, and support groups. Where such cooperation exists, workable arrangements are always possible even in cases where it's not feasible to implement many of the strategies discussed in this book.

Throughout this guide, we'll present a number of tips for educating your managers and staff about aspects of managing clothing optional areas. For now, it helps to remember two principles.

First, remember that, in practice, the terms "government" and "park management" constitute broad cat-

"Where such cooperation exists, workable arrangements are always possible . . ."

egories of people, all of whom are important to making an area function. To the average user, “park management” includes not only a park manager or chief ranger, but *any* park employee. For example, the attendants who stock the restroom while wearing a park uniform will be asked about the location where nudity is okay. If they answer, park patrons *will* take their word for it. That means that everyone needs some training about your policy and where to go if questions arise.

Second, please remember that people look to park management for guidance. Most visitors want to do the right thing and will be left frustrated if they cannot get a straight answer from your staff. That scenario often takes place in parks where there is long-standing tradition of nude use, but without any official guidance.

PART III:

Common Issues



Common Issues

As with any park or recreational setting, there are a myriad of issues related to managing a clothing optional area. However, we've identified at least four subjects that are particularly relevant and will require a bit more attention in the planning stage. These include:

- (1) The need to establish a park policy that is consistent with law;
- (2) The advantages of installing advisory signs to explain to users where they may expect to encounter nude users within the park and where they should clothe themselves;
- (3) The importance of educating staff about the unique, albeit relatively simple, things they need to understand in order to properly manage the area; and
- (4) The importance of maintaining adequate facilities to accommodate anticipated use.

If these factors are properly addressed during early stages of planning, operations will proceed more smoothly. If you are a park or recreation professional seeking to improve the quality of a clothing optional area already under your management, you will probably find the checklist above a helpful starting point for evaluating your park and then making any necessary changes.

Policy Consistent with Law . . .

Obviously, any workable policy about nudity within a park must be consistent with federal, state, and local laws or regulations.

One of the most common mistakes made by recreation officials is that they automatically assume—incorrectly—that the laws in their jurisdiction prohibit nudity wherever people gather. That thinking stems from reading about arrests for indecent exposure. And it's driven by our inherent understanding that you can't walk into the local supermarket nude.

The truth, however, is that in many cases nudity laws apply differently, depending on time, place and manner. Nudity is usually consistent with the law when it occurs within the setting of a well-run clothing optional park. Most state laws regulating nudity fall into one of three categories (two relatively common and one less common); all make it possible to operate clothing optional parks under the right circumstances.

We'll call the first type "the Oregon type" for purposes of this discussion as Oregon happens to have such a statute. Oregon-type laws define public indecency to include exposure of one's genitals, but only under circumstances where the nudity is with the intent of arousing others.¹ Now consider the context of a park

where there is a custom, tradition or policy allowing nude swimming and sunbathing, combined with signs advising patrons where they're likely to encounter nude bathers. Clearly, these circumstances do not give rise to an allegation of any criminal conduct under an Oregon-type statute.

The law in Vermont is another example of the Oregon-type but carries its protection for nude recreation one step further. There, an Attorney General's opinion about recreational nudity advises:

*The state has no legitimate interest in nudity on private land out of public view. Nor has it a nudity interest in public in secluded areas—unless a citizen should complain, in which case the person shall be asked to dress.*²

The second type of nudity statute is found in Florida and is relatively common elsewhere. Laws of this type exempt places provided, or set apart, for nudity.³ Clearly a clothing optional park or beach constitutes a place set aside for nudity and the statute is rendered inapplicable to such places. In fact, Haulover Beach in Dade County, Florida, has flourished under the state law.

Thus, the message in both types of statutes is clear. Nudity is prohibited

where it is forced, without warning, on those who would be offended by it. But in places with signage, and/or a history of nude usage, the statutes do not ultimately preclude such usage.

There is a third, much less common, type of law which you will find in a few states, including Indiana and New York. The *wording* of the laws in such states prohibits most forms of public nudity. Yet in practice, officials have elected not to enforce the law against simple nude sunbathing and swimming where those activities have traditionally taken place.⁴

As a recent edition of the *World Guide to Nude Beaches and Resorts* points out, there are public swimming holes in Indiana with a rich tradition of skinny-dipping. These include several beaches on Lake Michigan, as well as the quarries of Bloomington, popular with skinny-dipping college students of nearby Indiana University.⁵

In New York, the state's indecent exposure statute contains blanket prohibitions on genital nudity. Nevertheless, one of the most popular nude beaches in the United States is located within that state at Light House Beach within the Fire Island National Seashore. Moreover, a 1992 court decision in *New York v. Santorelli* severely curtailed the statute's application against women who appear top-free.⁶

Regardless of whether the laws on nudity in your jurisdiction most resemble Oregon's, Florida's or the

rare Indiana-New York variety, it's obviously important that park policy be in concert with the law. A good way to find out about the laws affecting your parks is to consult with your legal advisor.

Remember, though, that context is everything. If you write or call to say, "We are thinking of making the ABC beach clothing optional," you are likely to get a different answer than if you briefly explain all the conditions that lend themselves to making the beach clothing optional and request information about how state and local law would apply to those circumstances. The American Association for Nude Recreation can also assist you with getting information, and may be reached at 1-800-TRY-NUDE.

Once your laws have been checked, it's time to fashion a policy about nudity. Obviously, policy is important, because it is the vehicle for communicating with staff and visitors so that all come to a common understanding, with similar expectations, about what is allowed and

"... there are no federal laws, policies, or regulations prohibiting nudity in federal areas administered by the National Park Service."

where. To those aims, here are some aspects of good policies:

■ Good policies —

Good policies are worded clearly—they are simple and straightforward so that everyone, from the professionals charged with carrying them out to the casual park user, can understand them;

Good policies are realistic—they are based on realistic assessments of user numbers, use patterns, etc;

Good policies explain what constitutes nudity;

Good policies explain where nudity will be deemed appropriate;

Good policies distinguish between mere nudity and lewd or other clearly inappropriate behavior.

Rooster Rock State Park in Oregon provides one example of a good policy. There, a park regulation reads as follows:

All persons of post-pubescent age or who have reached their 12th birthdays are prohibited from engaging in nudity, as defined below, in any area west of the boundary established by a line running north and south from the easternmost beach access stairway in Rooster Rock State Park . . . [The regulation goes on to state what will be deemed “engaging in nudity.”]

With a few exceptions relating to specific parks, there are no federal laws, policies, or regulations prohibiting nudity in federal areas administered by the National Park Service. A look at some key directives provides support for recognizing legitimate user groups like those who enjoy clothes-free recreation.

The starting place for an analysis of what kind of conduct is permissible in a National Park System unit is the NPS Organic Act. This provision directs NPS to administer units of the system:

*To conserve the scenery and natural and historic objects and the wildlife therein **and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.**⁸
[Emphasis added]*

This provision, the so-called “public enjoyment” clause of the *Organic Act*, was intended by Congress to provide a mandate for a broad range of public use activities to occur.

NPS itself has often recognized the permissive nature and broad scope of the “public enjoyment clause” of the *Organic Act*. Shortly after enactment of the Act, Secretary Lane issued a set of instructions to NPS Director Mather. In this statement, Secretary Lane emphasized the freedom that should be allowed for park visitors to pursue their own personal recreational preferences: “Every opportunity should be afforded the public, wherever possible, to enjoy the national parks in the manner that best satisfies the individual taste.”⁹

In its 1970 *Administrative Policies*, NPS further elaborated on the general principles that govern public use of NPS-administered areas:

*“Outdoor recreation,” NPS declared, “involves a broad spectrum of activities ranging from participation in outdoor sports to moments of quiet meditation in a solitary walk among the big trees . . . This is the test: or, is the activity inspired by, and do its rewards derive from, the natural character and features of the park? Park use should lean heavily upon individual participation and response. Individuals engage as individual, even when in a crowd viewing an eruption of Old Faithful.”*¹⁰

NPS policies published in 1988 explain that public use activities are deemed permissible so long as they do not:

- (1) conflict with law or policy;
- (2) derogate values and purposes for which the park was established;
- (3) clash with the park’s enabling regulations;
- (4) create unreasonable potential for illness, personal injury or property damage; or
- (5) interfere unduly with normal park appreciation, resource protection, or visitor use.

Because clothing optional recreation does not, in and of itself, run afoul of any of these principles, it must be deemed consistent with NPS’ interpretation of what activities are permissible inside units of the National Park System.¹¹

“NPS itself has often recognized the permissive nature and broad scope of the ‘public enjoyment clause’ . . . ”

With respect to nudity, NPS directives currently state:

There is no federal regulation prohibiting nudity that applies to all units of the NPS. Only Cape Cod National Seashore has a special regulation in effect that addresses such activity. When unacceptable visitor conflicts occur as a result of public nudity, a resolution of the situation should be attempted informally, if appropriate, with the persons who are the subject of the complaint . . .¹²

In the Appendix we have included a sample nudity policy that may be helpful in framing a policy to fit the circumstances of your recreation area.

Informational Signs and Advisories . . .

Informational signs and other materials such as park brochures and maps advising users about your park's clothing optional policy serve at least three purposes.

First, signs assist visitors in locating the appropriate location for the activity they have come to the park to enjoy. Many activities within a park do not need signs because the activity and the location where it is encouraged are easily located. For example, if one goes to the park to picnic, the picnic tables suggest clearly where such activity is encouraged. The lack of a picnic table at other locations does not preclude the idea of having a picnic in an area but, at the same time, it is not as encouraging as a location where a picnic table is located.

Where a clothing optional beach begins or ends may be a little more subtle. After all, there is no requirement that people be nude to be on a clothing optional beach. Park beach visitors and their families who may have the right location and not observe anyone nude may wonder if they are in the correct location. The

reaction to this can be varied. The users may move on to another location believing they're not in the right place and actually end up in an area where nudity is not appreciated. Or they may wait and see what others do. During the "waiting period" the visitors are not fully enjoying their visit in the manner anticipated.

A second, equally important purpose of such informational signs is providing notice to those who would prefer not to encounter nude users.

Third, signs and advisory information serve as a valuable management tool for minimizing potential user conflicts by setting expectations. Whether someone is pleased or displeased with a situation often depends more on their expectations than the situation itself. Consider, for example, why franchise restaurants are popular with travelers. Travelers have a pretty good idea of the level of quality, variety and price that they'll find in the "name brand" place and are less likely to have expectations that aren't met. The traveler knows that he or she cannot purchase a fine wine at the familiar burger franchise, but also knows it's all right to bring in noisy kids, get something affordable fast, and get back on the road.

Gourmets probably eat in franchised burger establishments without any complaints if that's what happens to be available on the highway when they're hungry. But a gourmet would be thoroughly put off if people in tee shirts and shorts showed up at their

local *Chez Ritz*, and the people in shorts would be upset if they only had enough money on hand to afford a soft drink. Posting a menu outside *Chez Ritz* helps prevent that from happening by setting the expectations about price and atmosphere.

The same principle applies to clothing optional venues. Folks are much less likely to be offended and might even give skinny-dipping a try if they simply know that a clothes-free zone exists before they see someone nude.

Suggested Language

In order to accomplish these purposes, we recommend two sided signs. The "front" side should advise users that they are entering a clothing optional area. The other side should let people know that they are leaving the area and should be fully clothed.

There are various suggestions for wording the "front side." One option is to simply state, "ATTENTION: Beyond This Point You May Encounter Nude Swimmers and Sunbathers."

In areas catering to an international clientele, some parks carry a message like this: "ATTENTION: European-style bathing beyond this point." Ideally, these signs appear in several languages. Another increasingly popular sign carries no wording but uses symbols to convey its message. (see *Center Inset D*)

On the reverse side of the sign, park officials usually use a statement like this: "ATTENTION: You are

leaving the nude sunbathing area. All visitors must be adequately clothed beyond this point.”

We have included sample pictures of various types of signs in the Center Inset to this guide.

Other Advisory Information

In park visitors’ centers and information centers, maps, informational brochures, even tour planning are all useful vehicles for explaining where clothing optional areas are. Maps are probably one of the best ways to help keep visitors from getting lost and ending up nude in the wrong area. Brochures provide an opportunity to explain your policies in greater detail, perhaps with some space given to answering frequently asked questions.

Informational sessions and guided tours are a great way to educate the public, especially at times when a clothing optional area has recently been implemented. Not only can staff assist families with locating the area, but they are available to answer questions first hand.

Informed Staff . . .

Experience has proven that one of the most crucial ingredients to a successful clothing optional area is having sufficient communication and cooperation between users and park staff. Where such cooperation exists, workable arrangements are always possible, even in cases where it’s not practical to implement many of the strategies discussed in this unit.

For example, we have strongly recommended installing advisory signs to let park patrons know where the clothing optional area of your park begins and ends. There are numerous advantages to having such signs. Yet the fact is that many clothes-free beaches—especially those found throughout California—have managed to function successfully without them because staff recognizes that skinny-dipping is customary in certain areas and act accordingly with respect to those areas.

On the other hand, a director of parks and recreation could implement many of the strategies in this guide with only modest success if the director failed to get the requisite cooperation of the managers and staff responsible for the day-to-day operations at the park. Consider, for example, the unfortunate, albeit brief, episode that took place a few years ago after a park installed signs

delineating a clothing optional area. Shortly after the signs went up, a ranger who took personal issue with the decision began issuing misdemeanor citations to nude bathers within the delineated area because he didn't agree with the practice. Ultimately those citations were, of course, dismissed. But not without unnerving and substantially inconveniencing those who received citations.

Here are a few other points to keep in mind:

- Educate staff to know the basics of your park's clothing optional policy and the proper areas so they will be able to relay that information from memory. They will receive frequent questions.
- Have more detailed written information and a contact person for staff to turn to for clarification about your clothing optional policy.
- Encourage staff to deal with nude recreation with a positive, "can-do" attitude. When such an attitude is present most challenges can be overcome.
- Educate staff to understand the difference between mere nudity and improper conduct and to be ready with an action plan for responding in the unlikely event that a park patron engages in such conduct.

We have included some suggestions for educating your staff about clothing optional areas in Unit IV.

Adequate Facilities . . .

The next unit discusses many of the logistics of planning a clothing optional park. For now a discussion of one rule of thumb is sufficient, and the rule is this: Whatever services would be reasonably expected in a park given its history, surroundings, and the expectations of its users should drive the level of services within the clothing optional section.

For example, suppose you're considering making a portion of a very remote beach with primitive facilities clothing optional. Maybe all that's already there are trash cans. In that case, all that may need to be done to the clothing optional side is to put up a sign and be sure that there are trash barrels on both the "clothed" and "optional" sides of the beach.

"Whatever services would be reasonably expected . . . should drive the level of services within the clothing optional section."

On the other hand, it is very important that a clothing optional park with relatively high-level of services make a comparable level of services available to clothed and unclothed users. If not, it will invariably lead people to wander outside of the proper area in search of those services. Consider the following issues:

Parking

Whether you are seeking to improve harmony and conditions at an existing clothing optional beach or planning a relatively new area, one of the best places to examine first is parking. Problems frequently arise when there are an insufficient number of parking spaces to meet the user demands of the clothing optional area. For example, suppose the clothing optional section of a beach averages 500 visitors per day on weekends while the rest of the beach also averages about 500 visitors. Suppose further that the beach parking lots can reasonably accommodate about 1200 people total.

If only one quarter of the parking area (i.e., space for only about 300) of the entire park is realistically available to those using the clothing optional section, the imbalance may lead to people parking near the clothed section and walking a sizable distance before putting their blanket down and removing their clothes in a spot that is still outside of the clothing optional area.

Restrooms and Drinking Fountains

The availability of adequate restrooms and drinking fountains (if those services are offered at the park in question) to meet the needs of all park visitors, both nude and clothed, should not be overlooked. If it is, the same problem of user conflict between the two groups increases for the same reasons discussed above with respect to parking.

Lifeguards and Security

People naturally gravitate to where these services are offered. If you make lifeguards and security available in your park, be sure to provide them for the clothed and clothing optional areas alike in proportion to the use of those areas.

PART IV:

How to Establish a Clothing Optional Area



How to Establish a Clothing Optional Area

Proceeding with Confidence . . .

In many respects the existing nude beaches throughout the country may be viewed as successful “demonstration areas.” For the park administrator concerned about how to proceed or anticipating a particular problem, these success stories provide a basis for proceeding with confidence. We invite you to contact the administrators of the parks mentioned in this guide. You may be surprised at how easy it is to set up and operate a clothing optional facility and especially at how economical such facilities can be.

In these days of shrinking tax bases and tight budgets, recreation professionals are constantly faced with the challenge of maintaining an acceptable level of services. With the

high popularity of clothes-free venues and the number of them in relatively short supply, most visitors are willing to pay a premium for this recreational opportunity. That “premium” may not be much more than an extra dollar or two in parking fees, but those dollars add up.

As noted previously, for example, the *Wall Street Journal* reported that operators of Haulover Beach in Dade County, Florida, witnessed parking revenues more than quadruple within the first year that the beach was formally established as clothing optional.¹ Similar impressive revenues have been noted at Rooster Rock State Park in Oregon, as well as on Oregon’s Sauvie Island Wildlife Area.²

And there is more than money at stake. By serving a legitimate user group of those who enjoy clothes-free recreation, you’ll broaden your base of support among beach or park visitors.

Selecting or Improving a Site . . .

The location of sites most often used as nude parks or beaches has evolved over a period of time. Often the sites were relatively remote or secluded. With the expanding population and related development, these once remote sites have now become surrounded by residential and even urban development. In some cases the creation of a state park would involve the acquisition of a site traditionally used for nude bathing. Indeed, it appears that a number of traditional nude bathing sites have been acquired by various recreation agencies associated with all levels of government. In any event, these nude parks and beaches tended to come “where you found them.”

Today, as the pressures increase for access to and use of limited amounts of ocean and lake beaches, the park administrator is often faced with choosing a location for clothing optional use from existing sites. The obvious question is whether there are any attributes of a location that are more conducive to a clothing optional situation, and the answer is “yes.”

Screening

The main consideration should be visual screening from parking lots or other adjacent public areas such as roadways. The screening serves two important functions by offering privacy to clothes-free users, and minimizing the likelihood of conflicts with users who may be sensitive to nudity. In cases where natural privacy is not already available, fencing and landscaping provide alternatives.

Other Logistical Issues

As noted previously, whether visitors are clothed or nude, they will expect a level of services and facilities comparable to what is available throughout the park. This creates some logistical issues. If, for example, the only restrooms available are located where people from the clothing optional area must cross through a “textile” section to get to them, the chances for user disagreement increase. Be sure to conduct a comprehensive look at the logistics of any plan before adopting it into policy.

Implementing Your Policy and Setting Up the Area . . .

After reviewing the locations available and applying the considerations suggested with respect to site selection, a choice of location is made. Following that decision, your park's clothing optional policy should be drafted (or revised) to reflect that location. Another way to "create" a designated nude area may simply be to acknowledge that one already exists within the park. It is not unusual for nude use to have been occurring for some time in relatively isolated portions of the park. If this is the case, then little need be done except making directions or informational signs to help visitors locate the area.

When installing advisory signs it is preferable to place them at all access points to an area. We recommend

making the investment in durable, vandal-resistant signs because otherwise they tend to fall victim to college students and others who prize them as souvenirs for obvious reasons. Local park support groups may be willing to help raise the money for the cost of such signs. If signs are not presently feasible because of cost or some other consideration, however, it will probably be sufficient to have a common understanding between park operations people and the interested public.

We have created a suggested action list for your convenience. It is available in the Appendix.

". . . little need be done except making directions or informational signs to help visitors locate the area."

Educating Your Staff . . .

It is only natural to expect that the staff who will be communicating and carrying out your clothing optional policy will have questions and need information. Ultimately, you know which education techniques work best with your employees. The following two aspects of training may be helpful to you:

- (1) Provide staff with a copy of the policy and give them a sufficient opportunity to review the policy prior to conducting the session described below; and
- (2) Conduct an informational session or sessions where staff have an opportunity to ask questions and work through some common examples of the policy at work. (for example, “What would you tell a visitor driving up who said, ‘We’re headed for the clothing optional area, where do you suggest we park?’”)

Evaluating and Making Adjustments . . .

Over time, circumstances can change. For example, periodic review may show that the boundaries of a clothing optional area need to be expanded to accommodate an increase in the number of users. Or, a policy may need clarification.

Like any other user group, those visitors to your park who enjoy clothes-free recreation will appreciate an opportunity to be involved in the process of making adjustments. Moreover, the support groups that often form among them may be able to assist you with communicating information about changes if you extend them a chance to do so.

PART V:

**Clothing Optional
Recreation in the
Private Sector**



Clothing Optional Recreation in the Private Sector

Although most of this guide is dedicated to assisting managers of public park and recreational areas, we recognize that public and private sectors are increasingly looking for ways to work together. It is also possible that those managing a public area today may take a new job opportunity managing a private campground or attraction tomorrow.

For those in the “private sector,” we would like to encourage you to consider expanding your options for attracting customers by taking a closer look at the market among those who enjoy clothes-free recreation.

A Growing Market . . .

The market for clothing optional recreation is growing both throughout North America and much of the world. Information compiled from various sources demonstrates that it creates a very attractive market:

- **American Association for Nude Recreation (AANR)**

The American Association for Nude Recreation (AANR) promotes nude recreation throughout North America. Membership has grown dramatically within the last ten years. Today, approximately 50,000 nudists

“. . . public and private sectors are increasingly looking for ways to work together.”

and their families belong to AANR through more than 230 affiliated resorts and clubs. Data compiled by the Association reveals that half of AANR's members earn at least \$50,000 per year; most have received some form of higher education.¹

■ *Forbes*

Forbes magazine reported in its October 12, 1992 issue that the nude travel industry has witnessed dramatic growth in the United States and the Caribbean and was a \$200 million-plus per year business at that time.²

Some Successful Examples of Tapping that Market . . .

There are a number of cases where businesses have tapped this lucrative market . Here are some ways they have done that:

1. *Bringing a service you already offer to clothing optional users.*

The ocean cruise industry is an excellent example of how offering something as simple as a clothing optional chartered trip may help bring in new business:

- *Fielding's Worldwide Cruises 1998* lists several companies organizing nude cruises and points out that one of them, the Bare Necessities Tour and Travel company of Austin, Texas, boasts a database of over 20,000 customers.

Another company, Travel Au Naturel, has built a highly successful business chartering sailing ships.³

- In the travel section of the Sunday July 19, 1998, issue of the *New York Times*, "Practical Traveler" columnist Betsy Wade wrote that nudists had organized lucrative charters with such major

cruise lines as Holland America, Cunard, Regal, Carnival and others. She added that many of the 1999 nudist cruises had already sold out as of the time of the article.⁴

2. *Opening a resort to clothing optional users for “slow” times in the year.*

- In the summer, with “snow bird” visitors leaving sunny Florida to return north, the Lazy Lakes campground of Sugarloaf Key, Florida, was looking for a way to fill the vacancies. The owners found a solution by opening up the campground as a clothing optional facility for just a few months each year.⁵
- The Eastover Resort of Lenox, Massachusetts, had an opportunity to start its traditional summer season boom early when The Naturist Society booked the facility as the site of its 1998 Eastern Naturist Fair. Normally a completely clothed resort, Eastover went clothes-free for one week to accommodate the hundreds of guests that the event brought in.⁶

3. *Advertising a business’s close proximity to a clothing optional destination.*

More than 20 hotels and motels in the Sunny Isles Beach, Florida, area near Miami’s clothing optional Haulover Beach take out regular advertisements in nudist publications.⁷

4. *Managing a private clothing optional area on public lands through a leasing arrangement with the applicable agency.*

Many ski resorts operate on lands leased from the U.S. Forest Service. The same is true for various campgrounds. Similar land sharing arrangements could work quite well to serve nude users. Privacy fencing, facilities and day-to-day management services may readily be provided on public lands under the stewardship of a company set up to charge user fees in exchange for those services.

“Privacy fencing, facilities and day-to-day management services may readily be provided . . . ”

Taking the Next Step . . .

It's relatively easy to reach those who enjoy clothing optional recreation with the news that you're offering a service to them. A number of resources and contacts appear in the Appendix. They are a useful starting point for discussing plans you may have about bringing your service to the clothing optional users community.

endnotes

Part I:

- ¹ Pilla, Jean. "Battle Over Beach Nudity May Hurt State Tourism," *The Wall Street Journal*. July 19, 1995.
- ² Elliott, Victoria P. *Frommer's '99 Guide to Miami & the Keys*. (New York: Macmillan Co., 1998) p. 120.
- ³ Sehlinger, Bob and , Joe. *The Unofficial Guide To Miami and The Keys*. (New York: Macmillan Travel, 1994) p. 43.
- ⁴ Roper Organization Poll conducted in 1985.
- ⁵ American Association for Nude Recreation Fact Sheet, available from AANR at 1703 N. Main St., Kissimmee, FL 34744-3396.
- ⁶ "Most Callers Favor Nude Sunbathing at Playalinda," *The Orlando Sentinel*. May 18, 1993 p. A-7.
- ⁷ "Nude Sunbathing on Public Beach? Yes, Majority Says," *The Orlando Sentinel*. May 23, 1995.
- ⁸ Opinion Research Corporation Poll reported in "Looking Ahead" (Newsletter of the Tri-State Sun Club), Spring 1990, p. 7.
- ⁹ The Gallup Organization Poll conducted May, 1983.
- ¹⁰ Interview with Turner Stokes, fall, 1998.
- ¹¹ "Nude Beaches 1998," *The San Francisco Bay Guardian*. For more information write Bay Guardian, 520 Hampshire St., San Francisco, CA 94110.
- ¹² Pacific Bell Directory, 1993.
- ¹³ "Battle Over Beach Tourism," *The Wall Street Journal*. July 19, 1995.

¹⁴ Bragant, Nancy and Devine, Elizabeth. *European Customs and Manners*. (New York: Meadowbrook Press, 1992) p. 88.

¹⁵ *European Customs* (same as above).

¹⁶ Letter from INF President Karl J. Dressen to Superintendent of Kaloko-Honokohau National Historical Park, Kailua-Kona, HI, dated June 6, 1998, re: nude bathing at the park, p. 2.

Part II:

- ¹ Presentation by Larry Gould, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Northern Arizona University, during symposium entitled "Non Sexual Nudity: Threat or Benign?" Florida International University, Miami, FL, October 9-10, 1998.
- ² Wreck Beach Park visits and interviews conducted by George R. Harker, Ph.D., 1989; see also the Internet page of the Wreck Beach Preservation Society at "<http://www.wreckbeach.org/>".
- ³ South Florida Free Beaches Internet page at "<http://www.sffb.com/>".
- ⁴ "Non Sexual Nudity: Threat or Benign?" Florida International University, Miami, Fla., October 9-11, 1998.
- ⁵ Harrison, Sue. "Nudists Will Take It Off —Trash, That Is," *Provincetown Banner*. May 21, 1998, p. 14.
- ⁶ See Friends of Gunnison Internet page at "<http://members.aol.com/FoGHornNJ/index.html>".
- ⁷ Interviews with Shirley Gauthier. Friends of Cougar may be contacted by writing P.O. Box 350, Blue River, OR 97413.

- ⁸ See Friends of Mazo Internet page at “<http://www.cybernude.com/mazo/>” or write P.O. Box 42, Sauk City, WI 53583.
- ⁹ Interview with William Falconer.
- ¹⁰ American Association for Nude Recreation, 1703 N. Main Street, Kissimmee, FL 34744-3396.
- ¹¹ The Naturist Society, P.O. Box 132, Oshkosh, WI 54902.
- ¹² Tisdale, Mary E. and Booth, Bibi, editors. *Beyond The National Parks—A Recreation Guide to Public Lands In The West*. (Washington: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1998).

Part III:

- ¹ Oregon Revised Stat. Chapter 163.465.
- ² Baxandall, Lee. *World Guide to Nude Beaches and Resorts*. (Oshkosh, WI: N Editions, 1998) at p. 111.
- ³ Florida Stat. 800.03. Note: Subsequent Florida court decisions have held that nudity—even in places not specifically set apart for that purpose—is not a violation of this section unless accompanied by lewd or lascivious conduct of some kind. See, e.g. *Goodmakers v. State*, 450 So. 2d 888, 891 (Fla 2d DCA 1984).
- ⁴ New York Stat. Article 245.01 and Indiana Code 35-45-4-1. Note that the scope of these statutes has been limited by court decisions. For example, the Indiana Supreme Court placed a limiting construction on 35-45-4-1, recognizing that there are some constitutionally protected cases of nudity where the communication of ideas is involved in *State v. Baysinger*, 397 N.E. 2d 580 (S.Ct. Ind. 1979); See also limitations on the New York law made in *New York v. Santorelli*, as discussed in note 6, below.
- ⁵ *World Guide to Nude Beaches and Resorts*, pp 70-71.
- ⁶ *New York v. Santorelli*, 587 N.Y. 2d 601 (1992).

- ⁷ Rooster Rock State Park Regulations.
- ⁸ NPS Organic Act, 16 U.S.C. 1.
- ⁹ Letter from Secretary Lane to Director Mather, May 13, 1918, in NPS Administrative Policies 69 (1970).
- ¹⁰ 1970 NPS Administrative Policies at p. 47.
- ¹¹ 1988 NPS Management Policies 8 et. seq.
- ¹² NPS 91-3; Memorandum from NPS Acting Director to Directorate 2, May 29, 1991.

Part IV:

- ¹ Pilla, Jean. “Battle Over Beach Nudity May Hurt State Tourism,” *The Wall Street Journal*. July 19, 1995.
- ² Rooster Rock Park and Sauvie Island visits and on-site interviews conducted by George Harker, Ph.D., August, 1989.

Part V:

- ¹ American Association for Nude Recreation Fact Sheet, available from AANR at 1703 N. Main St., Kissimmee, FL 34744-3396.
- ² Coleman, Lisa and Rees, Matt. “Naked Appeal,” *Forbes*. October 12, 1992, at p. 138.
- ³ Slatter, Shirley and Basch, Harry. *Fielding’s Worldwide Cruises 1998*. (California: Fielding’s Worldwide, Inc., 1998) at p. 62.
- ⁴ Wade, Betsy. “Like Meets Like Aboard Ship,” *The New York Times*. July 19, 1998.
- ⁵ *The Bulletin*, Newspaper of the American Association for Nude Recreation, May, 1997, at p. 28.
- ⁶ “The Eastern Naturist Fair 1998,” *Nude & Natural*, November 1997, Vol. 17.2, pp 1-8.
- ⁷ See advertisements entitled “Largest Clothing Optional Beach Plus Great Vacation Values,” *Nude & Natural*, November, 1994, Vol. 14.2.

APPENDIX:

Sample Park Policy

Beginning with the implementation of this policy, a generally rectangular area located on the beach approximately _____ yards by _____ yards between parking area ____ and _____ shall be created as a clothing optional zone.

Within the clothing optional zone, park visitors may swim, sunbathe and enjoy the area nude. For the purposes of this policy, “nude” shall mean lacking any clothing covering the genitals, pubic area and buttocks. All other park policies and applicable laws, especially with respect to lewd and lascivious conduct, shall remain in force throughout the park.

Signs shall be installed to inform visitors about the precise boundaries and location of the clothing optional zone.

Additional questions about application of this policy should be addressed to _____.

Action List

- 1. Review this guide.
- 2. Assess the park(s) with areas you'll consider making clothing optional. Determine existence of:
 - History of informal nude use or;
 - Other factors that support clothing optional status such as international tourism.
- 3. Contact the American Association for Nude Recreation at 1-800-TRY-NUDE with any questions or requests for information you may have and for information about possible contacts for park support groups in your area.
- 4. Check the laws in that jurisdiction. In the context of such information, ask about nudity at the following levels:
 - Municipal ordinances
 - County ordinances
 - State laws
- 5. After soliciting input from your key staff, vendors and park support groups (if applicable), prepare a draft clothing optional policy for the park(s) in question.
- 6. Conduct a thorough assessment of the park to determine where the boundaries of a clothing optional zone should lie. Consider the availability of the following:
 - Parking
 - Trash Disposal
 - Restrooms
 - Security and Service (e.g., lifeguards)
- 7. Revise clothing optional policy to reflect boundaries set and findings made during step 6 and finalize wording of policy. Prepare copies for staff, as well as support groups, vendors and users, as you believe are needed.
- 8. Select wording of advisory signs for the clothing optional zone and order signs (samples of signs are included in the Center Inset of this guide for your convenience). You may also wish to incorporate your new policy into plans for revisions to park information kiosks, user maps and tour schedules at this time.

- 9. Conduct training/question and answer sessions with staff about the clothing optional policy, and who to turn to for additional information.
- 10. Communicate policy to park users, support groups, vendors and any remaining staff, letting them know the effective date of the policy.
- 11. If possible, arrange for timely installation of signs given your policy's effective date.
- 12. Begin implementing the policy and evaluate. Communicate closely and regularly with users, staff, support groups and vendors, making adjustments as needed.

Suggested Resources

American Association
for Nude Recreation
1703 North Main Street, Suite E
Kissimmee, FL 34744-3396
1-800-TRY-NUDE
<http://www.aanr.com>

American Nudist Research Library
2950 Sun Cove Drive
Kissimmee, FL 34746-2703
(407) 933-2866

Better Beaches
Management and Operation of Safe and
Enjoyable Swimming Beaches
Tom Griffiths, Ed.D.
National Recreation
and Park Association
National Aquatic Section
650 West Higgins Road
Hoffman Estates, IL 60195

Bulletin, The
A monthly publication for members
of the American Association for Nude
Recreation based in Kissimmee, Fla.;
it includes a complete calendar of
events in nudist clubs nationwide,
political and social news of interest to
nudists, as well as official announce-
ments and member profiles. (see above
information)

The Nudist Idea
Cinder, Cec, Ph.D.
(California:
Ultraviolet Press, 1998)

Eastern Sunbathing Association
(serving Alabama, Connecticut
Delaware, Georgia, Louisiana, Maine,
Maryland, Massachusetts,
Mississippi, New Jersey, New York,
North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode
Island, South Carolina, Tennessee,
Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia)

Federation of Canadian Naturists
P.O. Box 186
Islington, ON Canada
M9A 4X2

Florida Association
for Nude Recreation
(serving Florida and Puerto Rico)

Goodrich, Kristina
"The Old Swimming Hole Breeds
New Controversy"
Parks and Recreation Magazine
May 1980

Gill, Gordon
Recreational Nudity and the Law
(Illinois: Dr. Leisure, 1997)

Kellum and Lovelace
To Bare or Not to Bare:
The Constitution of Local Ordinances
Banning Nude Sunbathers
20 U. Rich L. Rev. 589 (1986)

Lee Baxandall's World Guide to Nude Beaches and Resorts

Provides directions to, and “witty lore” about thousands of sites to enjoy clothes-free throughout the world. Many colorful illustrations too! Published by The Naturist Society of Oshkosh, Wisconsin

Midwest Sunbathing Association
(serving Ontario, Canada, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, Tennessee, Wisconsin)

North American Guide to Nude Recreation
Approximately 250 nudist clubs, resorts, and beaches most popular with skinny dippers are described with comprehensive detail. Includes listings of amenities available as well as helpful directions and beautiful illustrations. Available from the American Association for Nude Recreation, based in Kissimmee, Florida.

Nude & Natural (“N”) Magazine

A quarterly publication produced by the Naturist Society of Oshkosh, Wisc. (see *The Naturist Society, following*) Includes updates on, and directions to, public skinny-dipping spots as well as news and political information of interest to the clothes-optional community.

The Naturist Action Committee (NAC), affiliated with The Naturist Society. NAC works to advance and protect naturism from legal threats.

The Naturist Society
P.O. Box 132
Oshkosh, WI 54902
<http://www.naturist.com>

A group with thousands of members who enjoy clothing optional recreation. Dedicated to preserving and expanding opportunities for nude recreation on public lands.

Northwest Nudist Association
(serving Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, Wyoming)

South Florida Free Beaches
c/o Shirley Mason
1316 NE 105 St., Suite 104
Miami Shores, FL 33138

Southwestern Sunbathing Association
(serving Oklahoma and Texas)

Western Canadian Association for Nude Recreation
(serving Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan)

Western Sunbathing Association
(serving Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Nevada, New Mexico, and Utah)

Notes



“ . . . 70 PERCENT OF
AMERICANS BELIEVE
THERE SHOULD BE
PLACES SET ASIDE FOR
ENJOYING NUDE
RECREATION WITHIN
YOUR PARKS . . . ”



CURRENT PATTERNS

of

CLOTHING **OPTIONAL**

**Use at Federal
Recreation Areas**



California

A. Saline Valley Warm Springs Death Valley (BLM—now part of the new Desert National Preserve)



Prominent advisory signs. Management also relies on long established tradition and local knowledge. This long established area is listed here as just one example of dozens of such springs locations in the western United

States which are commonly used by nude visitors.

Florida



B. Haulover Nude Beach Dade County, Florida

An entrance sign to Haulover nude beach in Dade County Florida. The July 19, 1995 issue of *The Wall Street Journal* noted that parking revenues at the beach “quadrupled” after it became clothing optional. Hotel occupancy in the area jumped a substantial 17 percent.

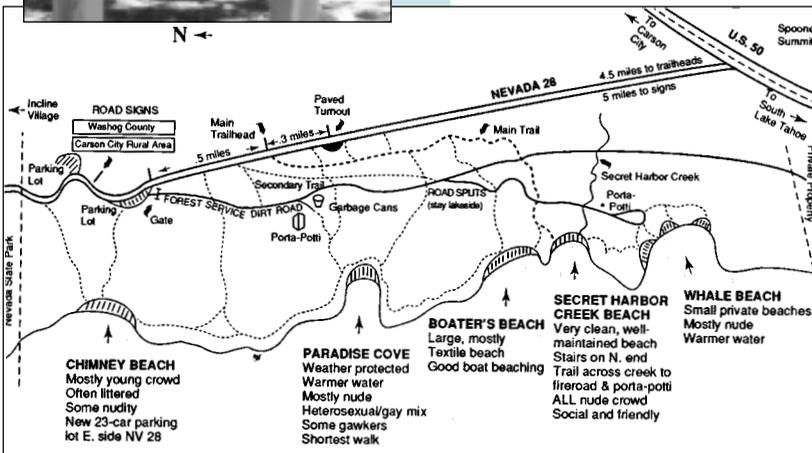
Nevada



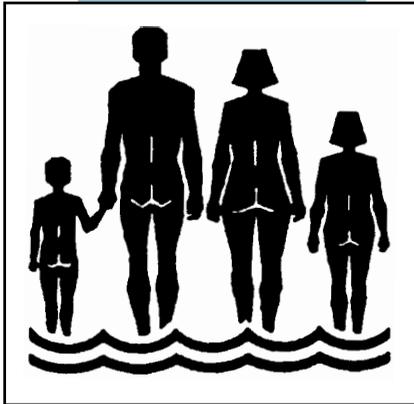
C. Secret and Paradise Beaches Lake Tahoe (USFS—Greater Tahoe Basin Management Unit)

Advisory signs are located on access trails that are well-marked and maintained. An excellent cooperative working relationship has developed between clothing optional users and National Forest officials.

Forest Service management emphasizes that great care was taken in the choice of the exact wording of the signs. Recreational Forester Don Lane explains that the advisory is intended as an aid to the public and not a designation of nude use areas. (Telephone interview April 21, 1995.) The signs have been used for about two years and, according to Lane, seem to be serving their purpose.



New York



D. International sign for approaching a naturist beach.



E. Fire Island National Seashore (NPS)

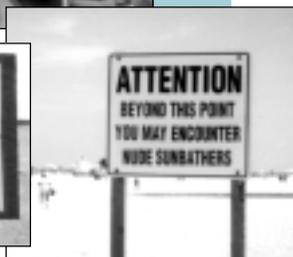
Advisory signs are used at Lighthouse Beach. Clothing optional area is near other heavily used attractions. Signs and other ranger-delivered advisories appear to minimize conflict. There are other areas of clothing optional use within the Seashore and on the adjacent state park lands. Additional advisory signs are in the process of being added. There seems to be agreement among Seashore management and various user groups, both clothed and unclothed, that signage is critical to the successful accommodation of all visitors.

New York/New Jersey



F. Gateway National Recreation Area (NPS)
Gunnison Beach

Advisory signs have been used for more than two years. Beach is adjacent to other heavily used beaches with little conflict. Nude beach has full provision of support services including lifeguard services, restrooms, trash receptacles, concessions, parking and good access.



American Association for Nude Recreation



Representing Clubs, Resorts and
RV Campgrounds throughout the
US and Canada.

800-TRY-NUDE

(800-879-6833)

visit our website: aanr.com

1703 North Main Street, Kissimmee, Florida 34744

Support Clothing-Optional Beaches

**A few simple rules keep the beach
safe and fun for all visitors!**

1. Respect wildlife and environmentally fragile areas.
2. Keep the beach clean. Take more trash out than you brought in.
3. Dress before leaving designated clothing-optional use areas.
4. Obey parking regulations, local laws and posted rules.
5. Respect yourself and others. Illegal or sexual behavior will not be tolerated.
6. Be polite to everyone. Inform others of proper etiquette.
7. ALWAYS get permission before taking photographs.

Have a great stay!

Nature friendly • Biodegradable

G. AANR beach card

contact:

American Association for
Nude Recreation

1703 North Main Street

Kissimmee, Florida 34744-3396

800/TRY-NUDE

www.aanr.com