

**CSUS 476**  
**Natural Resource Recreation Management**

Fall 2020 – Online (Synchronous)  
Mon. and Wed. 5:00 – 6:20 pm + 1 hours arranged  
4.0 credit hours

**Instructor:** John Paskus  
**Office:** 311A Natural Resources Bldg.  
**Phone:** NA  
**Email:** [paskusjr@msu.edu](mailto:paskusjr@msu.edu)

**Office Hours**

Office hours will be by appointment during normal business hours. Please feel free send me an email and set up a meeting time to discuss any questions you may have about the course, course content, readings, projects, natural resource career paths, or really anything related to natural resource management.

**Communications**

My goal is to reply to all emails within 24 hours during normal weekly business hours. However, there may be times due to extenuating circumstances when I am unable to meet that expectation.

**MSU Catalog Description**

Natural resource recreation management principles, tools and models. Applications to trail, camping, watercraft and dispersed recreation settings. Security of visitors, resources and facilities. Case studies and integrated problem solving.

**Introduction/Overview**

Natural resource-based recreation is an integral part of our society and culture. It is a potent economic, ecological, political and social force in directing the management of public and private lands and influencing the environment. It involves the public, non-profit and commercial sectors of our society. It requires knowledge in both natural and social science and the ability to use that knowledge to plan for the future and manage people, facilities and resources. Sustaining the productive capability of the environment, while meeting the recreational and other needs of current and future generations, is the on-going challenge of natural resource recreation managers.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, content for this course will be delivered entirely online via D2L and Zoom Meetings. In addition, Students are required to participate in two outdoor course related activities. The first requirement is to volunteer approximately 6 hours of your time to assist park staff with some type of park improvement activity (described below). The second requirement is to work individually or in a group (depending on circumstances) to complete an evaluation of an outdoor recreation facility/opportunity of your choice (with approval from the instructor). See below for more details.

**Purpose of Course**

The purpose of this course is to prepare students to solve problems and identify opportunities associated with outdoor recreation. This course will cover a variety of outdoor recreation types, such as hiking, snowmobiling, camping and kayaking, as well as a range of venues including state parks, local parks, and stand-alone linear trail systems.

## **Learning Objectives**

**Students who complete this course will be able to:**

1. Understand foundations and practice of sustainable natural resource recreation management.
2. Create, deploy and evaluate plans for management of trails, camping areas, water-based recreation and dispersed recreation based on best management practices.
3. Understand and use visitor, facility and resource management models, techniques, tools and approaches that focus on accountability, security and sustainability.
4. Implement sustainable management practices in an on-site project benefiting public natural resource recreation in the Mid-Michigan area.
5. Integrate critical thinking, systems thinking, ecological literacy and leadership through their use of initiative and practical skills in multiple public sector field projects.
6. Evaluate public provision of natural resource recreation opportunities based on best management practices and suggest feasible improvements.

## **Prerequisites**

CSUS 276 (Sustaining our National Parks and Recreation Lands), or FOR 101 (Michigan's Forests) or FOR 202 (Introduction to Forestry) or FW 101 (Fundamentals of Fisheries and Wildlife) AND completion of the Tier I writing requirement.

## **Online Course Methods**

Due to the Covid-19 situation, this course will be taught completely online. It will be delivered online through the course management system and you will need your MSU NetID to login to the course from the D2L homepage (<http://d2l.msu.edu>). In D2L, you will access online lessons, course materials, and additional resources.

This course will be synchronous, and all lectures will be delivered live via Zoom meetings. Zoom meetings will consist of powerpoints, discussions, breakout groups, and student presentations.

## **Zoom Meeting Information**

We will hold Zoom meetings at the scheduled class time (5:00-6:20 pm on MW) for the course lecture, group work, and Q&A. Here is the Meeting Information for the course:

Zoom Link: <https://msu.zoom.us/j/92852681862?pwd=dkpWWStWSlcxSjRVVWkZ2RXM1QUJvdz09>

Meeting ID: 928 5268 1862

Passcode: Parks

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 646 876 9923 US (New York)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

## Zoom Technical Assistance

- Visit the Zoom support site at <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us>

## D2L Technical Assistance

If you need technical assistance at any time during the course or to report a problem you can:

- Visit the MSU Help site at <http://help.msu.edu>
- Visit the Desire2Learn Help Site at <http://help.d2l.msu.edu>
- Call the MSU IT Service Desk at (517)432-6200, (844)678-6200, or e-mail at [ithelp@msu.edu](mailto:ithelp@msu.edu)

## MSU Academic Support Services

- Writing Center: <https://writing.msu.edu/>
- Math Learning Center: <https://math.msu.edu/mlc/>
- Neighborhood Engagement Center: <https://nssc.msu.edu/>
- MSU Libraries: <https://lib.msu.edu/>

## Complete Assignments

Assignments for this course will be submitted electronically through **D2L** unless otherwise instructed. Assignments must be submitted by the given deadline or special permission must be requested from instructor before the due date. Extensions will not be given beyond the next assignment except under extreme circumstances. All discussion assignments must be completed by the assignment due date and time. Late or missing discussion assignments will affect your grade.

## Text

All readings are web based and links are provided on the CSUS 476 FS20 Class Calendar. This provides students considerable financial savings and the most current content, but it also requires responsibility on the part of the student. **Students need to be prepared for class by reading/reviewing all assigned documents/articles before class. Materials include agency manuals, video clips and research reports.**

## Exams

There will be 2 examinations; a mid-term and a final. They will contain a variety of essay, multiple choice, true/false and matching questions. They are listed in the class schedule. Each will cover lecture, readings, videos, field assignments and site visits, class discussion and presentations.

## Field Work Days

This required activity is focused on park improvement. Regardless of which project you choose to work on, all of them will involve significant physical labor and the use of hand tools to physically improve the park of your choice. Remember to wear long pants, work shoes/boots and bring insect repellent, water, etc. so you will be comfortable, hydrated and not as likely to be exposed to poison ivy. **No flip flops, shorts, etc.** You will be working with park personnel and other volunteers for a total of 6 hours. The location, type of volunteer work and date and times will be up to you.

I am working with several local Park agencies to identify opportunities for you to work in small groups using Covid-19 safety protocols. I will announce these opportunities when they become solidified and post them on D2L via a google document so each of you can sign up for the one that works best for you. If those don't work for some reason, here are some additional opportunities to look into.

- MDNR. [https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-350-79137\\_79767---.00.html](https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-350-79137_79767---.00.html)

- Huron-Clinton MetroParks: <https://www.metroparks.com/get-involved/about-natural-resources/volunteering-with-natural-resources/>

For those students that aren't located in the East Lansing area this semester, please explore other options close to home including: County Parks, Township Parks, City Parks, and Land Conservancy preserves that are open to the public. **Once you've decided on a field day option, please contact me about your choice.**

At your chosen location all students will:

1. Evaluate existing conditions (prior to your work)
2. Assess the management changes you were involved in implementing
3. Identify feasible future monitoring at the project site.

Each student or team will share their experience with the rest of the class via the media of their choice (power point, video, etc.). The presentation should be 5-10 minutes with a few minutes of Q&A. It should include the 3 points listed above and images or videos documenting your participation.

### **Outdoor Recreation Evaluation Project**

This activity will be done either individually or in a team of 3-5 people. Since we are still dealing with Covid-19 and the University has encouraged students to stay home, the instructor will try and place students in teams of 3-5 people based on where they currently reside. Each individual or team will then choose their project location. Michigan is blessed with a wide array of public and private natural resource-based recreation options. The public options include state and local parks, state game, wildlife, research and recreation areas, public water access sites and non-motorized trail corridors. There are also commercial/non-profit natural resource venues such as commercial campgrounds, youth camps, shooting preserves, watercraft liveries, etc. After selecting a specific venue (for private sector must get permission from their management) and receiving approval in writing from the instructor, in a power point presentation of 12-15 slides taking 10-15 minutes with 5 minutes for Q & A, **the student team will examine one of the five sets (your choice) of facilities/opportunities listed below:**

1. Day use waterfront/beach/boat launch
2. Family and organization campgrounds
3. Dispersed recreation opportunities (shore/pier fishing, nature observation, hunting)
4. Day use/non-waterfront facilities (shelters, picnic areas, sports fields, playgrounds)
5. Visitor comfort/need facilities (restrooms, parking, drinking fountains, signage, road network)

*Be sure to review the rules regarding each facility/opportunity area in your examination (e.g. is hunting legal or not allowed, etc. at the site). The site **cannot** be one where any group member did their Field Work Day project.*

Requirements of the Project:

1. Describe the site, its managing organization, their mission statement and the approximate level of annual site visitations.
2. Describe the set of facilities/opportunities chosen
3. Document your description photographically
4. Identify and document **two** key management challenges that need to be improved for the site to better achieve the mission statement for the facility/opportunity set chosen. Base your selection on readings from the literature (including materials from this course and other sources), lecture and other knowledge such as that gained from work experience, recreational experience, other courses, etc.
5. Provide one or more specific management recommendations based on best management practices for each of the two challenges identified.

6. Prioritize your proposed management actions, and explain rationale for your priority ranking.
7. Provide cost estimates for each management recommendation based on the best information available. Be realistic and look to get things done efficiently. Think of the size/budget of the managing entity in your proposals (i.e., don't propose million dollar projects for small organizations).

Note that for this assignment there are likely to be right and wrong approaches to improving site conditions.

### Grading

<u>Assignments</u>	<u>Points</u>
Video Introduction	5
Discussion Thread	30
Field Work Day(s)	50
Evaluation Project	100
First Exam	100
Second Exam	100
Peer Evaluation	15
Total Points	400

### Grading Scale

<i>Grade Point</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Points</i>	<i>Performance</i>
4.0	≥90.0%	360 - 400	Excellent Work
3.5	85% - 89.95%	340 - 359	Above average
3.0	80% - 84.95%	320 - 339	Good Work
2.5	75% - 79.95%	300 - 319	Mostly Good Work
2.0	70% - 74.95%	280 - 299	Average work
1.5	65% - 69.95%	260 - 279	Below average work
1.0	< 60%	240 - 259	Poor work
0		< 240	Failing work

### Course Schedule FS20

This is a 4 credit course with 3 class hours per week plus an additional 1 hour per week arranged. Those arranged hours (which add up to 15) are met by your field work day(s) and park evaluation project.

- 9/2 Introductions, Course Syllabus, Field Work Days, Student Career Goals and Natural Recreation Experiences
- 9/9 Overview of Outdoor Recreation Paradigms and Trends: types and classifications of outdoor recreation, and trends of outdoor recreation in the US.

- 9/14 Limiting Negative Environmental Impacts of Recreation with Best Management Practices to Protect Soil and Water  
[https://www.michigan.gov/documents/dnr/IC4011\\_SustainableSoilAndWaterQualityPracticesOnForestLand\\_268417\\_7.pdf](https://www.michigan.gov/documents/dnr/IC4011_SustainableSoilAndWaterQualityPracticesOnForestLand_268417_7.pdf) (Read only chap 5-7 on pages 8-32 + Appendices A and E)
- 9/16 Non-Motorized Trails: Hiking, Mountain Biking, Horseback Riding and X-C Skiing (*Building Mountain Bike Trails: Sustainable Singletrack DVD; Introduction to Mechanized Trail Equipment DVD*)  
[http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/recreational\\_trails/publications/fs\\_publications/07232806/](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/recreational_trails/publications/fs_publications/07232806/)  
 Please read the **whole thing** as this will be critical on Exam 1 and for your work day.
- 9/21 Non-Motorized Trails: Hiking, Mountain Biking, Horseback Riding and X-C Skiing (*Building Mountain Bike Trails: Sustainable Singletrack DVD; Introduction to Mechanized Trail Equipment DVD*)  
[http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/recreational\\_trails/publications/fs\\_publications/07232806/](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/recreational_trails/publications/fs_publications/07232806/)  
 Please read the **whole thing** as this will be critical on Exam 1 and for your work day.
- 9/23 Guest Speaker Dakota Hewlett, MI DNR Trails Specialist and SPRT alum on Non-Motorized Trail Management in Michigan and Trail Careers
- 9/28 Rail-Trail Maintenance and Management
- 9/30 Managing Fire in Natural Resource Recreation Settings (*Fire Wars DVD- 120 min.*)  
<https://www.nwcg.gov/sites/default/files/publications/pms210.pdf> (Pages 1-39)  
<https://www.nwcg.gov/sites/default/files/publications/pms461.pdf> (Pages 1-19)
- 10/5 Managing Fire in Natural Resource Recreation Settings (*Fire Wars DVD- 120 min.*)  
<https://www.nwcg.gov/sites/default/files/publications/pms210.pdf> (Pages 1-39)  
<https://www.nwcg.gov/sites/default/files/publications/pms461.pdf> (Pages 1-19)
- 10/7 Assessing NR Recreation Use and Users in Dispersed and Developed Recreation Handout
- 10/12 Assessing NR Recreation Use and Users in Dispersed and Developed Recreation Handout
- 10/14 Student Fieldwork Experience Presentations (half the class)
- 10/19 Student Fieldwork Experience Presentations (other half of the class)
- 10/21 Review for Exam 1
- 10/26 Exam 1**
- 10/28 Understanding Maintenance  
 Managing Camping
- 11/2 Understanding Maintenance  
 Managing Camping
- 11/4 Managing Waterway Based Recreation

- (*Construction Techniques for Recreational Boating Access Facilities DVD*)  
<http://www.sobaus.org/documents/NASBLAWaterWayManagement.pdf> (pgs 9-47)  
<https://focus.nps.gov/RTCA/AssetDetail/86bb0d45-8417-4904-97ae-771c8eba5a42> (pages 4-15)
- 11/9 Managing Waterway Based Recreation  
 (*Construction Techniques for Recreational Boating Access Facilities DVD*)  
<http://www.sobaus.org/documents/NASBLAWaterWayManagement.pdf> (pgs 9-47)  
<https://focus.nps.gov/RTCA/AssetDetail/86bb0d45-8417-4904-97ae-771c8eba5a42> (pages 4-15)
- 11/11 Managing Motorized Trails: Off-Road Vehicles  
 (*Trail Planning, Monitoring, Maintenance and Signing DVD*)  
[http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dnr/ORV2010ReportFinal\\_327707\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dnr/ORV2010ReportFinal_327707_7.pdf). (pages 1-9)
- 11/16 Managing Motorized Trails: Snowmobiling  
[http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dnr/SNOWMOBILE-RPT\\_322022\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dnr/SNOWMOBILE-RPT_322022_7.pdf).  
 (pages 3-8); [http://www.snowmobilers.org/groomer\\_guide/GroomerGuidePart1.pdf](http://www.snowmobilers.org/groomer_guide/GroomerGuidePart1.pdf). (pgs. 1-22)
- 11/18 Philosophy and Practice of Security and Law Enforcement in NR Recreation (Guest Lecture with Dr. Charles Nelson).
- 11/23 Philosophy and Practice of Security and Law Enforcement in NR Recreation
- 11/25 No Class (day before Thanksgiving)
- 11/30 Funding for Parks and Recreation: MNRTF, LWCF, Passport grants, local millages/bonds. Guest Lecture with Andrea Stay or Jon Mayes of the MDNR Grants Section.
- 12/2 Student Evaluation presentations (first group)
- 12/7 Student Evaluation presentations (second group)
- 12/9 Review for Final Exam
- 12/18 Exam 2 (10am - 12 pm)**

**Important Dates:**

Wednesday, 9/2 – first day of class  
 Monday, 9/7 – Memorial Day (No Class)  
 Exam 1, 10/26  
 Wednesday, 11/25 – No Class  
 Exam 2, 12/18, 10am – 12 pm

**Important MSU Policies/Resources**

**Bereavement Policy**

Michigan State University is committed to ensuring that the bereavement process of a student who loses a family member during a semester does not put the student at an academic disadvantage in their classes. If you require a grief absence, you should complete the “Grief Absence Request” web form (<https://www.reg.msu.edu/sitemap.aspx?Group=7>) no later than one week after knowledge of the

circumstance. I will work with you to make appropriate accommodations so that you are not penalized due to a verified grief absence.

### **Diversity Equity and Inclusiveness**

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion are important, interdependent components of everyday life in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources (CANR) and are critical to our pursuit of academic excellence. Our aim is to foster a culture where every member of CANR feels valued, supported and inspired to achieve individual and common goals with an uncommon will. This includes providing opportunity and access for all people across differences of race, age, color, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, religion, national origin, migratory status, disability / abilities, political affiliation, veteran status and socioeconomic background. (See the full CANR statement: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/canr-statement-on-diversity-equity-and-inclusion>)

### **Inform Your Instructor of Any Accommodations Needed**

From the Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities (RCPD): Michigan State University is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all programs, services and activities. Requests for accommodations by persons with disabilities may be made by contacting the Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities at 517-884-RCPD or on the web at [rcpd.msu.edu](http://rcpd.msu.edu). Once your eligibility for an accommodation has been determined, you will be issued a Verified Individual Services Accommodation ("VISA") form. Please present this form to me at the start of the term and/or two weeks prior to the accommodation date (test, project, etc.). Requests received after this date may not be honored.

### **Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities (RCPD)**

To make an appointment with a specialist, contact: (517) 353-9642 or TTY: (517) 355-1293  
Web site for RCPD: <http://MYProfile.rcpd.msu.edu>

### **Participation and Engagement**

During all classes, the instructor expects students to be fully engaged and prepared to discuss reading assignments. Students are encouraged to ask questions of the instructor, guest speakers, and their peers.

Active participation includes, but is not limited to, the following behaviors:

1. Asking and answering questions of the instructor, peers, or guest speakers
2. Bringing forth new ideas, information, or perspectives to academic conversations
3. Discussing your readings and reflections with instructor and peers
4. Meeting with the instructors to discuss your interests, assignments, or project
5. Questioning information presented and discussed
6. Participating in small group discussions and activities
7. Assuming responsibility for personal behavior and learning

While working on group projects, students should be mindful of other students in their group; therefore, it is important for all participants to exercise:

- Respect for themselves and each other
- Openness and a positive attitude toward new ideas and other's ideas
- Flexibility and tolerance of ambiguity
- Good communications amongst themselves

## Netiquette

Please review the Michigan State University document located via the link below regarding appropriate behavior and expectations while learning in an online classroom.

<https://systemexchange.msu.edu/upload/Netiquette%20Internet%20Guidelines.pdf>

## Sexual Misconduct

MSU is committed to fostering a safe, productive learning environment. Title IX and MSU's policy prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex. Sexual misconduct — including harassment, domestic and dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking — is also prohibited at our school.

MSU encourages anyone experiencing sexual misconduct to talk to someone about what happened, so they can get the support they need and our school can respond appropriately. If you wish to speak confidentially about an incident of sexual misconduct, want more information about filing a report, or

have questions about school policies and procedures, please contact our Title IX Coordinator, which can be found on our school's website.

Our school is legally obligated to investigate reports of sexual misconduct, and therefore it cannot guarantee the confidentiality of a report, but it will consider a request for confidentiality and respect it to the extent possible.

As a teacher, **I am required to report incidents** of sexual misconduct and thus cannot guarantee confidentiality. I must provide our Title IX coordinator with relevant details such as the names of those involved in the incident. <https://civilrights.msu.edu/>.

## Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Michigan State University is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all programs, services and activities. Requests for accommodations by persons with disabilities may be made by contacting the Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities at 517 -884-RCPD or on the web at [rcpd.msu.edu](http://rcpd.msu.edu). Once your eligibility for an accommodation has been determined, you will be issued a Verified Individual Services Accommodation ("VISA") form. Please present this form to an instructor during the second week of class and/or two weeks prior to the accommodation date (i.e., test, project, etc.). Requests received after this date may not be honored.

## Mental Health

College students often experience issues that may interfere with academic success such as academic stress, sleep problems, juggling responsibilities, life events, relationship concerns, or feelings of anxiety, hopelessness, or depression. If you or a friend is struggling, we strongly encourage you to seek support. Helpful, effective resources are available on campus, and most are free of charge.

- Drop by Counseling & Psychiatric Services (CAPS) main location (3rd floor of Olin Health Center) for a same-day mental health screening.
- Visit <https://caps.msu.edu> for online health assessments, hours, and additional CAPS services.
- Call CAPS at **(517) 355-8270** any time, day or night.
- 24-Hour MSU Sexual Assault Crisis Line **(517) 372-6666** or visit <https://centerforsurvivors.msu.edu/>

## **Spartan Code of Honor Pledge**

*“As a Spartan, I will strive to uphold values of the highest ethical standard. I will practice honesty in my work, foster honesty in my peers, and take pride in knowing that honor in ownership is worth more than grades. I will carry these values beyond my time as a student at Michigan State University, continuing the endeavor to build personal integrity in all that I do.”*

## **Academic Integrity**

[Article 2.III.B.2](#) of the Academic Freedom Report states: “The student shares with the faculty the responsibility for maintaining the integrity of scholarship, grades, and professional standards.” In addition, the Department of Sustainability adheres to the policies on academic honesty specified in General Student Regulation 1.0, [Protection of Scholarship and Grades](#); the all-University Policy on [Integrity of Scholarship and Grades](#); and [Ordinance 17.00](#), Examinations. Therefore, unless authorized by your instructor, you are expected to complete all course assignments, including homework, tests and exams, without assistance from any source. You are expected to develop original work for this course; therefore, you may not submit course work you completed for another course to satisfy the requirements for this course. Also, you are not authorized to use the [www.allmsu.com](http://www.allmsu.com) Web site to complete any course work in this course. Students who violate MSU regulations on Protection of Scholarship and Grades will receive a failing grade in the course or on the assignment.

Instances of plagiarism constitute academic dishonesty and will result in a grade of zero for the assignment in which plagiarism occurs. See <https://www.msu.edu/unit/ombud/academic-integrity/plagiarism-policy.html> for a definition and discussion of plagiarism.

Faculty are required to report all instances in which a penalty grade is given for academic dishonesty. Students reported for academic dishonesty are required to take an online course about the integrity of scholarship and grades. A hold will be placed on the student's account until such time as the student completes the course. This course is overseen by the Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education.