



Paradise Recreation & Park District

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BACKGROUND:

Healing Trauma through Nature (HTTN) is a new program being developed in response to the traumatic effect of the Camp Fire on those residing in the service area of the Paradise Park and Recreation District (PPRD). The HTTN program will support partnerships and training to help organizations provide therapeutic outdoor experiences designed to help heal residents of the District in Paradise, Concow, Yankee Hill, Magalia and Butte Canyon. Paradise Recreation and Park District, in conjunction with our partner organizations, is ready to promote nature-based recreation programs under the umbrella of the HTTN program.

The Butte County Office of Education (BCOE) identified intense psychological, emotional and physical needs of children and their teachers, that must be addressed before healing can occur. For this reason, the initial HTTN program will focus primarily on youth, K-University, and their teachers.

BCOE trauma specialists and educators identified the specific needs of Camp Fire trauma victims and will help inform the development of the HTTN program to ensure the outdoor experiences meet both general and specific needs. The most recent research in the field of outdoor and experiential learning shows that outdoor learning and recreation experiences can help heal trauma and improve classroom outcomes.

PPRD is the lead organization in developing and facilitating the HTTN program, but works in collaboration with numerous community partners, including:

- Butte County Office of Education (BCOE)
- Outdoor Education for All (OEFA)
- CSU Chico Ecological Reserves
- Odyssey Teams, Youth Programs
- Feather River Center

GOALS OF THE HEALING TRAUMA THROUGH NATURE PROGRAM

1. Convene and coordinate outdoor experience Providers in Butte County (at least 50 organizations from a wide variety of related outdoor and wellness fields), educators (K through University), and professionals working in the fields of mental health.
2. Expand outdoor experiences for students, teachers and families impacted by the Camp Fire based on "trauma based instruction" and "social and emotional learning" concepts.
3. Host Professional Development workshops for Providers and Educators based on those concepts.
4. Seek and develop various funding sources to sustain the HTTN partnership into the future. PPRD envisions providing capacity to this work by serving as a "backbone organization" to coordinate partnerships to provide healing for the Camp Fire impacted communities in our District.

The focus for this program is to help youth recover from the trauma of the Camp Fire through the healing powers of nature. In working collaboratively with our numerous partners, it is our shared goal to develop the "wrap around" services that are required to reach the deep levels of healing that are so desperately needed. PPRD and the Partnership Group strongly believe, and wish to demonstrate, that outdoor experiences are an essential component of an holistic approach to healing mental, emotional, physical and spiritual injuries. As we begin to heal the children, we know that their parents, teachers and others who care for them are likely to benefit as well.

IMPORTANCE OF HTTN PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

PRPD has a proven track record of building partnerships to expand outdoor education and recreation opportunities. In June 2019, PPRD held an inaugural community forum, that convened approximately 70 community organizations to discuss how they provide support services for Camp Fire victims. No single organization can adequately deliver the wide variety of services needed to most effectively address the deep traumas experienced by the populations for whom this HTTN program is designed. It's understood that by convening and activating a network of established organizations under an overarching HTTN umbrella, we can direct the children and families in need to the programs that will benefit them most. PRPD and our HTTN partners are working cross functionally in order to minimize response time, streamline efforts, and more effectively deliver these important programs.

SCOPE OF WORK FOR THE HEALING TRAUMA THROUGH NATURE PROGRAM SPECIALIST

The HTTN Program Specialist will administer of the North Valley Community Foundation Grant under the supervision of Paradise Recreation and Parks District.

Duties include:

- Provide regular updates and progress reports to the HTTN Steering Committee about provider trainings and events.
- Broker new, and manage existing, partnerships.
- Update the HTTN media presence and conduct community outreach, facilitate meetings, publish brochure.
- Produce quarterly newsletters for program partners.
- Maintain the program providers database with their associated programs, contact information, and calendar of events.
- Gather data on provider activities, number of school field trips, professional development offerings, etc.
- Convene HTTN partners twice annually for updates, planning and training.
- Contribute to reporting to the North Valley Community Foundation on the status of the HTTN program and progress related to the NVCF grant to support the HTTN program.
- Support program development and professional development trainings.
- Define funding sources and draft grant proposals, for ongoing funding.
- Gain working knowledge of statewide initiatives in Environmental Education, including implementation of the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), and Environmental Principles and Concepts (EP&Cs).