

Nicholas Pitas, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Park and Recreation Management
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

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EDUCATION

- 2021 Graduate certificate**
 State University of New York, College of Environmental Science and Forestry
 Environmental Leadership
- 2018 Postdoctoral fellowship**
 Pennsylvania State University, State College, Pennsylvania
 Recreation, Park, and Tourism Management
- 2017 Ph.D.** Pennsylvania State University, State College, Pennsylvania
 Recreation, Park, and Tourism Management
 Dissertation: *Public and private funding for local public park and recreation services: Attitudes, ideologies, and values*. Chair: Dr. Andrew J. Mowen
- 2012 M.S.** University of New Hampshire, Durham, New Hampshire
 Recreation Management and Policy (Program Planning)
 Thesis: *Exploring the parent-coach and child athlete relationship in the recreational sport context*. Chair: Dr. Christopher Harrist
- 2010 B.S.** American University, Washington, D.C.
 Health Promotion (minors in Environmental Science, Economics)
 Honors Chair: Dr. Anastasia Snelling

ACADEMIC WORK EXPERIENCE

- 08/2022-Present:** Assistant professor, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Department of Recreation, Sport and Tourism Management.
- 08/2018-08/2022:** Assistant professor, State University of New York (SUNY) College at Brockport, Department of Recreation and Leisure Studies.
- 08/2017-08/2018:** Postdoctoral fellow, Penn State University, Recreation, Park, and Tourism Management.

08/2014-07/2017: Graduate research and teaching assistant, Penn State University, Recreation, Park, and Tourism Management.

08/2011-12/2012: Graduate assistant, University of New Hampshire, Recreation Management and Policy.

SELECT ACADEMIC AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

08/2022-Present: Member, Undergraduate Committee, Recreation, Department of Sport and Tourism, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

07/2021-Present: Member, National Recreation and Park Association, Economic Impact Research Advisory Panel.

09/2017-Present: Associate editor and reviewer, *Journal of Leisure Research*.

08/2017-Present: Associate editor and reviewer, *Journal of Park and Recreation Administration*.

01/2018-Present: Editor, newsletter, Academy of Leisure Sciences.

08/2022-01/2023: Search Committee Chair, Special Events Management, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

01/2021-08/2022: Member, Cornell Cooperative Extension Monroe County, Agricultural Advisory Group.

08/2019-08/2022: Co-chair, institutional review board, SUNY College at Brockport.

09/2019-08/2022: Member, sustainability committee, SUNY College at Brockport.

09/2019-08/2022: Department representative, college senate, SUNY College at Brockport.

2014: Member, sustainability committee, University of Louisville.

PUBLICATIONS/PRESENTATIONS (* denotes student collaborator)

Peer-Reviewed Publications (information on manuscripts in-review available on request)

Pitas, N. A., Powers, S., McCabe, M., Barrett, A., Morrissey, T., & Palladino, D. (accepted). An evaluation of the NRPA Youth Sports and Play Grant. *Journal of Recreation and Park Administration*.

Powers, S., Pitas, N.A., & Mowen, A. (accepted). Critical consciousness of systemic racism in parks among park agency directors and policymakers. *Society and Natural Resources*.

- Pitas, N. A., Antwi, G., Haines, S., & Banerjee, P. (accepted). Student retention: An integrated application of the theory of planned behavior and the campus social environment. *Journal of College Student Retention: Research, Theory & Practice*.
- Pitas, N. A. (online first). Leisure in the garden of forking paths. *Leisure Sciences*.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/01490400.2023.2239232>
- Mullenbach, L., Pitas, N. A., & Hickerson, B. (online first). The role of social contact in public perceptions of homelessness in parks and public spaces. *International Journal of Public Administration*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01900692.2023.2208775>
- Kim, J., Lee, Y., Kil, N., Pitas, N. A., & Hwang, S. (online first). Exploring the relationships across recreation specialization, leisure satisfaction, and happiness: The case of Korean hikers. *Leisure Sciences*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01490400.2023.2197901>
- Pitas, N. A., & Mowen, A. J. (online first). Support for neoliberal conservation strategies in state park and recreation service delivery: Privatization, trust, and place attachment. *Society and Natural Resources*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/08941920.2023.2199698>
- Pitas, N. A., & Young, C.E. (online first). The moral status of leisure in a world with ongoing moral catastrophe. *Leisure Sciences*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01490400.2022.2164096>
- Zou, S., & Pitas, N. A. (online first). “Me” vs. “we”: Value-oriented fee increase justification messaging in the context of resource-intensive public recreation facilities. *Leisure Sciences*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01490400.2022.2036654>
- Pitas, N. A., & Zou, S. (2023). Consumer confidence and recreation behavior: Willingness to buy and attitudes towards a proposed recreation user fee increase. *Society and Natural Resources*, 36(5), 497-512. <https://doi.org/10.1080/08941920.2023.2175286>
- Pitas, N. A., Kerins, A., Zou, S., & Jaquet, I.* (2023). A case study of a successful park and open space voter referendum. *Journal of Park and Recreation Administration*, 41(3), 30-40. <https://doi.org/10.18666/JPRA-2022-11555>
- Pitas, N. A., Mullenbach, L., & Hickerson, B. (2023). Public attitudes towards park and recreation agency actions to support people experiencing homelessness. *Journal of Park and Recreation Administration*, 41(2), 129-139. <https://doi.org/10.18666/JPRA-2023-11725>
- Zou, S., Pitas, N. A., Kerins, A., Wuellner, M., & Jaquet, I.* (2023). Voting yes for funding public parks: The effectiveness of social media communication in a tax referendum campaign. *Journal of Park and Recreation Administration*, 41(1), 52-68. <https://doi.org/10.18666/JPRA-2022-11551>

- Pitas, N. A., & Chen, Y. L. (2023). Go pick me out a winner: Visitor perceptions and priorities regarding operational attributes at U-pick farms in Western New York. *Journal of Extension*, 61(1), Article 12. <https://doi.org/10.34068/joe.61.01.12>
- Kim, J., Baker, B., Pitas, N. A., Benfield, J., Hickerson, B., & Mowen, J. (2023). Perceived ownership of urban parks: The role of the social environment. *Journal of Leisure Research*, 54(1), 72-88. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00222216.2022.2066491>
- Pitas, N. A., Gebhart, K. K., Hickerson, B., & Roehl, W. (2023). Implications of the Great Recession for higher education in leisure studies. *Scholar: A Journal of Leisure Studies & Recreation Education*, 38(1). <https://doi.org/10.1080/1937156X.2020.1850192>
- Pitas, N. A., Powers, S. L., & Mowen, A. J. (2022). Examining the Agency-Foundation Relationship in Local Park and Recreation Services. *Journal of Park and Recreation Administration*, 40(2), 1-11. <https://doi.org/10.18666/JPRA-2021-11227>
- Powers, S. L., Pitas, N. A., & Mowen, A. J. (2022). Public perceptions of local parks and recreation as an essential community service during the covid-19 pandemic. *Journal of Park and Recreation Administration*, 40(3), 159-178. <https://doi.org/10.18666/JPRA-2022-11223>
- Pitas, N. A., Powers, S. L., & Mowen, A. J. (2022). Neoliberal conservation and equity in the context of local parks and recreation: Stakeholder perceptions on public-non-profit partnerships. *Journal of Leisure Research*, 53(3), 473-491. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00222216.2021.1964927>
- Pitas, N. A., Mowen, A. J., Taff, B. D., Hickerson, B., Graefe, A. R. (2022). Values, ideologies, attitudes, and preferences for relative allocations to park and recreation services. *Leisure Sciences*, 44(6), 677-696. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01490400.2019.1656120>
- Pitas, N. A., Powers, S. L.*, & Mowen, A. J. (2021). Understanding the agency-foundation relationship: The role of nonprofit foundations in delivering local park and recreation services. *Journal of Park and Recreation Administration*, 39(4), 111-128. <https://doi.org/10.18666/JPRA-2021-10839>
- Powers, S. L.*, Pitas, N. A., Barrett, A. G., Graefe, A. R., & Mowen, A. J. (2021). Local policy-makers' community priorities and perceived contributions of parks and recreation. *Journal of Park and Recreation Administration*, 39(3), 37-54. <https://doi.org/10.18666/JPRA-2020-10295>
- Pitas, N. A., Powers, S. L.*, & Mowen, A. J. (2021). Person-place relationships, social capital, and health outcomes at a non-profit community wellness center. *Journal of Leisure Research*, 52(2), 247-264. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00222216.2020.1776652>

- Pitas, N. A., Ehmer, C. S. (2020). Social capital in the response to COVID-19. *American Journal of Health Promotion, 34*(8), 942-944. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0890117120924531>
- Pitas, N. A. (2020). Factors influencing perceived acceptability of concessioner provided services in Grand Teton National park. *Park Stewardship Forum, 36*(3), 519-528. <https://doi.org/10.5070/P536349866>
- Pitas, N. A. Agate, J., & Brott, A*. (2020). Informing decision making in extension through importance-performance analysis and the repositioning framework. *Journal of Extension, 58*(2), 1-9. <https://www.joe.org/joe/2020april/a3.php>
- Pitas, N. A., Mowen, A. J., Graefe, A. R., & Godbey, G. C. (2020). Whose park is it anyway? Americans' access to, use of, and perceived benefits from local park and recreation services between 1992 and 2015. *Journal of Park and Recreation Administration, 38*(3), 10-28. <https://doi.org/10.18666/JPRA-2019-9681>
- Powers, S. L.*, Lee, K. J., Pitas, N. A., Graefe, A. R., & Mowen, A. J. (2020). Understanding access to and use of park and recreation services through an intersectionality perspective. *Journal of Leisure Research, 51*(4), 377-396. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00222216.2019.1701965>
- Pitas, N. A., Mowen, A. J., Mueller, J. T.*, Taff, B. D., & Graefe A. R. (2020). The role of values, ideologies, and attitudes in shaping public support for privatization in local park and recreation services. *Journal of Leisure Research, 51*(1), 16-35. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00222216.2019.1604105>
- Pitas, N. A., Barrett, A. G., Taff, B. D., & Mowen, A. J. (2018). Trends in state government park and recreation expenditures and employment – 2000 to 2014. *Journal of Park and Recreation Administration, 36*(4), 107-127. <https://doi.org/10.18666/JPRA-2018-V36-I4-8516>
- Mowen, A. J., Barret, A. G., Pitas, N. A., Graefe, A. R., Taff, B. D., & Godbey, G. (2018). Americans' use and perceptions of local park and recreation services – Results from an updated study. *Journal of Park and Recreation Administration, 36*(4), 128-148. <https://doi.org/10.18666/JPRA-2018-V36-I4-8861>
- Mullenbach, L. E.*, Pitas, N. A., Walker, J., & Mowen, A. J. (2018). “It brings the community together”: Benefits from local park and recreation renovations. *Community Development, 49*(5), 487-503. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15575330.2018.1527777>
- Pitas, N. A., Mowen, A. J., Graefe, A. R., Kyle, G. (2018). Place attachment and spending preferences in a local public park system: The case of corporate sponsorship. *Journal of Leisure Research, 49*(2), 71-90. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00222216.2018.1477678>

- Pitas, N. A., Mowen, A. J., Taff, B. D., Hickerson, B., Radhakrishna, R., & Graefe, A. R. (2018). Attitude strength and structure regarding privatization of local public park and recreation services. *Journal of Park and Recreation Administration*, 36(3), 141-159. <https://doi.org/10.18666/JPRA-2018-V36-I3-8442>
- Pitas, N. A., Hickerson, B., Murray, A., & Newton, J. (2018). Repositioning undergraduate education in recreation and leisure studies. *Scholar: A Journal of Leisure Studies & Recreation Education*, 33(1), 1-11. <https://doi.org/10.1080/1937156X.2018.1440817>
- Miller, Z. D., Jorgenson, J., Nickerson, N., & Pitas, N. A. (2018). A cognitive hierarchy approach to understanding fee increases in the national parks of the United States. *Journal of Outdoor Recreation and Tourism*, 22, 18-25. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jort.2018.02.001>
- Pitas, N. A., Barrett, A. G., & Mowen, A. J. (2017). Trends in local park and recreation department finances and staffing in the early twenty-first century. *Journal of Park and Recreation Administration*, 35(3), 20-34. <https://doi.org/10.18666/JPRA-2017-V35-I3-7712>
- Barrett, A. G., Pitas, N. A., & Mowen, A. J. (2017). First in our hearts but not in our pocket books: Trends in local governmental financing for parks and recreation from 2004 to 2014. *Journal of Park and Recreation Administration*, 35(3), 1-19. <https://doi.org/10.18666/JPRA-2017-V35-I3-7674>
- Pitas, N. A., Mowen, A., Hickerson, B., Kerstetter, D., & Koerte, T. (2017). "A unifying force in the community:" Perceptions of a neighborhood park renovation. *Community Development*, 48(3), 420-435. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15575330.2017.1308958>
- Pitas, N. A., Barrett, A. G., Mowen, A. J., Graefe, A. R., Godbey, G., & Sciamanna, C. (2017). The relationship between park use, recreation program participation, and American Health: 1991, 2015. *Preventing Chronic Disease*, 14(E02), 1-5. <http://dx.doi.org/10.5888/pcd14.160441>
- Pitas, N. A., Murray, A., Olsen, M., & Graefe, A. R. (2017). A modified importance-performance framework for evaluating recreation-based experiential learning programs. *Journal of Extension*, 55(1), 1-7. <https://tigerprints.clemson.edu/joe/vol55/iss1/5>
- Shen, X., Chick, G., & Pitas, N. A. (2017). From playful parents to adaptable children: A structural equation model of the relationships between playfulness and adaptability among young adults and their parents. *International Journal of Play*, 6(3). <https://doi.org/10.1080/21594937.2017.1382983>
- Mowen, A.J., Trauntvein, N., Potwarka, L., Pitas, N. A., & Duray, N. (2016). Shifting attitudes towards corporate sponsorship of a public-sector park agency: Results from a 14-year

follow-up survey. *Journal of Park and Recreation Administration*, 34(2), 12-29.
<https://doi.org/10.18666/JPRA-2016-V34-I2-7144>

Pitas, N. A., Harrist, C., Hegarty, B., & Mowen, A. (2016). Exploring the parent-coach and child-athlete relationship in the recreational sport context. *Applied Recreation Research and Programming Annual Journal*, 6, 18-52.

Pitas, N. A., Mowen, A.J., Liechty, T., & Trauntvein, N. (2015). "Proceed with caution": Public perceptions regarding corporate sponsorship of park and recreation services. *Journal of Park and Recreation Administration*, 33(4), 1-15.

Magazine Articles

Pitas, N. A., & Powers, S. (February 17th, 2022). Blazing a trail in Bristol, Connecticut. *Parks and Recreation Magazine*.

Pitas, N. A., Powers, S., & Mowen, A. J. (October 29th, 2020). Making the most of your partnerships. *Parks and Recreation Magazine*.

Pitas, N. A., Barrett, A. G., Mowen, A. J., & Roth, K. (February 6th, 2018). The Great Recession's profound impact on parks and recreation. *Parks and Recreation Magazine*.

Professional and Technical Reports

Mowen, A. J., Powers, S. L., Pitas, N. A., & Caraynoff, A. (2023). 2022 Pennsylvania park and recreation provider study: Funding, COVID-19 impacts, and systemic racism in parks. Report prepared for the Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society.

Chen, Y. L., & Pitas, N. A. (2020). U-pick farms in the greater Rochester area: 2020 customer survey. Report prepared for Cornell Cooperative Extension of Monroe County

Pitas, N. A., Powers, S. L., & Mowen, A. J. (2020). Park and recreation agency-foundation relationships: Partnering for the future. Report prepared for the National Recreation and Park Association.

Pitas, N. A. (2020). An uneven playing field: The case for interscholastic wrestling at District of Columbia Public Schools. Report prepared for Beat the Streets, D.C.

Pitas, N. A. (2019). Visitor perceptions of concessioner services in Grand Teton National Park. Report prepared for Grand Teton National Park, Moose, WY.

Pitas, N. A., Agate, J., & Brott, A*. (2019). Town of Perinton Recreation and Parks: Evaluation of recreation center usage and satisfaction. Report prepared for the department of Recreation and Parks, Town of Perinton, NY.

Gebhart, K., & Pitas, N. A. (2018). Evaluation of strategic member communications by the National Field Hockey Coaches Association (NFHCA). Report prepared for the NFHCA.

Pitas, N. A., & Mowen, A. J. (2018). The Miller Center for Recreation and Wellness: A user study. Report prepared for the Miller Center for Recreation and Wellness, Lewisburg, PA.

Mowen, A. J., Hickerson, B., Benfield, J., Pitas, N. A., & Kim, J. (2016). A systematic evaluation of Centennial Commons: Pre-renovation study results. Report prepared for the William Penn Foundation, Philadelphia, PA.

Conference Proceedings

Pitas, N. A., & Hodge, C. (2016). Leisure repertoire and the transition from high school to college: A systematic review. *Proceedings of the Northeastern Recreation Research Symposium*.

Presentations

Pitas, N. A., Zou, S., & Mowen, A. (April 2023). *The role of consumer confidence in shaping support for park, recreation, and conservation focused ballot initiatives*. Research session presented at the 2023 International Association for Society and Natural Resources Conference, Portland, ME.

Pitas, N. A. & Mowen, A. (April 2023). *Support for privatization in state park and recreation service delivery: The role of trust and person-place-relationships*. Research session presented at the 2023 National Environment and Recreation Research Symposium, Annapolis, MD.

Powers, S., *McCabe, M., & Pitas, N. A. (April 2023). Title. Research session presented at the 2023 National Environment and Recreation Research Symposium, Annapolis, MD.

Rice, W., Powers, S., & Pitas, N. A. (April 2023). *Are you being served? Understanding the demographics of amenity usership and neighborhood visitation patterns in an urban park using mobile device location data*. Research session presented at the 2023 National Environment and Recreation Research Symposium, Annapolis, MD.

Payne, L., *Cavanaugh, D., *Fransen, M., *Russell, Z., & Pitas, N. A. (April 2023). *Not quite suburban or rural: Challenges and lessons learned in an inter-governmental collaboration for community parks and recreation planning*. Research session presented at the 2023 National Environment and Recreation Research Symposium, Annapolis, MD.

Pitas, N. A. & Zou, S. (February 2023). *The role of consumer confidence in shaping perceptions of a recreation user fee increase*. Research session presented at the 2023 TALS Conference on Teaching and Research, New Orleans, LA.

- Powers, S., Pitas, N. A., & Mowen, A. (February 2023). *Measuring park leaders' critical consciousness of systemic racism in parks: elements of distributional, procedural, and interactional environmental justice*. Research session presented at the 2023 TALS Conference on Teaching and Research, New Orleans, LA.
- Pitas, N. A., Mullenbach, L. E., & Hickerson, B. D. (April 2022). *A cognitive hierarchy approach to understanding attitudes towards homelessness in public parks*. Research session presented at the 2022 National Environment and Recreation Research Symposium, Annapolis, MD.
- Chen, Y. L., & Pitas, N. A. (April 2022). *A service quality based segmentation study of U-pick farm visitors*. Poster presented at the 2022 National Environment and Recreation Research Symposium, Annapolis, MD.
- Mullenbach, L. E., Pitas, N. A., & Hickerson, B. D. (February 2022). *The role of contact in public perceptions of homelessness in parks and public spaces*. Research session presented at the 2022 TALS Conference on Research and Teaching (virtual).
- Kerins, A., Pitas, N. A., Liu, S., Powers, S. A., & Hickerson, B. D. (February 2022). *Life preserver or lead balloon: Navigating service as a graduate student and early-career professional*. Panel presentation at the 2022 TALS Conference on Research and Teaching (virtual).
- Pitas, N. A., & Chen, Y. L. (March 2021). *Understanding Visitor Priorities and Perceptions of Service Quality at U-Pick Farms*. Research session presented at the 2021 Southeastern Recreation Research Conference (virtual).
- Chen, Y. L., & Pitas, N. A. (March 2021). *Perceived Service Quality, Perceived Community Contribution, and Visitor Satisfaction at U-Pick Farms*. Research session presented at the 2021 Southeastern Recreation Research Conference (virtual).
- Pitas, N. A., Powers, S. L*., & Mowen, A. J. (February 2021). *Neo-liberal conservation strategies in local parks and recreation: Implications for social equity*. Research session presented at the 2021 TALS Conference on Research and Teaching (virtual).
- Zou, S., & Pitas, N. A. (February 2021). *Community-benefit vs. user-benefit: The effectiveness of fee increase justification messaging for public recreation services*. Research session presented at the 2021 TALS Conference on Research and Teaching (virtual).
- Pitas, N. A., & Mowen, A. J. (November 2020). *Park and recreation agency-foundation relationships: partnering for the future*. Webinar delivered for the National Recreation and Park Association.

- Pitas, N. A. (April 2020). *Factors influencing perceived acceptability of concessioner services at Grand Teton National Park*. Research session accepted for presentation at the 2020 National Environment and Recreation Research Symposium, Annapolis, MD (cancelled due to COVID-19).
- Powers, S. L., Pitas, N. A., Oliver Peets, J., Hickerson, B., Baker, B. L., Mullenbach, L. E., & Mowen, A. J. (April 2020). *Impact of park renovations over time and across neighborhoods*. Research session accepted for presentation at the 2020 National Environment and Recreation Research Symposium, Annapolis, MD (cancelled due to COVID-19).
- Pitas, N. A., Roehl, W. (February 2020). *Implications of the Great Recession for higher education in leisure studies*. Research session presented at the 2020 TALS Conference on Research and Teaching, Champaign-Urbana, IL.
- Powers, S. L., Lee, K. J., Pitas, N. A., Graefe, A. R., & Mowen, A. J. (February 2020). *Understanding access and use of parks and recreation through the multiple hierarchy stratification perspective*. Research session presented at the 2020 TALS Conference on Research and Teaching, Champaign-Urbana, IL.
- Pitas, N. A., Mowen, A. J., Graefe, A., & Godbey, G. (April 2019). *Parks for who? Access to, use of, and perceived benefits from local park and recreation services between 1992 and 2015*. Research session presented at the 2019 National Environment and Recreation Research Symposium, Annapolis, MD.
- Gage, R., Murray, A., Ferguson, M. D., Pitas, N. A., & Ferguson, L. A. (April 2019). *Navigating the transition from graduate student to professional in today's recreation and tourism field*. Roundtable session presented at the 2019 National Environment and Recreation Research Symposium, Annapolis, MD.
- Pitas, N. A., & Mowen, A. J. (February 2019). *Place, the social environment, and self-reported health at a community wellness center*. Research session presented at the 2019 TALS Conference on Research and Teaching, Greenville, SC.
- Powers, S. L., Pitas, N. A., Barrett, A., Graefe, A., & Mowen, A. J. (February 2019). *Comparing the contributions of park and recreation services to solving community issues in rural, suburban, and urban areas*. Research session presented at the 2019 TALS Conference on Research and Teaching, Greenville, SC.
- Pitas, N. A., Mueller, J. T., & Mowen, A. J. (April 2018). *Cognitive antecedents to support for public and private delivery of park and recreation services*. Paper presented at the 2018 National Environment and Recreation Research Symposium, Annapolis, MD.

- Pitas, N. A., Barrett, A., Mowen, A. J., & Taff, B. (February 2018). *State government parks and recreation expenditures and employment*. Research session presented at the 2018 TALS Conference on Research and Teaching, Indianapolis, IN.
- Mowen, A., Pitas, N., Mullenbach, L., Hickerson, B., Baker, B., Kim, J., & Benfield, J. (February 2018). *Voices from the community: Residents' perspectives of an urban park renovation project*. Research session presented at the 2018 TALS Conference on Research and Teaching, Indianapolis, IN.
- Pitas, N. A., Barrett, A., Mowen, A. J., & Roth, K. (October 2017). *Trends in local park and recreation agency financing and employment*. Research session presented at the 2017 National Recreation and Park Association National Congress, New Orleans, NO.
- Barrett, A., Mowen, A. J., & Pitas, N. A. (May 2017). *Trends in local park and recreation agency financing and employment*. Non peer-reviewed research presentation to the board of directors, National Recreation and Park Association, Austin, TX.
- Pitas, N. A., & Mowen, A.J. (April 2017). *Values, attitudes, and relative allocations to public park and recreation services*. Paper presented at the 2017 National Environment and Recreation Research Symposium, Annapolis, MD.
- Pitas, N. A., Barrett, A., & Mowen, A. J. (February 2017). *Contemporary trends in local park and recreation agency financing and employment*. Research session presented at the 2017 Academy of Leisure Sciences Research Institute, Indianapolis, IN.
- Mowen, A. J., Benfield, J., Hickerson, B., Baker, B., Kim, J., & Pitas, N. A. (February 2017). *Promoting park ownership and experiences: The role of the social environment*. Research session presented at the 2017 Academy of Leisure Sciences Research Institute, Indianapolis, IN.
- Pitas, N. A., Murray, A., Olsen, M., & Graefe, A. (June 2016). *Evaluating recreation-based experiential learning programs: An alternative importance-performance framework*. Research session at the 2016 International Symposium on Society and Resource Management, Houghton, MI.
- Pitas, N. A., & Hodge, C. (April 2016). *Leisure repertoire and the transition from high school to college: A systematic review*. Research session presented at the 2016 Northeastern Recreation Research Symposium, Annapolis, MD.
- Pitas, N. A., Mowen, A. J., Trauntvein, N., Potwarka, L., & Duray, N. (April 2016). *Shifting perceptions of corporate sponsorship at a public-sector park agency: Results from a 14-year follow-up survey*. Research session presented at the 2016 Northeastern Recreation Research Symposium, Annapolis, MD.

- Murray, A., Pitas, N. A., & Graefe, A. (March 2016). *Using an expectations, importance, performance analysis to assess learning outcomes of an experiential education course*. Research session presented at the 2016 Southeastern Recreation Research Conference, Asheville, NC.
- Murray, A., Pitas, N. A., & Graefe, A. (February 2016). *Incorporating a research agenda within an experiential learning course: Lessons learned*. Teaching/research presentation presented at the 2016 ALS Teaching Institute, Greenville, NC.
- Pitas, N. A., Mowen, A. J., Liechty, T., Trauntvein, N. (April 2015). *Public attitudes towards corporate sponsorship of a public park agency: A qualitative inquiry*. Research session presented at the 2015 Northeastern Recreation Research Symposium, Annapolis, MD.
- Pitas, N. A., & Mowen, A. J. (April 2015). *Preparing the parent-coach: Communication strategies for parents coaching their own children*. Poster presented at the 2015 Northeastern Recreation Research Symposium, Annapolis, MD.
- Pitas, N. A., & Mowen, A. J. (March 2015). *Preparing the parent-coach: Communication strategies for parents coaching their own children*. Poster presented at the 2015 College of Health and Human Development and School of Nursing Interdisciplinary Research Forum, Pennsylvania State University, State College, PA.
- Pitas, N. A., & Harrist, C. (October 2013). *Exploring the parent-coach and child-athlete relationship in the recreational sport context*. Research session presented at the 2013 National Recreation and Park Association Leisure Research Symposium, Houston, TX.

Select Projects and Awards

- Pitas, N. A., Payne, L., & Liechty, J. (ongoing). Development of a random controlled trial to evaluate the impacts of a campus-based awe walking intervention. Funding awarded by the Center for Health, Aging, and Disability, UIUC (\$30,000). Project development and implementation, data collection, data analysis, report writing.
- Pitas, N. A., & Zou, S. (ongoing). Understanding support and opposition to a ballot referendum proposing a property tax increase to fund community level parks and conservation. Funding awarded by the Department of Recreation, Sport, and Tourism UIUC (\$5,465). Project development and implementation, data collection, data analysis, report writing.
- Pitas, N. A. (ongoing). Understanding equitable management of public space for people experiencing homelessness in Champaign, IL. Funding awarded by the UIUC Campus Research Board (\$29,847). Project development and implementation, data collection, data analysis, report writing.

- Powers, S. L., Mowen, A. J., & Pitas, N. A. (2022-2023). A post-COVID evaluation of Pennsylvania park and recreation providers. Funding awarded by the Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society (\$20,000). Project development and implementation, data collection, data analysis, report writing.
- Mullenbach, L. E., Pitas, N. A., & Hickerson, B. (2021-2022). Evaluation of public attitudes towards the role of park and recreation providers in addressing issues of homelessness. Funding awarded by the University of North Carolina, Greensboro (\$4,950). Project development and implementation, data collection, data analysis, report writing.
- Powers, S. L., & Pitas, N. A. (2021-2022). Youth Sports and Play Community Grant evaluation, Phase II. Funding awarded by the National Recreation and Park Association (\$26,500). Project development and implementation, data collection, data analysis, report writing.
- Pitas, N. A., & Powers, S. L. (2021-2022). Youth Sports and Play Community Grant evaluation, Phase I. Funding awarded by the National Recreation and Park Association (\$12,000). Project development and implementation, data collection, data analysis, report writing.
- Pitas, N. A., & Mowen, A. J. (2019-2020). Examination of public-non-profit partnerships in the delivery of public park and recreation services. Funding awarded by the National Recreation and Park Association (\$35,000). Project development and implementation, data collection, data analysis, report writing.
- Chen, Y.L., & Pitas, N. A. (2019-2020). Factors determining purchasing behavior and satisfaction with local agritourism operations. Collaborative project with Cornell Cooperative Extension examining pick-your-own (“U-pick”) fruit farms in Monroe and Wayne Counties, New York. Project development and implementation, data collection, data analysis, report writing, manuscript preparation.
- Mowen, A. J., Hickerson, B., Benfield, J., Pitas, N. A., & Kim, J (2014-2018). Systematic evaluation of renovations to Fairmount Park, Philadelphia, PA. Funding awarded by the William Penn Foundation for capacity building (\$82,500), and phase I pre-renovation evaluation (\$256,000). Assisted in preparation of grant applications, community engagement, data collection, data analysis, and report writing.
- Gebhart, K. K., & Pitas, N. A. (2020). Annual salary survey and reports for NCAA field hockey coaches. National Field Hockey Coaches Association (NFHCA).
- Pitas, N. A. (2019). Evaluation of concessions services at Grand Teton National Park. Funding awarded by the University of Wyoming-National Park Service (\$5,000). Project development and implementation, data collection, data analysis, report writing. Supplemented by internal grant development award (\$2,000).

Pitas, N. A. (2019). Funding awarded by the College at Brockport pre-tenure grants development award in support of work in Grand Teton National Park (\$2,000).

Pitas, N. A., & Agate, J. (2019). Evaluation of community recreation services in Perinton, NY. Project development and implementation, data collection, data analysis, report writing.

Gebhart, K. K., & Pitas, N. A. (2018). Evaluation of strategic member communications by the National Field Hockey Coaches Association (NFHCA).

Pitas, N. A., Mowen, A. J. (2018). Evaluation of recreation services at the Miller Center, Lewisburg, PA. Project development and implementation, data collection, data analysis, report writing.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE (as instructor of record)

University of Illinois

RST-504 (4 credits) Applied evaluation and needs assessment (in-person).

RST-210 (3 credits) Management in recreation, sport, and tourism (in-person).

RST-199 (2 credits) Experiencing agritourism (in-person).

SUNY Brockport

REL-414 (3 credits) Planning, design, and operation of recreation facilities (in-person and online sections).

REL-402 (3 credits) Current trends and issues in recreation (in-person, hybrid, and online sections).

REL-324 (3 credits) Outdoor and adventure recreation management (in-person).

REL-313 (3 credits) Economic and community development in recreation (in-person and online sections).

REL-308 (3 credits) Recreation programming (in-person and online sections).

REL-302/202 (3 credits) Foundations of recreation and leisure (in-person and online sections).

REL-211 (3 credits) The leisure experience (in-person and online sections).

Penn State University

RPTM-497C (3 credits) Great Smoky Mountains outdoor recreation consortium (in-person).

RPTM-435 (3 credits) Recreation and park facilities planning and management (in-person).

RPTM-120 (3 credits) Leisure and human behavior (in-person, online, and in-person/online hybrid sections).

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND CERTIFICATIONS

Academy of Leisure Sciences, 2015-Present.

National Recreation and Park Association, 2015-Present.

Junior ranger (paleontology), National Park Service, 2015-Present.

AWARDS/HONORS

Best research paper (finalist), 2020, Academy of Leisure Sciences.

President's award for teaching excellence, 2018-2019 (nominated), and 2020-2021/2021-2022 (finalist), College at Brockport.

Best dissertation, 2018, American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration (AAPRA).

Outstanding workplace performance award, 2013, University of Louisville Get Healthy Now.

Outstanding academic performance among student athletes. Top academic performer among all male student athletes, American University, 2006-2010.

NCAA Division-I student athlete, American University wrestling, 2006-2010. Four consecutive top-25 finishes in NCAA Division-I; three years as top academic team in NCAA Division-I.

Valedictorian, George Mason High School, 2006.

RELATED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Health and fitness specialist, University of Louisville, Louisville, KY, 2013-2014.

High-ropes challenge course facilitator, Take Flight Adventures, Kittery, ME, 2012.

Assistant wrestling coach, York High School, York, ME, 2011-2012.

Assistant coach of strength and conditioning, Georgetown University, Washington, D.C, 2010-2011.

Assistant wrestling coach, George Mason High School, Falls Church, VA, 2010-2011.