



**TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY**  
Department of Recreation, Park & Tourism Sciences

Office of the  
Department Head

July 9, 2004

Mr. Steve Beachy, Director  
College Station Parks & Recreation Department  
P.O. Box 9960  
1000 Krenk Tap  
College Station, TX 77842

Dear Steve:

I am please to submit a letter of support for recognizing Dr. John L. Crompton in the College Station Parks and Recreation program.

Dr. Crompton is a very special person. His area of expertise is the marketing and financing of public park and recreation services. In the research area, he is the most published scholar in the world in the parks and recreation field. He is recognized as the leading authority in these areas, both in the U.S. and internationally, and has received all the top awards for research, publication and teaching given in both the parks and recreation and tourism fields. However, what makes his contributions so significant is his ability to transfer his findings to substantially influence public policy and actual service delivery. This transfer occurs through three main conduits. First, he has conducted over 500 workshops and presentations for elected officials and senior decision-makers in the U.S. and internationally. Typically, he does 15-20 of these a year. Second, he reports the practical implications of his findings through an extensive publication effort in professional magazines and popular media accessed by professionals to complement his work in scholarly journals. Third, he operates a one-person extension service from his office! It is a rare day when he does not receive a request from elected officials or senior managers for advice on a particular project with which they are involved. Indeed, much of his office time is invested in responding to these prolific requests.

His commitment to service is so special, that this year he was awarded the Bush Excellence in Public Service Award by the President himself.

But while John has built this extraordinary reputation and program, there was never a time when he forgot the mantra "Think Globally, act locally." Time and time again he has stepped up to work in his community. He has devoted a major portion of his life trying to improve the recreation and park experiences for citizens in this community. To select only a few examples:



Service to the City of College Station:

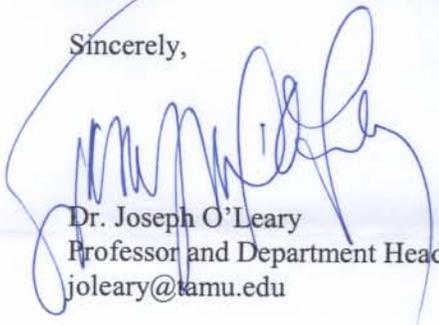
Member of Parks and Recreation Advisory Board 1983-1987 and 1996-2001.  
Appointed "Member Emeritus" by proclamation of the Board in 2002.  
Member of the Greenways Advisory Board 1998-2000.  
Member of Capital Improvements Committees 1986 and 1998.  
Member of the Land Dedication Ordinance Revision Committee 1997-1998.  
Chair of the Lick Creek Park Advisory Committee 1997-1998.  
Member of the Texas Advisory Council to the Trust for Public Land 1997-present  
Member of Board of Directors of the Brazos Valley Sports Foundation 1997-1999.  
Member of Board of Directors of the Bryan-College Station Sports Foundation 1982-1984, 1995-1996.  
Member of Texas Advisory Council to the Junior Statesmen Foundation 1991-1994.  
President, Aggie Swim Club 1987-1989, 1992-1993, 1995-1996.

Although there are many presentations done in the local area, a major theme of John's presentations is represented by this effort done in 2001: "The Impact of Parks, Open Spaces, and Greenways on Property Values." Presentation to Brazos Greenways Council, College Station, Texas, April 2001.

Most recently he has led the push to capture a major, several thousand acre property—a very special resource—to improve the recreation opportunities for people in the community property. This is an extraordinary opportunity and John's unwavering belief that this is something that will help to make College Station a great community has been inspiring.

For almost 30 years, Dr. Crompton has used his faculty position at Texas A&M to exercise a profound influence on public policy and service delivery in the parks and recreation field in the U.S. and internationally. But there was never a time when he did not try and lend his tremendous talent and expertise to the College Station community. His impact on park and recreation services and opportunities in this community has been exceedingly important and he is leaving a very significant legacy. I believe he exemplifies the qualities sought for name recognition. I encourage your support.

Sincerely,



Dr. Joseph O'Leary  
Professor and Department Head  
joleary@tamu.edu