

illinois

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# P&R

PARKS AND RECREATION

The magazine of the Illinois Association of Park Districts and the Illinois Park and Recreation Association



## park agencies as keepers of cultural heritage

PLUS: The 2009 IP&R Writing and Photo Contest Winners -  
2010 Contest Details Inside



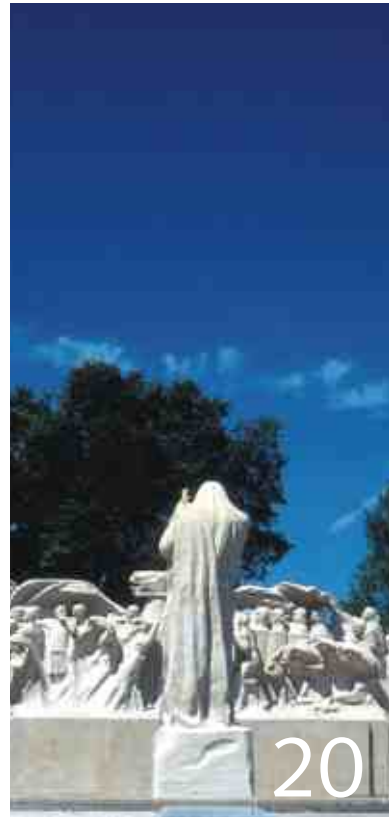
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**IAPD**  
Illinois Association of Park Districts

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# FROM THE EDITOR

"Mom, I think my favorite part was riding the Lazy Susan!"

This got my attention. My 8-year-old son had just returned from a day at the water park with sun kissed skin, a few more freckles and a smile the size of Texas. It took me a minute to compose myself and ask, "Will, do you mean the Lazy River?" "Oh, that's right," he said with an embarrassed giggle.



All this 'lazy talk' got me thinking about the old adage, "the lazy days of summer." There are two things of which I am certain about whoever coined that phrase: 1) They were not raising children; and 2) They were not working in the field of parks, recreation and conservation.

Summer is most definitely busy season for Illinois park districts, forest preserves, conservation, recreation and special recreation agencies. Fourth of July celebrations, summer camps, baseball and softball games, golf leagues, swimming lessons, water park fun – you name it, our agencies have it. And, with the childhood obesity epidemic currently plaguing the nation, these programs, facilities and services are aimed at making sure our summers are anything but lazy.

And, if our agencies don't already have enough on their plates, many are also tasked with the job of maintaining historic and cultural landmarks, which brings us to the focus of this issue of the magazine: *Park Agencies as Keepers of Cultural Heritage*.

Museums, historic farms and other landmarks often fall under the auspices of park, recreation and conservation agencies. According to the article on page 22, *Your Museum is Exactly Like a House Softball League! Here's Why*, Debbie Fandrei reports that the last count shows park agencies across Illinois operating 108 museums and 431 historical structures. Like the other programs and services our agencies offer, these places bring residents together, tell important stories, transcend language barriers and give all residents the opportunity to learn about how we got to where we are today.

In *Preserving Historic Parks* on page 16, Julia S. Bachrach explains how the 1987 discovery of valuable historic plans and documents in a vault beneath Soldier Field prompted the Chicago Park District to create a Department of Planning and Development. This department is responsible for a multitude of tasks including proper maintenance, research and documentation of historic parks and landmarks.

Perhaps someday your agency will stumble across a hidden treasure or inherit a historical site, if it hasn't already. As you will read, it can be very rewarding to be entrusted with such cultural heritage.

A heritage is about handing something down from one's ancestors or the past, as a characteristic, a culture or a tradition. Each of us who works in parks, recreation and conservation is an important part of a heritage that will be passed down to generations to come. It is the heritage of enjoying and respecting the great outdoors; leading healthy, active lifestyles; cultivating friendships through park, recreation and conservation programs and preserving history.

It is about making "the lazy days of summer" a little less lazy.

— BOBBIE JO HILL  
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Peter M. Murphy  
IAPD President and CEO

# Serving on a Park Board Shouldn't Feel Like a Job – But a Job Description Is Important

Serving on a park board is a major civic responsibility and those that make a commitment to carry out the park, recreation and conservation mission of their community are certainly giving unselfishly of their time.

The success of your agency depends on how well you understand your role and how effectively you address your responsibilities as a board member. While board members serve because of a dedication to their community, it is important that board service is fun and personally fulfilling. That means that being on a park board should not seem like a job. But just because it's not a job does not mean that the park board shouldn't establish a job description for service. This not only helps current board members visualize their roles, but also helps educate people from the community who want to step forward and run for election. It's a way to define the roles and responsibilities between board and staff as well, so that the board and chief executive do not work at cross-purposes.

As a board member it is your responsibility for helping to set the goals, formulate the policies and establish the services that will meet the present and future needs of the citizens in your community.

One clear value of a board is to provide collective wisdom. Ideally, it places at the disposal of an agency the knowledge, insight, personal contacts and network of a group of people that are engaged in the community. The right decision is more likely to be reached if several minds seek it together. The board should be a powerful means of securing public and financial support in the community.


What are the key responsibilities of a board member and how do you craft a job description that reflects the individual characteristics of your agency? As a board member and/or trustee of your agency, your main role is to oversee the following key areas of responsibility:

**1. Hiring the executive.** The board is responsible for recruiting, selecting and evaluating the executive in accordance with sound personnel policies and procedures. This is one of the most important duties that a board can be called upon to perform because it's the executive upon whose shoulders the success or failure of parks, recreation and conservation services in the community rests.

**2. Planning for the future.** By giving the executive the authority to manage the agency, your board frees itself to plan for the agency's future. Long-range planning is not a frill. It's critical to the agency's success and it's one of the most important areas of trust your board has been given by the community. Many boards, interestingly enough, do not do adequate long-range planning and it's hard to understand why they don't. Given

the constantly changing demographic, political and economic picture, these boards may simply see long-range planning as an exercise in futility. But, change is the very reason every agency needs to plan; so it can anticipate and be ready for future challenges and opportunities.

We live in an increasingly fast-paced society and the recreational needs of communities change rapidly. As a board member, you're expected to be a visionary for your agency. The long-range plan is the board's vision of the future and that vision may change as the agency's internal resources and external circumstances change. I recommend that when the board takes a big picture look at the agency's services and mission, that they get away from the boardroom and conduct a long-range planning exercise at a location that frees the board up from the minutia



"As a board member, you're expected to be a visionary for your agency."

of every day responsibility. It is also recommended that you have your retreat facilitated so that the executive and the board members can freely participate in the planning process.

**3. Monitoring agency activity.** As a board member of the agency, it is your responsibility to make sure that the agency is operating the way it was intended. You are responsible for keeping an eye on your agency's progress and finances. Obviously, you can't watch every detail that takes place in the agency—that would be interfering with the executive's job. But your job as a board member is to monitor the bottom-line results. This includes the all-important areas of finances. The board also monitors and measures progress toward long-range goals. Since the long-range plan is the agency's blueprint for the future, you must make sure that progress is being made on goals and that the board's actions reflect the direction your plan has set.

"As a board member, it is your responsibility for helping to set the goals, formulate the policies and establish the services that will meet the present and future needs of the citizens in your community."

**4. Financial planning.** The board must assist in securing adequate finances and then make sure the funds are properly administered in order to maintain agency services according to the highest standards. Board members can assist in exploring other revenue sources, such as state and federal grant programs, as well as donations of land, buildings and money from citizens and the business community.

**5. Advocating for the agency.** As a volunteer leader who serves on a board, you are in a unique position to be your agency's advocate in the community. In some other respects, being an advocate means being the agency's biggest cheerleader. Ask yourself, "What am I doing to promote the agency as a positive force in the community?" "How does my conduct at board meetings communicate the agency's image to the public?" It is important to remember that the public looks to you as a reflection of the agency's competence and stature. The role of advocate requires the ability to understand and communicate your agency's positions and its goals.

**6. Become involved in the legislative process.** Both your state representatives and senators can play a key role in finding sources of funding for worthy projects within the community. Your relationship with these elected policymakers is central to the success of your agency receiving financial support from the state of Illinois. In addition, this grassroots network of commissioners across the state of Illinois has been extremely effective in passing legislation that is important to parks, recreation and conservation. In fact, more than ninety percent of all legislation introduced by the Illinois Association of Park Districts and supported locally by board members, such as yourself, has passed the Illinois General Assembly.

The following list of bullet points should provide an effective foundation for creating a board member job description. These may form a basis for discussion at one of your upcoming board meetings and can be adapted to fit the uniqueness of your agency. They are as follows:

**Expected Meeting Attendance**

- Regularly attend scheduled board meetings
- Share the responsibility for effective board leadership (which means participating in meetings and sharing opinions)
- Attend committee meetings
- Attend board retreats, in-service workshops and other board development activities
- Attend and participate in special events and agency functions
- Attend training and educational programs offered by the Illinois Association of Park Districts

**Board Obligations**

- Establish policy based on sound research and consideration of the pros and cons of each issue
- Adopt policies so that the organization can run efficiently, effectively, legally and ethically
- Hire, supervise, evaluate and support the executive director
- Interpret the agency's mission, values and vision to the public
- Set a strategic direction that adopts goals relating to the mission of the organization
- Secure adequate funds
- Monitor operational and capital finances
- Act as a resource, a sounding board and the eyes and ears for the citizens of the community, making sure that the agency is meeting their needs
- Develop, maintain and update long-range plans
- Adopt a Board Member Code of Conduct or a Board Member's Creed

**Specific Duties**

- Respect various points of view and participate in decision-making
- Be well-informed about issues and agenda items in advance of meetings
- Participate in organizational decision-making
- Represent the organization to the public and to private industry
- Educate yourself about the needs of constituents

**Rights of Board Members**

- To be kept well informed about the strategic plan and agency operations
- To be given well written and useful background information to make decisions on the issues pertaining to the agenda
- To be part of a highly respected organization and to enjoy one another's company and the satisfaction of meeting the park, recreation and conservation needs of all citizens

**IAPD Events**

July 22  
**Legislative Golf Outing**  
White Pines Golf Club  
Bensenville

August 9  
**Summer Golf Tour Event #4**  
Settlers Hill Golf Course  
Batavia

August 21  
**Park District Conservation Day at the Illinois State Fair**  
State Fair Grounds, Springfield

September 20  
**Summer Golf Tour Event #5**  
Glenview Park Golf Club  
Glenview Park District

October 1  
**IAPD Best of the Best Awards Gala**  
Traditions at Chevy Chase Country Club  
Wheeling Park District

October 25-29  
**NRPA National Congress and Exposition**  
Minneapolis, Minnesota

November 4  
**Legal Symposium**  
Hamburger University  
Oak Brook

January 27-29, 2011  
**IAPD/IPRA Soaring to New Heights Conference**  
Hilton, Chicago

# EYE ON THE PROFESSION

A CLOSER LOOK AT TRENDS AND ISSUES IN THE PARK AND RECREATION PROFESSION



Mike Selep, CPRP  
IPRA Interim CEO

## Courage to Change

Technological advances of our society have transformed America into a culture where we are immersed in a constant stream of economic, sociologic and political changes that are occurring at a rapidly accelerated rate. Life is so fast-paced that we are bombarded by updates in the form of e-mails, text messages and social network status updates to our cell phones and computers. The average American receives 99 e-mail messages a day, which is only one tenth of the actual number of messages that are sent (as over 90 percent of e-mail sent is eliminated by spam filters along the way). We are traveling at a pace that is difficult to maintain.

How do we deal with this? This rapid change of our culture has occurred in the span of 10-20 years. Some have accepted all of the changes and are fused with technology in such a way that it works well for them. These individuals live on the cutting edge and are always looking for the newest gadget to help them further connect. Others have taken to this change by trash talking cell phone users, ignoring Facebook requests and buying a cabin in the woods.

Change can range from exciting to nerve-racking; however, we cannot stop it from happening. As author Robert C. Gallagher said "change is inevitable - except from a vending machine." How do we muster up the courage to face the challenges that are ahead of us?

In the park and recreation profession, we are fortunate that we have a history of great leaders that have provided a strong foundation and fostered growth of the recreation and conservation movements here in Illinois and across the country. We are grounded in the traditions of health and wellness and environmental stewardship, which are perhaps more relevant in terms of pressing social issues today than they have been over the past several generations.

These are challenging times, and as a profession, it is time for our great leaders to be courageous and face the reality that times have indeed changed. As a result, we will need to change the way that our organizations function in order to meet the needs of our citizens. In addition, we will need to change the way that we prepare our future leaders for the challenges they face today and plan for the years to come.

IPRA has evolved through the 66 year history of the Association, adding new programs and services to meet the evolving needs of our membership along the way. Members have

"Change can range from exciting to nerve-racking; however, we cannot stop it from happening."



expressed interest in some new services and some services have decreased in usage over time. We are excited to be in the midst of a process at IPRA to shape the future direction of the association by examining all that we do to determine where our focus must lie in order for us to help propel the membership forward. It is time for us to have the courage to change – the courage to re-create IPRA.

Chuck Balling, Executive Director of the Glenview Park District, is leading a team of 27 high performing leaders from throughout the state. They've been exploring six keys areas of interest as members of our Strategic Planning Advisory Council.

"We are grounded in the traditions of health and wellness and environmental stewardship, which are perhaps more relevant in terms of pressing social issues today than they have been over the past several generations."



These members have utilized the 2009 Membership Survey and Efficiency Task Force report as well as conducted additional research and study. This group will be making recommendations to the Board of Directors on July 15 at 10:00 a.m. at the Wheeling Park District. All members are invited to attend to hear the presentations first hand. Information from these presentations will be made available to the membership for review and comment.

The IPRA Board of Directors will review and discuss the recommendations in August, and will move forward on recommendations to set a new strategic direction for the Association in September. The goal is simple – remember our traditions but not be so stuck in them as to deny our opportunity to make progress toward the future. As Pauline Kezer put it best, “continuity gives us roots; change gives us branches, letting us stretch and grow and reach new heights.”



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Peter M. Murphy  
IAPD President and CEO

## Illinois General Assembly Passes Budget Authority

The Illinois General Assembly recessed at the call of the chair on May 27, 2010 after passing budget authority in the form of a number of separate pieces of legislation including House Bill 859, Senate Bill 3660 and Senate Bill 3662.

**House Bill 859 contains the state budget** of more than \$57 billion in spending. This figure includes \$26 billion in General Revenue Fund spending authority, roughly 5% less than the FY 10 General Revenue Fund.

**Senate Bill 3660 creates the Emergency Budget Act** and authorizes the Governor to set aside a contingency reserve from certain FY 11 appropriations and borrow (sweep) from special funds. It also provides for furlough days for the members of the Illinois General Assembly and state employees.

**Senate Bill 3662 creates the Budget Implementation Act.** With a \$6.4 billion operating budget deficit, there is clearly a need for the state to generate more revenue. In addition, there was no consensus on Senate Bill 3514, which would have allowed the state to borrow \$4 billion to cover next year's state pension payments.

Other key bills of interest are listed below.

**Senate Bill 3139** was sent to the Governor on May 27, 2010. This legislation clarifies and re-codifies House Bill 242 to provide that the debt service extension base of a taxing district will be increased each year, commencing with the later of (i) the 2009 levy year or (ii) the first levy year in which **PTCELL** becomes applicable to the taxing district by the lessor of 5% or the percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) during the 12 month calendar year preceding the levy year.

The **Local Government Debt Reform Act** was amended by House Bill 4945 to permit the governmental units to authorize the treasurer of the governmental unit to join with the treasurers of other governmental units for the purpose of jointly investing the funds of which the treasurer has custody. House Bill 4945 was sent to the Governor on May 28, 2010.

House Bill 4693 amends the **Conservation District Act and the Downstate Forest Preserve District Act**. Provides that bonds issued by a Conservation District or a Forest Preserve District, other than "Build America Bonds," shall mature not later than 25 (instead of 20) years after the date of issue. House Bill 4693 was sent to the Governor on May 26, 2010.

House Bill 5144 was also approved this year and provides for an **abatement of unpaid property taxes** and existing liens for property that is acquired by a park district. Provides that property that is transferred to a county, municipality, school district, or park district under the terms of an annexation agreement, development agreement, donation agreement, plat of subdivision, or zoning ordinance by an entity that has been dissolved or is being dissolved or has been in bankruptcy proceedings or is in bankruptcy proceedings qualifies for the abatement of property taxes.

The **Personnel Record Review Act** was amended to prohibit disclosure of performance evaluations under the Freedom of Information Act. House Bill 5154 was sent to the Governor on May 28, 2010.

The **Open Meetings Act** was also amended by House Bill 5483 to require that any person be permitted an opportunity to address public officials at meetings subject to the Act under rules established and recorded by the public body.

House Bill 6034 provides that the Department of Public Health shall provide **technical assistance materials on playgrounds** based on guidelines or standards such as the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission's guidelines, the U.S. Access Board final guidelines, or the standards of the American Society for Testing and Materials by June 30, 2011. The materials may be available on the Department's website. This legislation had provided for but does not now require or authorize any new rule making authority.

House Bill 4968 amends the Illinois Municipal Code. In provisions concerning annexation under specified circumstances, adds that a municipality may annex territory which is not contiguous to the municipality if the territory is separated by an area dedicated to conservation and owned by a not-for-profit organized under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 under certain circumstances. House Bill 4948 was sent to the Governor on May 26, 2010.

Senate Bill 1946 makes broad **sweeping changes to pension benefits** for new public employees throughout the state of Illinois. Senate Bill 1946 was signed into law on April 14, 2010 as Public Act 96-889.

Senate Bill **2632 was amended to address the concerns of the Illinois Association of Park Districts as the bill in its original form would have affected the lands of forest preserves and conservation districts.** This bill creates the Public Land Pack and Saddle Animal Access Act, but with changes that include the following: (1) in the definition of "public land," eliminates a provision that the term includes land the acquisition or management of which is funded in whole or in part using State monies; (2) provides that in maintaining public land, the Department of Natural Resources, or other designated agency, shall preserve and facilitate continued use of and access to public land by pack and saddle animals where such use is currently authorized; eliminates a provision that neither the State nor any person may deny an individual's use of a pack or saddle animal on a trail or road for the purpose of gaining access to public land if the public land has been designated by the State as land upon which such an animal may be used. Senate Bill 2632 was sent to the Governor on May 21, 2010.

Senate Bill 2824 provides that it is unlawful for **a sexual predator or a child sex offender** to knowingly be present in any public park building or on real property comprising any public park. It is unlawful for a sexual predator or a child sex offender to knowingly loiter on a public way within 500 feet of a public park building or real property comprising any public park. For purposes of this subsection, (c), the 500 feet distance shall be

measured from the edge of the property comprising the public park. A person who violates this Section is guilty of a Class A misdemeanor, except that a second or subsequent violation is a Class 4 felony. Senate Bill 2824 was sent to the Governor on May 20, 2010.

Senate Bill 2951 provides that a person driving a **motor vehicle** shall not, in a reckless manner, drive the motor vehicle unnecessarily close to, toward, or near a bicyclist, pedestrian, or a person riding a horse or driving an animal drawn vehicle. Every person convicted shall be guilty of a Class A misdemeanor if the violation does not result in great bodily harm or permanent disability or disfigurement to another. If the violation results in great bodily harm or permanent disability or disfigurement to another, the person shall be guilty of a Class 3 felony. Senate Bill 2951 was sent to the Governor on May 20, 2010.

Senate Bill 3057 amends the **Swimming Facility Act**. Changes and adds provisions concerning: violations at swimming facilities; civil penalties; the denial, suspension, or revocation of a license; the closure of a facility; the payment of fees; license renewal; and other matters. Repeals provisions providing that (i) the Department of Public Health shall in any proceeding to suspend, revoke, or refuse to issue a license or permit, first serve or cause to be served upon the applicant or licensee a written notice specifying the way or ways in which such applicant or licensee has failed to comply with the Act, or any rules, regulations or standards promulgated by the Department pertaining thereto and (ii) the Department shall give written notice by certified or registered mail to any person refused a license or whose license is suspended or revoked. Senate Bill 3057 was sent to the Governor on May 20, 2010.

Senate Bill 3543 creates the **Afterschool Youth Development Project Act**. The General Assembly declares that it is the policy of this state to provide all young people between the ages of 6 and 19 with access to quality afterschool programs through a state commitment to sufficient and sustainable funding for programs that promote positive youth development.

The policy established by this Act will be developed through an afterschool demonstration program, the results of which will be used to establish standards and policies to design and fund a statewide system of quality afterschool programs accessible to all youth between the ages of 6 and 19 that promote positive outcomes in such areas as education, employment and civic success.

In order to effectively achieve the policy established in this Act, the Illinois Youth Development Council shall be created. The purpose of the Council is to provide oversight and coordination to the state's public funds currently invested to support positive youth development programs and activities and to set system wide policies and priorities to accomplish the following 5 major objectives: (i) set afterschool program expansion priorities; (ii) create outcome measures and require all afterschool programs to be evaluated to ensure that outcomes are being met; (iii) oversee the establishment of a statewide program improvement system that provides technical assistance and capacity building; (iv) monitor and assess afterschool program quality through the outcome measures; and (v) establish state policy to support the attainment of outcomes. The Council shall be created within the Department of Human Services. Senate Bill 3543 was sent to the Governor on May 28, 2010.

Failing to pass was Senate Bill 3566, which creates the **Abusive Work Environment Act**. Senate Bill 3566 defines unlawful employment practices, including abusive work environment and retaliation; employer liability and affirmative defense; employee liability and affirmative defense; relief; procedures and limitations; effect of the Act on other legal relationships; and other matters. Provides that the exercise of constitutional rights of free speech, free expression, and free exercise of religion or expression of religiously based views shall not be considered "abusive conduct" unless the intent is to intimidate or harass.

Senate Bill 3588 was sent to the Governor on May 28, 2010 and amends the **Personnel Record Review Act**. Provides that an employer who receives a request for records of a disciplinary report, letter of

reprimand, or other disciplinary action in relation to an employee under the Freedom of Information Act may provide notification to the employee in written form or through electronic mail, if available.

Senate Bill 3265 creates the **Summit Park District Tax Levy Validation (2010) Act**. Validates levy ordinances and tax extensions to the extent they do not exceed the maximum amount authorized under the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law if the district had taken into account the tax increment value from the expiration of the West Summit TIF. Amends the Property Tax Code to make the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law subject to the Summit Park District Tax Levy Validation (2010) Act. Senate Bill 3265 was sent to the Governor on May 27, 2010.

Senate Bill 3696 amends the **Park District Code**. Provides that to take advantage of the increased limiting rate for levy year 2009 approved by a majority of voters at the general primary election held on February 2, 2010, the Board of Park Commissioners of the Park District of Forest Park may adopt an additional or supplemental budget by a vote of a majority of the full membership of the board to defray expenses and liabilities of the park district to be incurred for corporate purposes of the district during that fiscal year. Provides that the additional or supplemental budget shall be regarded as an amendment of the annual budget for the fiscal year in which it is adopted. On the fast track Senate Bill 3696 was signed into law on May 13, 2010 as Public Act 96-892.

Senate Bill 3011 amends the **Bingo License and Tax Act**. Allows for units of local governments to conduct bingo without a license or fee under specified conditions. Increases the maximum aggregate retail value of all prizes or merchandise awarded in any one game of bingo conducted by a senior citizens organization or a unit of local government from \$5 to \$10. Senate Bill 3011 was sent to the Governor on May 27, 2010.

## Types of Actions Governor Can Take on Bills

The Illinois Constitution allows the governor to make any of four kinds of vetoes: total, amendatory, item or reduction. The following describes each kind of veto and legislative responses to it.

### Total Veto

The governor may reject an entire bill and return it to its house of origin.

Overriding a total veto requires the affirmative votes of at least three-fifths of the members elected to each house (71 in the House, 36 in the Senate).

Unless a total veto is overridden, the bill dies.

### Amendatory Veto

The governor can return a bill "with specific recommendations for change" to its house of origin.

Such an amendatorily vetoed bill is considered like a vetoed bill, except that each house can accept the governor's recommendations by vote of a mere constitutional majority (60 in the House and 30 in the Senate). Thus, if a bill is amendatorily vetoed, the General Assembly can do any of three things to it: (1) Override the veto by three-fifths vote in each house, enacting the bill as it originally passed the General Assembly; (2) Accept the governor's recommendations and return the bill to the governor for his certification that the acceptance conforms to his recommendations; (3) Do neither, in which case, the bill dies.

*Amongst IP&R's readers are some great writers. This magazine is blessed to attract from the profession writers who choose to share their expertise with their fellow IP&R readers. They receive no pay for their efforts. But the IAPD and IPRA do take pride in acknowledging the best writing to appear in this magazine each year with the annual Magazine Writing Awards. Similarly the magazine's annual photo contest generates most of the images we use in IP&R and in many other IAPD and IPRA publications.*

*The associations are pleased to honor the 2009 winners of the Give Us Your Best Shot photo contest and the annual magazine writing awards. And, as always, we thank the judges who made the tough decisions.*



## The 2009 IP&R Writing and Photo Contest Awards

# 2009 "Give Us Your Best Shot" Photo Contest Winners



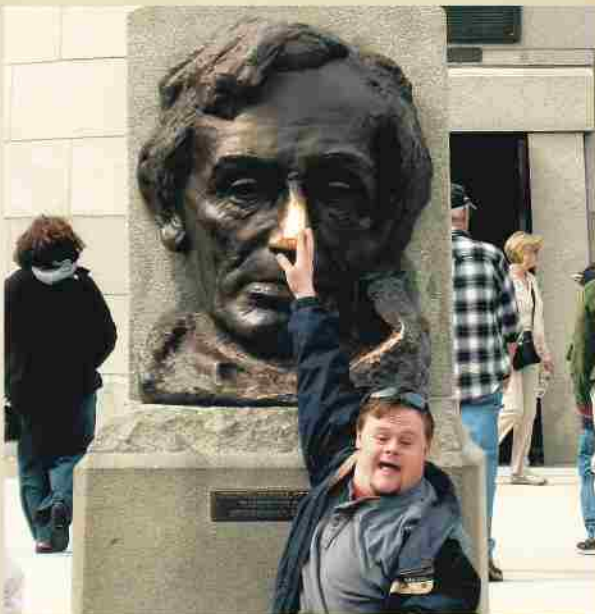
## Wildlife

*John G. Clayton,  
Sugar Grove Park District  
"Solitary Sandpiper"*



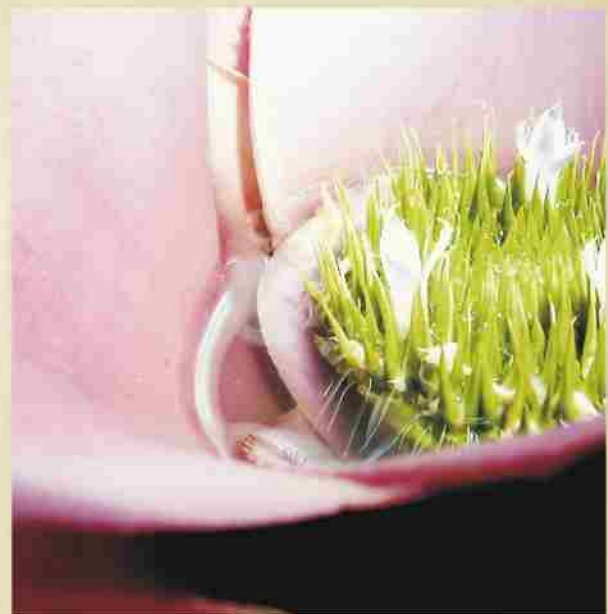
## Sports

*David T. Kindler,  
Park District of Oak Park  
"On the Ball"*



## Recreation

*Summer Krones,  
Northwest Special  
Recreation Association  
"My Lucky Day in Springfield"*



## Nature & Landscapes

*Mark Omi,  
Park District of Oak Park  
"A Peek Inside"*

# 2009 Illinois Parks & Recreation Magazine Writing Awards



**webXtras**

**The Seed that became Special Olympics was Planted in Illinois by a Recreation Pioneer**  
by Barbara DiGuido and Jane Hodgkinson

**SRAs Gone Green**  
by John Liuzzi

**Read these Full Stories on the Web**

At the IPRA Web Site ([www.ipraonline.com](http://www.ipraonline.com))...  
At the IPRA Web Site...  
[www.ipraonline.com](http://www.ipraonline.com)

www.ipraonline.com Magazine 2008-17

**Best Environmental Article**  
**“SRAs Gone Green”**  
 by **John Liuzzi**  
 Northern Illinois Special Recreation Association

**Best Feature Article (tie)**  
**“The Seed that Became Special Olympics Was Planted in Illinois by a Recreation Pioneer”**  
 by **Barbara DiGuido**, Special Olympics Illinois and  
**Jane Hodgkinson**, Western DuPage Special Recreation Association

**Best Legal/Legislative Article**  
**“Legislative Breakfasts Offer Opportunities with Legislators”**  
 by **Greg Petry**  
 Waukegan Park District



**LEGISLATIVE BREAKFASTS OFFER OPPORTUNITIES WITH LEGISLATORS**

by **Greg Petry**

**Why are Parks & Recreation Professionals Interested in Legislative Breakfasts?**



**breathe new life**  
 into your pools and water parks

**Best Facilities and Marketing Article**  
**“Breathe New Life Into Your Pools and Water Parks”**  
 by **Arnie Biondo**  
 Carol Stream Park District



**Best Feature Article (tie)**  
 “A Partnership for Park Revitalization: East St. Louis and the University of Illinois”  
 by **Bruce Wicks, Joseph Altschuler, Mari Gordon, Dee Kaiser and Wendy Kniepp**  
 University of Illinois

**Best Programming Article**  
 “Future Influences and Trends Offer New Opportunities for Parks and Recreation”  
 by **Stacy Turner**  
 GreenPlay, LLC



**Writing Award Judges**  
**Dr. Nick DiGrino**, Western Illinois University  
**Dr. Amy Hurd**, Illinois State University  
**Robin Hall**, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

**Photo Contest Judge**  
**Shani Goss**, Goss Graphic Design,  
 Decatur, Illinois

# Give Us Your Best Shot!

Enter by October 1, 2010

Show off your agency and its visual images with “Give Us Your Best Shot,” a photo contest sponsored by the Illinois Association of Park Districts and the Illinois Park and Recreation Association. Photos submitted may be used in future editions of *Illinois Parks & Recreation* magazine, on the cover of the *IAPD/IPRA Buyers’ Guide*, or in other IAPD/IPRA projects.

Enter as many times as you like in four categories: **recreation, sports, wildlife and nature/landscapes**. All entries must feature Illinois scenes. For complete guidelines and an entry form, go to [www.ILparks.org](http://www.ILparks.org) and highlight “Publications” on the navigation bar on the left, then choose “Illinois Parks and Recreation Magazine.” Scroll down the page.

**Writing Contest** - All published articles in the magazine are judged in the annual *Illinois Parks & Recreation Magazine Awards Program*, sponsored by the IAPD/IPRA Joint Editorial Committee. Winners are announced at the IAPD/IPRA Annual Conference in January. Awards are presented at the local level at an agency board meeting or awards ceremony following the conference. A panel of judges from Illinois’ leading universities determines the winning articles (based on content, writing style and benefit to readers).



*preserving*  
{ **historic** parks  
*by julia s. bachrach*







The concept of preserving historic parks is perplexing. Landscapes are ephemeral. As they are constantly changing and affected by many natural and human forces, the idea of preserving them seems almost counter intuitive. Many of the significant parks in Illinois are like richly woven tapestries made of natural elements, such as plants and water features, and built features, such as field houses, museums, cultural centers, pergolas, bandstands, bridges, benches, sculptures and murals. In addition to the burden of trying to maintain such diverse collections of historic resources properly is the fact that public parks must accommodate constantly changing lists of recreational programs and are subject to many urban pressures. So what is a park steward to do?

The Chicago Park District has been grappling with these issues for more than 20 years. As a result of the discovery of a cache of valuable historic plans and documents in a vault beneath Soldier Field in 1987 (see sidebar on page 21) the Chicago Park District established a historic preservation initiative. Supported by a grant from the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, the district hired two historians/ preservationists to conduct a planning study that included an evaluation of all the system's historic parks. At the same time, an archivist was brought on board to organize the historic plans, photographs and other documents. The preservation professionals conducted archival research and field evaluation, producing a Multiple Property Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places, which was completed in 1990.





*The Alfred Caldwell Lily Pool is designated as a National Historic Landmark, a contributing feature to a National Register of Historic Places designation, and as a Chicago Landmark.*



*Created by renowned Illinois sculptor, Lorado Taft, the Fountain of Time fell into extreme disrepair. In 2003, a \$250,000 Save America's Treasures Grant allowed for the completion of the final phase of the monument restoration, which addressed the refurbishing of the reflecting basin.*



*Jens Jensen's prairie-style masterpiece in Columbus Park received a \$200,000 Save America's Treasures Grant devoted to a landscape preservation project that included the restoration of the iconic council ring, a circular bench meant for camp fires and storytelling.*

The grant project also laid the groundwork for a division of a then newly formed department of the Chicago Park District – the Office of Research and Planning – now known as the Department of Planning and Development. For more than 20 years, this division has focused on conducting research and documentation of historic parks; preparing nominations for parks, field houses and sculptures as landmarks; providing historic contexts and analysis for framework plans and other long-range planning documents; assisting architects, landscape architects and conservators who are working on restoration projects and other physical improvements on or in historic parks; and creating various projects to educate the public about Chicago's historic parks.

### **Landmarking Historic Parks**

The Chicago Park District's Multiple Property Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places serves as an umbrella document. Although it does not designate the individual properties that it describes, it sets the stage and simplifies the process of nominating a large number of thematically related historic resources. This document allowed the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency to deem approximately 100 parks or features in parks as eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Of that list of 100, today, 36 Chicago parks (or park properties) are officially listed on the National Register of Historic Places, while four have been designated as National Historic Landmarks, which is an even more selective list of landmarks maintained by the National Park Service.

Many local governments also have landmark ordinances that can provide for the designation of park district properties. In Chicago, the local landmark ordinance affords stronger protection to historic resources than the two federal landmark programs. To date, the Chicago Park District has 11 buildings, three monuments and five landscapes that have been either individually designated as Chicago landmarks or included in Chicago Landmark Historic Districts. Any repairs or major construction work that is done to these properties and requires a building permit is reviewed by the staff of the Landmarks Division of the city's Department of Planning and Development for compliance with the Secretary of Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Historic Rehabilitation.

## Long-Range Planning

Since the early 1990s, the Chicago Park District has worked closely with advisory councils and various neighborhood nonprofit organizations to produce framework plans for many regional and some neighborhood parks. The purpose of a framework plan is to create a long-term plan for the park that responds to diverse neighborhood needs, as well as the historic context of the park. For example, the Lincoln Park Framework Plan included intensive analysis conducted by a team of Chicago Park District staff members, consultants and volunteers. The team identified more than 200 historic resources in Lincoln Park, ranging from historic buildings and sculptures to decorative walls and landscapes. The Historic Resource Policies set forth by the Lincoln Park Framework Plan assert that the park's "historic resources, including landscapes," shall be "protected and rehabilitated in an appropriate manner" and that "features critical to historic character" will be treated "with utmost sensitivity." The framework plan also recommended that Lincoln Park should be nominated to the National Register of Historic Places, and the data collected for the plan did provide the basis for the nomination, which was officially adopted in 1994.

In instances such as Lincoln Park, the historic analysis was conducted as part of the development of the framework plan. In other cases, the preparation of framework plans can rely on the intensive data gathered for the nomination of parks that have already been listed on the National Register of Historic Places. For those properties that have not received framework plans, the landmark nomination forms themselves are useful planning tools for the park district, as they explain the significance and historic integrity of properties and identify all of the features (buildings, structures, objects and sites) that contribute to the historic property.

## Restoration and Rehabilitation Projects

During the past 20 years, the Chicago Park District has invested millions of dollars in improving hundreds of its properties. This significant body of work includes the restoration and rehabilitation of many historic properties. Landmark status has often helped attract state and federal funding to capital improvements. For instance, several Chicago Park District properties have received Save America's Treasures Grants for bricks and mortar restoration work. Among the historic resources that have received such funds are the Fountain of Time, an impressive monument by Lorado Taft in Washington Park; the Carlson Cottage, a Victorian bathroom building in Lincoln Park by architect Joseph Lyman Silsbee; and the children's playground area of Columbus Park, a site considered to be the masterpiece of prairie-style landscape architect, Jens Jensen.

Many restoration projects have been funded by a combination of government and private sources. The 2003 restoration of Jens Jensen's Prairie River Landscape in Humboldt Park received a state grant as well as funding from Com-Ed, an Exelon Company. The work included dredging the river; reconnecting it to the main lagoon; restoring stony brooks and waterways; thinning weedy trees; removing non-native invasive plant species; reintroducing native wetland, prairie grasses and wildflowers; and installing a circulation system powered by solar energy and a wind turbine to improve water quality and efficiency.

Other projects are significantly co-sponsored by nonprofit partners of the Chicago Park District. The restoration of the three-acre Alfred Caldwell Lily Pool in Lincoln Park was funded by local, state and private funds raised by the Friends of Lincoln Park, now known as the Lincoln Park Conservancy. The most prominent fundraising partner of the Chicago Park District is Parkways Foundation. This organization, which has 501(c)(3) status, has helped raise millions for programs and capital improvement projects, including contributing to the restoration of the Humboldt Park Boat House and the Garfield Park Conservatory. Parkways Foundation is currently working on a major campaign to assist with the funding of a complete restoration of Chicago's iconic Clarence Buckingham Memorial Fountain.

## Public Education Efforts

Educating the public is an important aspect of any historic preservation initiative. It engenders respect and knowledge and helps the community value its historic resources as a legacy worth saving for future generations. The Chicago Park District has taken an active role in producing books, exhibits, tours, podcasts and other programs to educate the public and inspire enthusiasm about its valuable collection of historic resources. These projects are often conducted with partners. For instance, the Chicago Park District historian has served as a curator of exhibits that highlight the park district's archival collection at the Chicago History Museum, the Chicago Cultural

# Preserve and Play

by Mike Jackson

The National Register of Historic Places is the nation's official list of places that have been identified as having "significance" to the story of America. It is a broad and all-encompassing list that represents many themes of American development, including recreation. Currently, there are relatively few properties listed under the theme of recreation when compared to such topics as politics or architecture, to name but two. That's curious since we live in an era where sports channels abound on TV and where attendance at sporting events is the number one reason that people travel. So while recreation's link to cultural identity is strong, the association with historic places of recreation is still quite limited.

In 2006, the National Park Service held a conference in Chicago called "Preserve and Play: Preserving Historic Recreation and Entertainment Sites." It was the first preservation conference to tackle the issue of securing historic designations for recreation sites. It is a complex but engaging task, which asks building and property owners to measure the intangibility of history through the tools of preservation. The ongoing discussion about Wrigley Field in Chicago is a compelling example of our passion for a historic place that is yet missing from the National Register of Historic Places. Wrigley Field, a man-made landscape, or a community recreation facility are all the kinds of places that can meet the eligibility criteria of the National Register.

One noteworthy aspect of the National Register is that it is national in scope but addresses places of local significance as measured within each community. The National Register is meant to be a planning tool to identify historic places. It does not mandate owners to make changes. (Building regulation is left to local governments.) There is a lot of public misunderstanding about the regulatory versus planning purpose of the National Register. It is time for Illinois' park districts and owners of other recreational sites to consider their historic significance as a factor when they manage and maintain those facilities. That's a win-win model that can work for everyone.

*Mike Jackson is with the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency*



Garfield Park Conservatory

Center, Water Tower Gallery, and the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum. Books have also been produced in this manner. *The City in a Garden: A Photographic History of Chicago's Parks* was authored by the Chicago Park District historian and published by the Center for American Places in association with the Chicago Park District.

Recent educational efforts include the development of internet-based projects. These tend to be less expensive to produce than published documents, exhibits and bus tours. And, they are more fluid because they are more easily changed and updated. These include audio tours of historic parks, providing a keyed-in map and audio tracks. Participants can print the map and download the tracks on an MP-3 player or burn them to a disk so that they can take the audio tour as they walk through the park (see, for example, [www.chicagoparkdistrict.com/resources/park\\_audio\\_tours/humboldt\\_park.html](http://www.chicagoparkdistrict.com/resources/park_audio_tours/humboldt_park.html)). Another internet-based project is a series of oral histories in which older Chicagoans describe their memories of the 1933-34 World's Fair in Chicago ([www.cpdit01.com/resources/history/?action=Memories\\_of\\_the\\_1933-34\\_Worlds\\_Fair\\_in\\_Chicago](http://www.cpdit01.com/resources/history/?action=Memories_of_the_1933-34_Worlds_Fair_in_Chicago)). A somewhat more didactic internet-based project was designed to teach students and adults how to "read" the landscape. This focuses on Columbus Park as part of a series entitled Cultural Landscapes as Classrooms, produced by the Cultural Landscape Foundation with assistance from the Chicago Park District (<http://tclf.org/classrooms>).

One of the most effective ways to excite the public about historic parks is through on-site tours. It can be difficult for a park district or nonprofit agency to have a large enough staff to provide tours, so a volunteer docent program is a good alternative. For the past five years, the Chicago Park District has partnered with the Lincoln Park Conservancy to recruit and train volunteers to give tours of three sites: the Lincoln Park Conservatory, the Alfred Caldwell Lily Pool and North Pond. After the docents receive six weeks of training from historians, horticulturalists, ecologists and other professionals, they sign up for three-hour shifts in which they give free tours to the public. Last year, 84 docents gave more than 2,200 hours of volunteer time providing guided tours to the public.

### Tips for Making Historic Preservation a Part of Your Agency's Mission

Yes, the Chicago Park District arguably has more historic resources than most park districts in the state. But that should not mean that it corners the market on preserving historic parks. Despite tight budgets, a smaller district may also take on modest (and perhaps even grandiose) projects committed to preservation. Here are some tips.

**Make small an advantage:** Unlike the Chicago Park District, which seems to regularly uncover historically significant landmarks and artworks amongst its more than 7,200 acres (did I mention the historic documents that remained undiscovered in a Soldier Field basement vault until 1987?), your agency may have one or two easily identifiable historically significant landmarks. Consider contacting a college or university with a historic preservation or history program to determine whether students would be willing to conduct historic surveys or provide intensive documentation for an individual historic building, monument or site. You may find that the local business community or neighborhood groups will be more than happy to launch fundraising efforts if you can sharply focus on one or two manageable restoration projects. Such projects often enhance people's sense of memory and connection with their neighborhood and can make big splashes in the community.

**Recruit volunteers:** Volunteers can help in many different ways. One of the most powerful methods to educate the public and generate support and interest in a natural or historic park is to have trained interpreters on site. In Chicago's Lincoln Park, docents give free tours every Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Volunteer nature stewards also help maintain parks throughout the city. A network of professionals,

known as VCCI (Volunteers of Chicago Cultural Institutions), can help get you started or help you with fresh ideas if you already have an existing volunteer program.

**If you can't do it now, at least make it part of the plan:** Don't let a lack of resources stand in your way. If you have a passionate staff or volunteers, and especially passionate park commissioners, encourage them to research and plan preservation and restoration projects as if money were no object. Of course funds never just fall from the sky, but if you have a plan in place, you will be able to pursue any opportunities that come your way quickly. Also, never underestimate the power of a plan. Once people put a vision on paper they are often inspired to make it a reality. As Chicago's famous architect and planner Daniel H. Burnham is believed to have said: "Make no little plans. They have no magic to stir men's blood and probably will not themselves be realized. Make big plans; aim high in hope and work, remembering that a noble, logical diagram once recorded will not die."

*Julia S. Bachrach is the Chicago Park District historian. She was recently recommended by Governor Pat Quinn to serve on the Board of Trustees for the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency.*

## A New Initiative for Historic Preservation Arises from a Sub Basement Vault, or How the Chicago Park District Came to Hire its Own Historian

My position as historian for the Chicago Park District was inspired by the discovery of cache of historic plans and photographs in a sub basement vault beneath Soldier Field in 1987.

At the time, the district was undergoing a major reform effort, and architect Ed Uhler (now the project manager of Millennium Park) was promoted to be the director of the Engineering Department. The vault was on the lowest level, adjacent to parking spaces reserved for executive staff members, and for years, Ed had wondered what was behind its heavy metal door. When he finally got the opportunity to explore the vault, he discovered original drawings and plans by nationally significant designers such as Daniel H. Burnham, Frederick Law Olmsted and Jens Jensen. Soon after, in 1988, Ed Uhler recommended the creation of a historic preservation division for the district, with a preservation planner, architectural historian and archivist.

Brought on as the preservation planner, I had a master's degree in historic preservation from the landscape architecture department at the University of Wisconsin and four years experience as a preservation planner for the City of Highland Park. The archive was developed into the Chicago Park District Special Collections, which continues to be actively used by staff members, consultants, students and community members today. Although more than 20 years have passed, I still love my job and feel fortunate to have many opportunities to grow and learn here.



The Buffalo Grove Park District's adult art students enjoy the opening of their painting exhibit.

*Some park districts are born to museums, some park districts  
achieve museums, and some have museums thrust upon them.  
- With apologies to William Shakespeare*

YOUR  
MUSEUM  
IS EXACTLY LIKE A  
HOUSE SOFTBALL  
LEAGUE!



HERE'S WHY.

BY DEBBIE FANDREI



The chances are good that your park agency has a museum. At the last reported count, park agencies across Illinois operated 108 museums and 431 historical structures. The chances are also good that a majority of your staff has no idea why the district has a museum, or how the museum fits in with everybody else. Does a museum count as a facility? Is the museum staff part of the recreation staff? (We suspect the museum isn't a giant revenue generator, but that's about it.)

My suggestion is that your park agency is the perfect place to have a museum, for exactly the same reasons that you have a house softball league.



A father and daughter enjoy Buffalo Grove's Raupp Museum's free walk-in activities during the summer.

### Bringing Residents Together

Just the way kids from different schools meet when they're on the same team, so too museums bring people together who might not normally meet. Parents who chaperone field trips meet their children's classmates, as well as other parents. Families who come for walk-in activities sit at tables with people from the other side of town. Retirees doing genealogy research discover they are third cousins. Visiting grandparents share their stories with their grandchildren. Brand new residents meet their neighbors, and suddenly they feel like part of the town too.

### It's All About the Story

The best sports experiences have nothing to do with the statistics. They're all about the story: the kid who finally gets a hit; the team that learns to work together; the coldest game you ever played. The same is true with museums. We've got statistics too (the date the town was founded, how fast we grew, when the schools were built) but what we've got in spades are great stories. In Buffalo Grove, one of the founding fathers of the town went to the gold rush to make his fortune, and was so unlucky he ended up walking back from California.

### We Go Beyond Language

In fact, the best stories are recognizable no matter what language you speak. When the Cinderella team wins the tournament, everyone cheers in the same language. In the same way, museums tell stories that everyone recognizes. When new residents of Buffalo Grove visit the museum, they may be speaking Japanese, Chinese, Polish, Spanish or Russian, but they all recognize parts of their own life in the stories of the German pioneers who founded our community more than 170 years ago.

### Everybody Plays

Still, why have a local museum when there are so many great museums available in Chicago or St. Louis? The same reason that rooting for the Cubs doesn't stop you from playing your own game every Tuesday night. Local teams are important because everybody has a chance to play. Local museums are important because they give everyone a chance to relate to history. History at a local museum is about the places you see every day and how they got that way. When visitors come, they learn that history isn't just about famous people and world events that happened long ago and far away. History is about the challenges faced by everyday people and how the choices they made affect the world today, even if it is just the little corner of the world they live in.

### In the End, We're All on the Same Team

Okay, so museums may fit in very well with the philosophy of park agencies, but how does the museum staff work with the rest of an agency's employees and programs? Very well indeed, thanks. To return to softball one more time, museums can be your middle relief. In Buffalo Grove, the museum has provided school programs, scout programs, free field trips for the summer camps, free field trips for the after school program, an alternate training site for the aquatics staff, on-site programs for the preschool, an exhibit venue for the fine arts classes and a great twin field trip with the district's nearby spray park. Your museum could provide all these benefits and more, as long as you work it into the lineup.

*Debbie Fandrei is the Museum Coordinator for the Raupp Museum, which is part of the Buffalo Grove Park District.*





Even laundry can be fun when it is part of a hands-on museum visit.



# JOIN THE DRIVE TO FIGHT CHILDHOOD OBESITY

Childhood obesity has reached epidemic proportions. Illinois park districts, forest preserves, conservation, recreation and special recreation agencies are coming together to ensure a healthy, happy and safe future for kids. The Park District Youth License Plate makes it possible for agencies to offer programs that teach children lifelong health, fitness and nutritional choices.

Toll Free: **1-877-783-KIDS** - [www.4KIDSplate.com](http://www.4KIDSplate.com)



# PEOPLE & PLACES



## IN MEMORIAM Former Freeport Park District Commissioner and Pioneer of Illinois Parks, Recreation and Conservation **Michael J. Cassidy**

Illinois parks, recreation and conservation lost a great friend on May 27, 2010 when **Michael J. Cassidy**, 36-year Freeport Park District Commissioner and pioneer of parks and recreation statewide, passed away.

Cassidy was elected to the board of the Freeport Park District in 1967, and served as a park commissioner until 2003. He was president of the park district board seven times.

He was elected to the board of the Illinois Association of Park Districts in 1969 and served until 1973, holding the position of president of the IAPD board during that last year. He was recognized as *Outstanding Commissioner* and was awarded an Honorary Life Membership in recognition of loyal and valuable service to the Association. In 1988, he received the *Allan A. Weissburg Commissioner of the Year Award* in recognition of his outstanding service to the Association. He was an appointed officer of the IAPD for nearly 30 years.

The Illinois Association of Park Districts established the *Mike Cassidy Commissioner Community Service Award* in

2001 to honor his tireless dedication to displaying the highest example of community service, personal integrity and ingenuity through his work with parks and recreation on the local, state and national levels.

Cassidy's numerous affiliations include the Northwest Association for Park Districts, St. Vincent-St. Joseph Homes and St. Francis School, Freeport Library Board, Rotary, Jane Addamsland Park Commission, Jane Addamsland Trail Commission, Knights of Columbus, and Freeport Jaycees. He was on the Advisory Commission for the University of Illinois' Department of Leisure Studies for 6 years.

He is truly a legend in the park, recreation and conservation community, and he will be missed.



## IAPD Best of the Best Awards Gala Nominations Accepted Until Noon on August 18th

It's the Oscars event of Illinois parks, recreation and conservation! Submit your nominations for Board Member Anniversary Awards, Agency Anniversary Awards, Best Green Practices, Arts in the Park, Best Friend Business (small, mid-sized and large business categories), Intergovernmental Cooperation, Partnership,

Good Sportsmanship and Outstanding Citizen Volunteer of the Year. This year's awards gala is the evening of Friday, October 1st at Wheeling Park District's Chevy Chase Country Club. Nominate someone today at [www.ILparks.org](http://www.ILparks.org), and plan to attend this inspiring event!

## Follow Illinois Parks & Recreation magazine on Twitter



Do you Twitter? If so, why not follow *Illinois Parks & Recreation* magazine at [twitter.com/ILParksMagazine](https://twitter.com/ILParksMagazine)? Magazine tweets are a fun, fast way to get previews of upcoming stories and events and link to bonus materials that augment the print edition of the magazine. It's also a convenient opportunity for you to make tips or suggestions for future issues.

## Five Illinois Agencies Are Among the 24 Finalists for the 2010 National Gold Medal Awards



Five Illinois park and recreation agencies are vying for one of the six gold medals awarded annually to the nation's top agencies.

In May, the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration (AAPRA), in partnership with the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), announced the 24 finalists for its six 2010 National Gold Medal Awards for Excellence in Park and Recreation Management.

The Gold Medal Award honors communities throughout the United States that demonstrate excellence in long-range planning, resource management, volunteerism, environmental stewardship, program development, professional development and agency recognition. Each agency is judged on its ability to address the needs of those it serves through the collective energies of citizens, staff and elected officials.

A panel of five park and recreation professionals reviews and judges all application materials.

Winners in each of the six categories will be announced during NRPA's Annual Congress and Exposition in Minneapolis, Minnesota, October 25 to 29, 2010.

Categories are based on the population an agency serves. Illinois has nominations in two categories, and since all finalists in one category (the Class IV Category, serving populations of 25,001 to 50,000) are Illinois agencies, the state is assured to have at least one Gold Medal Agency for 2010.

Illinois nominations by category are:

Class II (population 100,001 – 250,000)

The **Pleasure Driveway and Park District of Peoria**

Class IV (population 25,001 – 50,000)

The **Bartlett Park District**

The **Elmhurst Park District**

The **Gurnee Park District**

The **Glen Ellyn Park District**



## Volunteers Needed for Park District Conservation Day at the Illinois State Fair – Saturday, August 21<sup>st</sup>

The Illinois Association of Park Districts and the Illinois Park and Recreation Association are seeking volunteers to assist with Park District Conservation Day at the Illinois State Fair, one of the largest, outdoor public

awareness events for park districts, forest preserves, conservation, recreation and special recreation agencies.

Volunteers receive free parking and free admission to the Illinois State Fair on Saturday, August 21<sup>st</sup>. If you are interested in volunteering, register online or download a registration form at [www.ILparks.org](http://www.ILparks.org). Click on "Calendar of Events" and scroll down to August's Park District Conservation Day.

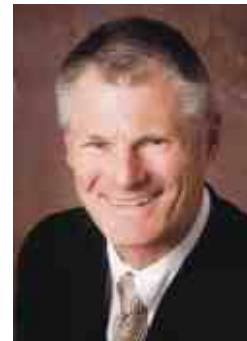
## Read More People and Places Online

**Want to know more** about the latest milestones, hires, promotions and award-winners in the Illinois park and recreation industry? Keep up with the latest happenings with the new online supplement to People & Places, More People & Places, found at the IAPD's Web site. Go to the home page, [www.ILparks.org](http://www.ILparks.org), and look for the More People & Places button near the top, or go to the "Publications" button on the left of the page and choose "Illinois Parks and Recreation Magazine" from the fly-out menu.

**You can be alerted** to the latest online People & Places postings by following the magazine on Twitter at [twitter.com/ILParksMagazine](http://twitter.com/ILParksMagazine).

**Want to submit news** from your agency for inclusion in People & Places? E-mail information and jpegs to [IAPD@ILparks.org](mailto:IAPD@ILparks.org). Jpegs should be 300 dpi at about 2 inches tall.

## Rockford Park District Executive Director Appointed to Mississippi River Council



**Tim Dimke**, Executive Director of the Rockford Park District, has been appointed by Governor Pat Quinn to serve on the non-partisan Mississippi River Coordinating Council, one of six at-large members representing communities with Rock River tributaries.

The Mississippi River Coordinating Council consists of 13 voting members appointed by the governor. Tim will be serving with members of the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Transportation.

The Council is charged with many duties including reviewing activities and programs administered by state and federal agencies that directly impact the Mississippi River and its tributaries; working with local communities and organizations to encourage partnerships, and enhance awareness and capabilities to address watershed and water resource concerns and encouraging strategies that protect, restore and expand critical habitats and soil conservation and water quality practices.

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Source: Illinois Park Districts: Citizen Perspectives, a report of the University of Illinois Office of Recreation and Park Resources, Department of Recreation, Sport and Tourism, March 2007.



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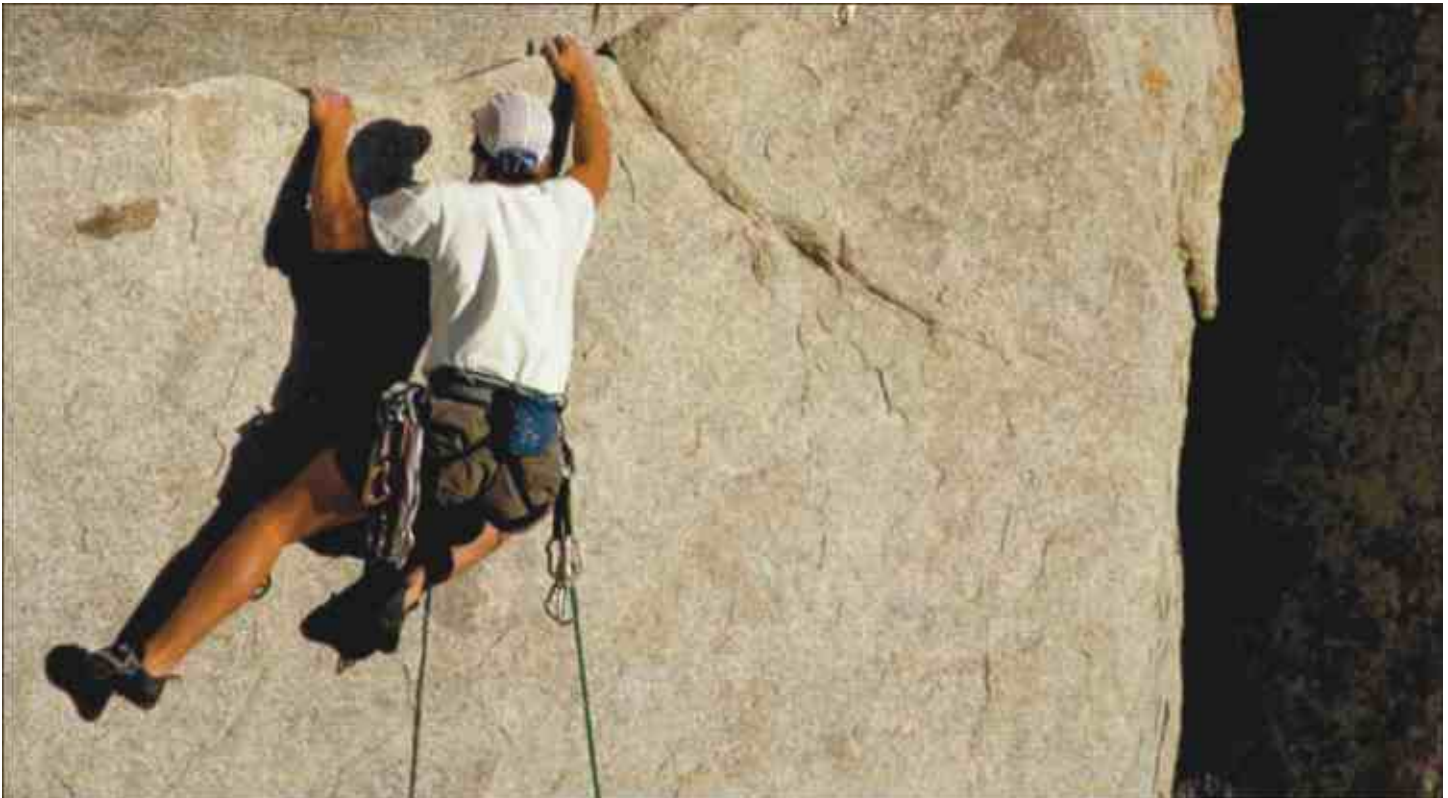
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