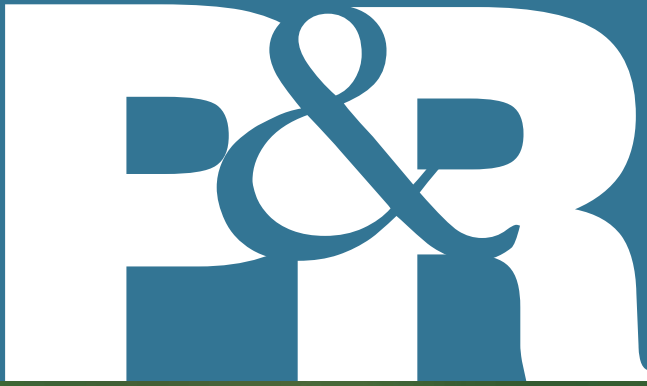


illinois

Volume 42, Number 2 | March/April 2011



PARKS AND RECREATION

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

A close-up photograph of a green leaf with several clear water droplets resting on its surface. The droplets are in sharp focus, reflecting light and showing the texture of the leaf. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green. The overall image has a fresh, natural feel.

the environment:
conservation of connectivity

PLUS: 2011 Conference Coverage & Effective Handling of Park District Rules Violators



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Forest Preserve District of Will County
Hickory Creek Forest Preserve
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PICTURED ABOVE:

- Northwest Model, 40' x 60'
- Multiple pitches available
- Innovative clerestory roof design to improve ventilation

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FROM THE EDITOR

"May you live in interesting times" is an old adage which is argued to come from western civilization made to appear like an ancient 'Confucius he say' Chinese proverb. The commonplace meaning is to curse the current trouble or upheaval in your life. To listen to a 10 o'clock news account of the economy and world affairs that surround



us, you could very well take this famous quote to heart. As I wrapped my mind around our current issue's theme of the environment, it appears that the field of parks and recreation is taking a leading role of making issues on the environment into a positive version of "living in interesting times".

To be environmentally responsible in the past typically meant some form of sacrifice or great expense. My optimistic thoughts on living in interesting times stems from my observation that we are entering a transition from good environmental practices as a sacrifice to those that are economically sound. Many of our park districts have received wonderful publicity from their area media outlets for their new green buildings, renewable energy efforts and even recycling practices. That publicity can continue to grow as we transform from being the leaders in new environmental technology to being the educators of how simple it can be to incorporate sound environmental practices a part of everyday life.

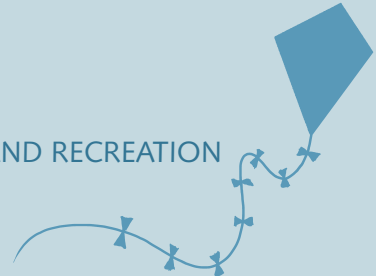
When recycling was in its infancy, it was a formidable effort for the typical family to find and execute the practice. Today with the exponential growth of material available to recycle and drop-off locations, the practice for myself has gone from a sacrifice in time and effort to a part of our weekend "trip to town." Nowadays, the ease of pulling through the recycling center is part of our Saturday breakfast, grocery shopping and errand-running chores. Is there economical benefit on top of being an environmental "good guy?" Absolutely. The growing price of per/bag garbage pick-up at our country home has been greatly lessened by our practice.

Being a technical kind of guy has me watching closely some of the new Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) green building practices that have taken place at various Illinois park facilities. This technology is filtering down to the choices people can make for their homes. For example, LEED building designs have shown the public the savings available from using compact fluorescent lighting options in everything from apartment homes to major structures. My own research has me examining the feasibility of placing a small scale wind generator on my own 5 acre homestead. As wind generators get more plentiful (and cheaper) it is the same rationalization as simply switching light bulbs. It doesn't cost, but it pays off in the long run and it pays off for the environment in the short run.

I hope we do live in the age where the opportunity exists to break the stigma that environmentally good practices are costly and look forward to Illinois parks and recreation agencies continuing their role of leading by example. Environmentally friendly choices do not cost, but can pay back in multiple ways. "May you live in interesting times?" that sounds good to me.

— TODD SILVEY
Editor

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Peter M. Murphy
IAPD President and CEO

SPRING FORWARD Creating a Synergy for Board Action

Having just been through the election cycle for park commissioners, this is a great time to spring forward as a governing body. While working with park districts throughout the years, it has been my observation that highly functioning boards do the following things on a scheduled or annual basis.

The first is to be aware of the physical holdings of the park district. Things such as buildings and grounds come immediately to mind, but also taking stock of what goes on behind the scenes to keep the district at a high level of operational readiness is important.

So take the lead of other park districts and load the board of commissioners into a van, to create synergy and the exchange of ideas, and travel to all of your parks and recreational facilities. It is important for the board to get out and walk the grounds with your executive director and other staff with first-hand knowledge of the park or facility. Both seasoned and new board members will appreciate this experience and many times will see things in a new light.

The second is to recognize that board education is essential to the effective performance of every member of your board. Most newly elected board members don't have an understanding of the myriad types of issues facing your agency, nor are they conversant with the state statutes governing your operations. The IAPD Commissioner Boot Camps provide an immediate initial solution to this through a comprehensive introduction to important topics. This year we have scheduled these commissioner seminars (boot camps) throughout the state on the heels of the consolidated election. (See the sidebar for dates and locations.)

The third is to rely on your executive director for information on all things going on at the district. As part of your team, the director is in the know not only about local issues, but also about things going on a statewide basis with the IAPD.

The fourth is to utilize the IAPD to its fullest extent. The association is rich with resources that can improve your knowledge of boardmanship, legal issues, legislative initiatives and available publications on finance and referendums, to name just a few.

Research is a priority of the IAPD and the statewide studies done on economic benefits and citizen satisfaction, which are available on our Website at www.ILparks.org, can be used as a springboard for similar efforts at the local level.

Creating Board Synergy

As the new board becomes organized after the election of new members and officers, remember these keys to effective board synergy and performance.

- Refresh with the full board the code of conduct for board member behavior and participation in meetings. Encourage everyone to enforce the code's guidelines during meetings and periodically check-in at the end of board meetings on how well the guidelines are being followed. If you don't have a written statement of board member responsibilities, consider the following questions.

- 1) What are the board members' fiduciary responsibilities, including ways they can avoid conflicts of interest or perceptions of conflicts of interest?
- 2) What are board members' responsibilities regarding meetings before, during and afterward?
- 3) What are board members' responsibilities regarding relationships with the executive director and park district staff?
- 4) How are board members expected to interact with the public during meetings and in general when out in the community or at social functions?
- 5) What other general expectations are there for board members?

Answering these questions is a start and you should rely on your executive director for agency-specific questions.

"An effective board is multiple minds speaking with one voice."



- Before the meeting, but after the pre-meeting materials have been sent, encourage board members to ask for clarifying information from the park district's executive director. These pre-meeting communications can speed up deliberation at the meeting, generate improvements to a proposal and facilitate information sharing before discussion of the merits.

- Don't spend time discussing an item when you do not have enough information. Every board has done this at some time or another. As a board you will be faced with issues that need to be addressed, and if you don't have adequate information available at the board meeting to fully understand or address these issues, you spend an inordinate amount of time discussing possible scenarios. Instead of spending precious board meeting time, make a prompt determination on what information the board needs to fully address the issue. Set a deadline for obtaining the information and place the item on the agenda for a future board meeting.
- Conflicts will arise at board meetings. When arguments erupt, board members should keep in mind that they need to remain objective. It's easy to make up your mind and refuse to listen to another board member's opinions. You must listen carefully. That's one of your roles as a board member. And don't be too sensitive. If another board member ridicules your idea, you don't have to respond in a negative fashion. It's important to see what other board members think about your idea. If most board members show agreement with the board member who opposes your view, maybe your idea wasn't so great after all.
- Don't let board disagreements go unresolved. Tackle divisiveness immediately. Don't try to sweep your problems under the rug. You should take a proactive approach to solving problems, otherwise, they will continue to build. In some cases you may want an outside consultant to review the situation with the board. The consultant can address the board's concerns and oftentimes a third party can give a more objective point of view. The board shows integrity by recognizing that there is a problem, then enlisting help to solve it rather than letting a problem fester.
- Periodically rearrange the seating. Set out nameplates in a way that breaks up the usual seatmates and offers a different visual setting. Sit the most contentious board member next to the board president. If you have more than one person that fits this description, sit them at corners. Note that when opposing views do not have direct eye contact, views are moderated and less likely to become personal attacks.
- The executive director and president of the board should sit down and do a postmortem on the meeting. Post-meeting discussions enable you to determine what went well and what could happen better while the events are still fresh in your memory. Each meeting gets better because you can talk about problems and how to avoid them at the next meeting.

As you spring forward remember that a comprehensive board member orientation is an important tool for communicating roles and responsibilities to board members. Board training and development is one of the most important jobs of the park district's director and it is vital that the board president also reinforce the importance of orientation.

As noted above, the orientation should stress that a respectful dialogue is critical to the activity of a top performing board. Only through candor will the board be able to make educated decisions that serve the best interests of the public. The orientation should also emphasize the responsibility of the board to present a uniform message outside of the boardroom. Whether or not a decision was unanimous, it is important that every park board member understand that a decision reached represents the best judgment of the board as a whole.

2011 IAPD CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April-May
Flying 4 Kids Month
Statewide Kite Fly

May 3
Parks Day at the Capitol
State Capitol, Springfield

May 3
Legislative Reception
Illini Country Club,
Springfield

May 4
Legislative Conference
Hilton Hotel, Springfield

May 16
**Summer Golf Tour
Event #1**
Tanna Farms Golf Club,
GolfVisions Mgt.
Geneva, IL

June 1
IAPD Boot Camp
Rolling Meadows Park
District

June 2
IAPD Boot Camp
Downers Grove Park
District

June 8
IAPD Boot Camp
Decatur Park District

June 9
IAPD Boot Camp
Collinsville Area Recreation
District

June 15
IAPD Boot Camp
Rockford Park District

June 20
**Summer Golf Tour
Event #2**
Steeple Chase Golf Club,
Mundelein Park & Rec.
District

July 21
Legislative Golf Outing
White Pines Golf Club
Bensenville Park District

Aug 20
**Park District
Conservation Day**
State Fairgrounds,
Springfield, IL

Aug 30
**Summer Golf Tour
Event #3**
Orchard Valley Golf Course
Fox Valley Park District

Sept 20
**Summer Golf Tour
Event #4**
Bridges of Poplar Creek
Country Club
Hoffman Estates Park
District

Oct 14
IAPD Awards Gala
Traditions at Chevy Chase
Country Club
Wheeling Park District

Oct 27
Legal Symposium
Hamburger University
Oak Brook, IL

Nov 1-4
**NRPA Congress &
Exposition**
Atlanta, Georgia

Jan 26-28/12
IAPD/IPRA Conference
Hyatt Regency Chicago

**For the most up-to-date
Calendar of Events and
information for
registration please
visit the IAPD website
at www.ilparks.org.**

EYE ON THE PROFESSION

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



Jan R. Arnold
Executive Director, IPRA

Developing the Leader You Aspire to Be

As I wrap up my first month as Executive Director at IPRA, I am struck with how many individuals have offered to help and have expressed excitement about the future of IPRA. Equally as powerful has been the consistent message from members that we need to build our future leaders and enhance the professional development opportunities that we as a profession, and more specifically, we as Illinois Parks and Recreation professionals, need to grow as individuals, community leaders, and national park and recreation leaders.

That said, I would like to spend my first message on the subject of professional development and leadership. A wise man once told me “no one will ever care more about your professional growth than yourself, so you must constantly find ways to grow and improve yourself.” This is exactly what I have always strived to do. I hope each of you will accept the challenge to grow yourself. My commitment to you is that IPRA will provide innovative, cutting edge and practical training opportunities as we move forward to help you accomplish your professional growth plan.

When I contemplate professional development, I realize that it comes in many shapes and sizes. IPRA will be working with our members to provide workshops, webinars, schools, or mentoring sessions to best fit your needs and expectations. At the heart of professional development is a personal commitment to lifelong learning and to increasing one's skills and knowledge.

When I think of leadership, I think of two great leaders and authors. First is Jim Collins, author of [Good to Great](#). If you haven't read this book, you must pick up a copy. Collins describes the keys to great leadership: 1) make sure you have the right people on the bus; and 2) make sure the people are in the right seats. Understanding that you can have great people, but if their skills are not aligned with the requirement of their job

they will not be successful. The second individual I think of is Peter Drucker and his famous quote, “management is doing things right; leadership is doing the right things.” As leaders in our industry, we must always strive to do the “right things,” even when it might mean that the decision is not popular or easy. To help IPRA members develop as great leaders, later in 2011 IPRA will launch leadership-focused educational opportunities focused on the teachings of Collins, Drucker and others that will provide members tools for professional growth.

A wise man once told me “no one will ever care more about your professional growth than yourself, so you must constantly find ways to grow and improve yourself.” This is exactly what I have always strived to do. I hope each of you will accept the challenge to grow yourself.



To demonstrate the practicality of leadership development training, I want to share with you some key points from a presentation I recently attended given by Joanne Goodman, former General Manager at Marriott-Harbour Lake. Ms. Goodman spoke to over 40 parks and recreational professionals about employee engagement and the leaders we strive to be.

We learned that only 28% of the American Workforce is “engaged” at work and that 55% are “dis-engaged” and the other 17% are “actively dis-engaged.” What does this mean? It means that only one-fourth of the population arrives at work excited to be there and want to add value to every part of their day. This statistic is a call to action for me and the IPRA staff to ensure that we provide resources and trainings to IPRA

We learned that only 28% of the American Workforce is “engaged” at work and that 55% are “dis-engaged” and the other 17% are “actively dis-engaged.” What does this mean? It means that only one-fourth of the population arrives at work excited to be there and want to add value to every part of their day.

2011 IPRA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

members that will provide meaningful ways to engage, challenge and inspire your staff.

Each individual at the presentation was given the opportunity to access their individual behavior by selecting a person's preferences in word association. The assessment was a modified version of the DISC, which is an acronym for:

- D**ominance – relating to control, power and assertiveness
- I**nfluence – relating to social situations and communication
- S**teadiness – relating to patience, persistence, and thoughtfulness
- C**onscientiousness – relating to structure and organization

These four dimensions can be grouped in a grid with "D" and "I" representing extroverted aspects of the personality, and "C" and "S" representing introverted aspects. Additionally, "D" and "C" are task-focused, while "I" and "S" are people-focused. This was a good exercise and a great reminder that not only do we need to know our own preferences, but also the styles of our peers to be the most effective leaders.

Lastly, the attendees of this training assembled the following list of characteristics that we admire in our mentors and the traits that we hope to possess as leaders of our agencies and staff. They are as follows: possess high expectations; be trusting; be a teacher and coach; have the ability to build confidence in others; be ethical and honest; empower staff; give others autonomy; lead by values; be fair; be fearless; have a positive attitude; seek opinions and ideas; recognize staff; be a good listener; be a creative problem-solver; and lead by example.

I encourage each of you to ask yourself if you espouse these traits and if not, what you can do to enhance your leadership skills and motivate your employees.

It is my goal to build an IPRA that grows our future leaders and enhances the skills of our current leaders so that you can continue to offer quality programs, run state-of-the-art facilities, offer spectacular parks, and provide life-changing experiences to improve the quality of life of all Illinois citizens.

One of the strategic initiatives for the IPRA Strategic Plan is to develop dynamic professionals and future leaders. We can do this by providing high-quality leadership development trainings to all levels of leaders in the parks and recreation profession: whether you are a seasoned executive director, a supervisor, or a young professional, IPRA will strive to provide you with the tools you need to develop your skills for the challenges and opportunities of parks and recreation today and in the future.

March 31, 2011
10:00am

**New Member
Orientation**
1st Quarter

April 21, 2011
9:00am

**CIRCLE Connection
and College &
University Relations
Committee Summit**

April 6, 2011
1:00pm

**IPRA Environmental
Committee Meeting**

April 21, 2011
11:00am

**Ethnic Minority
Section Meeting**

April 12, 2011
10:00am

**WEBINAR: Teen
Camps – What Am I
Doing here?**

May 4, 2011
1:00pm

**IPRA Environmental
Committee Meeting**

April 13, 2011
11:00am

**IPRA Board of
Directors Meeting**

May 12, 2011
10:00am

**WEBINAR: Creating a
Legacy of Leadership
Through Succession
Planning**

April 15, 2011
9:30am

**Facility Management
Section Leadership
Conference Call**

May 13, 2011
10:30am

**Facility Management
Section Meeting**

April 15, 2011
1:00pm

**C&M Section Board
Meeting, Box Lunch
and Roundtable
Discussion**

May 26, 2011
10:00am

**IPRA Board of
Directors Meeting**

For the most up-to-date Calendar of Events
please visit the IPRA website at www.ILParks.org.



Jason Anselment
Legal/Legislative Counsel

State's Budget Climate Presents Opportunity

Because odd-numbered years are the first year of a new General Assembly, a plethora of bills are typically introduced. This year has been no different as some 6,300 pieces of new legislation have been filed. The IAPD has reviewed each of these bills for its potential impact on park districts, forest preserves, conservation, recreation and special recreation agencies. We are closely watching nearly 250 bills we have identified as potentially affecting our member agencies, and we are tracking more than 550 more so that we may keep you informed.

Staying Informed Is Key to Advocacy

To support our advocacy efforts, it is important for IAPD members to stay actively involved in the legislative process. A key attribute of being a strong advocate is staying informed. For starters, you will find the IAPD's Legislative Platform complete with bill numbers and sponsors inside this issue of Illinois Parks & Recreation. We need your help to advance these important initiatives.

However, the Legislative Platform is only part of our legislative efforts. I encourage each of you to also keep current on the status of all bills we consider a priority by visiting the Public Policy section of IAPD's website at www.ilparks.org, which we update several times a week. Of course, you can always find out the status of any legislation by visiting the General Assembly's website at www.ilga.gov.

Timing Is Right to Make the Case against Unfunded Mandates

As has been widely reported, the State's fiscal problems continue to take center stage at the Capitol. While lawmakers differ vastly over the best way to solve the State's budget problems, there seems to be universal agreement on at least one point: new State programs that cost new money are "dead on arrival." Units of local government, which are suffering from their own economic problems, can certainly relate to this fiscal reality.

Given the General Assembly's focus on avoiding new spending, there is perhaps no better time for local governments to drive home a point we have been making for years and one that is a key item on our Legislative Platform – opposing unfunded mandates. Unfortunately, as you will see from many of the bills summarized below, there is no shortage of pending legislation that seeks to impose new, costly mandates on member agencies.

Consequently, we need your help reminding legislators that unfunded mandates have the same effect on local government that new programs have for the State. For example, when a park district is required to divert resources from an existing program in order to satisfy a new government regulation, the mandate has exactly the same impact on a park district's budget that a new program has on the State's budget. In both cases, the State and the park district are required to spend money that is not available. Now is the time to draw this analogy for your legislators.

Pending Legislation Imposing Unfunded Mandates

The bills listed below demonstrate that your grassroots advocacy efforts are needed to stop unfunded mandates. If they are enacted into law, these proposals would negatively impact local governments and their elected officials by exposing them to liability, imposing new costly requirements, or otherwise burdening them.

Open Meetings Act

HB 1670 (Burke, K.) requires future elected officials to successfully complete a training program provided by the Attorney General's Public Access Counselor. Failure to do so would disqualify the official from being a candidate for the office in which he or she is serving at the time of the violation in future elections. Although the bill exempts officials who are elected to serve public bodies that require the attendance of their parliamentarian or attorney at each meeting, it does not recognize that many elected officials receive training from associations like the IAPD.

HB 3131 (Pihos, S.) requires a public body conducting a public meeting to ensure that at least one copy of any requested notice and agenda for the meeting is continuously available for public review during the entire 48-hour period preceding the meeting. The bill also includes a provision requiring that a public body's agenda be "sufficiently descriptive to give the public reasonable notice" of the items that will be considered or will be the subject of final action at the meeting.

Freedom of Information Act

SB 39 (Garrett, S.) as introduced would amend the Freedom of Information Act to provide that communications and materials exchanged between an attorney-lobbyist and a public body that concern either lobbying to be performed on behalf of the public body by the attorney-lobbyist or the expenditure of public moneys for goods or services to be provided on behalf of the public body by the attorney-lobbyist are public records, are not exempt from inspection and copying unless otherwise exempt under a specific provision of the Act, and are not privileged from disclosure at trial unless otherwise required by law.

Government Records

SB 37 (Duffy, D.) amends the Local Records Act to require that a unit of local government that has an Internet website that the full-time staff of the unit of local government maintains post on its website for the current calendar or fiscal year and the 4 years immediately before that calendar or fiscal year: (i) contact information for elected and appointed officials, (ii) notice of regular and special meetings, (iii) procedures for requesting information from the unit of local government, (iv) annual budget, (v) ordinances under which the unit of local government operates, (vi) procedures to apply for building permits and zoning variances, (vii) financial reports and audits, (viii) information

concerning employee compensation, (ix) contracts with lobbying firms, (x) taxes and fees imposed by the unit of local government, (xi) expenditures, (xii) rules governing the award of contracts, (xiii) bids and contracts worth \$25,000 or more, and (xiv) campaign contributions made by a vendor.

SB 43 (Garrett, S.) creates the Taxation Disclosure Act. This legislation would require every Illinois taxing district to report its tax rates annually to the Illinois Department of Revenue. The Department would then make publicly available an online searchable database of tax rates that would allow citizens and businesses to search for tax rates by zip code or address as well as by clicking through a map of the State. It is important to note that the Department of Revenue already provides most, if not all, of this information without burdening each taxing district with the reporting requirements.

Safety Requirements

HB 1130 (Sente, C.) as introduced would create the Movable Soccer Goal Safety Act and requires park districts and other organizations that set up, move, or store a movable soccer goal to follow all applicable guidelines for anchoring, securing, and counterweighting a movable soccer goal as those guidelines are set forth in "Guidelines for Movable Soccer Goal Safety." The IAPD has already spent considerable time working with Representative Sente, the bill's sponsor, to reduce the burden this bill would place on member agencies while also achieving the ultimate goal of promoting safety.

SB 150 / HB 1963 (Raoul, K.) (Burke, D.) as introduced would require all schools and park districts that operate or sponsor athletic programs or extracurricular activities to develop and disseminate guidelines and policies to inform and educate coaches and athletes and their parents or guardians of the nature and risk of concussions, criteria for removal from and return to play, and the risks of not reporting the injury and continuing to play. The bill would require each school and park district to have policies to ensure the identification and proper handling of suspected concussions in athletes. The bill also contains onerous provisions concerning liability and records of compliance. Like HB 1130, the IAPD has already spent many hours working with the bills' sponsors to reduce or remove the burden on park districts. While park districts can certainly play a voluntary role in disseminating information about this important issue, we have been educating legislators and interested parties on the differences between the athletic programs school districts operate and those that happen to occur on park district property.

Restrictions on Local Control

HB 1605 (Moffitt, D.) provides that no county or municipality may prohibit a charitable organization from soliciting for charitable purposes if certain requirements are met. Although the bill establishes requirements concerning the solicitation for the groups involved, application requirements, and liability insurance, it still diminishes local control. Moreover, while the bill only amends the Counties Code and the Municipal Code, it attempts to include special districts by incorporating them and all other political subdivisions in the definition of a "local agency."

Minimum Wage

SB 1565 (Lightford, K.) amends the Minimum Wage Law to remove exemptions for temporary or irregular employees and employees under the age of 18 and to provide a procedure for increasing the minimum wage to over \$10.00 per hour and thereafter increasing it by the increase in the cost of living. This bill also provides for an increased amount of damages recoverable by an employee that is paid less than the wage to which he or she is entitled to under the Minimum Wage Law.

Employment

HB 1879 (Mitchell, B.) amends the Right to Privacy in the Workplace Act to require every employer, after hiring an employee, to verify the employment eligibility of the employee through the E-Verify program. Particularly burdensome, however, is the bill's requirement that all units of local government must require each employer to use an Employment Eligibility Verification System as a condition of receiving a government contract or a business license.

HB 2191 (Sommer, K.) is another bill that diminishes local control by amending the Volunteer Emergency Worker Job Protection Act to provide that no public or private employer may take disciplinary action against an employee who is a volunteer emergency worker because the employee, when acting as a volunteer worker, is absent from or late to his or her employment in order to respond to an emergency.

SB 128 (Sandoval, M.) requires employers to provide employees with up to 7 sick days with pay during each 12-month period.

SB 1308 (Sandoval, M.) amends the Illinois Human Rights Act to provide that if there is a finding that an employer committed a civil rights violation against a female employee based upon the employee's sex, the award of damages may be increased up to an amount not to exceed 3 times any actual damages sustained. The bill also amends the Equal Pay Act of 2003 to similarly provide that if there is a finding that an employer committed a violation of this Act against a female employee, the award of damages may be increased up to an amount not to exceed 3 times any underpayment.

Property Taxes

HB 1898 (Kay, D.) permits voters in a county that is not subject to PTELL to file a petition with the county clerk requesting the county board to submit to the voters of the county the question of whether to make all non-home rule taxing districts that have all or a portion of their equalized assessed valuation situated in the county subject to tax caps. If 10% of the registered voters within the county sign the petition, then the county board must submit the question for referendum.

SB 1386 (Jones, E.) is an onerous proposal that would extend the statute of limitation for taxpayers to claim refunds for property tax overpayments or erroneous assessments from 5 years to 20 years. If enacted, this bill would result in financial uncertainty and potentially cost taxing districts significant revenues to the extent it could require them to refund taxes going back 20 years.

SB 2077 (Murphy, M.) effectively freezes property taxes for 3 years by requiring that in years 2011 through 2013, the total amount due on each property tax bill in each taxable year may not exceed the total amount due for that property in taxable year 2010.

Elected Officials

HB 217 (Crespo, F.) provides that any registered lobbyist is ineligible to hold an elective State or local office and prohibits any elected official from engaging in activities that would require registration under the Lobbyist Registration Act.

SB 1683 (Link, T.) prohibits local officials from simultaneously serving in an elected office of more than one unit of local government if the units of local government may tax any of the same services, occupations, uses, or property.

Prevailing Wage

SB 1550 (Haine, W.) provides that workers engaged in the transportation of aggregate or excavated materials or the operation of equipment to haul aggregate or excavated materials to or from the site of the building or construction job must be paid prevailing wage. This measure would increase construction costs for units of local government.



CONSERVATION of connectivity

Lessons Learned from the Illinois Natural Areas Inventory (INAI) Update

By Dr. Deanna Glosser and Dr. Brian Anderson

After three years of conducting the INAI Update and developing the Sustainable Natural Areas Vision (SNAV), a central theme has emerged – the need for a new paradigm – “the conservation of connectivity”, where we work to connect natural areas with their surrounding landscapes, connect conservation organizations and agencies to become an energized and effective force in sustaining natural areas, and (re-)connecting people with the land. This emphasis on connectivity is vital to the future of natural areas.

It is important to understand the INAI and the status of high quality natural areas in order to understand the goals of SNAV, who needs to be involved in meeting these goals, the role of agencies such as park districts, and what specifically needs to be done. The fate of natural areas begins with the INAI.

What is the Illinois Natural Areas Inventory (INAI)?

The INAI is a record of high quality forests, prairies, wetlands, and other significant natural features first conducted in the mid-1970s for the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR). It was a three-year project conducted by the University of Illinois that identified 1,089 sites as natural areas. These 1,089 sites covered 25,723 acres, which represents only 0.07% of *all* the land area of Illinois. Of these sites, only 689 contained vegetation that resembled what was here at the time of European settlement, approximately 200 years ago.

Why Is the INAI Important?

Illinois has lost 99.93% of all high quality natural communities that once existed across the state. The INAI serves as a tool to focus conservation actions and help protect the few remaining high quality natural areas. These natural areas perform valuable functions important to us, including reducing flooding, improving water quality, and providing wildlife habitat. In addition, the INAI is used by state and local units of government for planning and to help set priorities for land management programs.

What is the INAI Update?

While the list of INAI sites has been maintained by IDNR since the first inventory was conducted 30 years ago, many changes have

occurred. Some INAI sites have been destroyed and others added. Knowledge gained over the past 30 years has improved our ability to identify those areas that will serve as the core of the connected landscapes needed to protect biological diversity. Technological advances now allow us to use remote sensing, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), and digital imaging to identify new sites and to use computers to record data in the field. As a result, IDNR determined the INAI should be updated.

The INAI Update includes two separate sets of statewide assessments and surveys:

- A systematic search for new high quality terrestrial natural communities.
- An assessment of all existing high quality natural areas to determine their current status.

What are the Results of the INAI Update?

The process for identifying new sites begins by examining aerial photographs and other mapping tools, and talking to local people who know their land. Once this list of “potential natural areas” has been identified, the evaluation begins to determine if they meet the standards to be added to the INAI. The last stage of this process is to conduct a quantitative survey to document the vegetation that exists and the degree of disturbance that has occurred. To date, 108 new sites are being proposed for addition to the INAI; it is estimated that twice that number or more could be identified in total, perhaps as many as 230-250.

In the assessment of existing INAI sites, a total of 313 sites, containing 455 natural communities were examined from late 2008 to 2010. Of the 455 natural communities, 322 increased or retained their diversity and structure, while 58 communities decreased slightly in natural quality, and 65 decreased significantly. The factors that allowed the largest percentage of these sites to retain their natural quality include, owner recognition of their property's natural value; prescribed burning; brush and exotic plant removal; stable or naturally cyclical water tables; and lack of impacts by adjacent urban/suburban development.

What is the Sustainable Natural Areas Vision (SNAV)?

SNAV is the corollary to the Illinois Natural Areas Plan written in 1980 following the completion of the first INAI. The primary goal of this first plan was to protect existing INAI sites and manage them to sustain them into the future. Given the many challenges facing natural areas today – invasive species, degradation and fragmentation, urban/suburban development and the most daunting – climate change, SNAV goes beyond this first plan. The primary goal of SNAV is to set forth a workable, implementable framework for creating a sustainable, connected system of natural areas. This goal has a short-term and a long-term perspective. In the short term, efforts will be made to protect natural areas as they exist today, encompassing all the current ecological functions and biodiversity of these sites. In the long-term, however, efforts will be needed to create larger, resilient, connected systems that may adapt to changing environmental conditions, even if that means changes in ecological function and biodiversity.

Secondary goals include the identification of the potential roles of all stakeholders in this effort, and to consider the many challenges and opportunities that exist in protecting natural areas and creating sustainability.

Who are the Stakeholders?

Everyone is a stakeholder, from the “bottom up”, such as land managers and others directly involved with preservation efforts, and “top down” including the Governor and legislature who have responsibilities for providing the funding, incentives, and the legal and administrative framework to allow land managers and others to create sustainable natural area complexes. Stakeholders addressed in SNAV include the Department of Natural Resources and Nature Preserve Commission, local governments, park, conservation, and forest preserve districts, federal agencies, NGOs, the public, or private landowners.

Challenges & Opportunities

Challenges to achieving the goals of the Sustainable Vision were identified through numerous meetings with natural resource professionals, various stakeholders, and at the Illinois Natural Areas Summit held on March 9, 2010. Opportunities for overcoming these challenges were also identified. Some of these challenges and opportunities require funding, while others require legislative action. And these challenges and opportunities are responsive to both ecological and cultural pressures upon natural areas.

How Can Park Districts Contribute?

Park Districts can use their legal authorities to provide leadership in protecting and sustaining natural areas in a number of ways. Park Districts can:

- Dedicate the INAI sites they own as a Nature Preserve or Land & Water Reserve.
- Work with IDNR to manage any INAI sites they own to maintain or restore them.
- Work with IDNR to identify those lands they own that could play a role in making natural areas sustainable – serving as buffers or linkages to other natural areas.
- Develop biodiversity, natural areas, or passive recreation plans, recognizing the importance of the need to protect and sustain natural areas, and the public's interest in passive recreation activities such as bird watching.
- Think regionally when preparing plans – collaborate with neighboring communities, the county, and even private landowners to increase the connectivity of natural areas.



A number of education programs take place through the Tyner Interpretive Center including education about the environment, park district programs and showcase environmental features of the facility itself.

The Future of Natural Areas

The new conservation of connectivity paradigm will require us to change how we are protecting natural areas – from an individual site protection approach to one that connects core natural areas to the landscape around them, enlarging them to sustain greater biodiversity, and resilient enough to adapt to climate change and other ecological and cultural threats.

Each of the opportunities identified in SNAV need to be explored and acted upon in the near future. In addition to the opportunities by stakeholders, SNAV outlined major initiatives in the last chapter, among them are:

1. Develop/enhance strategic partnerships, including a network of non-traditional allies, which addresses the connectivity of conservation organizations.
2. Develop a sustainable natural areas legislative agenda for the governor and legislature.
3. Establish a Sustainable Communities Institute to identify Key Cultural-Social Needs and research issues.
4. Develop comprehensive natural resources auditing programs to evaluate the success of our actions.
5. Use preserve design criteria to identify sustainability strategies, which addresses the need for landscape connectivity.
6. Establish a comprehensive natural areas landowner contact initiative.

Planning for each of these initiatives should be undertaken immediately in order that they are ready for implementation at the first opportunity. Those needing extensive funding may require waiting until the economy improves, but developing the plan of action now will enable action to be taken more quickly in the future. It is hoped that the “vision” laid out in SNAV, with its accompanying stakeholder opportunities, will provide the hope needed for the future of Illinois' natural areas. If not, as George Fell said at the time of the first Illinois Natural Areas Inventory over thirty years ago: *“those that follow will no longer have the chance. They will only be able to care for what we leave them.”* And, with climate change, invasive species, urban development, and the many other threats that exist, there may be precious few natural areas remaining in decades to come. The time to act is now.

Dr. Deanna Glosser is President/CEO of Environmental Planning Solutions, Riverton, IL

Dr. Brian Anderson is the director of the Illinois Natural History Survey at the University of Illinois, Champaign, IL

Glenview Park District—for a Greener Community

By Lorin Ottlinger

Assistant Director of the Grove and chair of the Glenview Park District's staff environmental committee

Photo by Glenview Park District

Environmental Commitment and Leadership

The Glenview Park District has made a solid commitment to the environment that is backed by action. With over 800 acres of parks, natural areas and green space owned or maintained, the Glenview Park District serves as an example for other park districts and the community as strong environmental advocates. Holdings include The Grove National Historic Landmark, a 125-acre nature preserve with a strong mission of environmental education and stewardship and Air Station Prairie, a 32-acre remnant tallgrass prairie ecosystem. The Evelyn Pease Tyner Interpretive Center at Air Station Prairie is a LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) platinum educational facility and state-of-the-art showcase for green technology.

The Glenview Park District intensified efforts in the environmental area in 2008 with the formation of a staff-based Environmental Team.



Within the Glenview Park District, the Evelyn Pease Tyner Interpretive Center is a LEED platinum educational facility with features such as its green roof and windpower electric generator.

Environmental Management System

The Glenview Park District developed an environmental management questionnaire as a means to gather baseline data and to gauge the current environmental status of the agency. The Environmental Team and other key staff then attended a rigorous six-part training program with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources Waste Management and Resource Center to develop an Environmental Management System (EMS.) This evolving document serves as a guide for environmental planning and ensures continual improvement in environmental areas. As part of the EMS process, the district developed an environmental policy and guiding principles to steer decision making. An Environmental Planning Form is now being utilized at each facility to identify environmental impacts and methods of improvement.

District-Wide Projects

A district-wide campaign was implemented to provide recycling opportunities in all staff and public areas. This was accompanied by

an extensive training program and the revision of performance evaluations to include accountability for environmental responsibility. Facility upgrades have begun across the district including more efficient lighting, mechanical upgrades at the ice center and tennis club and HVAC upgrades at the golf course and ice center. Construction of a new maintenance facility included geothermal heating and cooling, occupancy sensors, reflective pavement, irrigation cistern, bio-swales, green roof, wind turbine and other environmental amenities. In the past three years thousands of additional trees and seedlings have been planted across the district and rain gardens and porous pavement have been installed as pilot projects to aid in storm water management in two parks. A comprehensive Integrated Pest Management system is now being implemented to set guidelines for chemical usage and programs have been created to manage invasive species such as the emerald ash borer.

Plans are also underway to incorporate environmental standards and requirements into construction bid documents, vendor contracts and catering agreements. In addition, the district is conducting an audit of utility expenditures and has recently renegotiated contracts with its electricity provider. The GPD Board of Commissioners allocates funding each year for environmental projects through an In-House Environmental Grant Program. Staff members submit proposals and funding is awarded to individuals or facilities for environmental improvements. Projects funded through this program include recycling bins and a refuse dumper, occupancy sensors, green cleaning products, wind turbines, organic fertilizer, native plantings, eco-friendly promotional products and utility upgrades.

Internal Communication and Environmental Education

The Glenview Park District's Environmental Team is the main conduit for spreading the environmental message within the district, with at least one representative from each facility on the team. Environmental Awareness and Recycling Guidelines have been developed in both English and Spanish languages and communicated to all staff. E-mail messages, such as a series of "Green Tips" have been designed to give staff simple, practical ways to be more environmentally conscious.

Nearly 100,000 school children, scouts and patrons visit The Grove National Historic Landmark each year to learn about the natural history of the area and to enjoy acres of prairies, woodlands and wetlands. Air Station Prairie now joins The Grove in efforts for nature interpretation as well as sustainability education. The Tyner Center at Air Station Prairie boasts such amenities as a green roof, photovoltaics and a geothermal heating system. Here, visitors learn the importance of conservation and new technologies for the future health of the planet.

Community Partnerships

The Glenview Park District maintains relationships with other agencies such as the Village of Glenview and local school districts to further the environmental message. The district hosts the town's Farmer's Market and actively participates in the Market's Green Table to inform shoppers about a wide variety of environmental topics. The GPD Marketing Team works with other partners through a village-wide campaign called "Go Green Glenview" to communicate information about opportunities and programs.

Climate Ready Planning and Parks

The Illinois Natural Areas Inventory Update identified threats to Illinois' natural areas including that of a changing climate. At the 2011 IAPD/IPRA Soaring to New Heights Conference, the session *Climate Ready Planning and Parks* contained an overview of these threats. This session presented options for adapting management to a changing climate and protecting prior investments in natural lands.

By Judy Beck, Lake Michigan Manager of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, GLNPO

On-line Adaptation Tools

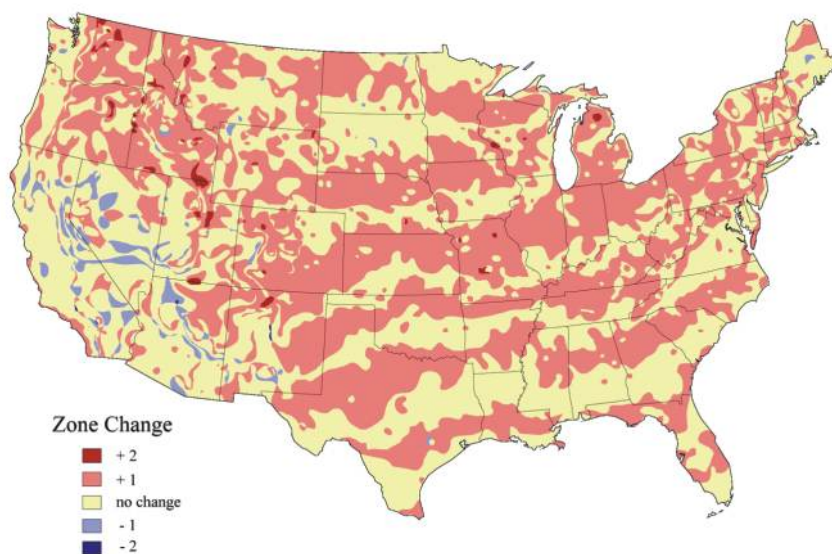
1. Climate Wizard at <http://www.climatewizard.org>
 - Can use it to incorporate information from 16 different models.
 - Used to package data from IPCC report to visualize on your own climate change.
2. Global Climate Change Impacts in the United States at <http://www.globalchange.gov/publications/reports/scientific-assessments/us-impacts>
3. Climate Adaptation Knowledge Exchange at <http://www.cakex.org/>
 - Aimed at building a shared knowledge base for managing natural systems in the face of rapid climate change
 - Building a community via an interactive online platform
 - Creating a directory of practitioners to share knowledge and strategies
 - Identifying and explaining data tools and information available from other sites
4. Nature Serve's Climate Change Vulnerability Index at <http://www.natureserve.org/prodServices/climatechange/ClimateChange.jsp>
 - Components of vulnerability
 - Relative ratings
 - Encourages you to reflect uncertainties
 - System level tool rather than a species level tool and a range-wide assessment and can be used for plants and animals
5. Climate adaptation documents and guidance for regional scale assessments located at <http://conserveonline.org/workspaces/climateadaptation/documents/incorporating-cc-adaptation-into-regional/view.html>
 - Guidance for revising a conservation action plan
 - Climate adaptation primer

This climate change issue has been the topic of study for three years as part of the Chicago Wilderness Climate Change Task Force. Chicago Wilderness is an alliance of agencies working to preserve the bio-diversity of a large three state area around the southern tip of Lake Michigan.

The study recommended actions outlined in the Chicago Wilderness Climate Action Plan for Nature. A key proposed action is to hold climate clinics that are intended to build capacity among organizations and equip each with climate change-related knowledge, tools, and planning objectives.

Introduction to basic climate science and the expected climate change impacts to native species, natural areas, and ecosystem services in the Illinois region will lay the ground work for park planners and managers to begin adapting their practices to a changing climate. Park and Forest Preserve Districts interested in hosting a clinic for themselves and/or neighbors should contact Chris Mulvaney, Co-Chair Climate Change Task Force at chris.mulvaney@chicagowilderness.org

The value of protected open space for recreation and wildlife conservation is well established. But protecting natural areas also provides benefits to humans that are sometimes harder to see. One of those benefits is that it sequesters carbon that would have been released into the atmosphere as carbon dioxide, the most common of the greenhouse gases that cause global climate change. By preventing the destruction of native habitats, our preliminary calculations indicate that land protection in the Chicago Wilderness region has prevented the release of 53 million tons of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. Thus protected lands are serving multiple functions. While research on this aspect and others continue, there are a number of on-line resources that one can view.



This map illustrates the reflection of warmer climate across the United States between 1990 and 2006. Image supplied by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the National Arbor Day Foundation.

2011 Soaring to New Heights

The IAPD and IPRA honor the 2010 recipients of the associations' major awards at the Soaring to New Heights Conference awards luncheon on January 28th at the Hilton Chicago.



IAPD President and CEO Peter Murphy congratulates IAPD Legislator of the Year Senator Kimberly Lightford.

Senator Kimberly Lightford – IAPD Legislator of the Year

As recipient of the IAPD legislator of the year award, Senator Kimberly Lightford has been a faithful supporter of park agencies in her district and statewide. She and her family participate in park district programs, so she knows first hand the benefits that parks, recreation and conservation bring to the citizens of Illinois. Senator Lightford was instrumental in obtaining funding for the acquisition of vehicles designed to transport disabled children and adults to programs throughout an eleven district area.

When the Park District of Forest Park had a problem that could only be solved legislatively, she took immediate action and worked to pass senate bill 3696 with unprecedented speed and efficiency. Senator Lightford makes the time to meet with park district commissioners and staff throughout her senatorial district to discuss key programs like the park and recreational facility construction grant. She is a supporter of the IAPD and IPRA legislative platform and initiatives, and is unfailing in her support of full funding for the OSLAD program.

John Karesh – IAPD Rising Star

The rising star award recognizes John Karesh, a newly elected board member who demonstrates exemplary performance of duties and responsibilities. This year's rising star has been on his park district's board for five years, but, his heart has been with the parks much longer.

Karesh gives a tremendous amount of time to the Westmont Park District, serving as treasurer for the past two years and coaching baseball, softball and soccer. When he is not on a field, you can find him involved at a number of community events. John's position as superintendent of parks for the Woodridge Park District has brought a unique perspective to his role as commissioner of the Westmont Park District. He has been instrumental in spearheading community meetings to get resident feedback on several major projects.

The foresight of John Karesh has saved the district money, and improved relationships with other community organizations. He continues to bring fresh ideas to the park district, and is able to view things from the eye of a professional, a resident and a father.



Outgoing IAPD Board Chair George Longmeyer presents John Karesh with the IAPD Rising Star Award.



Ron Diehl



Marva Brown

Ron Diehl – IAPD Honored Professional

This year's IAPD honored professional award goes to a man who was hired as his park district's first full-time executive director fresh out of college in 1972. Ron Diehl planned to stay there a few years before moving to the Chicago area. But before he knew it, he had fallen in love with his first and only job after college and the park district soared to new heights of excellence. He will be retiring from his post at that same agency!

Diehl brought his community's park district to life. The district didn't have baseball leagues or recreation programs and there was only one park. Ron hit the ground running, and his efforts have significantly improved the quality of life in his community by preserving open spaces and providing excellent recreational opportunities for his park district's citizens. Ron's aggressive drive and passion to create opportunities for Effingham's citizens led to two new parks, baseball leagues, a new pool and an expanded recreation center. From working with a 35,000 dollar a year budget and hiring his first employee, to overseeing a 1.4 million dollar budget with more than 100 seasonal employees, Ron has taken the Effingham Park District on quite a journey.

Ron Diehl has been called the grandfather of the Effingham park district, but if you ask him, he will tell you that the family of park district board members, staff and the citizens of Effingham are the ones who should be credited for making it what it is today.

Marva Brown – IPRA Citizen Volunteer of the Year

The 2010 recipient of this IPRA citizen volunteer of the year award is a woman who had the strength to turn a heart wrenching tragedy into triumph. In 1996, Marva Brown's seven-year-old grandson lost his life in a drowning at the community's pool. Marva managed to pick herself up from enormous grief and find a way to help others in her community faced with the devastating loss of a child by creating the Harkins Community Memorial Fund. The fund helps families of limited resources with information, financial assistance and emotional support in their personal time of crisis.

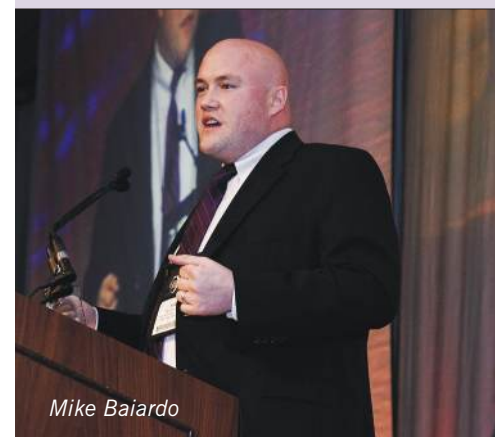
Under Marva's volunteer leadership, the 16 members of the Harkins advisory board meet each month and have raised more than \$24,000 in private donations for 25 families that have been given financial assistance and other support in their time of need.

Mike Baiardo– IPRA Young Professional of the Year

The IPRA young professional of the year award is given annually to a person who has made an immediate, positive impact on his or her agency and the community it serves. Mike Baiardo is the 2010 award recipient as the epitome of that description.

Baiardo's title is superintendent of recreation for the Alsip Park District, but in no way does that encompass everything he does. Mike displays amazing potential for not only the park district, but for parks and recreation on the state and national level as well. Mike has been instrumental in developing a sponsorship program for his agency, bringing in additional funding. His personal drive has led to many more successes including revamping the facility permit process, negotiating a contract with a local school district for use of their facilities, and helping to construct a facility analysis of the aquatic park.

Mike is actively involved in the IPRA, as well as several other state and national associations.



Mike Baiardo



IPRA Interim CEO Mike Selep with IPRA Professional Recognition Award winner Brian Sullivan of the Morton Grove Park District.

Brian Sullivan – IPRA Professional Recognition

The key to Brian Sullivan's successful 23-year career has been his ability to build meaningful relationships within the community and the profession. He has an unparalleled talent of bringing people together and fostering growth and change in the field of parks and recreation. He has already built relationships with local leaders, negotiated and secured space for a future community facility, and submitted grant proposals for future projects.

Sullivan's tireless efforts brought forth the passage of a \$16.2 million referendum for his agency in 2007, which included the renovation of the outdoor pool and community center and the construction of a state-of-the-art indoor pool and fitness center. Brian coordinated remodeling projects for two baseball fields - including a Chicago White Sox miracle field, which serves individuals with adaptive needs. His work with a local foundation resulted in sixteen donated computers to create a "learning laboratory" for the preschool program. Brian oversaw completion of a 5 1/2 acre park with an OSLAD grant and a \$1.2 million environmentally-friendly park maintenance center, thanks to an intergovernmental agreement with the Illinois Tollway Authority. Brian serves as a representative for the IPRA administrative and finance section, and was sworn in at the 2011 Soaring to New Heights Conference as the section director.

Elizabeth Kessler – IPRA Fellow Award

The IPRA fellow award is presented to a professional who has shown excellence in promoting parks and recreation statewide. Elizabeth Kessler has gone above and beyond, making a difference not only in Illinois, but also throughout the nation. She served with style and dedication as a state and national leader, encouraging collaborative decision making and serving as a role model to us all.

Kessler served on the IPRA board of directors from 1998 until 2004 chairing the board in 2003. She served on the National Recreation and Park Association's board, holding the position of president in 2009 and 2010. Throughout her 23 years in the field of parks, recreation and conservation, she has taken on many challenges, providing leadership along the way.

As executive director, Elizabeth has guided the McHenry County Conservation District through a comprehensive site access and improvement planning process, and a voter approved bond referendum for \$73 million for land acquisition and site improvements. Five new sites were opened at her agency along with three new trails and the addition of more than 4,700 acres of land. She also managed a \$6.7 million renovation of the visitor center to achieve L.E.E.D. gold certification.

Ernie Shymanik – IAPD Mike Cassidy Commissioner Community Service Award

Ernie Shymanik was presented with the Mike Cassidy Commissioner Community Service Award recognizing commissioners who have demonstrated the highest example of community service, personal integrity and ingenuity.

Shymanik moved to his community one year after the Mundelein Park and Recreation District was formed. He was first elected to the park district board in 1985, and has served as treasurer, vice president and president during his tenure. His energy and enthusiasm are unwavering, and he has dedicated countless hours to making his community a better place after 54 years of dynamic community involvement.

Ernie is an active member of the regent center, his local chamber, a board member of the credit union, chaired the Mundelein Days Commission and was a member of the building commission board for more than 20 years. He has served on the park district board with unparalleled diligence, always considering what is best for the entire park district.

Shymanik is most proud of the role he played in the construction of the Steeple Chase Golf Club, the Regent Center, Diamond Lake Sports Complex and the Breefoot Family Aquatic Center. Through his involvement, the park district saved the residents of Mundelein \$1.3 million by utilizing successful partnerships and grants.

The Mike Cassidy Commissioner Community Service Award pays homage to Mike Cassidy's 35-year commitment as a commissioner of the Freeport Park District.



IPRA Charman Carrie Haupert and IPRA Interim CEO Mike Selep congratulate IPRA Fellow Award winner Elizabeth Kessler.



Ernie Shymanik accepts the IAPD Mike Cassidy Commissioner Community Service Award from George Longmeyer.

PASSING THE GAVEL

**2011 Chairman of the IAPD
Board of Trustees Wally Frasier**



For IAPD, the Soaring to New Heights Conference marked the end of George Longmeyer's term as the 2010 chairman of the Board of Trustees. Longmeyer, a commissioner of the Schaumburg Park District, is succeeded by Wally Frasier, who has been a commissioner for the Mundelein Park and Recreation District from 1982 to 1986 and from 1997 to present .

Frasier served as Chief of Police for the Village of Hainesville from 2009 to 2010, and served as Chief of Police for the Village of Lakemoor from 2001 to 2009. He retired from the Mundelein Police Department in 2001 after serving 29 years. Wally's civic involvement includes 18 clubs and organizations while also serving on IAPD Board Development, Constitutional Bylaws, Executive, Honors and Resolutions, Nominating and Joint Legislative Committees, Ambassadors Program, Joint Coordinating Council, and the Great Lakes Regional Council.

**2011 Chairman of the IPRA Board
of Directors LoriKay Paden**

The IPRA held a similar changing of the guard at its annual business meeting on January 28. LoriKay Paden, CPRP, Academic Advisor/Consultant for the Recreation Sport and Tourism Department at the University of Illinois succeeds Carrie Hauptert, Executive Director of the Bloomingdale Park.



Prior to her post at the University of Illinois Paden was the Community Program

Manager for the Urbana Park District. She also served as Fitness & Aquatics Manager at the Round Lake Park District.

Over the past five years Paden has been serving park and recreation agencies around the state and nationally as a consultant and professional development trainer. She has been a member of numerous professional leadership committees of the Illinois Park and Recreation Association and her community. She received a B.S. in Health, Physical Education & Recreation and a M.S. in Recreation Administration from Illinois State



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Bill Clevenger

Bill Clevenger – IPRA Robert Artz Distinguished Service Award

This 2010 Robert Artz Distinguished Service Award was presented to Bill Clevenger, Executive Director of the Decatur Park District. This award is named in honor of Robert Artz, who, in 1979, was the newly hired executive director of IPRA. His life was cut short in a tragic accident, but his vision for parks, recreation and conservation lives on.

Bill Clevenger has been in the field for more than 34 years. He currently manages 4,000 acres of land, 550 employees and a \$25 million annual budget.

The Decatur Park District boasts an impressive array of facilities and services including an indoor sports center; airport; golf courses; softball, soccer and tennis complexes; athletic fields; an aquatic center; equestrian center; zoo; and a banquet, food and beverage business.

Clevenger has served on the IPRA legislation task force and the IAPD/IPRA Joint Legislative and Research Committees. He has held numerous positions on the Conservation Congress, served as associate editor of the Journal of Parks and Recreation Administration and has been an NRPA accreditation site visitor.

Bill has received the IAPD Presidential Citation, the APRS/NRPA Distinguished Professional Award, and the American Association of Physical Activity and Recreation's Tommy Wilson award. Bill has led the Decatur Park District to become a National Gold Medal finalist, and has twice earned distinguished agency status through IAPD and IPRA.

His agency has won multiple awards at the IAPD's Best of the Best Awards Gala, and the district's cultural arts programs have won the NRPA Dottie Mullen Award for Arts and Humanities twice - something never before achieved by a park district.



Standing with the IAPD Commissioner of the Year Award are (L to R) Peter Murphy, the Scott Triphahn family: Ryan, Troy, Sue and Jacklyn-Triphahn and George Longmeyer.

providing hundreds of recreational program scholarships to people who would otherwise not be able to participate. Scott championed the district's first comprehensive master plan and was the driving force behind the district's partnership with the Chicago Wolves.

His dedication went beyond Hoffman Estates. The IAPD was also fortunate to have been touched by his wisdom and enthusiasm. Scott was chairman of the IAPD board in 2007, and served on IAPD committees on 58 different occasions, chairing 11 of these committees. He was an advocate of the Park District Youth License Plate Program and an ambassador of Friends of Illinois Parks.

Scott's company, W-T Engineering, created an exciting plan to correct flooding issues at the Hoffman Estates Park District's golf course and has been a generous sponsor of many of IAPD events. In 1998, the IAPD recognized Scott with our Rising Star Award.

Scott Triphahn – IAPD Commissioner of the Year

The Commissioner of the Year Award recognizes a commissioner who shows outstanding qualities which support and promote parks, recreation, and conservation in his or her community and throughout the state. The award was presented posthumously to Hoffman Estates Park District Commissioner Scott R. Triphahn, who lost a long and brave battle with cancer last month.

Scott was the embodiment of a park commissioner, and the National Gold Medal Award-winning Hoffman Estates Park District is a testament to his hard work and selfless efforts. He grew up participating in park district programs, which eventually led him to give back as a volunteer coach. It wasn't long before he realized that he wanted to do more, and in 1997, he was elected as a park commissioner. One year later, he was the park board's president, and the rest of the story is a wonderful example of selfless involvement and dedication.

Triphahn had a unique talent for getting people moving in the right direction. He was a tremendous proponent of legislative advocacy, and played a major role in helping the Hoffman Estates Park District secure more than \$2 million in grants. The first of many initiatives he spearheaded was a negotiation with Sears and Roebuck to secure a land donation valued at \$3 million, enabling the park district to construct one of the premier public health and wellness centers in the country. He created the Friends of H.E. Parks Foundation, serving as its first president and

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by Mark Burkland and Paula Kirlin

EFFECTIVE HANDLING OF PEOPLE WHO REPEATEDLY VIOLATE PARK DISTRICT RULES

The Park District of Oak Park has devised an easy-to-understand enforcement system to deal firmly, fairly, and discreetly with the few disruptive people who repeatedly spoil the fun for others.



The Park District of Oak Park's system is beautiful and includes several historic parks designed by renowned landscape architect Jens Jensen. Over the years, the Park District has achieved an optimal balance of active, passive, and natural open space featuring classic urban landscapes, mature trees and plantings, serene walkways, and well-maintained sports fields and recreational equipment. Park facilities and programs are very popular and usually quite busy.

Like so many park districts in urban communities, the Park District of Oak Park has less space than it needs to accommodate all of its programs and patrons. Its Board of Commissioners and staff thus work hard to optimize every square foot of space.

Disruptions that inhibit the ability of park staff and patrons to fully utilize and enjoy Park District of Oak Park facilities are particularly serious because of the system's limited space. Moreover, protecting the health and safety of park patrons is of paramount importance to the park district.

How can serious violations of park district rules be addressed efficiently in this context, especially with repeat offenders? Every park system has rules, which usually authorize the issuance of citations and levying of fines for violations. Also, it is not uncommon for park rules to authorize the removal from a park people who violate the rules. But these approaches, even when fines escalate, rarely serve as the effective deterrent and immediate remedy for bad behavior that park staffs sometimes really need.

The Park District of Oak Park, which is located in a diverse, decidedly urban environment, needed an effective mechanism to protect park patrons quickly from disruptive, inappropriate, and unlawful behavior. The mechanism had to be simple but effective, firm but fair, clearly written but comprehensive, and specific but allowing enforcement officials to exercise their best judgment under the circumstances. And it needed to be easily administered by the Oak Park Police Department, which patrols the parks.

The solution is two new rules—one that allows the park district to temporarily “dismiss” a park patron from the parks if he or she violates park rules or state or village laws, and another that allows the park district to “exclude” a park patron from all park facilities for a period up to a year for repeat offenses. These new rules did not replace the park district’s existing system of citations and fines, but rather have supplemented that system.

The Park District of Oak Park worked closely with legal counsel to develop the new rules, to ensure they would comply with State and constitutional law. Illinois law authorizes each park district to establish all needful rules and regulations for the government and protection of its parks and property, and to prescribe fines and penalties for violation of park district ordinances. Constitutional law principles allow park districts to regulate and restrict park attendance so long as the regulations are rationally related to a legitimate government interest. A park district clearly has a legitimate and compelling interest in ensuring the health, safety, and welfare of people who visit its parks, and in protecting patrons from the harmful or unlawful behavior of others. The Park District of Oak Park and its legal counsel are satisfied that the new regulations satisfy the applicable legal standards.

The Park District of Oak Park passed an ordinance in 2010 adopting its new temporary dismissal and exclusion rules. Here is a description of the key features of these progressive regulations.

Temporary Dismissal

A person who violates any law, ordinance, or rule while in a Park District of Oak Park facility is subject to “dismissal.” That person may be issued a “Notice of Temporary Dismissal,” meaning that he or she must leave the facility immediately and he or she may not enter into any park district park, building, or other facility for 24 hours. The determination to dismiss a person typically will be based either on personal observations of the enforcement official or on a report from a third party that ordinarily would be relied on by a law enforcement officer to determine probable cause, or sometimes both. A dismissal is effective the moment the Notice of Temporary Dismissal is issued.

A key element of this new rule—prominently displayed on the Notice—is that a person who returns to any park facility during the 24-hour dismissal period may be arrested for trespassing. Though such an arrest will be quite rare, it should be a powerful deterrent and an effective alternative for dealing with repeat offenders.

A temporary dismissal is not intended for minor rule violations such as littering or allowing a dog to run off-leash. In these cases, an oral reminder or a standard citation usually will be adequate. Rather, a dismissal is intended for persons who threaten the safety of themselves or others, or who significantly disrupt other park patrons, or who engage in rude or obnoxious behavior of a degree well above mere thoughtlessness. Examples of such behavior include fighting, reckless conduct, presence in a park after closing time, and vandalism.

Exclusion

A person who receives three or more citations during any 60-day period for violation of any law, ordinance, or rule while in a Park District of Oak Park facility is subject to “exclusion.” That person may be issued a “Notice of Exclusion” excluding him or her from all park facilities for a time period ranging from one day to one year. As with a dismissal, a person who returns to any park facility during the period of exclusion may be arrested for trespassing.

The length of an exclusion depends on the number of violations that a person has committed previously. The park district official or Oak Park police officer has discretion to decide how long the exclusion should last, within the following limits:

- **Exclusion for up to 60 days:**
 - Three citations or one temporary dismissal during 60-day period before issuance of current citation, or
 - Four citations during the 12-month period before issuance of the current citation.
- **Exclusion for up to 180 days:**
 - Two or more temporary dismissals during the 60-day period before issuance of the current citation, or
 - Five citations during the 12-month period before issuance of the current citation.
- **Exclusion for up to 365 days:**
 - Three or more temporary dismissals during the 60-day period before issuance of the current citation; or
 - Six citations during the 12-month period before issuance of the current citation.



Of course the length of an exclusion will depend in large part on the egregiousness of the current violation and prior offenses. As with dismissals, a violation of an exclusion from park facilities subjects the violator to a charge of trespass.

Enforcement Mechanism

The Park District of Oak Park created a new enforcement mechanism, so it also needed to establish new processes for applying that mechanism.

The temporary dismissal and exclusion rules identify “dismissal officers” and “exclusion officers” who are authorized to effect dismissal or exclusion from park facilities. These include Oak Park police officers, the park district’s superintendent of recreation and superintendent of buildings and grounds, and other park district representatives as the park district’s executive director might designate.

The rules also establish the information that must be contained in each Notice of Temporary Dismissal and Notice of Exclusion. That information includes (1) the date and time that the notice was issued, (2) the general location at which the notice was issued, (3) a statement that the individual may not enter any park facility for 24 hours after

receipt of the notice (for a dismissal) or during the period of exclusion, (4) a statement that violation of the terms of the notice may lead to arrest and prosecution for criminal trespass, and for exclusion notices, (5) a statement that the exclusion may be appealed.



“The solution is two new rules—one that allows the park district to temporarily “dismiss” a park patron from the parks if he or she violates park rules or state or village laws, and another that allows the park district to “exclude” a park patron from all park facilities for a period up to a year for repeat offenses.”

Because an exclusion can result in a lengthy loss of park privileges, the park district's new rules provide that a Notice of Exclusion for longer than seven days may be appealed to the park district's executive director. Promptly after receipt of a written request for an appeal, the executive director must conduct an informal hearing where the person subject to exclusion and a park district representative may present facts, circumstances, evidence, and witnesses to support their positions, and may cross-examine witnesses presented by the other side. After conclusion of the hearing, the executive director must issue a written determination on the appeal. The park district determined, because of the shortness of the duration, that no appeal was necessary for a 24-hour dismissal or for an exclusion lasting seven days or less.

Training for park district staff and Oak Park police officers was a key component of the park district's roll-out of the new temporary dismissal and exclusion rules. In particular, the training addressed the issue of when traditional enforcement mechanisms are adequate, and when temporary dismissal or exclusion would be a more appropriate and effective tool to enforce park rules and protect patrons.

Conclusion

The Park District of Oak Park's temporary dismissal and exclusion rules provide a simple and easily administered mechanism to deal firmly and fairly with people who repeatedly violate park rules. The regulations are clear and specific, yet still allow officials to make appropriate subjective determinations based on the specific circumstances of a violation. Most importantly, the temporary dismissal and exclusion rules provide an immediately effective tool allowing the park district to protect patrons from disruptive, inappropriate, and unlawful behavior and ensuring that visitors to the parks can enjoy the facilities that Park District of Oak Park staff and commissioners work tirelessly to optimize.

Mark Burkland is an attorney in the Land Use and Local Government Practice Group at Holland & Knight LLP in Chicago.

Paula Kirlin is an attorney in the West Coast Land Use and Environment Group at Holland & Knight LLP in San Francisco.

They and their partners represent park districts and other units of local government throughout the Chicago Metropolitan Area, the State of Illinois, and the State of California.

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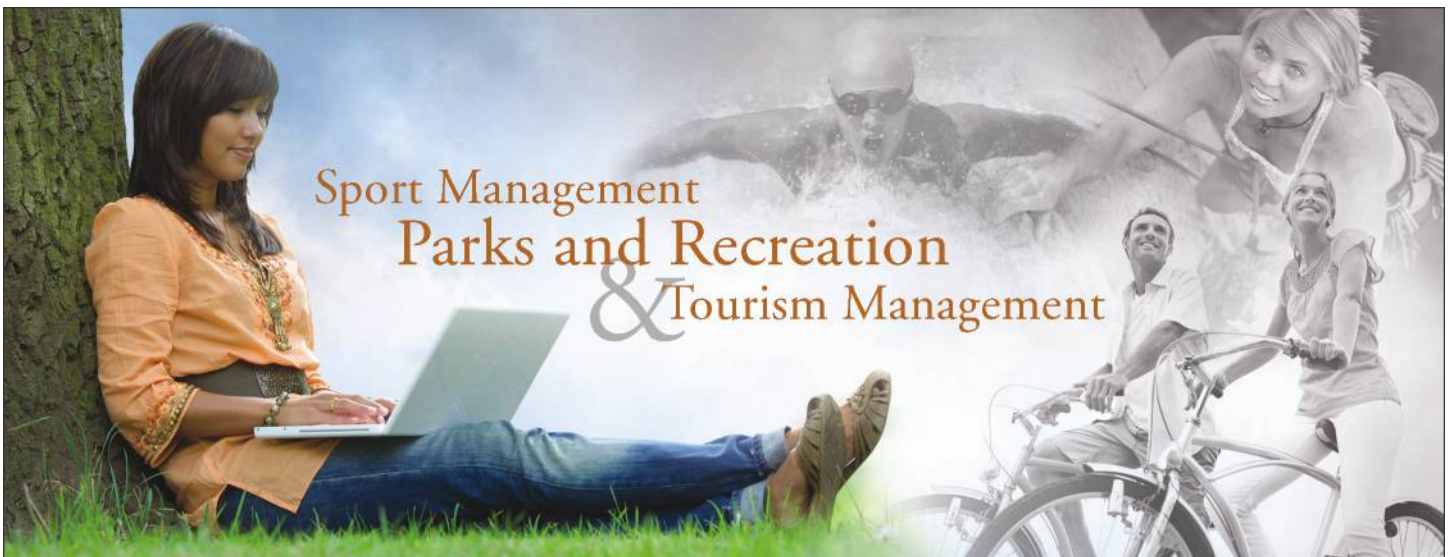


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PEOPLE & PLACES



Jan Arnold, Executive Director, Illinois Park and Recreation Association

As the new Executive Director, Jan is responsible for leadership and oversight of the IPRA. She will be working with the board and staff to implement the strategic plan and increase the overall value of membership to the association. Most recently Jan served as executive director for Jumpstart where she oversaw fundraising, program management, relationship

cultivation, staff management, and operational effectiveness for Chicago. Jan has a wealth of senior management experience in both the public and not-for-profit sectors.

Jan has previously worked for the city of Chicago in a variety of senior-level positions where she was responsible for personnel management, budget oversight, and strategic initiative development for both the Department of Aviation and the Department of Buildings. Jan has also served in multiple roles for the YMCA of metropolitan Chicago, including vice president of operations and vice president of programs and membership. She developed strategic partnerships and launched new program initiatives to increase the organization's reach and effectiveness. Jan served as a senior manager for KPMG, where she advised senior-level clients in the public and not-for-profit sectors on a range of critical and strategic issues.

Jan is excited to return to the park district world which she left in 2000 as superintendent of recreation for the Wheeling Park District. Jan holds a B.S. from Murray State University, a M.S. from Indiana University and a M.B.A. from Lake Forest Graduate School of Business.

In Memoriam: Jack Cook, Pioneer of Kane County Open Space

The former longtime Kane County Forest Preserve District president and county board member died recently, leaving a legacy of unprecedented open space and enjoyment of nature. Jack Cook came to both the county board and the forest preserve commissioners as an appointee in Elgin in 1989. The next year he followed in his father's footsteps by winning election, where he served until 2004. In the early stages of his political career, Cook was elected by his peers to become president of the forest preserve district.

"He was always concerned about doing the right thing and doing what was best for people," said former forest preserve Director Jon Duerr. Duerr and Cook became close over the years as Cook's vision for a more natural Kane County blossomed. Duerr recalled, "Without Jack Cook, the local forest preserves would be about one-third the size they are now."

Cook also helped create Chicago Wilderness, a regional alliance dedicated to protecting nature and enriching life. The group began with only about a dozen member organizations. Now there are more than 250 organizations involved. "Cook worked as a pharmacist and carried a deep passion for sports as both a player and coach. Baseball and hockey were his two loves, said Forest Preserve Commissioner Jim Mitchell. "He was very involved with the Kane County Cougars and just loved them."



In Memoriam: Scott R. Triphahn

The Illinois Association of Park Districts and the entire park and recreation community are saddened by the passing of Scott Triphahn. Scott lost his long and brave battle with cancer in December 2010. He was president and CEO of W-T Engineering, Inc., a commissioner of the Hoffman Estates Park District for 13 years, founding president of Friends of Hoffman Estates Park Foundation, past chairman of the Illinois

Association of Park Districts and a lifelong resident and steadfast pillar of the Hoffman Estates community.

He was elected as a park commissioner in 1997, serving as the park board's president one year later. Scott had a unique talent for getting people involved in the right direction. He was a tremendous proponent of legislative advocacy, and played a major role in helping the Hoffman Estates Park District secure more than \$2 million in grants.

IAPD was also fortunate to have been touched by Scott's wisdom and enthusiasm. He was chairman of the IAPD Board of Trustees in 2007, and served on IAPD committees on 58 different occasions. "Scott left an indelible impact, made lives better, and inspired others to greatness along the way," stated Peter M. Murphy, IAPD President and CEO.

Scott was posthumously given the IAPD's Commissioner of the Year award at the 2011 IAPD/IPRA Soaring to New Heights Conference. Before Scott's untimely death, the Hoffman Estates Park District Community Center & Ice Arena was formally renamed the Scott R. Triphahn Community Center & Ice Arena.

NEDSRA Names Jeena Greenwalt as New Executive Director

The Northeast DuPage Special Recreation Association has appointed Jeena Greenwalt as the new executive director following 33 years of dedicated leadership and service from Larry Reiner. Jeena has been employed with NEDSRA for 15 years in a variety of recreation leadership and management positions, but now has the opportunity to write the next chapter in this new administrative role.

In her new leadership position, Jeena is excited to continue her commitment to the agency's history of quality programs and services for individuals with disabilities. "By working in unison with board, staff, donors, affiliate organizations and legislators, I pledge to continue to respond to the expressed and observed needs of community members with disabilities, and provide quality recreation choices," Jeena said.

Greg Kuhs, Director of the Wood Dale Park District and chairman of NEDSRA's Board of Trustees stated, "The board feels strongly that Jeena has the skills, insight, personality, experience and professional approach to be successful in leading NEDSRA into the future." NEDSRA serves residents with disabilities in Addison, Bensenville, Butterfield, Glendale Heights, Itasca, Lombard, Medinah, Oakbrook Terrace, Schiller Park, Villa Park and Wood Dale.



The Park Ridge Park District Board of Commissioners Selected Gayle Mountcastle as the New Executive Director



Gayle Mountcastle will bring to Park Ridge Park District over twenty years of experience as a leader in the profession of parks and recreation. A high priority is to work with the board of commissioners, staff and Park Ridge residents, who are all integral parts to the success of the park district. "I believe this position is an excellent opportunity to lead staff to their fullest potential in order to realize the recreational and leisure needs of the residents and to bring a fresh perspective to the district. One of my first objectives will be establishing strong relationships within the park district itself and the Park Ridge community."

Gayle received a master of science in management and business from National Louis University and attended Illinois State University earning a bachelor of science in recreation and park administration. Jim O'Brien, President of the Park Ridge Park board says, "Gayle's extensive knowledge of the operations of parks and recreation, management of personnel and her ability to reach out to the community through professional and non-profit organizations are true assets to leading the park district in to the future and building relationships in Park Ridge."



St. Charles Park District Welcomes New Director

The St. Charles Board of Park Commissioners has hired Ray Ochromowicz as director of parks and recreation for the St. Charles Park District. Mr. Ochromowicz's first day of work was January 24, 2011. Mr. Ochromowicz is currently employed as executive director of the Park Ridge Illinois Recreation and Park District.

Previously, he was employed as director of parks and recreation for the Bolingbrook Illinois Park District for a 22 year period. During his tenure at Bolingbrook, the district won the National Gold Medal Award for Excellence in Parks and Recreation Management and the district was a 7-time winner of the National Recreation & Park Association's Kudos Award as the "Nation's Best Communicator." Earlier in his career, he held a variety of positions, serving as director of the Burbank Park District, as assistant to the director for the Niles Park District and as an athletic supervisor for the Oak Lawn Park District.

Mr. Ochromowicz is a member of the American Academy of Parks and Recreation. He is also a member of the National Recreation and Park Association's Congress Program Committee and the Rotary International.

Springfield Park District's Erin's Pavilion Earns LEED Platinum Building Certification

Erin's Pavilion in Springfield Park District's Edwin Watts Southwind Park incorporates a variety of accessible and environmentally responsible features that was recently recognized by the U.S. Green Building Council with the organization's highest level of LEED certification. Under the LEED for New Construction rating system, the structure incorporates a host of environmentally friendly features. The pavilion boasts more than 16,000 square feet of space, including an expansive terrace with panoramic views of the park's main pond.



photo by The Hauser Group

The facility includes a Grand Hall for visitor welcome and interaction, along with educational displays, small program rooms and a catering room. There is also a large 4,900-square-foot program space that can accommodate up to 500 people. For more specific information on Erin's Pavilion and more specific details and features, visit springfieldparks.org/facilities/pavilions/erins.asp.

Friends of Illinois Parks Recognizes Donors at Conference



Williams Architects Ltd. was recognized for their support of Friends of Illinois Parks. Pictured are (left to right): Tom LaLonde, Wally Frasier (IAPD Chairman), Tom Poulos and Peter Murphy (IAPD President/CEO).

Many of the vital programs offered by the IAPD could not occur without assistance from many corporations and businesses. The following companies recently were recognized for their generosity towards the IAPD through their support of Friends of Illinois Parks:

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Topics, products, and services ... for the green or otherwise

by Janet Herbert

Here a Goose, There a Goose, NOT Everywhere a Goose

In 2005, information about the Canada goose management program at Rockford Park District appeared on the pages of Illinois Parks and Recreation magazine. "Old McDonald" on his farm with "everywhere a goose" seemed an appropriate headline. The Rockford Park District asked their park board to support the idea of a 10-year program and they now revisit the issue and related results.

by Janet Herbert

Read the Full Story Online

From the IAPD Web Site (www.Ilparks.org) ... Roll to the "Publications" tab on the left side of the homepage. Click on the "Illinois Parks and Recreation Magazine" option to take you to the magazine page. You'll find links to all Web Xtras on the bottom of the page.

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