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PARKS AND RECREATION

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

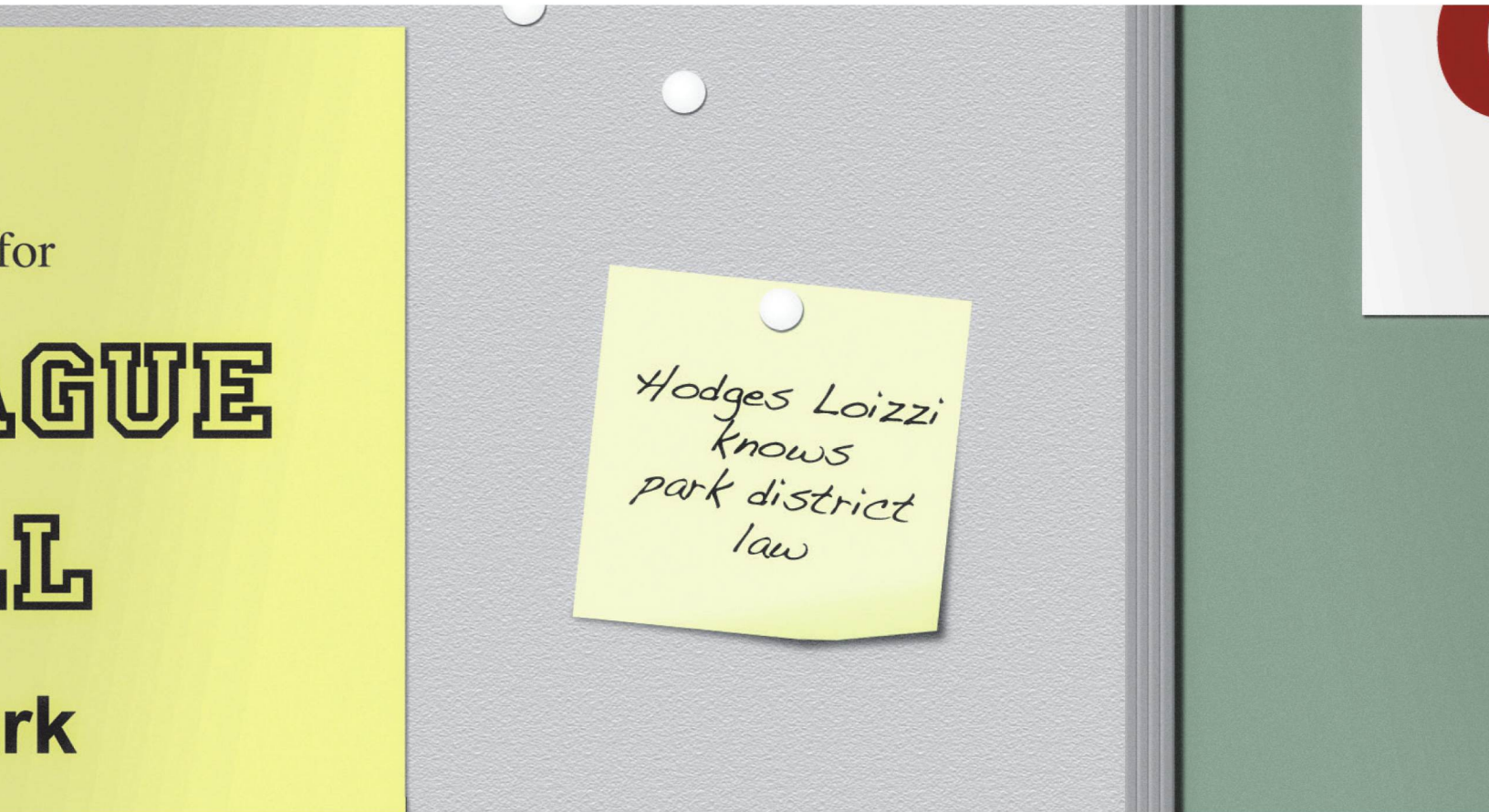


going green

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## FROM THE EDITOR

I was in a room full of boys. This was nothing new. Three of them were mine, add a friend in the mix, and it's just another night at the Hill house. This particular evening, I was contemplating my message for this issue of *Illinois Parks and Recreation* magazine.



I decided to start with my four year old. "Sawyer, what would you think if someone came up to you and said they were going to go green?" Without hesitation, he said, "Go Warriors!" Being the youngest of three boys, Sawyer has spent the majority of his life on bleachers, cheering for his brothers in basketball, baseball, football, archery, track, cross country or soccer. The color of the Athens Warriors? You guessed it – GREEN! "Go Green!" is a cheer that Sawyer hears from the bleachers every week.

I move on to my eleven year old. "Will, what would you think if someone said they were going to go green?" His answer: "They are going to recycle." This is my free-spirited child, and I expected an off-the-wall answer, but he never ceases to surprise me!

Finally, I ask my fourteen year old. "Layne, what would you think if someone said they were going to go green?" His immediate response: "Go Celtics!" I was prepared for this. The boy eats, drinks, sleeps and breathes the Boston Celtics, and he worships the green shamrock!

They were anxious to see who was right. I explained that they were all correct, in their own way, but Will's answer (recycling) was the one closest to what this issue, *Going Green*, is all about.

But, it is so *much more* than recycling.

The park, recreation and conservation community's strides in going green have evolved from planting trees and recycling cans, cardboard, paper and plastic. Today, agencies are revamping computer equipment to reduce power consumption and increase the lifecycle of their electronics, thereby postponing them from the recycle schedule and saving some of the 2.37 million tons of electrical equipment discarded each year. You can read more about how the Palatine Park District 'greens their technology' on page 20.

Energy Savings Performance Contracts are enabling park districts and recreation agencies to accomplish a wide variety of capital projects by paying for them over time with the dollars saved from the new, energy efficient operations. *Doing More With Less: Turning Operations Dollars into Capital Funds* on page 16 explains this process of making operational efficiency improvements that essentially pay for themselves and benefit everyone in the long run.

Illinois park districts, forest preserves, conservation, recreation and special recreation agencies are setting the standard for going green. And, while the avenues to going green are as varied as my sons' responses, the end result is consistent: a better environment and sustained natural resources for generations to come.

*Bobbi Jo Hill*

— Bobbi Jo Hill, Interim Editor



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Peter M. Murphy  
IAPD President and CEO

## Board Member Development: Ideas to Excel

With the spring election for park commissioners completed, many districts will have new members joining the board for the first time. As a governance body, it is imperative that the transition is seamless and new board members are brought up-to-speed as soon as possible.

IAPD is prepared to help accelerate this process by offering rich, new content at our upcoming board Boot Camps (see the sidebar for details on times and locations). These educational programs are a proven first step to a board members development. In addition, I would offer the following suggestions and principles for new and seasoned board members to consider:

- **On authority** - Remember that the authority of board members rests with the board as a whole, not with individual board members. Keeping this in mind, the most effective board members work to reach consensus on issues facing the board rather than unilaterally pushing for a specific result. It is a universal principle that "politics is the art of compromise."

- **On board meetings** - Board members that take their responsibilities seriously demonstrate this by fully preparing for meetings. Be careful to review all board meeting materials prior to the meeting. If action is to be taken, it is reasonable to expect the executive director to present recommendations and not just the pros and cons of issues.

It is also important to avoid being caught in the weeds by guarding against yourself spending too much time on the least important items. Meeting time should be spent primarily on strategic issues and planning.

- **On the agency** - Recognize that the agency has a spokesperson, typically the board president or director. All inquiries by the press should be forwarded to the spokesperson for a consistent response. Avoid the tendency to speak with the press about your personal opinion on an issue, particularly if it is at odds with the majority. Good governance dictates that individual board members support board decisions when speaking publicly.

- **On laws affecting your service** - review annually:

- The Open Meetings Act
- The Public Officials Prohibited Activities Act
- Rules regarding Incompatibility of Office
- The Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) for its impact on board communications
- Law governing interference with public contracting
- Time off for official meetings; and
- The Truth in Taxation Act

"... the most effective board members work to reach consensus on issues facing the board rather than unilaterally pushing for a specific result."



- **On the board/staff role** - Of paramount importance to a successful agency is the clear delineation of the roles of board and staff. Discuss with the director and fellow board members the question of "What are the responsibilities of the board and what are the responsibilities of the executive director?"

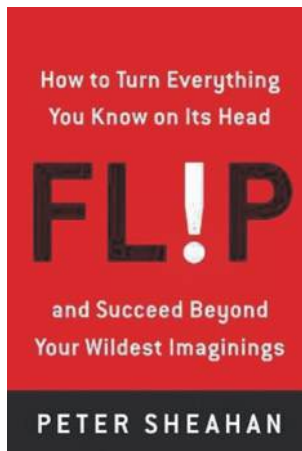
Typically, board members hire the director and define the duties of that individual. The board sets policy and the long-term goals and directions of the district. The responsibility of the executive director is to administer the day-to-day operations of the district and provide leadership for the district. In addition, the executive director must make sure that the board is informed on activities occurring throughout the district and seek board advice on issues of strategic importance.

Are there gray areas in the alignment of responsibilities? If so, have these clarified. Many times an agency's culture will provide the answer.

• **For a quick start** - review:

- The agency's history
- The district's organizational chart
- The meeting minutes from the past year
- The past six months financial reports
- Last year's annual audit; and
- The board policy manual

Finally, always keep in mind the difference between ownership and stewardship. As an elected official, regardless of your length of service or board office, you will be a great success if you consider yourself a steward and not an owner of the district.



**Recommended Reading**

***FLIP and Succeed Beyond Your Wildest Imaginings***  
By Peter Sheahan

Peter Sheahan is a dynamic young man who has developed a consulting and public speaking practice that has a number of Fortune 500 companies as clients. His book *FLIP* is a worthy read for anyone interested in leadership

development and the examination of innovation. He explores and provides intriguing examples of flips in thinking that discuss such ideas as, *The new standard in every industry - Fast, Good, Cheap: Pick Three, Then Add Something Extra; to develop competitive advantage you must Absolutely Positively Sweat the Small Stuff and to satisfy customers' needs for engagement and contact - it's not "just business" - Business is Personal.* Sheahan's notes at the end of this 292 page read are also a great resource for those interested in further exploration of the book's themes. His book concludes with a quote from a Flipstar and one of America's most notable park and open space advocates, Theodore Roosevelt:

"It is not the critic who counts: not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles or where the doer of deeds could have done better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood, who strives valiantly, who errs and comes up short again and again, because there is no effort without error or shortcoming, but who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotions, who spends himself for a worthy cause; who, at the best, knows, in the end, the triumph of high achievement, and who, at the worst, if he fails, at least he fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who knew neither victory nor defeat."

**2013 CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| April-May<br><b>Flying 4 Kids Months</b><br>Statewide Kite Fly   | June 22<br><b>SUMMER BOOT CAMP</b><br>Park District of Oak Park   |
| April 30<br><b>Parks Day at the Capitol</b><br>State Capitol, Springfield                                  | July 18<br><b>Legislative Golf Outing</b><br>White Pines Golf Club<br>Bensenville Park District                 |
| April 30<br><b>Legislative Reception</b><br>Illini Country Club,<br>Springfield                            | August 17<br><b>Park District Conservation Day</b><br>State Fairgrounds,<br>Springfield                         |
| May 1<br><b>Legislative Conference</b><br>Crowne Plaza, Springfield  | August 20<br><b>Summer Golf Tour Event #3</b><br>Foss Park Golf Club<br>Foss Park District                      |
| May 20<br><b>Summer Golf Tour Event #1</b><br>Palatine Hills Golf Club,<br>Palatine Park District          | September 9<br><b>Summer Golf Tour Event #4</b><br>Prairie Bluff Golf Course<br>Lockport Township Park District |
| June 5<br><b>SUMMER BOOT CAMP</b><br>Schaumburg Park District  | September 27<br><b>IAPD Awards Gala</b><br>Traditions at Chevy Chase Country Club<br>Wheeling Park District     |
| June 10<br><b>Summer Golf Tour Event #2</b><br>Old Orchard Country Club,<br>Prospect Heights Park District | October 8-10<br><b>NRPA Congress &amp; Exposition</b><br>Houston, Texas   |
| June 13<br><b>SUMMER BOOT CAMP</b><br>Huntley Park District  | November 7<br><b>Legal Symposium</b><br>Hamburger University,<br>Oak Brook                                      |
| June 19<br><b>SUMMER BOOT CAMP</b><br>Channahon Park District  | January 23-25/14<br><b>IAPD/IPRA Conference</b><br>Hyatt Regency Chicago  |
| June 20<br><b>SUMMER BOOT CAMP</b><br>Effingham Park District  |   |

For the most up-to-date Calendar of Events, please visit the IAPD website at [www.ilparks.org](http://www.ilparks.org).



Jason Anselment  
Legal/Legislative Counsel

## Core Issues at the Heart of IAPD's Advocacy Efforts This Spring Session

The 98<sup>th</sup> General Assembly is now well underway with 6,195 bills having been filed in the past two months. IAPD has reviewed each of these measures so that we can keep our members informed and provide meaningful feedback to legislators.

While it is still a bit early in the process to know exactly which proposals will garner enough support to move forward, several themes have already emerged from the 435 bills we are tracking. The nature of these particular proposals illustrates the importance of reminding legislators about three of our key principles.

### 1. Park Districts Are a Model for Efficiency

IAPD member agencies have a proud history of innovation and efficiency. In fact, there are literally hundreds of examples where park districts, conservation districts and forest preserves have partnered with one another as well as with school districts, municipalities, and even the private sector to improve the quality of life within our communities. Simply put, park districts provide great value at the least possible cost.

In fact, park districts have proven that they are the best model in the nation for providing park and recreation services. Indeed, our model is one of the reasons Illinois leads the nation in parks and recreation. Yet, we continue to see legislation introduced which would threaten special districts. For example, **HB 3251 (Franks, J.)** would make it very easy to eliminate units of local government by allowing a small number of voters, and even county boards by resolution, to place dissolution referenda on the ballot. Although somewhat narrower in scope, **HB 2481 (Reboletti, D.)** includes similar concepts. Not only do these bills fail to guarantee that the same level of services will be sustained, there is no evidence that simply reducing the number of units of government saves money in the first place. The minimal referenda requirements in **HB 3251** are even more troubling given recent examples where national groups with no interest in the quality of life in the particular community have spent money campaigning against local referenda.

While there may be isolated instances where some local governments could be more efficient, we know that park districts are the best model for effectively delivering park and recreation services. So, as ideas like those contained in **HB 3251** are introduced, it is critical that you remind your legislators that park districts achieve efficiency through intergovernmental cooperation and provide a great return on investment for the communities they represent.

### 2. Local Revenues Are Critical to the Ability to Deliver Services

As has been the case in recent years, the State's fiscal challenges continue to dominate discussions at the Capitol. Therefore, it behooves us to continue to remind lawmakers that park and recreation agencies play an important role in helping the State meet these challenges by delivering critical services that help reduce Medicaid and other health care costs and reduce crime through summer school and after school programs to name just a couple of examples. Unfortunately, legislation like the bills that follow would diminish local revenues and threaten the ability of local government to continue to deliver those services.

**HB 89 (Franks, J.) / HB 3041 (Kifowit, S.)** would change the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law (PTELL) to prevent taxing districts subject to tax caps from capturing the CPI-increase to their extension limitation if the district's total EAV is less than the previous levy year. Members will recall that we defeated identical proposals during the 97<sup>th</sup> General Assembly. **HB 1310 (Franks, J.)** is similar except that it only applies to the levy years 2013 and 2014, but the negative impact would still be long term.

**HB 95 (McSweeney, D.)** also amends PTELL and would effectively freeze tax levies for three years for taxing districts that are subject to tax caps unless voters approve an increase by referendum. The bill would have a similar impact to **HB 89** except that it would apply to all taxing districts in tax capped counties regardless of whether the total EAV is declining.

**HB 1499 (Kay, D.)** and **HB 1521 (Cabello, J.)** would effectively freeze tax levies for the next three years in both tax cap and non-tax cap counties and further provide that county clerks may only increase or decrease a portion of a total tax levy paid by any individual taxpayer if the change is based solely on a change in the taxpayer's property value. **SB 1308 (Murphy, M.)** contains similar concepts.

Proponents of these measures point to the decline in property values relative to property taxes. They fail to recognize that PTELL capped growth when property values were rising. Furthermore, studies have shown that park and recreation services increase property values. Therefore, forcing local governments to cut these valuable services will only keep property values suppressed. Put another way, we should be investing more in our parks, not less, to increase property values.



It is also important to note that all of these proposals would force local governments to cut services demanded by residents. Declining property values already negatively impact local tax revenues, and the minimal CPI-increase permitted by PTELL only allows local government to cover inflationary increases in expenses such as fuel and labor. It does not increase net revenues after expenses are paid. Moreover, because PTELL caps growth when EAV's rise, the reduction in a district's tax base would be long term and a district would never fully recover these revenue reductions as the economy improves.

### 3. Unfunded Mandates Increase the Cost of Delivering Services

IAPD's 2013-14 Legislative Platform, affixed to this page as a convenient, detachable guide, contains several measures that are designed to help our member agencies save money. At the same time, many other bills have been introduced which would eliminate these savings by imposing new, costly regulations. Though often well intended, unfunded mandates like those below are cost drivers that force park and recreation agencies to reduce services because there is no new funding associated with them.

Several of these measures purport to increase "government transparency." In practice, however, they would only serve to increase the burden on local governments by requiring them to duplicate or otherwise reformulate information that is already reported to numerous public agencies and is otherwise available through the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

For example, **HB 1555 (Cross, T.)** would require all units of local government to provide specific information to the Illinois Department of Central Management Services (CMS) for posting on the Illinois Transparency and Accountability Portal (ITAP). This would include detailed information such as title and salary information for all employees and consultants, a database of every expenditure sorted by category and recipient, grant funds received, and a database of all contracts including vendor name, awarding officer, contract amount and the goods or services provided.

**HB 3312 (Ives, J.)** would similarly require units of local government with an annual budget of \$1 million or more to maintain an Internet website with data such as contact information for elected and appointed officials, meeting materials, procedures for requesting information, the annual budget, operation ordinances, permit application procedures, financial reports and audits, employee compensation, contracts with lobbying firms, taxes and fees imposed, rules governing the award of contracts, bids and contracts worth \$25,000 or more, campaign contributions made by vendors, debt disclosure reports and all public notices. More significantly, all of these records would be required to be kept on-line *in perpetuity* and each local government would be required to create and maintain a searchable expenditure and revenue database.

Again, numerous other statutes already require this information to be compiled and reported to public agencies such as the Comptroller, the Department of Revenue, and local county clerks. Most of it is already readily accessible to the public in numerous other ways and all of it is already available to any citizen who

requests it through the FOIA. These measures simply add additional burdens by requiring units of local government to spend scarce resources developing new programs and duplicating efforts.

Other legislative proposals have also been introduced that would drive up the cost of delivering services. For example, amendment 1 to **SB 68 (Lightford, K.)** would remove the exemptions under the Minimum Wage Law for temporary employees and employees under the age of 18 and would also increase the minimum wage to \$10.65 per hour and then adjust it by the annual cost of living increase.

**HB 983 (McSweeney, D.)** would make it more difficult and expensive for local governments to issue alternate or "double barreled bonds" by substantially reducing the number of signatures required to initiate a backdoor referendum, lengthening the petition period, and requiring units of government to work with the state's Capital Development Board. The legislation also proposes to increase the amount of required enterprise revenues to 150% of the debt service on all outstanding revenue bonds payable from those enterprise revenues.

**HB 1537 (Burke, D.)** would require IMRF employers to submit an annual report listing each of its employees during the past 12-month period, including part-time and seasonal employees regardless of whether they participate in IMRF. This mandate would require employers to unnecessarily compile information about summer youth and seasonal employees and transmit it to IMRF without reimbursement.

**HB 2 (Bellock)** and **SB 1517 (Connelly, M.)** would add several new requirements to state grant agreements by amending the Illinois Grant Funds Recovery Act. Among other things, these bills would require all grant administrators and service providers to be "appropriately credentialed in their respective field" and comply with certain reporting requirements such as quarterly updates. The legislation would also subject all grant agreements to the Illinois Procurement Code, which often differs from local ordinances.

Finally, **SB 2363 (Martinez, I.)** would eliminate an important exemption that many local governments use when procuring architects and engineers. Currently, the Local Government Professional Services Selection Act allows local governments to forego that Act's notice, evaluation, and selection requirements if they have a preexisting relationship with one or more firms. **SB 2363** would eliminate that option.

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These are just a few of the issues upon which we will be focusing during the 98th General Assembly. You also play an important role in reminding lawmakers about these key principles. Therefore, it is important to stay informed through our legislative updates and alerts. You can also track the status of each bill we consider a priority by visiting the Public Policy section of IAPD's website ([www.ilparks.org](http://www.ilparks.org)), which we update several times each week.

I look forward to seeing many of you at Parks Day at the Capitol on April 30 and the Legislative Conference on May 1.



By Debbie Trueblood  
IPRA Executive Director

## Many Hands Make Light Work – Thank You to the IAPD/IPRA Conference Volunteers

As I write this, I am just back from the 2013 IAPD/IPRA *Soaring to New Heights Conference*. This year's conference had some "new adventures" for us as we learned to navigate the hotel with the unique/temporary layout to accommodate the renovations. But, the hotel was helpful in ensuring that attendees and exhibitors were inconvenienced as minimally as possible. I understand the renovations will be completed this spring and by next year, the hotel will not only be free of jack-hammer noise, but it will also be beautifully renovated. The areas which were already complete are examples of what we have to look forward to next year.

The conference was a great success this year with strong attendee and exhibit numbers and high quality educational sessions. This is due to the fantastic job done by our volunteer team including the conference committee chairs Mike Baiardo, from the Alsip Park District and Jack Schmerer, commissioner at the Buffalo Grove Park District, along with a hardworking, dedicated committee. Additionally we had more than 50 student volunteers and many professionals donating their time as well. I am especially appreciative of our dedicated conference directors, Dina Kartch and Sue Triphahn, who work year-round to ensure that the conference runs smoothly. The IPRA and IAPD staff also work long hours and show their constant commitment to creating the best conference we can provide. Together, our volunteers, leaders and staff could not have done a better job. This year's conference will be hard to beat, but we are up for the challenge! I also want to thank our conference cosponsors, W-T Engineering and Cunningham Recreation, for their unwavering support.

This was my first IAPD/IPRA conference, as I have now been with IPRA just seven months. Throughout my career, I have been on staff for 18 association conferences held all over the world, and I can honestly say that this conference makes the rest look like amateurs! The dedicated volunteers and staff make the entire operation seem flawless. They make it look easy to serve more than 4,200 attendees and more than 300 exhibiting companies. They make coordinating nearly 200 sessions seem uncomplicated.

The theme of this issue of the magazine is "Going Green." This year's conference had many aspects that displayed our dedication to "going green." Our closing social event was in the Modern Wing of the Art Institute. According to their website, the Art Institute Modern Wing was designed with green architecture to minimize waste and better utilize natural sources of energy. The wing also added more than 20,000 square feet of green space to the area.

At IPRA, we have several aspects that are going green. Our election for officers was done securely online. As all members now vote in all elections, we saved quite a bit of paper. One of our conference giveaways was water bottles, which help reduce disposable water bottle waste. Even simply adding the conference program to the magazine helps us avoid putting together a supplementary book for attendees. These are all small steps toward a more environmentally-aware community.

I want to once again thank John Curran from the Tinley Park Park District, who just completed his term as IPRA's Chair. John was an incredible leader for IPRA, and I enjoyed partnering with him on many projects throughout the last seven months. He has a passion for parks and recreation and a firm foundation in business management that allows him to always steer IPRA in the right direction. I look forward to working with him this year, as he serves as past chair on the IPRA board.

"Throughout my career, I have been on staff for 18 association conferences held all over the world, and I can honestly say that this conference makes the rest look like amateurs!"



Our 2013 chair is Allison Niemela, the dynamic executive director at the Batavia Park District. She has been on IPRA's board for seven years, working her way up through the ranks. Her background is parks and recreation marketing/communications, and she brings a fresh approach to IPRA as chair. She is skilled in bringing people together, and will be a leader for us as we reach out and form partnerships and collaborations with likeminded organizations. During her year as chair, we will be focused on finalizing the last tasks in the three-year plan ending December 2013, while working with an outside consultant, Dr. Ann Atkinson, who will help us design our new three-year strategic plan. Designing a plan takes a lot of negotiating as multiple stakeholders have conflicting priorities. Allison will be a strong leader through this process, and will help bring all our stakeholders together into a common vision. I look forward to partnering with her this year.

At the conference, during the awards luncheon and the IPRA annual business meeting, the following awards were granted. Congratulations to these professionals and agencies that were recognized for their service to IPRA and parks and recreation:

- **Robert Artz Lifetime Achievement Award:**  
Chuck Balling, Glenview Park District
- **Community Impact Award:**  
Claudia Freeman, Waukegan Park District
- **Young Professional of the Year:**  
Stacey Van Enkevort, Arlington Heights Park District
- **Professional Award:**  
Rita Fletcher, Bartlett Park District
- **Outstanding Sustainability/Conservation Award:**  
Park District of Highland Park & Forest Preserve District of Will County

**Congratulations also go to John Curran's 2012 IPRA Chairman's Award recipients:**

- Mike Sletten, River Forest Park District
- Jennifer Fullerton, Hickory Hills Park District
- Jan Hincapie, Lincolnwood Park and Recreation Department
- Jan Buchs, Wheeling Park District
- Keith Wallace, Lincolnway Special Recreation Association
- Mike Clark, Palatine Park District
- Rod Aiken, Hazzard, Young, and Attea
- Rick Hanetho, Northbrook Park District

We are proud of all our award recipients this year, including our Distinguished Accredited agencies, Agency Showcase, scholarships, etc. Next year, I hope each of you take the time to nominate someone for one of these awards, or to strive to achieve one of these awards. The purpose of all service award programs is both to recognize leaders who have gone above and beyond in their service, but also to motivate others to do the same. Maybe next year's award recipient will be you!

If you attended the IPRA annual business meeting at conference, you know we're off to a great 2013 with IPRA! Our financial status is healthy and strong. Our membership is growing. Our conference is growing. We have new high quality educational opportunities for our members. We are focused on creating additional access for services and ensuring that we do a better job of serving members across Illinois. We are creating partnerships and collaborations with likeminded organizations. And, we are working to ensure that all members of IPRA feel valued in our diverse community. I look forward to working with all of you this year to come together in taking IPRA to the next level of service, growth, value, and access. As I said at the annual business meeting, let's make a commitment you and I, to stand by each other and to do whatever it takes to make IPRA stronger and better than ever.

When IPRA is stronger, we can do more for you. I look forward to working with each of you to make that happen.

## Pay it Forward

Those of you reading this magazine are likely those making a living in the dynamic and rewarding profession of parks and recreation. Regardless of the position you hold – Director, Superintendent, Supervisor, Manager, Vendor, Consultant, etc. - you are making a difference in the lives of your constituency. Though your journey is not over, we are asking you to Pay it Forward, to reach back and help equip the next generation of park and recreation professionals through a tax deductible donation to the Illinois Park and Recreation Foundation.

The endowment is housed within the Illinois Park and Recreation Foundation and only the interest earned can be used to support IPRA members' educational needs. The principal will remain intact to ensure that the funds donated will be used to help build the future of Illinois park and recreation professionals for years to come.

An appeal letter from the IPR Foundation was mailed in December 2012. Like other mailings asking for money, it may have landed in the trash before you read the second sentence. Please don't stop reading yet.

Through the generosity of current and retired park professionals, the endowment fund stands at \$245,000 - the goal is to reach \$500,000. The interest from this fund is used to award scholarships and financial aid to park and recreation majors and young professionals. The higher the endowment, the more interest it generates, hence more aid can be provided.

The Foundation is asking every park, recreation and conservation professional in the state to donate to the Illinois Park and Recreation Foundation to perpetuate well educated, highly qualified leadership of our park and recreation agencies.

IPRA has provided the networking forums and professional interaction that enabled us to build our reputations and open the doors to career advancement. Do we not have an obligation to leave a smooth path for those who follow us? The IPR Foundation members think the answer to that question is a resounding yes! Retirees are asked to consider a minimum donation of \$500, executive directors \$100 and other professionals \$50. Of course, a contribution in any amount would demonstrate your support of the Foundation's mission.

The future of our profession is dependent on competent leadership. The Foundation board members pledged ALL IN, meaning each one has made a donation to the campaign. Please join us in Paying it Forward by making a donation to the Illinois Park and Recreation Foundation.

The Illinois Park and Recreation Foundation Trustees:

Robin Hall, University of Illinois  
Debbie Carlson, River Trails Park District  
Mike Clark, Palatine Park District  
Tracy Crawford, NWSRA  
John Curran, Tinley Park Park District  
Brian Meyer, Arlington Heights Park District  
Ray Ochromowicz, St Charles Park District  
LoriKay Paden, University of Illinois  
Mike Rylko, Retired from Buffalo Grove Park District  
John Wilson, Lan-Oak Park District

*IAPD and IPRA honored legislators and leaders in the park, recreation and conservation industry at the Soaring to New Heights awards luncheon on Friday, January 25<sup>th</sup> at the Hyatt Regency Chicago.*



# 2013 Soaring to New Heights



**IAPD Legislator of the Year**  
Senator Toi Hutchinson

Senator Hutchinson has been a steadfast proponent of park agencies in her district and statewide. Her dedicated efforts to pass several IAPD-supported measures in 2012 were unparalleled. She was the chief senate sponsor of House Bill 587, which ensures the ability of park districts to utilize all available tools when adopting their tax levies. She was also the chief sponsor of Senate Bill 1566, which is the Illinois Department of Natural Resources' sustainability package. Her remarkable dedication and service to advancing park and recreational opportunities for Illinois citizens has truly been exceptional.



**IAPD Legislator of the Year**  
Representative Ed Sullivan, Jr.

Representative Sullivan has been a strong and faithful supporter of the Illinois Association of Park Districts and its member agencies. During the 97<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, Representative Sullivan was the chief sponsor of House Bill 587, one of IAPD's major legislative platform initiatives. His unwavering leadership in working to pass the bill ensured the ability of park districts to continue delivering first-class services to the citizens of Illinois. Representative Sullivan's unflinching, dedicated commitment to the Illinois park district system has been outstanding.

**IPRA Outstanding Sustainability/Conservation**  
 Park District of Highland Park  
 Accepted by Liza McElroy, Executive Director

The Park District of Highland Park worked diligently to secure the natural ravine home of trout and other freshwater fish through a restoration project funded by the USEPA's Great Lakes restoration initiative. Upon the project's completion, the park district's natural areas staff and volunteers coordinated a unique science learning program, Trout in the Classroom. Fourth grade students cared for rainbow trout fingerlings that were later released into the restored stream in hopes they would return to spawn. The program taught the young people of Highland Park valuable lessons that will form the foundation of a lifetime of environmental stewardship.



**IAPD Rising Star**  
 Eric Entler, Park District of Forest Park

This year's winner of the IAPD Rising Star award is Eric Entler from the Park District of Forest Park. Eric spent much of his childhood as an active participant in the Park District of Forest Park's programs, and later as an employee working in a variety of positions from pool maintenance to park ranger. Now, as a member of the park board, Eric is a prominent presence at events throughout the year. He effectively volunteers his professional experience to benefit the park district, most recently using his business knowledge to help the staff, board and community understand a property acquisition process. Eric's deep commitment also extends to the state level, with his service on the IAPD board of trustees.



**IPRA Young Professional of the Year**  
 Stacey VanEnkevort, Arlington Heights Park District

The IPRA Young Professional Award was presented to Stacey VanEnkevort, CAP Supervisor for the Arlington Heights Park District. One of Stacey's many accomplishments during her previous tenure as recreation supervisor for the Geneva Park District, was the creation of Kids' Zone. This was the park district's first before and after school program, which has expanded into one of the agency's largest, most profitable programs. Stacey also enhanced the volume of enrichment programs throughout the community in partnership with the city of Geneva, the library and the chamber of commerce. Stacey serves as secretary of the IPRA teen committee and co-chair of the school age and day camp committee.

**IPRA Outstanding Sustainability/Conservation**  
 Forest Preserve District of Will County  
 Accepted by Commissioners Suzanne Hart and Denise Winfrey

The forest preserve district's land stewardship policy brings together the many existing land stewardship programs that the district has implemented throughout the last 30 years into one guiding document. Environmental education is a key component of the district's mission, and the new policy will serve as a comprehensive educational tool. Concepts that derive from scientific and technical applications have been written in a manner to be easily understood by others involved in land stewardship. Continued implementation of land stewardship programs will result in sustained preservation, enhancement and restoration of our natural resources.





### IAPD Honored Professional

Bobbie Herakovich, Champaign Park District

This year's IAPD Honored Professional Award went to Bobbie Herakovich, executive director of the Champaign Park District. Bobbie has been a leader in the field for more than four decades. Early in her career, she displayed remarkable vision with the formation of the Champaign-Urbana special recreation program, which earned an NRPA Gold Medal Award. Under Bobbie's direction, the Champaign Parks Foundation was formed, raising more than \$2 million to further the park district's vision. She has been an avid supporter of IAPD programs and services, and her tireless efforts to promote the value of parks and recreation will benefit generations to come.

### IPRA Professional Recognition

Rita Fletcher, Bartlett Park District

Rita Fletcher received the IPRA Professional Recognition Award for the creativity she has shown in building strong relationships and finding creative ways to finance park projects. The countless contributions she has made to the park and recreation field include a three-way intergovernmental agreement for a nature center, benefiting more than 30,000 annual participants. She secured state grants totaling \$1.45 million, resulting in \$3 million worth of park improvements. Her tireless work to pass an \$18 million bond referendum resulted in the park district's purchase and renovation of 138 acres of land to include a golf course, banquet facility, ski runs and a snow tube hill.



### IAPD Mike Cassidy Commissioner Community Service

Mike Renner, Cary Park District

The 2012 Mike Cassidy Commissioner Community Service Award was presented to Mike Renner, a commissioner on the Cary Park District board since 1995. As a professional civil engineer, Mike brings a wealth of expertise to the board. His extensive experience in park development and land acquisition has enabled the park district to grow from 26 parks covering 293 acres, to 41 parks covering 868 acres. Mike has been extremely valuable to the park district's efforts to successfully provide first-class recreational facilities and programs. His spirited leadership, honesty and willingness to listen to residents' ideas and concerns make him the model elected official.

### IPRA Community Impact

Claudia Freeman, Waukegan Park District

Claudia Freeman received the IPRA Community Impact Award for an impressive 30 years of bringing art to her community in an accessible and affordable manner through creative partnerships. Her innovative approach to leveraging grants, sponsorships and partnerships has resulted in a wide array of programs for little or no cost. Through *Summer In The Park*, an outgrowth of Chicago Wilderness's local *No Child Left Inside* committee, she moved programs combining play, art and culture outdoors into neighborhood parks. She is a founding member of the Waukegan Arts Council and chair of its education committee. Claudia's tireless efforts have resulted in environmental grants totaling \$1.5 million.



# PASSING THE GAVEL



## **IAPD Commissioner of the Year** Chris Riley, Decatur Park District

The IAPD Commissioner of the Year Award was presented to Chris Riley, president of the Decatur Park District. Chris grew up in the park district system and has served as a commissioner for 11 years, extending his commitment to the state level as an IAPD trustee. His tremendous dedication helped pass a \$1.7 million referendum, resulting in the construction of a Raymond Floyd signature golf course and critical enhancements to six neighborhood parks. Chris is an enthusiastic supporter of the arts, and is founder of an arts scholarship program in honor of his mentor, Jerry Menz. Chris' \$10,000 personal commitment to the scholarship served as a wonderful example of leadership as he worked to convince businesses and individuals to contribute.



## **IPRA Robert Artz Distinguished Service** Chuck Balling, Glenview Park District

The IPRA Robert Artz Distinguished Service Award was presented to Chuck Balling from the Glenview Park District. Chuck has devoted 35 years to Illinois parks and recreation, and the relationships he has built have made lasting contributions. In Gurnee, Chuck was instrumental in land acquisitions and development of new facilities including a \$1.5 million renovation to a community center and creation of an award-winning aquatic center. In Glenview, he led the development of a 95-acre multi-use park, for which he secured a \$750,000 donation. His successful negotiations with the Village of Glenview resulted in the transfer of the 32-acre Kent Fuller Air Station Prairie/Evelyn Tyner Center and the 90-acre Gallery Park.



## **2013 Chairman of the IAPD Board of Trustees Don Andersen**

Don Andersen, commissioner of the Oak Lawn Park District, is the 2013 chairman of the Illinois Association of Park Districts' Board of Trustees.

Don was elected to the IAPD board in 2007. He has served on a

number of IAPD committees including the ambassadors, board development, constitutional bylaws, executive, honors and resolutions, membership, nominating and program committees. He has also served on the IAPD/IPRA coordinating council and the distinguished park and recreation accreditation committee. He has been a speaker at IAPD/IPRA conferences and the National Recreation and Park Association Congress. Don succeeds Linda Johnson from the Crete Park District.

## **2013 Chairman of the IPRA Board of Directors Allison Niemela**

Allison Niemela, executive director of the Batavia Park District, is the 2013 chairman of the Illinois Park and Recreation Association's Board of Directors.



Allison has been an active member of IPRA since 1998. She has served in numerous capacities including Section Director for IPRA's Communications and Marketing Section. She was the lead facilitator behind the PR to Go toolkit; a marketing resource for park and recreation professionals, and was the founder of the C&M Boot Camp, a specialized professional development school. She has served on IPRA's Board of Directors as the Communications and Marketing Representative and as chair elect. She succeeds John Curran, Director of Parks and Recreation for the Tinley Park Park District.

*All professional photos taken at the conference are available to view and/or purchase online at [ILparks.org](http://ILparks.org) or [ILipra.org](http://ILipra.org).*



DOING

**MORE**

By Derke Price, J.D.  
Equity Partner – Ancel Glink

**WITH LESS:**

**TURNING OPERATIONS DOLLARS INTO CAPITAL FUNDS**

**For agencies with aging building facilities and shrinking budgets,  
an energy savings performance contract may be the answer.**



## “ESPCs allow park districts and other units of government to accomplish a wide variety of capital projects by paying over time with the dollars saved from the new energy efficient operations ...”

Park districts are challenged more than ever before to do more with less. When it comes to aging facilities, they may wish to consider Energy Savings Performance Contracts (ESPCs). ESPCs are a form of financing authorized by the Local Government Energy Conservation Act (50 ILCS 515/1) to promote investment in cost effective energy conservation measures and operational efficiency improvements in existing facilities. ESPCs allow park districts and other units of government to accomplish a wide variety of capital projects by paying for them over time with the dollars saved from the new energy efficient operations, rather than spending capital dollars up-front.

The ESPC creates a partnership between the agency and an Energy Service Contractor (ESCO) which is selected following the evaluation procedures set forth in the Act. Larger agencies may even choose to divide their facilities among multiple ESCOs. The Chicago Park District, for example, recently chose to work with 3 different ESCOs to overhaul many of its facilities. Chicago Park District also negotiated with the ESCO candidates to have them perform—as part of the selection process—an energy audit of selected facilities to serve as a basis on which to compare the work product of the candidate firms.

Once an ESCO is selected, the process is fairly straightforward:

**Step 1:** The ESCO performs a comprehensive energy audit of all the agency's facilities to identify possible improvements to save energy and increase operational efficiencies.

**Step 2:** In consultation with the agency, the ESCO designs and constructs a project that meets the agency's needs and results in energy and operational savings.

**Step 3:** The ESCO arranges (or negotiates) the necessary financing. Under the Act, the ESCO must guarantee that the proposed improvements will, when constructed, generate measurable and verifiable savings in energy costs that will be sufficient to pay for the project (including the costs of financing) over the term of the contract. The payback period cannot exceed 20 years.

**Step 4:** The agreed project improvements are then constructed. Following construction of the improvements, the savings pay back the cost of the improvements.

The cost savings belong to the agency and go to pay the ESCO. When the ESCO is paid in full (or the contract expires) all of the savings belong to the agency.

### **Creating The Best Chance for Success**

An energy performance contract approach can be easily misunderstood by staff, the elected officials and the community. To provide the greatest opportunity for success, the agency should take the time to educate the community about the process; staff should be diligent in selecting the ESCO and should be involved in drilling down into the proposed changes and data used to articulate the energy measurements and thereby make the savings readily verifiable (because if the proposed solutions do not work for the staff who use the facility every day, the energy savings will probably not come to fruition); and (as one might expect to read from a lawyer) be careful in the contract terms.

#### **Manage expectations.**

Elected officials may initially be skeptical about agreeing to make installment payments for many years (with interest) on what they view as a loan—but is not called or otherwise treated as a loan under the law for any other purpose. It is important for elected officials to be properly educated on how the program works, and how it is possible to achieve both immediate and long term savings of tax dollars.





*The new boiler at Calumet Park is one of 51 systems replaced at Chicago Park District facilities. In addition to replacing heating and ventilation equipment, the project also included pipe insulation, exterior door and window weatherization as well as remote programmable temperature controls.*

Here is an example that illustrates the point: If the ESCO guarantees an annual savings of \$250,000 after completing \$1.3 million in improvements, then the agency could pay the ESCO back in less than 6 years and pocket those same annual savings during each of the remaining years of the lifecycle of the improvements (say 10-15 years). However, if the payback is structured over 10 years (and interest takes the total cost up to \$1.5 million), then the agency could make an annual payment of \$150,000 and immediately begin realizing \$100,000 a year in operational savings.

Remember that energy savings can be found in operations beyond the heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems. For example, the Chicago Park District realized they could save energy (and other costs) by improving security at certain entrances and, accordingly, were able to include upgrades to security components as part of the ESPC.

#### **Pick the right partner.**

Regardless of the care taken in drafting the contract, there is no substitute for selecting the right ESCO. The agency must put the same care and attention into the Request For Proposal (RFP) process for an ESCO that it does when selecting other professionals such as architects, engineers, auditors or attorneys. The RFP should include specific criteria, a process for winnowing down the candidates and a requirement for on-site presentations from the finalists. The agency should carefully check references and make sure that the specific personnel to be assigned (not just the company) have the project management and engineering expertise to handle the project.

#### **Lock down the guarantee.**

Under the Act, the ESCO must guarantee that the savings from the upgrades will pay for the project. Accordingly, the contract needs to carefully set forth what is being guaranteed with mutually agreed and objectively verifiable means of measuring the savings. Details of the facility's operations need to be carefully extracted and documented to ensure that the savings will come from equipment improvements rather than something else (e.g., a decrease in the cost of utilities). With a well drafted and detailed guarantee, money will either be available from savings to make payments to the ESCO or, if the savings are not realized, the ESCO will be contractually bound to write a check back to the agency for the difference. Contrast that guarantee of savings against a standard facilities maintenance and capital replacement program in which replacement of inefficient or outdated equipment is pushed to the end of (or more often beyond) the lifecycle of the equipment. In a standard capital replacement program, enormous amounts of energy and operations dollars will be wasted with no possibility of recapture, whereas the ESCP guarantee eliminates the potential for such waste and makes the possibility of achieving savings a no-lose proposition.

#### **When it comes to the contract, you're never done writing, you're just out of time.**

Time spent on the contract is time well spent, particularly when detailing the expected savings and the agreed protocols for verifying those savings. An energy audit is the first step to identifying the specific projects to be completed and the true source of any future savings. The contract should insist on agency staff being involved in the energy audit to get good data and set the tone for a collaborative relationship with the ESCO.

The contract should also prioritize the order of projects. The projects with the best paybacks (i.e., replacing the least efficient equipment) should be done first so that money starts flowing back immediately to help ensure cash in-pocket to make that initial payment to the ESCO. Where appropriate, the contract should also specify the type of equipment that is to be installed in the building. The ESCO may insist on selecting the equipment that goes into the facility so that it can be sure to achieve the savings promised. The ESCO has every incentive to make sure the equipment will fulfill the guarantee. However, the agency should provide standards and input on what is acceptable and what's not—particularly where operational software, inventory or program curriculum is involved.

The contract should also provide for "commissioning" of the equipment (that is the process by which equipment is tested to make sure it performs as expected and staff is trained to operate the equipment). This process will prevent disputes later about proper operation if savings are not being achieved.

Most contracts will allow the ESCO to send a representative to measure and verify savings at an agreed-upon interval. The measurement and verification standards specified in the contract should conform to the standard International Performance Measurement and Verification Protocol (IPMVP), so that there is an objective standard by which to resolve any disputes.

## **Conclusion**

The ESPC is a unique tool designed to correct a problem experienced by agencies with aging facilities in need of capital replacement and heavy maintenance. Unfortunately, there is no similar tool to help finance the overhaul of the turf and landscaping of an aging park. But, for those agencies that have aging facilities and infrastructure as well as few capital dollars available, the Energy Savings Performance Contract may provide the means to restoration.

# WebXtra



## The Millennium Reserve: Calumet Core Initiative — Re-investing in the ecology, culture and economy of the Calumet Region of Chicago

On March 1, 2013, Illinois Governor Pat Quinn issued an Executive Order creating a high level Steering Committee to lead the robust partnership for the transformation of thousands of acres in southeast Chicago into Millennium Reserve. In 2012, the Obama administration designated this area as one of only two sites in Illinois to be part of the America's Great Outdoors Initiative.

The Millennium Reserve is initially focusing on restoring the Calumet region of Chicago into a one-of-a-kind public destination with more than 15,000 acres of open space and 53 miles of trails that will connect to downtown Chicago's Millennium Park and the shores of Lake Michigan. It honors Illinois' cultural and industrial past; while protecting and restoring natural ecosystems; and supporting healthy and prosperous communities and opportunities for outdoor recreation.

Numerous studies have documented the economic benefits of outdoor recreation. Using data from coastal counties and states, economists with Economics National Ocean Watch (ENOW) of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), reported the Great Lakes Resource-Based Economy tops \$14 billion, and Cook County, Illinois contributes the biggest share of any coastal county to the Great Lakes-dependent economy, with 24 percent of the workforce and 37.4 percent of the gross domestic product. In 2006, a United States Fish and Wildlife Service study found more than two billion dollars is spent annually as a result of outdoor recreation in Illinois.




*Authors: **Judy Beck**, Lake Michigan Manager, United States Environmental Protection Agency, Great Lakes National Program Office; **Diane Tecic**, Director, Illinois Coastal Management Program, Illinois Department of Natural Resources; and **Suellen Burns**, Senior Advisor-Millennium Reserve*

### Read the Full Story Online

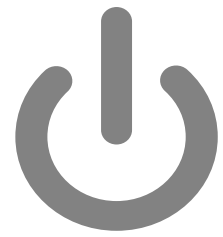
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# Greening Your Technology

Reducing Stress on the Environment  
Through Efficient Use of Technology 

By Dan Mangum, Information Technology Manager & Joan Scovic, Marketing  
& Sponsorship Coordinator Palatine Park District



**When thoughts turn to “going green,” programs at park districts often revolve around acquiring and maintaining open spaces, planting trees and conserving natural resources. While all of these essential efforts are pursued at the Palatine Park District, one of the agency's more innovative green programs is run *indoors*, by the Information Technology (IT) Department.**

In today's technologically oriented society, computers are an integral part of park district operations. Central Processing Units (CPU), monitors, printers, keyboards and mice can be found at registration desks, aquatic facilities, fitness centers and administrative offices. At the Palatine Park District, this equipment is also necessary at extended facilities including the agency's stables, theater and golf course. With online registration, computerized workstations, mobile apps and digital communication options, technology has become integral for day-to-day park district operations.

Unfortunately, all this technology comes with a hefty environmental price tag. According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency, “In 2009, discarded TVs, computers, peripherals (including printers, scanners and fax machines), mice, keyboards and cell phones totaled about 2.37 million short tons.” The need for technological equipment isn't going away, so technology is adapting and evolving to be more environmentally friendly.

Dan Mangum, Palatine Park District's information technology manager and member of the agency's environmental committee, is updating equipment throughout the district, resulting in savings of both physical resources and dollars. According to Joshua Ludolph, Palatine Park District recreation manager and chair of the environmental committee, “Identifying this avenue to reduce our impact on the environment confirms the importance of having all areas of an agency actively involved as part of the environmental committee. Without IT's valuable input, the Recreation and Park Department may have missed important energy and cost-saving measures such as server virtualization and the use of thin clients.”

The Palatine Park District's IT Department has plans for continuing a theme of consolidation which includes smaller, faster and less expensive equipment that utilizes lower power and provides overall better return on investment for technology systems. These goals complement environmental considerations by reducing power consumption while also increasing the lifecycle of the agency's electronics, thereby postponing them from the recycle schedule.

Computing resource virtualization continues to be the mainstay of Palatine Park District's efforts to conserve resources and maximize technology investments. Approximately 30 computer servers exist to provide IT services utilized by the district. In a traditional data center environment, this would necessitate 30 individual computer servers consuming power, generating heat that must be offset by environmental controls and occupying space in excess of what is currently available. At the same time, this configuration would require additional IT staff to administer a more complex disaster recovery scenario, among other maintenance considerations. In such a traditional setting, providing a full disaster recovery might require a duplicate lights-out setup at standby, with 30 additional off-site servers sitting idle, waiting to be utilized. The Palatine Park District utilizes computer virtualization to consolidate these many computer servers onto fewer physical machines. As a result of this virtualization, the district uses only three physical virtual machine hosts to provide operational and disaster recovery resources for the 30 logical servers.

As park districts grow, space is a premium. Reduced physical equipment creates additional space in offices and work centers, and the environmental positive that comes from the





*A smaller and more efficient Thin Client is pictured with a traditional computer tower.*

implementation of computer virtualization is reduced energy consumption. Palatine Park District utilizes products purchased through VMWare. According to The Business of Virtualization, a commissioned study by Forrester Consulting on behalf of VMWare, through the use of virtualization, “you'll also reduce your electrical bill – perhaps more than you thought. Every watt used to run a server gets turned into heat that must be removed from the data center at about the same cost – so a server using 400 watts is effectively using 800 watts.”

While these changes have met the district's needs this year, operational changes in the district often necessitate adjustments to the computer configuration. In 2012, new and expanded computing services were deployed and combined on the district's third and newest virtual machine server. This included capacity expansion of the park district's registration website to handle higher volume web registrations, resulting from a discontinuation of a lottery registration system. This continues the district's resource savings through virtual environment consolidation of computing requirements.



*Two of the district's three virtual servers. Each one takes the place of 10 traditional servers.*

The Palatine Park District has a detailed replacement schedule in place for all computer equipment. In the past year, regularly scheduled personal computer (PC) replacements were targeted at work areas where utilization of 'Thin Clients' could be implemented. Thin-Clients are small, low-powered, specialized computers with no moving parts. The park district has utilized these PC replacements to connect virtual desktops running within our consolidated virtual environment to service Points-of-Sale at three outdoor swimming pools and a recreation center. In addition to providing better security and resource savings, these devices have double the expected lifecycle of traditional PCs. The Palatine Park District currently has 15 Thin Client devices in use, resulting in lowered electricity consumption. An additional environmental impact is the long-range reduction in scheduled replacements, resulting in fewer materials recycled at the end of the scheduled use.

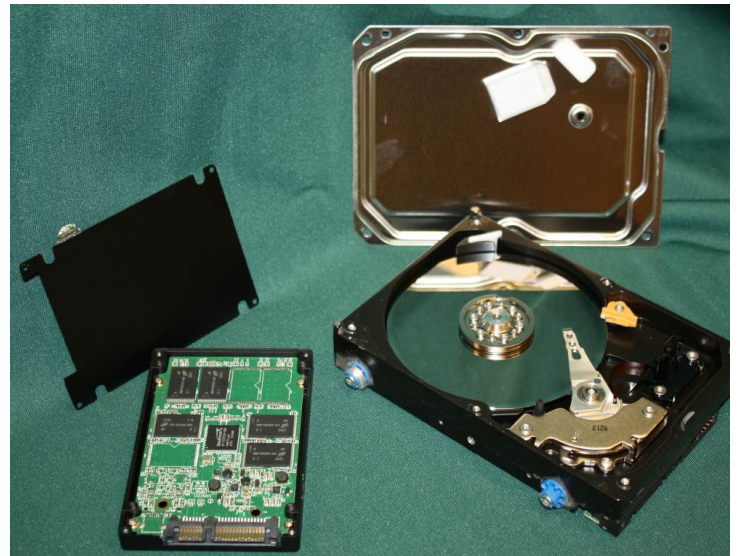
As innovative as these Thin Clients are, they cannot be used to replace traditional computer configurations in all cases. Moving forward, the Palatine Park District's IT department seeks to identify desktop workstations where a Thin Client would not be desirable due to hardware limitations in working with certain peripherals, or if higher demand computing is required. In 2013, the park district will refurbish PCs scheduled for replacement with newer technology, thereby increasing performance and reducing power consumption.

The primary method used for refurbishment is the replacement of the Hard Disk Drive (HDD) with a Solid State Disk (SSD). This hardware replacement is done in the already existing computer hardware cases. Hard disk drives are heavy pieces of hardware with many moving parts, and mechanical HDDs are typically the primary

performance bottleneck in PCs. SSDs, on the other hand, have no moving parts and do not suffer the limitations imposed on HDDs by their mechanical nature. An accurate analogy in comparing HDDs to SSDs would be to compare a record player to an MP3 player. The record turns round and round while the needle seeks the correct track, whereas an MP3 player addresses memory in an integrated circuit. As an additional feature, SSDs offer a 10x - 20x performance boost over typical HDDs. This performance boost permits the park district to extend the life of otherwise obsolete desktop computers, thereby saving them from the recycle process.

The Palatine Park District is always looking for improved technology. A new PC form factor by Intel is the latest offering under consideration. Coined "Next Unit of Computing" (NUC), Intel has designed a compact PC that is highly integrated, combining all required PC components, including the Intel current generation iSeries processors, into a condensed package. These devices are expected to meet the park district's typical workstation computing requirements, and will be considered for scheduled annual PC replacements. If suitable, this adjustment could reduce the cost of PC replacements by 30-40%. Additionally, the NUCs are low power devices which have fewer moving parts than a traditional computer. This plan would provide additional benefits in maintenance, power consumption and replacement cycle frequency.

The Palatine Park District's Information Technology department has used a creative approach to meet the district's evolving IT demands while implementing technological innovations to reduce both equipment recycling and energy consumption. As an additional benefit, the increased monetary savings could be used to plant a tree, or maybe even a small forest, in one of the district's 49 parks and facilities.



*A Solid State Disk is pictured on the left, with a Hard Disk Drive on the right.*



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# The 2012 IP&R Magazine Photo Contest Awards

The Illinois Association of Park Districts and Illinois Park and Recreation Association are proud of the high caliber of content that our readers submit to *Illinois Parks & Recreation* magazine.

We are especially grateful to those in the field who have an eye for capturing the beauty of the parks, the wonder of nature and the smiles on the faces of young and old alike, who have participated in the programs offered by Illinois' outstanding park districts, forest preserves, conservation, recreation and special recreation agencies.

**Congratulations to our 2012 Give Us Your Best Shot photo contest winners!**



## RECREATION/PEOPLE AT PLAY



### 1<sup>st</sup> Place

Mike Frankowski  
St. Charles Park District  
"Crocodile Visit"

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Place

Mike Terson  
Buffalo Grove Park District  
"Masterpiece in the Medium of Fun"



## SPORTS



### 1<sup>st</sup> Place

Keith Williams  
Palatine Park District  
"Mixed Emotions"

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Place

Lisa Haring  
Des Plaines  
Park District  
"Score"





## WILDLIFE



### 1<sup>st</sup> Place

Dianna Kroll  
New Lenox Community  
Park District  
"Nature's Umbrella"

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Place

Chris Gingrich  
Forest Preserve District  
of DuPage County  
"Spinning at the Farm"

## NATURE/LANDSCAPE



### 1<sup>st</sup> Place

Wendy Kummerer  
McHenry County  
Conservation District  
"Nature's Imprint"

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Place

Matt Libs  
Tinley Park Park District  
"Grand Finale"

*A heartfelt thanks to everyone who submitted a photo in 2012.*

*And, as always, we thank the judges who made the tough decisions. They reviewed more than 200 outstanding photos.*

### Photo Judges

*Barry Locher,  
Illinois Press Association*

*Chris Young,  
State Journal-Register*



## PEOPLE & PLACES



### IAPD Announces New Publications Director

The Illinois Association of Park Districts recently named **Rachel Laier** as publications director. Laier has more than 12 years of marketing, publications and communications management experience. During her career, she has also worked as a copy writer, editor and graphic designer. Rachel earned her degree in business management with a focus in communications from the University of Illinois at Springfield.

Laier will serve as editor of *Illinois Parks & Recreation* magazine and will be responsible for the annual IAPD/IPRA Buyers' Guide as well as writing and editing newsletters, books and other communications for the association.



### Dolton Park District Welcomes New Executive Director

**Jerome Jones** is the Dolton Park District's new executive director. Jones comes to the park district with more than 20 years of experience in finance, contract negotiations and contract law. He was previously

employed at All Pro Sports and Entertainment, Inc., and has run a successful marketing, graphics arts and design business.

Jones graduated from DePaul University with a bachelor's degree in liberal arts. He attended Chicago Kent College of Law and received a master's degree in business administration from the University of Notre Dame.



### Mt. Prospect Park District Announces New Executive Director

The Mt. Prospect Park District has announced **Greg Kuhs** as the new executive director following a search conducted by IAPD. Kuhs previously served as executive director of the Wood Dale Park District, and has worked as superintendent of recreation for the Prospect Heights, Addison and Deerfield Park Districts and director of parks and recreation for the North Berwyn and Salt Creek Park Districts.

He is a certified park and recreation professional and received an MBA from Webster University in St. Louis and a bachelor's degree in recreation administration from University of Wisconsin at LaCrosse. He served as chair and trustee of NEDSRA; chair of NWSRA and is a past board member of the Special Leisure Services Foundation.



### Oregon Park District Names Executive Director

**Erin Folk**, assistant executive director for the Oregon Park District, was recently named executive director by the board of commissioners. Folk has been employed with the Oregon Park District since 2006, and will

begin her tenure as executive director on April 1.

Folk's 11 years of experience include serving as facility manager and superintendent of recreation for the Oregon Park District and athletic program manager for the Lombard Park District. She is a Certified Park and Recreation Professional and holds a bachelor's degree in recreation administration from Eastern Illinois University.



### In Memoriam

The Illinois Association of Park Districts and the entire park and recreation community are saddened by the passing of two great advocates for Illinois park districts, forest preserves, conservation, recreation and special recreation agencies.

**Carolyn Edley**, member of the East St. Louis Park District board of commissioners and the IAPD board of trustees, died December 18, 2012. She had been an active member of the IAPD board of trustees since 2009, and generously donated her time as a member of the honors and resolutions, nominating and membership committees. She served on the East St. Louis Park District board for more than 20 years.

“Carolyn was a true public servant, dedicated to enriching the lives of people statewide through parks, recreation and conservation,” said Peter Murphy, IAPD President and CEO. “She left an indelible impact on the IAPD, and her sincere regard for public service is a great inspiration to park commissioners everywhere.”

**Jim Petkus**, past commissioner of the Oak Forest Park District and former IAPD trustee, died January 8, 2013. Petkus had been a dedicated Oak Forest Park District commissioner for 34 years. He served as sergeant-at-arms on the IAPD board of trustees in 2003 and was elected as a trustee in 2004 and 2005. He was actively involved with IAPD and gave freely of his time and talents to numerous committees including the ambassadors, board development, honors and resolutions and program committees. Petkus also served on the IAPD/IPRA joint distinguished park and recreation accreditation committee and the joint public awareness committee, as well as the Great Lakes Regional Council.

“Jim was a steadfast supporter of enhancing the quality of life for all people in Illinois through park, recreation and conservation services,” said Peter Murphy, IAPD President and CEO. “His spirited leadership and genuine enthusiasm will be greatly missed.”



### Summit Park District Hires Executive Director

The Summit Park District Board of Commissioners is pleased to announce the appointment of **Ross Bruni** as the new executive director, following a search conducted by IAPD.

Bruni's more than 17 years of experience in parks and recreation management include positions at the Justice Park District, Lockport Township Park District and Lemont Park District. He received a bachelor's degree in sports management from Valparaiso University and a master's degree in recreation, sport and tourism from the University of Illinois.



### Warrenville Park District Superintendent of Recreation Retires

**Tom Rowe**, CPRP, superintendent of recreation for the Warrenville Park District, recently retired after a 36-year career in the park district industry. Rowe oversaw programming for

athletics, health and fitness, mind/body/spirit, dance and special events during his tenure at the Warrenville Park District. He established a farmers market, served as 2012 chair of the Warrenville Bike Rodeo, was a member of the Summer Daze committee, oversaw the growth and development of the district's FitnessNOW Center and was instrumental in expanding the park district's recreation programs.

### Want to Read More?

Keep up with the latest milestones, new hires, promotions and award winners in the Illinois park and recreation industry online. Visit our website, [www.ILparks.org](http://www.ILparks.org), and click on the Publications tab on the left. Select IP&R Magazine and then People and Places.

### Want to submit news from your agency for People & Places?

E-mail information and jpegs to [editorialdept@ILparks.org](mailto:editorialdept@ILparks.org). Jpegs should be 300 dpi at about 2 inches tall.

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