



ANNUAL REPORT 2022

MISSION

Provide and promote exceptional standards of education, networking, and resources for all professionals in the Illinois park, recreation, and conservation communities.

VISION

IPRA leads the nation in providing premier education, networking, and resources for professionals in parks, recreation, and conservation.

WHAT WE BELIEVE

- Inclusiveness of diverse stakeholder groups
- Intentionally improve all lives
- Fiscal responsibility, accountability, and transparency in all of our activities
- Creating a forum for uniting the diverse IPRA community around common ideas and future trends

TO OUR MEMBERS



Dear IPRA Members and Stakeholders,

On behalf of the IPRA Board of Directors and the IPRA staff team, I want to share our excitement about the fantastic year we had in 2022! Membership is growing as more park, recreation and conservation practitioners see the value of connecting with their colleagues and continuing their professional development. Registration for both IPRA-wide and section specific events has been robust, and we've hosted more people in our programs than ever before!

This past year was a particularly successful year financially for your association. As our members recovered from the effects of the pandemic, IPRA was there to provide opportunities to reconnect with old friends and make some new ones as well. In addition, our Career Center continues to provide value as the definitive place for our members to find new opportunities and fill open positions. These programs and sound expense controls contributed to our financial success, which has allowed us to reinvest in the association to further support you in your career.

I'm also thrilled to see our staff team grow and bond as we integrated new team members this year. The four veterans have been amazing at coaching and supporting the four of us who are new to IPRA, and we have transformed into a well-oiled machine. Everyone feels a strong sense of purpose in supporting our members and we are dedicated to providing you with the tools you need to grow and prosper.

One area that we focused on in 2022 was growing partnerships with our Affiliate and Commercial members. These partnerships provide valuable opportunities for our professional members and enhance engagement throughout our community. Moving into 2023, we hope to have even more education and networking sessions in cooperation with our partners so we can reach more members across the state.

One final note of thanks goes out to you, our members, for your participation this past year. IPRA succeeds because you join, volunteer, donate and contribute to your association. Your dedication makes all the difference, and we truly appreciate each and every one of you!

Looking forward to seeing you all at events in 2023!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Barbara Arango". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Barbara Arango, CAE
Executive Director

HEADQUARTERS STAFF

Barbara Arango, CAE
Executive Director

Cindy Galvan, CMP
Conference & Meetings Manager

Vince Davis, CPRP
Membership Manager

Kim Laper, CPRP
Education & Events Manager

Nicole Dotson
Administrative Support Specialist

Duane Smith, CPRP
Education Director

Barry Franks
Finance Director

Heather Weishaar
Communications & Marketing Director



Board of Directors

Chair

Trisha Breitlow, CPRP, CTRS
Executive Director
Maine-Niles Association of Special Recreation

Chair-Elect

Lisa Sheppard, CPRP
Executive Director
Glencoe Park District

Past Chair

Doug G. Damery, CPRP
Director of Parks & Recreation
Normal Parks & Recreation Department

Secretary/Northwest Region Representative

Andrew Thurman, CPRP
Executive Director
Geneseo Park District

Southern Region Representative

Andrew Dallner, CPRP
Director of Parks and Recreation
O'Fallon Parks and Recreation

Central Region Representative

Derek Harms, CPRP
Executive Director
Springfield Park District

Chicago Metro Region Representative

Matthew Fairbanks, CPRP
Director of Parks & Recreation
Palos Heights Parks & Recreation

Membership Council Representative

Erika Strojinc, CPRP
Director of Recreation & Facilities
Buffalo Grove Park District

At Large Representative

Keith Wallace, CPRP
Executive Director
Lincolnway SRA



Message from the Board Chair



On behalf of the IPRA Board of Directors, thank you to each of you for your continued support and membership with IPRA! 2022 was a year of change and growth for the Association, as we welcomed our new Executive Director and additional staff members, but the members' needs remained a top priority. This will continue in 2023 as we move forward developing a new strategic plan. Thank you to the IPRA staff for continuing to serve the membership with a multitude of opportunities for networking and education.

I encourage you all to take full advantage of what IPRA has to offer this year. Become more involved in your section, volunteer for a committee, grab a group to participate in Park Pursuit, or join in on a Lunch and Learn. Make the most of what IPRA can offer you!

[Trisha Breitlow, CPRP, CTRS](#)

Executive Director

Maine-Niles Association of Special Recreation



The IPRA Board of Directors convenes regularly throughout the year, at in-person and virtual meetings. Visit the IPRA Event Calendar for upcoming meeting information.



The Illinois Park and Recreation Association Board of Directors is responsible for setting the strategic direction, establishing policy, and ensuring the fiscal integrity of the Association.

Membership Council

The IPRA Membership Council is comprised of one representative from each IPRA special interest section. The Membership Council serves to improve efficiencies and to reduce redundancies of the various sections as well as to ensure the existence of quality educational offerings at section meetings throughout the year.

Chair

Erika Strojinc, CPRP

Administration and Finance Section Representative

Bret Fahnstrom, CPRE

Communication & Marketing Section Representative

Deanna Angelini Johann, MSIMC, CPRP

Diversity Section Representative

Jonelle Bailey, CPRP

Facility Management Section Representative

Katy McKinnon, CPRP

Forest Preserve & Conservation Section Representative

Monica Meyers, CPRE

Parks & Natural Resource Management Section Representative

Theresa Kyriazes, CPRP, CPSI

Recreation Section Representative

Mike Gianatasio, CPRP, CPO

Therapeutic Recreation Section Representative

Beth Corso

Sections

IPRA's special interest sections are crucial to your membership experience because we can place you with others that share a common work setting, interests and problems.

- **Administration & Finance:** Professionals who work in administration, finance, human resources, risk management, and information technology.
- **Communications & Marketing:** Professionals with specialized skills in marketing, public relations, creation of agency publications, websites, media awareness, special events, branding, and other activities that promote the value of parks and recreation.
- **Diversity:** Professionals who share a commitment as a leading source for all aspects of diversity in the park and recreation profession in Illinois and serve as a resource to IPRA members.
- **Facility Management:** Professionals working in, and managing, a variety of facilities, including: aquatics, community centers, ice, golf, museum, and multipurpose.
- **Forest Preserve and Conservation:** Professionals working for forest preserves and conservation districts.
- **Parks & Natural Resource Management:** Professionals managing parks and natural resources in federal, municipal, county and state parks, and conservation areas.
- **Recreation:** Recreation programmers, facilitators and administrators in arts, special events, athletics, early childhood, school-age, and day camp, teens and seniors.
- **Therapeutic Recreation:** Professionals who serve individuals with disabilities in a variety of settings such as community-based Special Recreation Associations, hospitals, physical rehabilitation centers.

Section Directors

Administration & Finance Section

Laure Kosey, CPRE

Forest Preserve and Conservation Section

Elizabeth Kessler, CPRE

Communications & Marketing Section

Marlon Rodas

Parks & Natural Resource Management Section

Shane Hamilton, CPRP

Diversity Section

Manuel Aguilar, CTRS, CPRP

Recreation Section

Mary Liz Jayne, CPRP

Facility Management Section

Joe Zimmermann, CPRE

Therapeutic Recreation Section

Lauren Jevaney, CTRS, CPRP

Committees

Participation and leadership in an IPRA committee provides opportunities for individuals to share and develop personal skills, while developing resources and professional development opportunities for the membership.

2022 Committee Chairs

Agency Showcase: Jessica Cannaday

Awards Committee: Joe Pollina

Diversity Leadership Task Force: Oralethea Davenport

Education Advisory Committee: Colleen Cline

Education Road Show Board of Regents: Shawn Roby

Finance Committee: Maureen Nugent

Governance Committee: Doug Damery

Health and Wellness Committee: Shannon Tovey

Illinois Park and Recreation Foundation: Mike Kies

Illinois Urban Forestry Appointee: Kristi Solberg

IPRF/Joint Section Golf Committee: Tim Reinbold

Membership Council: Erika Strojinc

ProConnect Board of Regents: Shannon Elsey

Professional Development School Board of Regents: Steve Muenz

Program Committee: Lacy Marinenko

2022 Joint Committee Co-Chairs

Joint Conference Committee: Tim Reinbold

Joint Coordinating Council Committee: Doug Damery

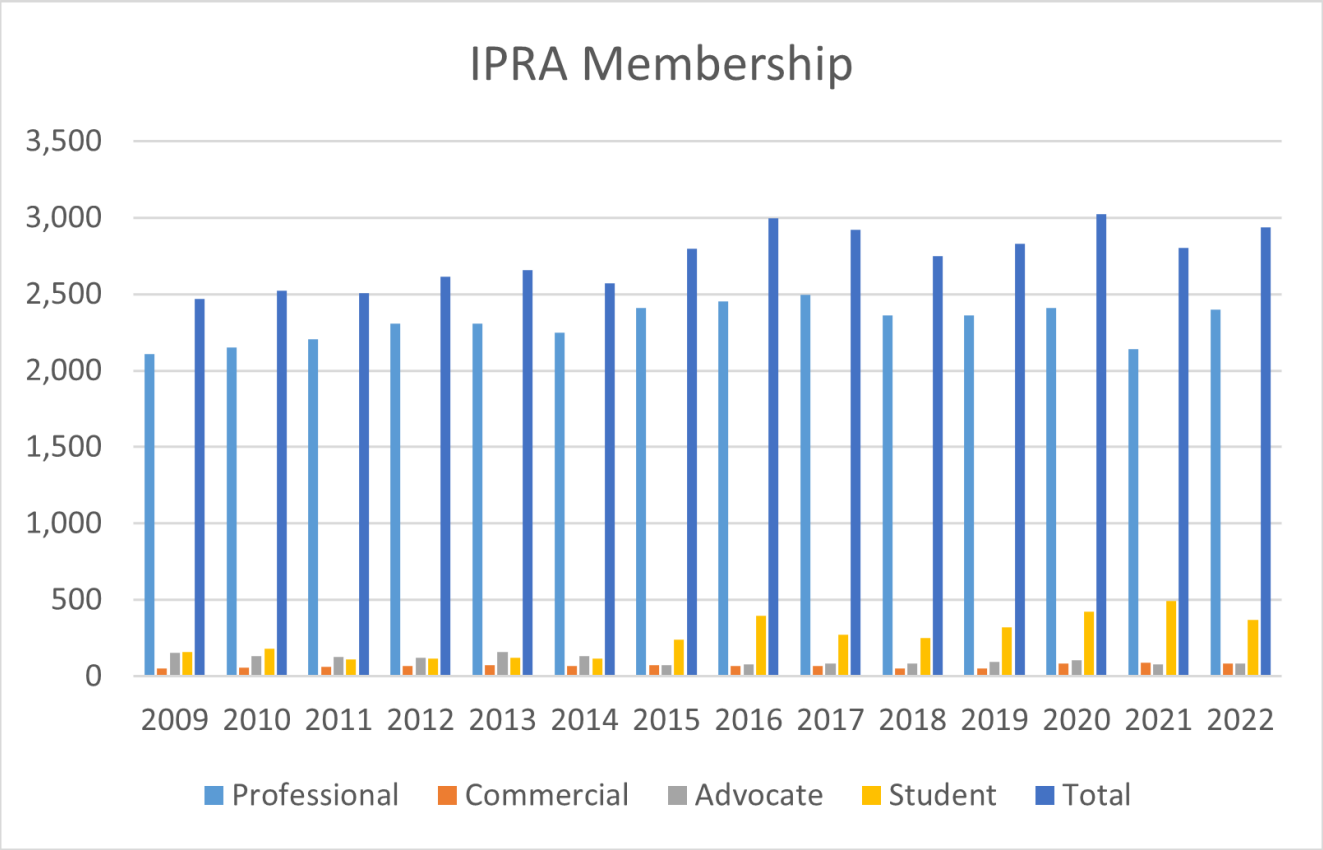
Joint Distinguished Park And Recreation Accreditation Committee: Ryan Risinger

Joint Editorial Committee: Kari Felkamp

Joint Exhibit Committee: Tom Hartwig

Joint Legislative Committee: Mike Benard

IPRA Membership



IPRA welcomed
670 new
members in
2022!



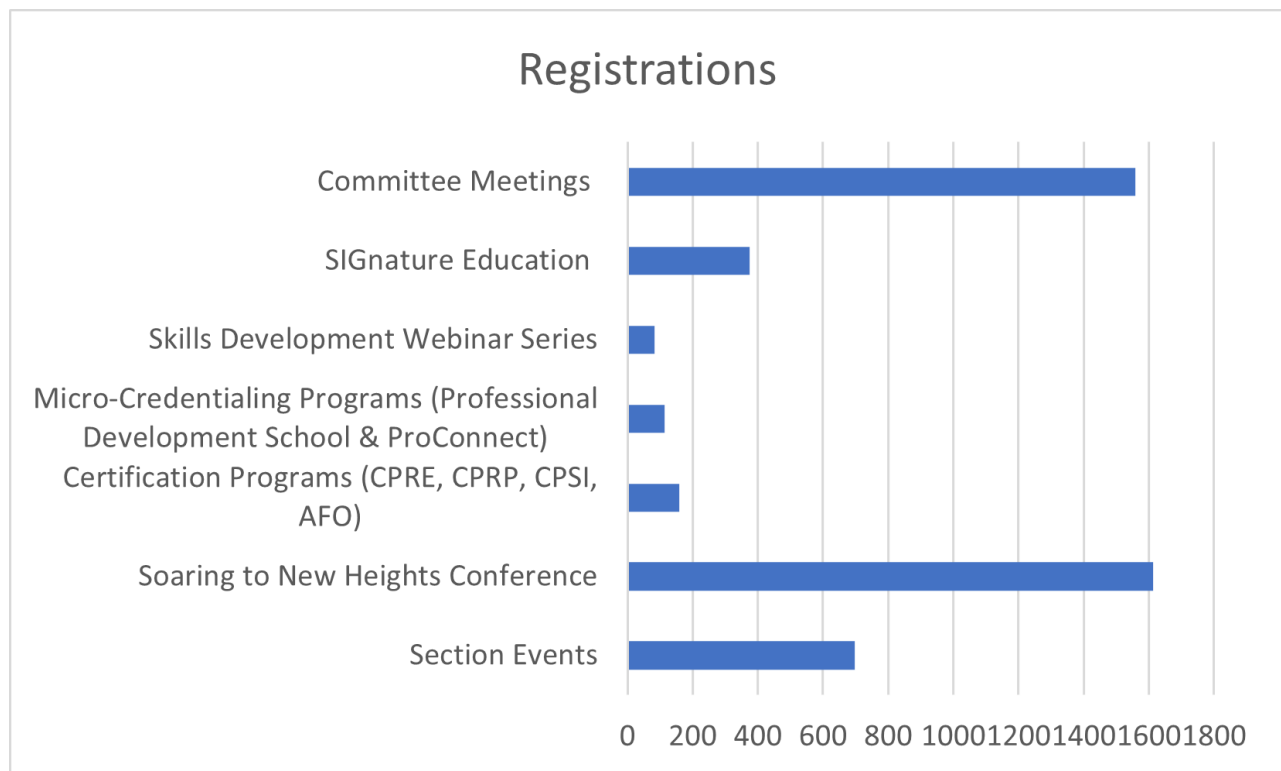
Balance Sheet

Unaudited as of 12/31/22

	2021	2022
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Checking/Savings	\$224,867	\$497,832
Other Current Assets	\$2,125,308	1,936,277
Total Current Assets	\$2,350,175	\$2,434,109
Fixed Assets	\$25,989	\$11,638
TOTAL ASSETS	\$2,376,164	\$2,445,747
LIABILITIES & EQUITY		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Other Current Liabilities	\$603,047	\$653,604
Total Liabilities	\$603,047	\$653,604
Equity	\$1,773,117	\$1,792,143
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	\$2,376,164	\$2,445,747

Professional Development

The Illinois Park and Recreation Association's continuing education offers something for all levels of experience within a broad range of roles in the field of parks, recreation and conservation. The platforms provided for continuing education range from webinars to multi-day schools throughout the state. IPRA is committed to providing you with access to high quality and affordable professional development opportunities.



In 2022, IPRA
members
attended over
230 events!

Awards & Recognition

Designed to recognize the best-of-the-best in Illinois parks, recreation, and conservation, the Awards & Recognition Program gives professionals an opportunity to recognize colleagues and community members for their extraordinary work and contribution to the industry.

Individual Award Winners



Robert Artz Lifetime Achievement Award

Michael Clark

Professional of the Year

William McAdam



Community Impact Award

Julie Rhodes

Young Professional of the Year

Erika Rubo



Champions for Change Award

Oak Brook Park District

Board Chair Awards

Manny Aguilar

Jonelle Bailey

Trisha Breitlow

Cameron Bettin

Bret Fahnstrom

Erin Folk

Jeff Fougrousse

Mike Gianatasio

Elizabeth Kessler

Michael Kies

Distinguished Park & Recreation Accredited Agencies

The Illinois Distinguished Accreditation program's goal is to improve the delivery of park and recreation services to Illinois residents. A park district or recreation agency interested in applying for Distinguished Accredited Agency recognition undergoes a detailed, lengthy process of application and evaluation. A Joint Distinguished Park and Recreation Accreditation Committee (JDPRAC) comprised of members from IAPD and IPRA coordinates the process. Congratulations to the agencies below for their new & renewed recognition status!

Arlington Heights Park District

Byron Park District

Downers Grove Park District

Forest Preserve District of Kane County

Geneva Park District

Morton Grove Park District

Oak Lawn Park District

Schaumburg Park District

Skokie Park District

St. Charles Park District

Woodridge Park District

Outstanding Program or Special Event

Outstanding Program & Special Event Award, Division I

Special Event Winner – Byron Forest Preserve District, PrairieFire Invitational

Outstanding Program & Special Event Award, Division II

Program Winner – Plainfield Park District, Scout's Summer Fun Hunt

Special Event Winner – Geneva Park District, Santa's Special Delivery

Overall Winner – Agency with highest score among all program & special event nominees)

Fox Valley Park District, eCare

Outstanding Facility & Parks Award

Outstanding Park & Facility Award, Division I

Park Award Winner – Northfield Park District, Clarkson Park

Facility Award Winner – Byron Forest Preserve District, PrairieFire Golf and Grill

Outstanding Park & Facility Award, Division II

Park Award Winner – Naperville Park District, Wolf's Crossing Community Park

Facility Award Winner – Northbrook Park District, Techny Prairie Activity Center

Overall Winner – Agency with highest score among all park & facility award nominees)

Community Park District of LaGrange Park, Memorial Park Multi-Sports Complex

Exceptional Workplace Award

The IPRA Health & Wellness Committee was developed to help agencies identify and achieve a high level of health and wellness for their employees and recognize their achievements, through the awarding of the Exceptional Workplace Award.

- Bloomingdale Park District
- Naperville Park District
- Plainfield Park District
- Woodridge Park District



Agency Showcase

Agency Showcase is a spirited competition spotlighting bright ideas exhibited by park, recreation, and conservation agencies. This professionally judged competition recognizes Illinois agencies for their marketing and communication efforts ranging from print to multimedia.

Overall Agency Showcase Winners

1st Place: Glenview Park District
2nd Place: Plainfield Park District
3rd Place: Mundelein Park and Recreation District

People's Choice Agency Showcase Winner

Warrenville Park District

Category Honors

Brochure Print: Batavia Park District
Brochure Virtual: SEASPAR
Integrated Photography: Plainfield Park District
Large Format Marketing: Batavia Park District
Logo Design: Fox Valley Park District
Marketing Campaign: Village of Lincolnwood Parks and Recreation
Paid Advertisement: Champaign Park District
Print Communication – Informational: SEASPAR
Print Communication – Promotional: Glenview Park District
Social Media Campaign: Downers Grove Park District
Videography - Long Form: Glenview Park District
Videography - Short Form: Skokie Park District
Website: Mundelein Park and Recreation District
Hindsight 20/20: Mundelein Park and Recreation District



Affiliates

In cooperation with the IPRA, joining an affiliate group will further the opportunities for localized and specialized education, networking and resources available to you throughout the state of Illinois.

- American Camp Association (ACA-IL)
- Central Illinois Recreation Council for Leisure Experience (CIRCLE)
- Illinois After School Network (IAN)
- Illinois Recreational Therapy Association (ILRTA)
- Midwest Institute of Park Executives (MIPE)
- Northwest Illinois Association of Parks & Recreation (NWIAPR)
- Southern Illinois Parks & Recreation Professional Association (SIPRA)
- South Suburban Park & Recreation Professional Association (SSPRPA)
- Suburban Park & Recreation Association (SPRA)

Illinois Park & Recreation Foundation (IPRF)

The mission of the Illinois Park & Recreation Foundation is to be a sustainable philanthropic organization benefitting members of Illinois Park & Recreation Association (IPRA). Thank you to the IPRF Board for their volunteerism!

Chair

Michael Kies, CPRE
St. Charles Park District

Tracey Crawford, CPRP, CTRS
NWSRA

John Curran

Vice-Chair

Jarrold Scheunemann
Champaign Park District / Campfire
Concepts

Dave Dillon
The Larson Equipment &
Furniture Company

Treasurer

John Wilson

Ray Ochromowicz, CPRP, CPSI
Executive Decisions Consulting

Cam Bettin
Pekin Park District

Bill McAdam, CPRE
Downers Grove Park District

Carlo Capalbo, CPRE
Plainfield Park District

Joan Scovic, CPRP
Northbrook Park District

Michael Clark, CPRP
Palatine Park District

IPRA Commercial Members

5/3 Fifth Third Bank	Issuu
a5 Branding & Digital	IZone Imaging
Ameren Illinois	Jeff Ellis And Associates, Inc.
Americana Outdoors	JSD Professional Services, Inc.
Ancel Glink Diamond Bush DiCianni & Krafthefer P.C.	Just In Time Pool & Spa
Apple Canyon Lake Property Owners Association	L6 Technology Inc
Aqua Pure Enterprises, Inc.	Lamp Incorporated
Aquatic Council, LLC	Lauterbach & Amen, LLP
Bacon Farmer And Workman Engineering & Testing Inc	Lincoln Aquatics
Bass/Schuler Entertainment	MSA Professional Services, Inc.
Bedrock Earthscapes, LLC	Musco Sports Lighting
BerryDunn	Nania Energy
BID Evolution	National Fitness Campaign
BMO Harris Bank	Onsite Utility Services Capital, LLC
Brian Wismer Entertainment	PCI
Burbach Aquatics, Inc. - Architects & Engineers	PDRMA
Byrne & Jones Construction	Planning Resources Inc.
Cedar Creek Ranch LLC	Play & Park Structures
Central Life Sciences	Play Illinois
Chicago District Tennis Association	Premier Polysteel
CivicRec	Pyrotecnico
ComEd	RAM Communications Inc
Confluence	SmithGroup, LLC
Cunningham Recreation	Sourcewell
Dewberry Architects Inc.	Spear Corporation
Discount Playground Supply, Inc	Speer Financial
DLA Architects, Ltd.	Stifel
Excel Aerial Images, LLC	Terrabilt, Inc
Federal Supply USA	The Davey Tree Expert Company
Fehr Graham	The Forge Adventure Parks
FGM Architects	The Larson Equipment And Furniture Company
FieldTurf USA Inc,	The Mulch Center
Frederick Quinn Corp	Trajectory Energy Partners
Gewalt Hamilton Associate	Tyler Technologies, Inc.
GLI, Inc.	Veregy
Green-Up	Vermont Systems
Greg Petry Consulting	Vortex Aquatic Structures International
Hitchcock Design Group	VoyagerNetz
HR Source	Wight & Company
Illinois Public Risk Fund	Williams Architects
INSPEC, Inc.	Wintrust Financial Corporation
Integral Construction Inc.	WT Group

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