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Summer 2023



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The 2023 Indiana University Executive Development Program: Educating and Creating Networking Opportunities for Parks and Recreation Professionals from Across the United States

By Julie S. Knapp, PhD, Department of Health & Wellness Design, Indiana University - Bloomington



The 2023 Indiana University Executive Development Program hosted over 60 park and recreation professionals (from over 16 different States) on the campus of Indiana University at Bloomington. Several IPRA members take part in the planning and implementation of the continuing education program that has been in existence for 54 years. Four IPRA members serve on the Indiana University Executive Development Board of Trustees which include Becky Barrick- Higgins (Board Chair), Brandon Bennett, Julie Knapp, Carl Lindell and Joe Wynns.

The program opened on Sunday April 16th with a welcome dinner. The opening session- Focusing on our Why was presented by Phil Gaines, a former State Park Director from South Carolina and current Professor of Practice from Clemson University. The EDP educational sessions began on Monday April 17th where the first and second year EDP participants had the opportunity to be involved in two and a half days of interactive executive development classes that focused on issues facing professionals such as challenging conventional thinking in parks and recreation, social equity, risk management, recruitment and retention, round tables, power and politics, leading from within, and more.

Out of class networking and social opportunities were also part of the 2023 Executive Development Program.

After the EDP students spent the morning and afternoon hours in continuing education sessions, they had the opportunity to experience tours of Bloomington Park and Recreation Department's new Switchyard Park, IU Athletic facilities and a Monday evening social at Brown County State Park that included live music, a Dinner, a Birds of Prey interpretive program, cornhole matches, a campfire and more. Throughout EDP, students also dined at a variety of restaurants on Kirkwood Avenue and enjoyed Bloomington's active nightlife.

The 2023 Executive Development Program concluded on Wednesday April 19th with an evaluation of the program and graduation luncheon where 1st and 2nd year EDP participants were awarded Continuing Education Certificates. In addition, the 2nd year students were recognized for completing the two year program by receiving Indiana University Executive Development Program diplomas. The IU EDP Silent Auction raised over \$1,700. for 2024 EDP Scholarships. Seven EDP scholarships will be awarded for the 2024 program (the deadline for application for the scholarships is December 15, 2023). Please mark your calendars for the 2024 Program which is scheduled for April 14th-17th at Indiana University in Bloomington. ●



Indiana Park & Recreation Association

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We Need Your Contributions

What makes *The Profile* a success is your input, ideas, experiences, and creativity. Please consider sharing your input with our network of IPRA members. Artwork and photographs are encouraged.

How to Submit

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Mission Statement

The Indiana Park & Recreation Association advances healthy lifestyles and environmental stewardship by providing education, professional development, resources and advocacy.

Vision Statement

The Indiana Park & Recreation Association is the premier source of support and advancement for parks and recreation providers.

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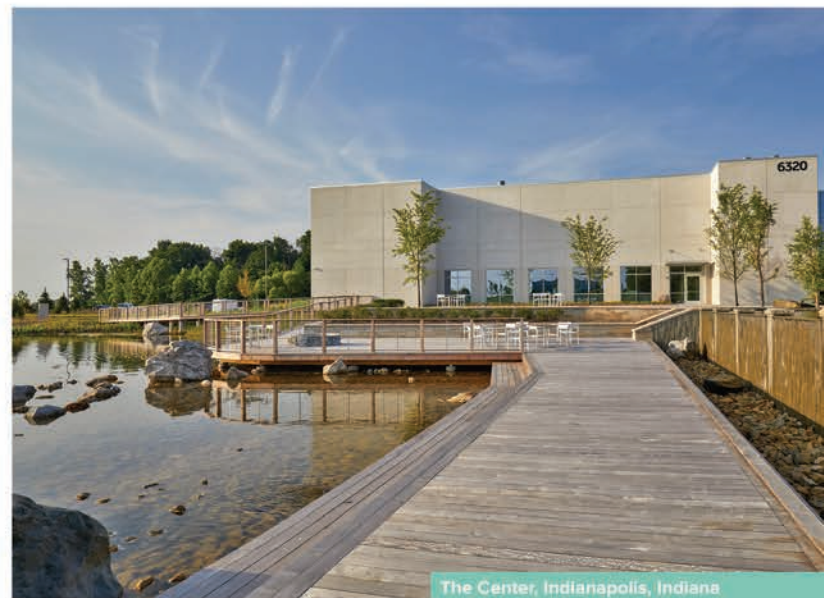
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From the Executive Director

By Lisa D. Nye, Indiana Park & Recreation Association



July is Parks and Recreation Month! We celebrate all the professionals that make our incredible outdoor spaces possible, who provide programming to enhance the lives of our neighbors and communities, and we celebrate the community leaders who understand how critical parks are to our public health, well-being and sense of belonging. Simply put, parks create community.

While many would agree that we are living in an increasingly fractured society. Parks and the opportunities that they offer to come together can help bridge that gap and promote a sense of belonging, or community. An article on the mayoclinichealthsystem.org by psychotherapist Angela Theison, offers this statement:

“We cannot separate the importance of a sense of belonging from our physical and mental health. The social ties that accompany a sense of belonging are a protective factor helping manage stress and other behavioral issues. When we feel we have support and are not alone, we are more resilient, often coping more effectively with difficult times in our lives. Coping well with hardships decreases the physical and mental effects of these situations”.

A recent poll by the National Recreation and Park Association found:

- 87 percent of U.S. adults have activities that make them feel more connected to their local community.
- **Attending local events** / festivals / parades, shopping at the local farmers market and visiting the historical areas in their area rank as top ways in which the **public feels most connected with their local community.**

As you continue your work to create community and belonging, the leadership team at IPRA is working on creating new partnerships to expand our parks community further. We've joined with our friends at the Department of Veterans Affairs to find more ways to include veterans and military families in our community. (See the article by Lori DeYoung on page 30 for more information). We are also embarking on a new partnership with our colleagues at the Indiana Department of Health on an initiative to create a program/toolkit on youth mental health and parks. And, work continues on components of our public awareness campaign. Watch for information about the upcoming videos

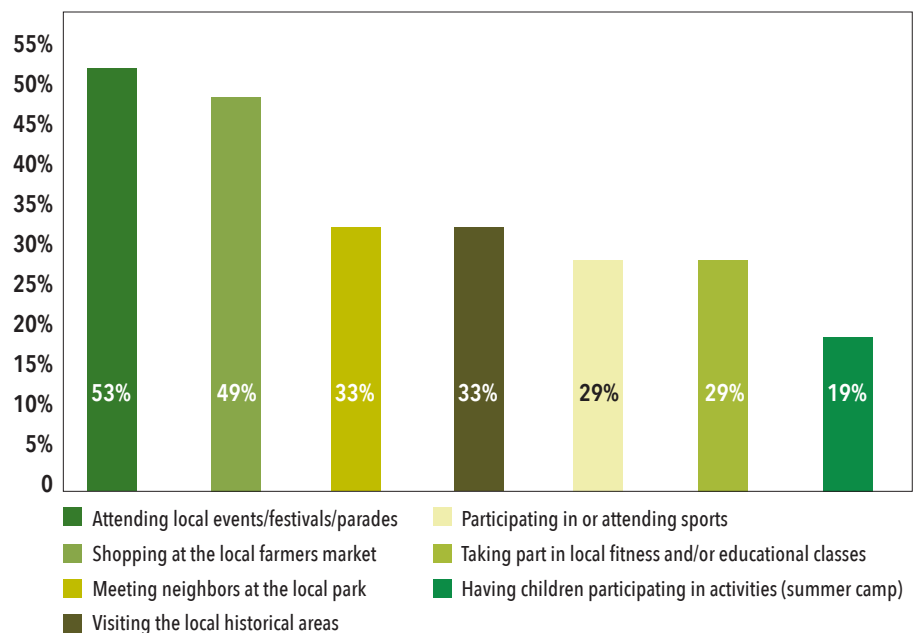
that will assist us in bringing enthusiastic new professionals into the parks field. If you, or someone in your department/company are interested in getting involved in any of these initiatives, please contact me at lnye@inpra.org.

The leadership team and I sincerely thank all our park professionals, community leaders, and supporters for the work you do to create community. ●



Parks and Recreation Connect Communities

Local park and recreation agencies create opportunities for all members of their communities to come together. More than six in seven U.S. adults agree activities such as attending local festivals, visiting local historic sites and shopping local farmers markets make them feel more connected to their community. Additional ways to connect with the local community include visiting a local park, attending or playing local sports, taking fitness classes or educational classes and enrolling children in local activities like summer camp or after-school programs.



www.NRPA.org/Park-Pulse

The NRPA Annual Survey was conducted by Wakefield Research (www.wakefieldresearch.com) among 1,000 nationally representative Americans, ages 18+, between May 16th and May 28th, 2023, using an email invitation and an online survey. Data has been weighted to ensure an accurate representation of nationally representative Americans, ages 18+.

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From the President

By Steve McDaniel, CPRP, Director, Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation Department



Happy Parks and Recreation month! To all my colleagues across the state, thank you for everything that you do. If your summer has been anything like mine, there have been some challenges, but also many more great rewards. Remember as we continue through this hectic and exciting time of year that what you do is changing the lives of those in your community for the better.

If you have not yet signed up for this year's IPRA conference, please do. I look forward to sharing Fort Wayne during a fun and educational week of activities. Our Conference Committee has been working hard these past few months to make sure this year's conference is the best one yet. Fort Wayne is ready to present informative education sessions, fun offsite tours, a resource-filled expo hall and of course, plenty of social and networking opportunities. I am sure this year's conference will be exciting for all in attendance.

This edition of The Profile includes the IPRA Buyer's Guide. Please take a minute (or hopefully longer) and look through all the fantastic corporate partners we are privileged to have throughout the state. They are here to help us all do our jobs effectively and efficiently, so take advantage of these wonderful partnerships and contact them with your teams' needs.

I wish you all the best as this summer continues, and I look forward to seeing all of you this November in Fort Wayne. ●

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From the Foundation

By Courtnie Pettigrew, IPRA

On behalf of the Indiana Parks and Recreation Foundation, we want to thank the individuals and corporations that, through the Foundation, have supported our mission to support IPRA and its members by funding education opportunities for future and current parks professionals. We have had a very successful fundraising year so far between the golf outing and through Foundation Board Member support.

This year, we are pleased to welcome two more new board members, Travis Goebel with Commercial Recreation Group and Samantha Baker with Whitestown Parks. That makes six new board members added this year.

We also want to invite IPRA members and members of our communities to donate to the Foundation.

Would you be willing to donate \$5 a month over the next year to support the Indiana Parks and Recreation Foundation?

If 125 people donated \$5 a month over the next year, we would increase our scholarship fund by \$7,500! Imagine the possibilities!

By supporting the Foundation, you are committing to provide funds to park professionals that will facilitate their growth and development in the field. We need your support more than ever and hope you'll consider making a donation!

To donate, visit: <https://inpra-foundation.evrconnect.com/give>



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2023 IPRA Conference & Expo

Registration is OPEN for the 2023 Conference & Expo!



Awards of Excellence nominations are open until July 28!

The Indiana Park & Recreation Association Awards of Excellence recognize those throughout Indiana that embody vision, dedication, and excellence in parks & recreation. These awards highlight the efforts that transcend everyday standards to make a difference and improve the quality of life in our Indiana communities. Award winners include park and recreation professionals, organizations, agencies, and volunteers.

Visit our website for more information and to start the nomination process.

Deadline to submit your nomination is Friday, July 28, 2023!

The Countdown is On!

The 2023 Conference & Expo is only 4 months away! We can't wait to see you November 14-16 at the Grand Wayne Convention Center in Fort Wayne! The Annual Conference & Expo is the premier event of Indiana and the surrounding region for the parks and recreation community. We have so much planned for you, so what are you waiting for? **REGISTER TODAY!**



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There are still sponsorship opportunities available, please contact Courtnie Pettigrew for more information!

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Mark Your Calendars for November 14 - 16, 2023



Check out the Current List of Exhibitors!

There will be a wide array of vendors to check out at this year's expo!

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- Ability Indiana, Inc.
- American Clean & Seal
- American Ramp Company
- Bacon Farmer and Workman Engineering & Testing, Inc.
- Baines Group, Inc.
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- Omega II Fence Systems
- Paddock Pool Equipment
- Parkreation Inc.
- Play Design Scapes
- PlayPros
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Fall 2023 Dollars For Scholars

Join us Thursday, September 21, 2023, for the Fall Dollars For Scholars Golf Outing at Forest Park Golf Course in Valparaiso presented by Sinclair Recreation. We look forward to another successful event raising money for the IPRF Scholarship Fund, which supports the continuing education of park professionals and students in Indiana.

Thursday, September 21, 2023

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2023 Maintenance Expo Recap

By Courtnie Pettigrew, IPRA



The third annual IPRA Maintenance Expo was held April 26, 2023, at the Hendricks County 4-H Fair Grounds in Danville, IN. This event brought together park maintenance professionals as well as park equipment and maintenance equipment companies for a day of education, networking, and professional development. Exhibitors had the opportunity to showcase products and services such as lawncare treatment, playground equipment, water treatment, maintenance vehicles, and more. We had an exceptional turnout of exhibitors including:

- Ability Indiana, Inc.
- Buddenbaum & Moore
- Davey Resource Group
- Department of Veteran Affairs
- I.D.A. Sales
- Indy Powersports
- Kenney Machinery
- McGavic Outdoor Power
- Office of the Indiana State Chemist
- Playgrounds.com
- Par-Kan Company, LLC
- Sinclair Recreation, LLC
- Spear Corporation
- Vortex Aquatic Structures International
- Willoughby Stainless Fountains

Education sessions were held throughout the day, including, 'Accessibility Standards', 'The Basics of Drone Services', 'Design for Trails with Maintenance in Mind', 'Creating a Safer Space In Our Parks', 'Who is OISC and What Do I Do With All These Pesticides' and others. Sessions were presented by an esteemed group of speakers including Jennifer Skulski with Skulski Consulting,

Deb Schmucker with Cornerstone PDS, Lori DeYoung and Sylvia Maixner from the Indiana National Guard and the Indianapolis VA Medical Center, and Nathan Davis with the Office of Indiana State Chemist.



A maintenance roundtable discussion was held, serving as an opportunity for park professionals from across the state to connect with one another and share their knowledge. Eric Lobosky with Danville Parks led the conversation in which participants discussed the current successes and struggles various departments across the state are facing and provided possible solutions to the challenges.

Attendees also had the chance to test out and ride an electric lawn mower provided by McGavic Outdoor Power and viewed a chainsaw safety demonstration by Duane McCoy with the Division of Forestry of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. This popular session and demonstration consisted of instructions on how to safely



start and use chainsaws, as well as safe cutting techniques.

At the end of the day, attendees filled out event evaluations and were entered into a drawing to win spectacular prizes, including Midstates Yeti tumblers, Amazon gift cards, IPRA swag, and more. Thank you again to our 100+ attendees who participated, we look forward to watching this event continue to grow in the years to come. If you are a maintenance professional, we encourage you to get involved with IPRA and help us plan and contribute to future maintenance events!

We would like to recognize and sincerely thank our sponsors for this event! Thank you to Midstates Recreation, for being the title sponsor of this event. Midstates Recreation designs and installs quality and inclusive playground equipment, shelters, gazebos, aquatic play equipment, and other site furnishings to create a fun and accessible recreational experience for all to enjoy. We extend an additional thank you to McGavic Outdoor Power and Vortex Aquatics Structures International for being supporting event sponsors! ●



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Creating a Safer Space in Our Parks for Visitors and Staff

Having a community park in one's neighborhood or in close proximity to one's home can immensely add to the quality of life of individuals and their families. In a study completed in 2019 by the National Recreation and Parks Association, it was found that the top reasons why parks are so valued by people is that they provide a place to be with family and friends, to be physically active and exercise, and to be close to nature. I think most of us would agree that community parks provide us the ability to slow down the busyness of our lives, to rest and rejuvenate before beginning another week filled with tasks, and to connect with those that we love. To many, nature provides a sanctuary where the chaos of the world can be shut out for just a moment before we journey on to the demands of our lives.

So, what happens when that sanctuary is interrupted by a death? How does that impact the visitor or the staff member who encounters such a tragedy? For instance,

who would typically want to walk those trails or swim and fish in those bodies of water where a life was lost? What efforts have been made to support those staff and visitors in the aftermath of a death or to prevent a future death when those who are vulnerable come to these sanctuaries to end their lives in a place that also offers isolation and seclusion?

In 2007, it was reported by the National Park Service that nearly 100 people attempt to end their lives each year somewhere in the national park system. Between the years of 2014 and 2016, it was reported that more than 1 death by suicide each week occurred in the national park system. The countless more that have likely occurred in our State Parks across the Nation as well as in county/municipal parks and recreational areas is not clearly reported. Further, for the 150 Hoosier Veteran deaths by suicide which occurred in Indiana in 2020, it is also unclear how many occurred within our national, state or community park

in one of our Indiana Park and Recreational areas, it was reported that when a staff person encountered an individual in the process of dying by asphyxiation, that staff person acted quickly, provided rescue, got that individual to the care they needed, and continues, to this day, to be a caring contact in that person's life. The heroic actions of that staff person saved another person's life; however, what was the impact on that staff person for encountering such a harrowing event? Or what about the impact on staff, like those in another Indiana county park, who encountered a death by suicide only moments before a grade school group had a scheduled hike along that path where the person had died? Further, how does the publicity around a death affect others

systems. For the Department of Veteran Affairs, the prevention of suicide is our top clinical priority. However, our efforts to reduce the risk of suicide for those who served our country cannot be done without partnerships like the one we are building with the Indiana Parks and Recreation Association. The tragedy of suicide is preventable and all of us can play a role to provide the safety and hope needed by those who believe they have no options left but to die. It is also of utmost importance to ensure that our Park and Recreation staff have the resources they need for their own self-care as they are given opportunities to learn how to both recognize a person at risk and to get them to the care they need, and to provide program opportunities for visitors that promote well-being and safety within the sanctuaries that our parks offer to everyone.

Connecting the Military- Connected Population to the Parks

The state of Indiana is home to nearly 25,000 currently serving military members and well over 360,000 veterans. This population lives, works, and plays side by side with their civilian neighbors, and would greatly benefit from increased outreach and utilization of the natural and community resources offered by the parks.

When thinking about the military-connected population, it is important to keep in mind all the different types of people who make up this group. That is why instead of simply saying "veteran," many organizations use the acronym "SMVF," or Service Members, Veterans, and Families.

Service Members

Service members include those who are serving in the six Active Duty branches of the military (Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Space Force and Coast Guard), the Reserve Components of those branches, and the Army National Guard and the Air National Guard.

Veterans

As per 38 U.S.C. § 101(2), the term "veteran" means a person who served in the active military, naval, or air service, and who was discharged or released therefrom under conditions other than dishonorable.

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Families

Indiana is home to over 27,000 dependents of currently serving active and reserve service members. These include spouses, children, and legal dependents. Not included in this number, but still an integral part of the military-connected community are the families of veterans and caregivers to disabled veterans.

Just as those who have served have given to protect our nation, so too must communities rally around our state's SMVF and ensure they feel connected and supported by their local organizations and neighbors. This is an excellent opportunity for the parks to serve as a focal point, strengthening the foundation of community for our SMVF. Take a look at the following list for great ideas on how your parks can reach out to the military-connected community:

Military Culture Training for Staff and Volunteers

- This training educates participants on many aspects of military culture, such as information on the branches of service, characteristics of SMVF, needs and resources available to this population, and tips on outreach.
- There are a wide variety of free online trainings available on Military Culture, such as PsychArmor and Star Behavioral Health's Community-Based Training.

Suicide Prevention Training

- Those in the military-connected community are at a higher risk for suicide, and thus, when working with this population, suicide prevention training is a huge benefit. It allows those who are trained to be able to identify the signs of crisis and give them the tools to bring those at risk to help and resources.
- SAVE (Sign, Ask, Validate, Encourage) training is available for free from your local VA. This training is built with SMVF in mind, and will connect attendees with additional support in assisting the military-connected community.

988 and Suicide Prevention Signage

- 988 is the newly launched Suicide Prevention Lifeline, which can be accessed via call, text, or chat. When

used, callers will immediately be put into contact with trained counselors who will help them through a crisis and get them connected with local resources for additional support.

- To reach the Veteran Crisis Line, callers will dial "1" after calling 988.
- Placing stickers or signage through the park, notifying visitors of the support readily available to them, can be an easy and effective way to help someone through a crisis.

Outreach Events

- The following are ideas for outreach events and programs to engage SMVF in parks:
- Offer free or reduced passes
- Host specific days in celebration of SMVF (i.e. Veterans or Memorial Day)
- Market current events or activities to SMVF through partnerships with military and veteran organizations

- Create hiking, yoga, walking, or other forms of activity groups for SMVF
- Host firework-free options for Fourth of July
- Engage with VA or other veteran/military organizations to bring activities to the parks for their clients and members

If you would like to engage more in developing activities and outreach events for the military-connected population, please join the SMVF and Parks Working Group, which is open to all who are interested. For more information on how to join the group, which meets virtually on the third Monday of every other month at 11, please contact Lori Deyoung, Community Engagement and Partnership Coordinator with Richard L. Roudebush VA Medical Center at Lori.Deyoung@va.gov.

Together, we can provide opportunities to bring our service members, veterans, and military families out into the beautiful Indiana parks and wrap them up in the strength of our community systems. ●

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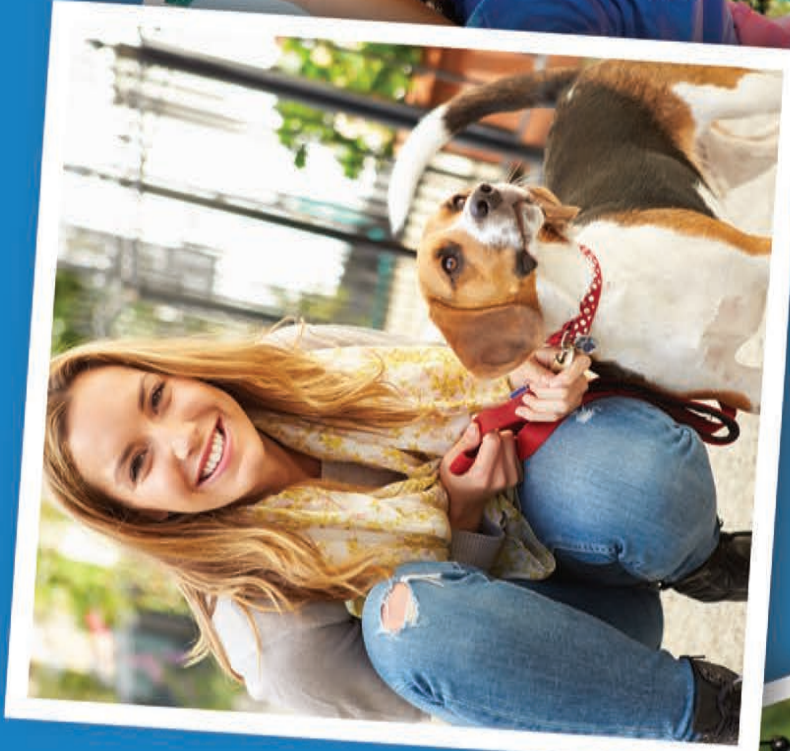
We're always looking for new, interesting things to feature in our magazine, so if you're interested in contributing content for the upcoming editions, email Courtnie at courtnie@inpra.org.

IPRA Profile Magazine Submissions Guidelines :

- All articles must be educational and non-commercial in nature and must be pertinent to the parks field in a way that benefits and educates park professionals.
- In order to comply with the non-commercial requirement above, an article may not specifically mention a business by name in the body of the article, but the business name/s can be included with the information about the author at the end.
- We strongly encourage our corporate members to collaborate on articles with park department members to highlight their work and partnerships. Articles on new projects, programs or innovations will be given preference.
- If the article features or mentions a park department, the director of the department must approve the contents prior to publication of the submission.
- Any article submitted that does not meet these guidelines will not be published. IPRA retains the right to edit, publish or reject any article submitted based on these guidelines.

If you are interested in advertising in The Profile, please contact Courtnie Pettigrew at courtnie@inpra.org.





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Springtime FUNdraising: 2023 Dollars for Scholars Golf Outing

By Courtnie Pettigrew, IPRA

Tuesday, May 9, 2023, was a beautiful spring day to raise funds for current and future park professionals at the Indiana Parks and Recreation Foundation's Spring Dollars for Scholars Golf Outing at Eagle Creek Golf Club in Indianapolis. Twenty-two teams gathered for a day of networking, sunshine, and a whole lot of fun on the course.

Congratulations to the winning team joining us from Stantec: Sean, Eric, Mark, and AC. Congratulations are also in order for second and third place teams as well as individual contest winners! But at the end of the day, the real winner will be those who benefit from the scholarships that this event raised money to fund!

1st PLACE TEAM: Stantec

2nd PLACE TEAM: CenterPoint Brewing

3rd PLACE TEAM: Noblesville Parks

PUTTING CONTEST: Sean Clauson

LONGEST DRIVE:

Sam Wyant and Kasey Valencia

Other Winners include:

50/50 RAFFLE:

John Messenger, *Lebanon Parks*

MUSCO DUFFLE BAG & MORE:

Rick Smith, *CenterPoint Brewing*

THE PARKS ALLIANCE GIFT BAGS:

John Lightner, *BF&S* and
Bruce Oldham, *Hamilton County Parks*

TAYLOR MADE GOLF BAG:

Adam Lee, *Bo-Mar Industries*

The outing raised over \$16,000 for the Indiana Parks and Recreation Foundation scholarship fund. These scholarships propel current and future park professionals to the next level allowing individuals to pursue education and growth in the field of parks and recreation.

Continued on page 35



Article continued from page 34



LUNCH SPONSOR:



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CART SPONSORS:



We'd like to extend our sincerest thank you to all the sponsors of this event for your unwavering support of the foundation.

Lastly, we'd like to extend a thank you to the organizations who generously donated craft beer for the event including Bier Brewery, CenterPoint Brewing, and Four Day Ray Brewing.

We look forward to another successful fall golf outing in Valparaiso on Sept. 21, 2023!

GAME HOLE SPONSORS:



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2023 Events Calendar

IPRA is dedicated to creating dynamic educational and networking opportunities that engage and excite while providing new and innovative ideas for serving today's changing communities.

MARCH

14 - 15 AFO Course
Jill Perelman Pavilion at West Park, Carmel

APRIL

16 - 19 Indiana University's Executive Development Program, Bloomington

26 Maintenance Expo
Hendricks County 4-H Fairgrounds, Danville

MAY

9 Spring DFS Golf Outing
Eagle Creek Golf Course, Indianapolis

JUNE

22 World's Largest Swimming Lesson™ (WLSL)

AUGUST

21 - 23 Rescheduled CPSI Course, Fort Wayne

29 Northern District Meeting, Fort Wayne

SEPTEMBER

13 Aquatics Meeting, Plainfield

21 Fall DFS Golf Outing, Forest Park Golf Course, Valpo

28 Trails Gathering, Goshen

OCTOBER

5 Northern District Meeting, Carmel

10 - 12 NRPA Annual Conference, Dallas, TX

24 - 25 AFO Course, Carmel

NOVEMBER

14 - 16 Annual Conference & Expo, Grand Wayne Convention Center, Fort Wayne

14 IPRF Fundraiser Event

DECEMBER

6 - 8 CPSI Course, Carmel

***Dates and locations are tentative and subject to change at any time.*

- IPRA & IPRF Events
- Outside Organization Events

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skills development webinar series

The Indiana Park and Recreation Association has partnered with the Illinois Park and Recreation Association for their upcoming Skills Development Webinar Series.

The Skills Development Webinar Series provides park and recreation, conservation, and forest preserve district professionals with access to monthly professional development opportunities from the comfort of their home or office. This unique program is designed to meet the needs of park and recreation professionals by providing subscribers with the option to participate in live webinars or on-demand recordings.

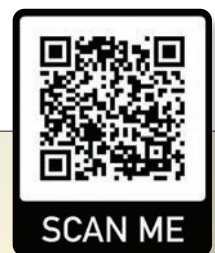
One time registration includes monthly login (group participation is encouraged) and access to all 2023 recorded webinars. Earn up to 1.1 CEUs.

To register, INPRA members should create a profile (if not done already) and use the discount code at checkout to receive the \$100 discount making the year-long series \$300.

Discount Code: INPRA23SDWS

UPCOMING WEBINARS

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| July | Recruitment and Retention:
Today and Tomorrow's Challenge
<i>Chris Nunes, Director of Parks and Recreation,
The Woodlands Township</i> |
| August | Professionalism and Why It Matters
<i>Lori Hoffner, Speaker,
Trainer Consultant Supporting Community</i> |
| September | Social Media Trends for 2023
<i>Aamir Munshi, Founder, The Learning Scape,
Mumbai, India</i> |
| October | Generational Strengths and a New Kind of Diversity
<i>Marie Knight, Owner, Knight Leadership Solutions</i> |
| November | Researching What Matters
<i>Teresa Penbrooke, Senior Manager, BerryDunn</i> |
| December | The Stewardship Approach
<i>Andre Pichly, Manager, Cameron
Community Service District</i> |



**Learn more about the Skills
Development Webinar Series** →

SCAN ME

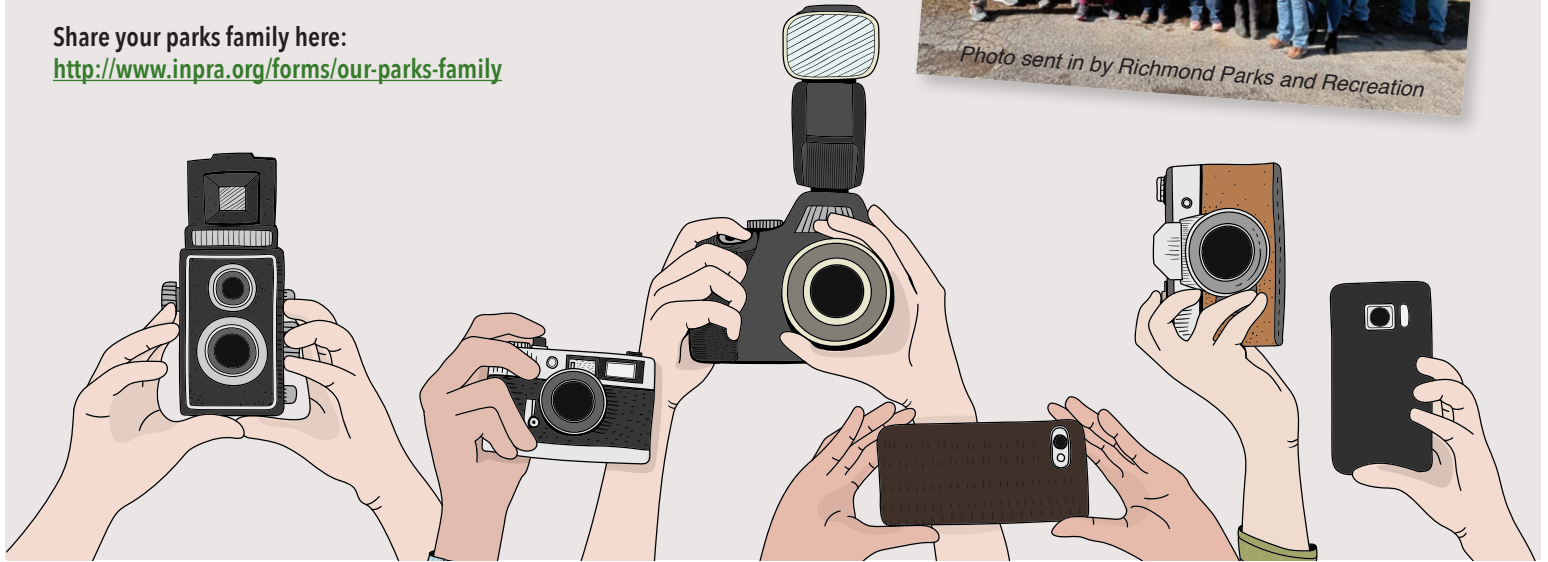
Our Parks Family

The Indiana Park and Recreation Association is excited to continue to receive submissions for our Our Parks Family photo collection. We invite you to share photos of yourself and family at local parks throughout the state. Indiana is full of beautiful parks and people. Do you want the opportunity to have your family's photo in a magazine?

This will not be your average parks photo contest. This is a place to share your love for parks and your family in one place.

Share your parks family here:

<http://www.inpra.org/forms/our-parks-family>



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HOW WE WORK

Assisting you and your community is our #1 focus and as a result, our approach to every project is tailored and customized to your needs. Whether as a prime consultant or a sub-consultant on an interdisciplinary team, **Zec Eight Insights is your trusted partner, working with you to provide information-driven context to plan for community centric challenges.** Reach out today to discuss how we can best serve you!



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Sandorf Park - Indianapolis, IN



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