The Official Publication of the North Dakota Recreation and Park Association

Summer 2017



NDRPA State Conference, Insert Park District and City of Grand Forks Team Up, Page 16

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President's Message

It is hard to believe we are half way through July already, as I am still trying to figure out where the month of June went. With most everyone in the state dealing with extreme temps and a lot of the communities in the east with severe weather, I write this message with hope the summer programs, parks, facilities and staff are having a successful season thus far.

Two main reminders for everyone are the following: Please get NDRPA award nominations submitted soon, as Aug. 1 is drawing near. The nomination form can be obtained by going to www.ndrpa.com and clicking on the awards link. We have the following categories for awards that you should consider: Distinguished Professional Award, Outstanding Young Professional Award, Citizen Advocacy Award, Golden Egg Award, Partnership Award, Innovative Programming Award and Hall of Fame. I realize we are all in our busy seasons, but I know each of us has many great individuals, projects and partners that can and should be nominated. Please find some time to think about nominees from your community and let's get them nominated for potential recognition at our upcoming conference in Mandan.



North Dakota Recreation & Park Association

Mission

Advancing parks, recreation and conservation for an enhanced quality of life in North Dakota.

Strategic Goals

- 1. Member Services: Provide training, information and networking for parks and recreation stakeholders.
- 2. Policy Advocacy: Represent parks and recreation interests on public policy issues.
- 3. Public Outreach: Promote the benefits of parks and recreation and the importance of conservation, health and wellness, and access.

That brings me to my second reminder for everyone, which is the annual NDRPA State Conference. This vear Mandan Parks and Recreation District will be our host. The dates are Tuesday, Sept. 12. through Thursday, Sept. 14, and the location is the Baymont Inn & Suites, A schedule of events and registration form can be found in this issue of FOCUS or by going to



Bob Gillen, NDRPA President

www.ndrpa.com. Please make sure to get this on your calendars as we have many great educational sessions and some fun activities planned. Networking is always a bonus at this conference, as well as meeting and supporting the exhibitors who provide us with a lot of support at the conference and other NDRPA events throughout the year.

Please have a great rest of your summer, and I look forward to seeing many of you in September at the NDRPA State Conference in Mandan.



Sept. 12-14 NDRPA State Conference.

Mandan

Sept. 26-28 NRPA Annual Conference,

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Oct. 15 FOCUS Deadline

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Next FOCUS deadline: Oct. 15, 2017

Cover photo: Williston Parks and Recreation District

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NDRPA News

Don't Miss This Year's State Conference

Registration Open

This year's NDRPA State Conference is scheduled for Sept. 12-14 in Mandan. See the insert in this issue of FOCUS for a complete schedule and registration information. A fillable PDF registration form is also posted on the NDRPA website at www.ndrpa.com.

The deadline for registration and the hotel room block at the Baymont Inn & Suites is Aug. 28.

The State Conference is the premier NDRPA event each year, filled with educational sessions and networking opportunities. Don't miss this chance to explore the parks and facilities operated by Mandan Parks and Recreation District and connect with colleagues from across the state. Register today!

Scholarships Available for Small Park Boards

NDRPA is pleased to announce five full registration scholarships for the NDRPA State Conference are available to park board commissioners or staff from park districts that do not have any full-time, year-round staff.

To request a scholarship, contact Sam or Shannon at the NDRPA office at 701-355-4458 or send an email to clear8@btinet.net. Scholarships will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. Park boards are encouraged to contact NDRPA about the conference scholarships by Aug. 22.





Silent Auction Items Requested

This year's conference will include a silent auction to raise funds for scholarships. Each park district is encouraged to bring at least one auction item valued at \$50 or more.

Annual Meeting Notice

NDRPA will hold its annual business meeting during the closing luncheon of the NDRPA State Conference Sept. 14 in Mandan. Agenda items include election of board members and adoption of the 2018 work plan and budget. An agenda and associated materials will be distributed to members via email prior to the meeting. All members are encouraged to attend.



COMMISSIONER'S CORNER



Jerry Rostad

Jerry Rostad was elected to the Fargo Park Board in June 2016. He decided to become involved in parks and recreation after years of being an active participant in Fargo Park District programming with his wife and two sons. He wanted to serve to give back and do his part to ensure that future generations of families will be able to create the same memories that his family did.

Rostad's goal as a park board member is simply to make a difference. He wants to be an active part of the team and its development of a new future vision for the Fargo Park District. They have already dreamed about big ideas, like attracting national events to Fargo, while making incremental changes to existing programs and facilities.

He believes the biggest challenge park board members face is to continue to provide quality parks and recreational programs within a fiscally sound budget. They cannot take their eye off the ball when it comes to maximizing efficiencies while keeping expenses in check.

"NDRPA provides a number of valuable services," Rostad notes. "In short order, it promotes parks and recreation programs across the state. It serves as a clearinghouse and communication channel for all of the community park districts and park departments across the state. And, it provides networking and lobbying support."

Some of Rostad's favorite parks and recreation activities are golf courses, Courts Plus, the pools and the parks. He also enjoys a couple of Fargo Park District's recent additions, including accessible kayak launches on the Red River and the development of some pickleball courts in one of their parks.

Fargo Park District has a lot of major projects underway. The Coliseum is in the midst of a major renovation and should be ready to go for winter hockey and ice skating activities. Work on the Urban Plains Park is ongoing and, when completed, will provide residents with an awesome new park in southwest Fargo. They are working with Little League Baseball to build an indoor facility, and ground-breaking will occur yet this year. The softball complex on the north side of the city will be adding five new fields in the coming year, and the local youth football program is thinking about developing eight football fields at the complex. Finally, talk is underway about the development of a downtown Fargo park that will be programmed year-round, while featuring ice in the winter.





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PARK DISTRICT NEWS

Bismarck Receives Partnership Building Award

Bismarck Parks and Recreation District (BPRD) received the North Dakota Association of Nonprofit Organizations' (NDANO) Partnership Building Award June 1 during the Nonprofit Leadership Conference in Fargo.

The Partnership Building Award is given to an organization that has demonstrated community leadership and built partnerships within the North Dakota nonprofit sector. Nonprofits, for-profit businesses, government agencies and educational institutions are eligible for this award.

BPRD has been purposeful in creating and expanding its culture of partnership throughout the state. They partner with nonprofits to share facility space, hold special events, raise funds for capital projects and manage public lands. In addition, their Matching Grant program has helped support 469 grant projects throughout the community over the last 30 years, making more than \$4.2 million in improvements, with \$2.7 million in funds provided by project partners, many of whom are nonprofits.

"It is an honor to present this award to such a deserving organization making a difference in the Bismarck community, particularly through its collaboration with nonprofits," says NDANO Executive Director Dana Schaar Jahner.

As the premier association, leader and voice of North Dakota's nonprofits, NDANO strengthens communities



Left to right: Bismarck Park Board Commissioners Brian Beattie, Jason Starck, Wayne Munson, Mike Schwartz, NDANO Executive Director Dana Schaar Jahner and Bismarck Park Board Commissioner Julie Jeske

and enhances quality of life through engaging and ensuring a strong charitable sector. NDANO is the statewide membership association advancing North Dakota's nonprofit sector through advocacy, training, resources, networking and leadership. Learn more at www.ndano.org.

Beulah Breaks Ground for New Wellness Center

Beulah Park District held its official groundbreaking ceremony for the monumental 30,000-square-foot Wellness Center April 24. The event was attended by park board members, as well as Wellness Foundation members, staff and many excited residents.

The construction manager on site is Roers Construction, and EAPC is in charge of architecture at the site. The center will house a walking track, golf simulator, racquetball court, group fitness room, cardio deck, weight room, basketball courts, child-sitting area, offices and conference rooms. Beulah Park District is very excited to see this project through to completion, which is estimated in April 2018.



Left to right: Bob Mohl, Deb Bonebrake, Robby Volk, Rick Alexander and Lucas Duncan

National Softball Tournament to be Held in Mandan

Mandan Parks and Recreation would like to invite participants to USA Softball's 2017 Men's E/Rec Northern National Championship Sept. 1-3. A packet of information and tentative schedule of events is available at www.mandanparks.com.

Mandan Parks and Recreation looks forward to hosting this event and welcoming everyone to the city of Mandan!

Continued on page 10

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PARK DISTRICT NEWS

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Rose Creek Public Golf Course Reopens Back 9 and Driving Range

As part of the Fargo Comprehensive Flood Plan, a levee was built through Fargo Park District's Rose Creek Public Golf Course's back nine holes and practice facility. Beginning April 21, 2016, holes 8-16 and practice range were closed. On June 19, the course was reopened in its entirety, all 18 holes plus a brand new driving range.

During the planning process and pre-construction meetings for the levee, the Fargo Park District expressed the goal to have an improved product to offer season pass holders and guests after the project's completion.



Clockwise from lower left: Rose Creek PGA Pro Matt Cook, Fargo Park Commissioner Joe Deutsch, Fargo Mayor Dr. Tim Mahoney, Fargo City Administrator Bruce Grubb, Rose Creek Superintendent Eric Hansen, Fargo Park Commissioner Jerry Rostad, Fargo Park Commissioner Matt Magness and Fargo Park District Executive Director Joel Vettel pull the sign closing the back nine holes at Rose Creek Public Golf Course, officially opening them for play on June 19.

Since the reopening, golfers have commented that the improvements have made the golf course both more playable and more enjoyable.

The golf course architect, Garrett Gill, successfully designed a course that not only enhances playing on the course, but also hides the levee. Holes 8-16 offer features that were not present in the past design, including rolling hills, native grass plantings and some strategically placed bunkers.

Golf Course Superintendent Eric Hansen and his crew have done an excellent job making sure the grass came in as desired and was ready for the reopening.

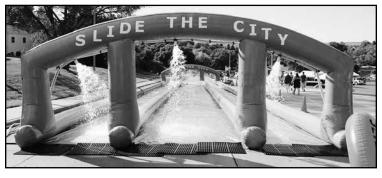
In addition to the levee project, other course issues were also addressed, including drainage, increasing tee sizes and improving the practice facility.

"The anticipated opening had both season pass holders and guests patiently waiting with high expectations," shared Matt Cook, Rose Creek PRGA pro. "Based off evaluations and the large increase in activity the past couple weeks, the expectations have been met. The turfgrass is in amazing condition for the new construction, and the trees planted throughout holes 8-16 create a beautiful scenery – it's worth coming to check out."

Mandan Hosts Third Annual Slide the City

Mandan Parks and Recreation will host the third annual Slide the City Aug. 26. Slide the City is a family-friendly, 1,000-foot slip-and-slide water party event. To add to the fun atmosphere of this event, food vendors will be onsite.

The one-day event is open to the public. Ticket rates range from \$20-\$55 per ticket and vary according to the number of times participants would like to go down the slide and when they purchase tickets. Tickets can be purchased at www.slidethecity.com. For more information, visit www.mandanparks.com.



Continued on page 12

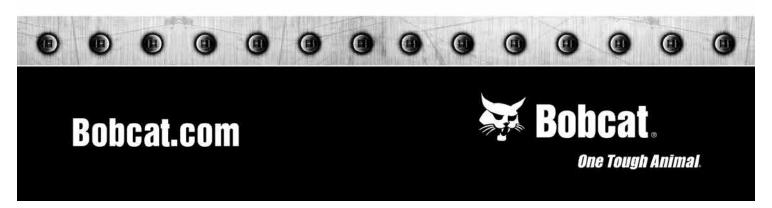


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PARK DISTRICT NEWS

Continued from page 10

Williston Introduces New Summer Program

Williston Parks and Recreation has introduced a new program this summer, "Kids Camp," for ages 3-5. The camp allows toddlers the opportunity to socialize with other children and camp leaders, enhance their creativity and practice coordination skills.

The 6- to 14-year-old camp gives the kids an opportunity to learn new skills, use their creativity to solve problems and puzzles, and increase their confidence. Each week is a different theme, including Superhero Camp, Science Camp, Mini-Athletes and City Heroes. Each theme includes activities such as fitness classes, sports games, arts and craft time, and supervised open play.





Rademacher Completes 35 Under 35 Women's Leadership Program

Danna Rademacher recently completed the United Way of Cass-Clay's celebrated 35 Under 35 Women's Leadership Program. Each year, 35 female leaders under the age of 35 are selected from nearly 200 applicants to take part in this six-month leadership program.

Participants meet monthly to focus on various issues pertinent



to young leaders. Each session is led by local leaders and includes training and discussion related to topics such as goal-setting, communication, personal growth, board leadership, public speaking, conflict management and several additional leadership topics. Danna is the sales and social media representative at Courts Plus Community Fitness, a division of the Fargo Park District.

Bismarck to Host Special Olympics North America Softball Championship

More than 400 athletes, comprising 28 teams from across the United States and Canada, will converge on Bismarck-Mandan for the 2017 Special Olympics North America Softball Championship Aug. 18-20. This is the first time this event has been held in North Dakota.

Teams will compete in both Special Olympics
Traditional teams and Unified Sports teams (people
with and without intellectual disabilities competing
together on the same team) formats. Bismarck Parks
and Recreation District (BPRD) is working with a group
of volunteers to help coordinate the tournament.

Competition will kick off on Friday, Aug. 18, with the medal rounds and will conclude on Sunday, Aug. 20. Competition will occur from 8 a.m. to approximately 5 p.m. each day. All competition, as well as medal ceremonies, will take place at the Clem Kelley Softball Complex.

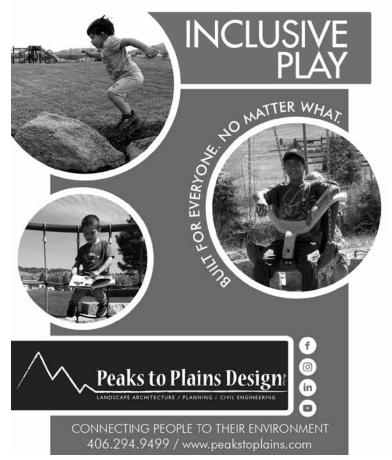
The opening ceremonies take place on Friday evening at the Bismarck Municipal Ballpark. The opening ceremonies will include a parade of athletes,

a performance by North Dakota's own Tigirlily and a fireworks show.

"We need volunteers from across the state to make sure these athletes have an unforgettable experience in North Dakota. We invite everyone to attend the opening ceremonies and join in to be 'Fans in the Stands,'" Kevin Klipfel, facilities and programs director for BPRD explained. "Many of these athletes will not have family or fans that are able to accompany them to Bismarck-Mandan, so we're relying on volunteers to fill the stands and cheer."

The 2017 Special Olympics North America Softball Championship is made possible by the following leading sponsors and supporters: Moose International, Dakota Moose, the Moose of Bismarck and Mandan Clubs, USA Softball, USA Softball North Dakota, Special Olympics North Dakota, Bismarck Parks and Recreation District, and the Bismarck Mandan Convention and Visitors Bureau.

If you, your family and your friends would like to become involved in this first-ever North Dakota event, go to www.specialolympicsnd.org/softball and click on the volunteer tab.





PEOPLE ON THE MOVE



Caitlin Dahl is Grand Forks Park District's marketing and social media coordinator. She works as a member of the marketing team, helping to promote all the great amenities and events Grand Forks has to offer. Caitlin grew up in the Seattle area and then attended the University of North Dakota where she played soccer and earned her degree in the

field of communications.



Duane Klatt is Fargo Park
District's (FPD) newest mechanic.
Duane grew up in West Fargo and
went to Northwest Technical College
for auto service. He enjoys going
to the lakes and fishing. He and his
wife, Cheryl, have three children:
Ryland (8), Lennix (1) and Hazel (2½).





Morgan Weber has been hired at the FPD's Valley Senior Services as the resource specialist for Ransom and Sargent counties. Morgan grew up in Milnor. She attended North Dakota State University and obtained her bachelor's degree in human development and family science. She has a large family

and enjoys camping.

Brandon Luehring has been

hired as park maintenance for the FPD. Brandon graduated

degree in public relations and

advertising. He enjoys hockey,

Lucas Palczewski is FPD's first golf assistant. Lucas moved

Moorhead in 2017 with a

baseball, hanging out with friends and going to the lake.

to Fargo from the northwest

suburbs of Chicago with his

wife, Alyssa, and 22-monthold daughter, Hazel. He is very

excited to be part of the team.

from Minnesota State University





John Westereng is the golf assistant superintendent with Mandan Parks and Recreation. In 2012, John moved to Bismarck in order to be closer to his fiancé, and he worked for Ferguson Waterworks as an outside sales representative for two years. For the past three years, he

was branch manager at Command Center Staffing. He is very excited to have an opportunity to return to golf turf management. He looks forward to serving Mandan Parks and Recreation and the citizens of this community.





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Park District and City of Grand Forks Team Up for Storm Cleanup

On June 13, the first round of storms moved into the Grand Forks area around 7 a.m. Though the storm initially didn't pack much of a punch, winds trailing behind the system reached 70 mph and downed power lines and trees, causing power outages for roughly 10,000 customers in the Red River Valley, according to area utilities.

Grand Forks Park District's (GFPD) Forestry Manager Mike Fugazzi reported a total of 93 trees were removed during the two-week cleanup period. GFPD had 701 total man hours, 376 equipment hours and a total of



\$68,000 in cleanup costs. GFPD worked with Grand Forks City Public Works, who totaled 387 man hours, 225 equipment hours and \$48,500 in cleanup costs. "This is a great example of two government entities working together to get a job done," states Fugazzi.

Lincoln Golf Course (operated by GFPD) didn't lose a single tree in the violent winds. However, Lincoln Golf Course Superintendent Aaron Motl reported several small and large branches down around the course. The course was forced to close until they could get the mess cleaned up.



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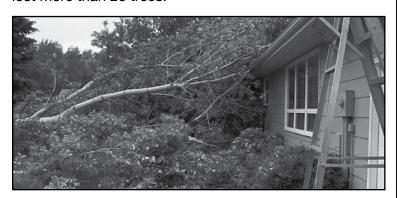
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The forestry crew was busy cleaning up the rest of the city, but this was no problem, as the golf course maintenance crew stepped up to the task at hand. "They've had a lot to learn since none of them have any experience working at a golf course, but they've caught on very quickly and this has been my best crew in the last six years," states Motl. "We only had to close the course for 4-5 hours and reopened at 3:30 p.m. that afternoon." This experience was a relief when compared to a storm during the summer of 2016, where the course lost more than 20 trees.





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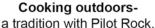
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State Contract #21 - Trash Bags

All the trash bags on this contract are manufactured by Roughrider Industries, which works to successfully transition inmates back into society by providing them with good work habits and skills that can be useful in the job market after their release. There are multiple sizes and colors of trash bags available, including 12-16 gallon, 33-35 gallon and 55-60 gallon in black, clear and

orange. Complete pricing and ordering information is available on the OMB State Procurement website. You can also contact Chad Keech at ckeech@nd.gov or 701-328-2767 if you have any questions or need assistance.

State Contract #26 – Fire Extinguishers

The state contract for fire extinguishers includes ABC and Class K units. There is also pricing for annual and six-year maintenance inspections and hydrostatic testing. The contractor is Summit Companies located in Fargo, and they provide service to all major cities in North Dakota. If you have any questions, contact Jamie Bostyan at jbostyan@nd.gov or 701-328-4912.

You can find more information about all the State Contracts on the OMB website at www.nd.gov/omb/statecontracts. If you have any questions, contact the State Procurement Office at 701-328-2740 or infospo@nd.gov.

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You can find more information about State Contracts at www.nd.gov/omb/agency/procurement/state-contracts.

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Time Dedicated to Outdoor Play

According to a recent survey conducted by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), the typical American spends five hours per week on outdoor play, which includes exercising, participating in organized sports, playing with kids at a playground, taking a walk in a neighborhood or local park, or taking a swim.

More than a third (35 percent) of Americans ages 18+ polled spend more than an hour a day on average actively involved in the outdoors. That number is even higher among parents (41 percent) and Baby Boomers (41 percent), who spend more than an hour a day on average playing outdoors. A significant number of Millennials (31 percent) and Gen Xers (33 percent) spend an hour or more a day on average on outdoor play as well.

"Outdoor play is a great way for people of all ages to connect with nature and improve their overall health and wellness," said Barbara Tulipane, CAE, NRPA president and CEO. "Anyone looking to engage in outdoor play should visit their local park or recreation center where there are opportunities for everyone." Research shows that outdoor play increases fitness levels and builds active, healthy bodies, especially in children. Playing outdoors is also proven to relieve stress and enhance social interactions in children and adults. Studies show that access to nature and green space, which one typically experiences while playing outdoors, has health benefits as well.

This poll is part of NRPA's Park Pulse, a continuing series of monthly surveys that gauge the public's opinion on topics relating to parks and recreation. To explore previous Park Pulse survey results, visit www.nrpa.org/Park-Pulse.

