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The Official Publication of the North Dakota Recreation and Park Association

Spring 2017

Exciting Changes to HR Collaborative, Page 14
CPSI Course Reaches Milestone, Page 20

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Spring has arrived, and the white stuff is all but gone. The sun is staying out longer, and many of you are into your busy seasons with summer right around the corner. There is a lot to be excited about as we head into summer 2017 here in North Dakota. Our association had a great meeting in Bismarck followed by Parks Day at the Capitol back on March 6-7. I want to thank everyone who attended and participated, as well as Dana for getting everything scheduled and planned for our members. The week after Parks Day, many of us were back in Bismarck at the Capitol to attend the Senate Finance and Taxation Committee hearing on HB 1361. Thanks to those of you who attended and represented your local park district, as well as NDRPA. As I write this article, HB 1361 still has not been voted on for a final time, but I know many of you called or emailed your legislators or made trips to Bismarck to attend hearings, and I thank you for your time and effort to support our association position.

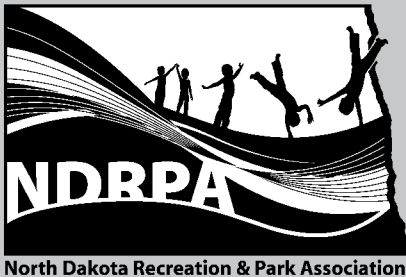
A few upcoming dates of importance to keep in mind are Aug. 1-2 for the ND Trails Conference, which will be held at Lake Metigoshe State Park, and our annual conference for NDRPA in Mandan Sept. 12-14. Finally,

the NDRPA awards nominations deadline is Aug. 1. Please start thinking about projects that have been completed or started or innovative programs or instrumental people in your community that have helped advance parks and recreation since our last conference in Williston. Remember to go to our state association website, www.ndrpa.com, for a list of all the awards

that can be submitted, as well as upcoming trainings and conferences. As we gear up for summer, remember to be safe and find some time for yourself to enjoy some golf, fishing, walking, tennis, softball, camping or any other recreation/leisure activity of your liking. Thanks again to each of you for what you do in your community and for our state association.



Bob Gillen, NDRPA President



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.



June	HRC Workshops, Across ND
July 15	<i>FOCUS</i> Deadline
Aug. 1	Awards Nomination Deadline
Aug. 1-2	ND Trails Conference, Lake Metigoshe State Park
Sept. 12-14	NDRPA State Conference, Mandan
Sept. 26-28	NRPA Annual Conference, New Orleans

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Next *FOCUS* deadline: July 15, 2017

Cover photo: Eaglewood Park, West Fargo Park District

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President Bob Gillen

Minot Park District
PO Box 538
Minot, ND 58701
701-740-5649
bgillen33@gmail.com

Past President Craig Bjur

Fargo Park District
701 Main Ave.
Fargo, ND 58103
701-499-6060
cbjur@fargoparks.com

President Elect George Hellyer

Grand Forks Park District
PO Box 12429
Grand Forks, ND 58208
701-746-2750
ghellyer@gfparks.com

Secretary/Treasurer Kevin Klipfel

Bismarck Parks and Recreation District
400 E Front St.
Bismarck, ND 58504
701-222-6455
kklipfel@bisparcs.org

Public Policy Chair James Kramer

Dickinson Parks and Recreation
2004 Fairway St.
Dickinson, ND 58601
701-456-2074
jkramer@dickinsonparks.org

External Affairs Chair Ashley Krasicki

Williston Parks and Recreation District
PO Box 1153
Williston, ND 58802
701-774-9773
Ashley@wprd.us

Internal Affairs Chair Amber Mathieson

Dickinson Parks and Recreation
2004 Fairway St.
Dickinson, ND 58601
701-456-2074
amathieson@dickinsonparks.org

STAFF

Executive Director Dana Schaar Jahner

PO Box 1091
Bismarck, ND 58502-1091
701-355-4458
clearfour@btinet.net

FOCUS DESIGN & EDITING

Julee Farnsworth-Ritz & Shannon Jacobson
Clearwater Communications

WEBSITE

www.ndrpa.com

NDRPA Seeks Nominees for Hall of Fame

NDRPA will honor individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the parks and recreation field in North Dakota, based on a reputable performance attested to a personal record of accomplishment. The Hall of Fame Council, under the jurisdiction of NDRPA, has a voting procedure to select worthy individuals.

Candidates are eligible if they satisfy at least two of the following three criteria:

1. Fifty years old.
2. Twenty years of parks and recreation service in North Dakota.
3. Retirement.

The application form includes the following:

- Personal information on the candidate.
- NDRPA contributions.
- Education history.
- Employment history.
- Professional organizations, career-related activities and civic activities.
- Honors and awards.
- Achievements in the parks and recreation field.
- Statements, if possible, from the candidate.
- Date and signature of the nominator.

The candidate's nomination shall be judged on the following criteria:

- A successful record of accomplishment in the parks and recreation field in North Dakota.
- Active participation in the NDRPA shall be a high consideration.

Hall of Fame recipients will be announced and recognized at the NDRPA Annual Awards Banquet. The recipient will receive a plaque, and another plaque will be displayed at the ND Sports Hall of Fame in Jamestown.

Nomination forms are available on the NDRPA website at www.ndrpa.com. The nomination deadline is Aug. 1.

Nominations Needed for 2017 Awards

Recognizing the people and organizations that make great things happen in our communities is very important. If you have an organization or an individual who has made a difference in parks, recreation and conservation, nominate them for an NDRPA award. The deadline to submit nominations for awards is Aug. 1.

The following awards are available to nominate individuals or organizations in your communities:

Distinguished Professional Award, Outstanding Young Professional, Citizen Advocacy Award, Partnership Award, Golden Egg Award and Innovative Programming Award.

Visit the NDRPA website at www.ndrpa.com to download the nomination form.

Trails Conference Heads North

The sixth annual ND Trails Conference will be held Aug. 1-2 at Lake Metigoshe State Park. This conference is a joint effort of the ND Parks and Recreation Department and NDRPA.

This year's conference focuses on field sessions out on the trails and offers a brand new "equipment demo" to kick off the event.

Registration details will be available June 1 at www.ndrpa.com.



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COMMISSIONER'S CORNER

Joni Lorenz has been a member of the Mayville Park Board since 1998 and has held the role of president since 2010. She became involved with the board after she saw the need in the community for an outdoor pool, which has since been created and become a wonderful asset to the community.

The three main goals Lorenz has as president of the Mayville Park Board include creating new activities while continuing to improve existing activities, maintaining safe and fun play areas within the community, and promoting community activities that include Mayville State University. Like many other park boards, Lorenz notes that working with a limited budget, manpower and resources can be challenging for the Mayville Park Board, as well as supporting the needs of many other community organizations.

"The NDRPA helps us with new ideas from other



Joni Lorenz

parcs," Lorenz notes. "You help us stay updated on government issues." Lorenz also explains how good of a resource NDRPA is for the park board on finding vendors and resources to bring into the community. As for some of her favorite recreation and park activities within Mayville, they include the water park, Christmas light display and Rainbow Gardens.

The Mayville Park Board recently completed a playground area on the south side of Mayville, as well as landscaped the area next to its historical bridge. Lorenz explains a nature trail is in the works

this spring that high school and college students can use, as well as the community. A dog park is also being developed this year. Lorenz also notes they are currently planning for a nine-hole disc golf course for the community. "We are very excited for this community activity addition," says Lorenz.

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Capital Ice Complex Construction Underway in Bismarck

Construction continues on the Capital Ice Complex in Bismarck. Upgrades and improvements are being made to the existing Schaumborg Arena, and the Wachter Arena is upgrading with a new sheet of ice. The "Building on Tradition" capital campaign raised just over \$3.8 million. The Bismarck Hockey Boosters and the Bismarck Figure Skating Club made substantial donations to the project, as well as the Chad and Stacy Wachter family. In addition to the new arena, the complex will have a new entrance and lobby, mezzanine, ticketing area, concessions, restrooms, dryland conditioning space, locker rooms, offices and storage. The complex is scheduled to be completed in fall 2017. In addition, the site will include a new parking lot, a new playground and picnic shelter at Wachter Park.



Grand Forks Bans Tobacco in Parks

The Grand Forks Park District is proud to announce all parks owned and operated by the park district are tobacco-free as of February. Parks are highly valued environments in neighborhoods and communities that promote individual and community wellness. Providing a healthy and safe environment for the community is important to the Grand Forks Park District.



Fargo to Host National Softball Tournaments

The Fargo Park District (FPD) and the Fargo-Moorhead Convention and Visitors Bureau (FMCVB) have teamed up to form a strengthened partnership to attract, host and co-sponsor world class events in Fargo. While the two agencies have always worked together, this will now be a major emphasis at the FPD. Together, the organizations will be sending representatives to national sports associations around the country to recruit events that have the potential to invest huge economic and community benefit to the city of Fargo.

The FPD as a whole is extremely excited to work on this new venture with the FMCVB. So far, this partnership has teamed up with the local softball associations to secure four national softball tournaments in 2017.

The North American Fastpitch Association (NAFA) World Series will be Aug. 9-13 and Aug. 18-20 at the Northside Softball Complex in Fargo. This event is expected to include 100-130 teams between the two weekends. Teams will be traveling from Canada, as well as various states including but not limited to California, Michigan, Massachusetts and Washington.

The USA Softball Men's Masters 35 & Over Championships will be Aug. 25-27 and is expected to have 30-40 teams participating. This will be the first time it will be hosted at Anderson Softball Complex in Fargo.

The USA Softball Men's Class D Northern National will also be hosted at the Anderson Softball Complex in Fargo Aug. 21-Sept. 2, 2018. This event is expected to have 55-70 teams participating. FPD last hosted this event in 2015.

Continued on page 10

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PARK DISTRICT NEWS

Continued from page 8



ND Senior Games Head to Fargo in August

Summer will be here soon and with it comes a great opportunity for everyone 50 and older to get out and be active. The Fargo Park District is teaming up with the Fargo-Moorhead Convention and Visitors Bureau to offer the ND Senior Games Aug. 17-18.

As a part of the National Senior Games Association, this tournament exists to help promote healthy lifestyles for adults through education, fitness and sport. This multi-day, multi-sport event is devoted to individuals ages 50+ and gives them an opportunity to compete with others in their age group.

We are excited to invite everyone who is 50 and older to participate in the events, and no experience is necessary.

The list of sports include archery, bowling, track and field, table tennis, horseshoes, basketball, pickleball, golf, tennis, racquetball, swimming and a 5K road race.

Make sure to invite your friends and family that are 50 and older to participate as well.

To register, visit NDSeniorGames.com where you can also find more information. Stay up-to-date with the happenings by following the games on Facebook at [NDSeniorGames](https://www.facebook.com/NDSeniorGames).

Are you interested in helping to promote this event in your facilities or programs? Contact Craig Bjur at 701-499-6060 or cbjur@fargoparks.com for more information.

West Fargo Announces DIY Workshop

The West Fargo Park District is thrilled to announce their recently created DIY Workshop class, making the average Joe look like a Pinterest professional during each two-hour session. Once a month, a new workshop is offered, teaching participants how to make a trendy creation in a relaxed and social setting.

Class instructor and creative arts coordinator Leah Kelm stresses, "Whether you have a passion for arts and crafts or you don't quite have that creative gene, you are welcome to register!" Participants just have to show up, roll their sleeves up and do the necessary "dirty" work to construct their finished projects. All supplies and equipment are included in the registration fee. Skills taught in each workshop may range from succulent care to wood burning to stencil transferring. Upcoming classes feature projects such as a yard Yahtzee game, patriotic front door decor, a picnic caddy and a home state sign. For more information, visit wfparks.org.



WESTWARD GO!

With a town motto like, "Come Be Our Guest," it's no surprise that Watford City is now home to a new statewide events and convention center that you have to see to believe - with arenas for hockey, figure skating, and roller skating, basketball and volleyball courts, a fieldhouse with removable turf for soccer and baseball, a lap pool and a leisure pool, a 1,000-capacity convention center, a 3,000-seat auditorium, a running/walking track, a rock climbing wall, laser tag, and six bounce houses.



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PEOPLE ON THE MOVE



Dave Bietz, a dedicated staff member of the Fargo Park District (FPD) since 1996, has been promoted to director of parks. Dave has served the park district in a variety of roles in his 20 years with the organization, most recently as foreman of park operations since 2015. Dave has been a great asset to the FPD with his overall knowledge of the park system, his experience with Red River flooding and his great rapport with staff. Dave has been active in his new role since Feb. 1.



Emily Cunningham is the deli and concessions coordinator, a new position at the Grand Forks Park District (GFPD) that manages the concessions stands throughout park district facilities, along with the deli at Choice Health & Fitness. Emily previously worked at Subway for 14 years, five of which were also spent

managing her own restaurant. Emily was raised in Grand Forks and currently resides in Thompson, N.D., with her husband and three kids.



Ashley Hanson has been hired as the FPD's newest recreation office assistant. Ashley loves Fargo and looks forward to being more involved with the community through her position. In her spare time, she likes to spend time at the lake or on the golf course.



Josh Mathern has been promoted to foreman of park operations for the FPD. Josh has worked at the FPD since 1997 when he began working as a seasonal employee at Lindenwood Park. He was hired to a full-time maintenance position in 2002 and most recently served as a park supervisor. Josh has been active in his new role since Feb. 24.



Daniel Naylor is the newest member of the FPD Park Maintenance. Daniel graduated from Minnesota State Community and Technical College in 2016. He loves sports including baseball, hockey, football and softball. In his free time, he enjoys going to the lake and refereeing hockey.



Sheena Nelson has been hired as a full-time resource specialist with FPD's Valley Senior Services in Fargo. Sheena enjoys spending time with her family and pets, cooking, traveling and spending time outdoors.



Nannette Severson has been hired as the Lisbon County meal and transportation coordinator with the Valley Senior Services, a division of FPD. Nannette enjoys spending time with her five children and 13 grandchildren. She loves to crochet and knit.

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Matthew Weaver is welcomed back by GFDP as an arborist within the Forestry Department. Matt previously worked for the department from 1995-2012 and began again in April. Matt is a certified arborist under the International Society of Arboriculture. Matt was raised in Grand Forks and currently resides in Cummings, N.D.



Kendra Weigel was hired part time in March as the facility supervisor at Mandan Park District (MPD). She will be graduating from the University of Mary this spring with a degree in marketing and business administration and joining MPD full time. She has worked at MPD for two years as both a lifeguard and guest services supervisor. She enjoys spending time on her hammock and travelling anywhere in her Chacos sandals during her free time.

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Exciting Changes to HR Collaborative for Local Government

The HR Collaborative for Local Government (HRC) has launched a new website and created a new logo for the group. The website includes the HR Reference Guide and the new HR Checklist, along with information on emerging issues, a calendar of events and training opportunities. Online registration for all HRC training opportunities is now available on the site.

HRC is pleased to add an invaluable resource to its website, the ND Employment Law Letter, which will



be available each month under the resources tab. It is a critical tool for immediate updates on HR topics.

Join the email group by clicking "Join Now" on the website. You will get notifications on new training opportunities, changes in HR laws and guidelines, and "need to know" hot topic information.

Join today at www.hrndgov.org.

HRC extends special thanks to Genny Dienstmann at the ND Association of Counties for putting this new website together.

Sizzling Summer Seminar – Hot Topics in Human Resources

In June, four regional HR training sessions for local governments will be held throughout the state covering hot topics from the ND Labor Department, the HR Checklist and Interviewing 101 techniques. Labor Commissioner Michelle Kommer will address a range of emerging issues impacting employers, including exempt/non-exempt overtime, Labor Department claims and changes to IRS regulations. Kathy Hogan will introduce the new HR Checklist, a self-assessment tool for local governments and show various methods of how to use it. The session will conclude with a focus on interviews and the selection process for hiring.

Chuck Horter will outline key issues in interviewing do's and don'ts, and then the group will assess various interviewing pitfalls and scenarios. Bring your questions and key issues to the session.

- June 7 – Bismarck, Comfort Inn
- June 14 – Williston, TrainND - Williston State College
- June 28 – Devils Lake, Lake Region State College
- June 29 – Fargo, Dakota Medical Foundation

Each session will begin at 10 a.m. and end at 3 p.m. The registration fee is \$50, which includes materials and lunch. For a detailed agenda and to register, visit www.hrndgov.org.

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Questions?

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Make Golf Fun Again

By Kevin Norby, Herfort Norby Golf Course Architects

We've all heard it said, "Golf is too hard, too expensive and takes too much time." We've also heard it said that kids are the future of our game. Unfortunately, I still see ads and websites inviting golfers to come play their challenging course and wonder how they can be so disconnected. We are an aging population, and our youth and families have many opportunities for activities that don't cost as much, have as many rules or take as long as the game of golf does. FootGolf and SNAG® Golf are good ideas but don't really address the fact that we need to have golf courses that are fun, playable and accessible to golfers of all abilities.

We need to be looking at how to attract those who golf but don't carry a U.S. Golf Association (USGA) handicap or even consider themselves a golfer. This starts by designing golf holes that have generous landing areas, multiple teeing options and carefully placed hazards.



Studies conducted by the National Golf Course Owner's Association (NGCOA), the USGA and the Royal Little Family Foundation, along with our own observations, have taught us most courses are designed with little consideration for the ability of what we call the average golfer. We know the average male golfer has a swing speed of 90 mph and hits his driver 230 yards, while the average female golfer has a swing speed of 65 mph with an average distance of 145 yards. Although factors like wind, soil moisture, ball spin and cutting height can affect these yardages, what is clear is too many golf courses are simply designed to be too long and too difficult. Add forced carries, 2.5 inch rough and poorly placed bunkers, and golfers quickly become frustrated and disenfranchised.



So what can be done? For starters, we need to design courses that are enjoyable for golfers of all abilities. That starts with proportional tee design. Much research has been done on swing speed and golf ball distance, so it's surprising to me that courses are still being built and holes are being remodeled with forced carries and forward tees that are simply too challenging for children, women and seniors.

The following is a chart that represents nearly three decades of tee design research by the NGCOA, USGA and Golf Laboratories on proportional tee placement and the correlation between golfer swing speed and golf ball distance.

Swing Speed	Yardage	Relationship to Other Tees
65 mph (average woman)	3900-4100	65%
75 mph	4700-4900	78%
85 mph	5600-5800	93%
90 mph (average man)	6000-6200	100% *
95 mph	6400-6600	107%
105 mph	6800-7000	113%

*Base Tee

Most courses, public and private, should be designed for swing speeds between 65-105 mph and yardages between 4,000-7,000 yards. This means forward tees should be roughly 65-75 percent of the base tee distance. At most regulation courses, this will require at least five sets of tee markers. In addition, tees and bunkers need to be positioned so golfers using the forward tees are not unfairly penalized and required to

hit a disproportionately longer approach shot to the green. More often than not, golfers playing the forward tees are left hitting their approach shot from the same yardage as the more skilled golfer. As a result, a golfer playing from the forward tee might be hitting a 5 wood or 3 wood from 140 yards, while the player who is hitting from the back tee is playing an 8 or 9 iron from 150 yards. Ideally, properly designed tees would leave both golfers hitting the same or similar club for their approach shot.

Club	Average Woman	Average Man
Driver	145	230
3 Metal	128	210
5 Metal	118	200
7 Metal/3 Hybrid	110	191
9 Metal/5 Hybrid	102	170
5 Iron	94	163
6 Iron	88	151
7 Iron	82	143
8 Iron	76	132
9 Iron	72	120
PW	54	110

Distances are based on data from a variety of sources, including Golf Laboratories, USGA and the Royal Little Foundation.

Many courses have now started using combination tees. This is a simple and inexpensive way to add more teeing options to make golf more enjoyable for a wider range of golfers.

Lastly, I often suggest to my clients they abandon the traditional red, white and blue tee marker system and instead utilize a marking system that requires the golfer to select their tee based on the yardage rather than the color of the tee. I've never heard anybody complain about a golf course that was too easy or too profitable.

Kevin Norby is a member of the American Society of Golf Course Architects (ASGCA) and the owner and senior designer at Herfort Norby Golf Course Architects. For more information, contact Kevin at 952-361-0644 or knorby@HerfortNorbyGolf.com.

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Cooperative Purchasing – Get What You Need

Did you know your park district can use state contracts to purchase goods and services that you need? Cooperative purchasing is an effective tool government entities can use to leverage time and cost efficiencies. Partnering with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) State Procurement Office can reduce administrative time and save money while leveraging the experience and expertise of those with specialized procurement knowledge. With state and local government budgets being stretched to the limit, it is essential government leaders look for innovative ways to utilize taxpayer dollars efficiently and effectively. Let's do more with less.

State Contract #22 – Computer Equipment, Peripherals & Related Services

This contract offers computer equipment including desktops, laptops, tablets, servers, storage and related peripherals from several companies, including Apple,

Dell, HP and Microsoft. Detailed information including pricing and items available are available on the OMB website. Contact Tricia Opp at topp@nd.gov or 701-328-1721 with questions.

State Contract #131 – Copiers, Printers & Related Devices

This contract offers equipment, service and supplies for a variety of devices. The device groups include convenience copiers, production copiers, wide format devices, printers, digital duplicators and scanners. There are comprehensive financial options available, including purchase, operational lease, capital lease and cancelable rental. Some contractors also offer a cost-per-copy option. Contractors include Canon USA, Hewlett-Packard Company, Konica Minolta Business Solutions USA, Ricoh Americas Corporation, Sharp Electronics Corporation and Xerox Corporation. If you have questions, contact Chad Keech at ckeeche@nd.gov or 701-328-2767

Cooperative Purchasing Will Help Get What You Need!

With budgets being stretched to the limit, it is essential that government leaders look for innovative ways to utilize taxpayer dollars efficiently and effectively.



Let's do more with less!

Did you know ... You can use state contracts to purchase goods and services? The Office of Management and Budget establishes cooperative purchasing contracts that are available to other government entities. This service is FREE and easy to use.

Examples of some contracts:

- Paper & Paper Products
- Batteries – Dry Cell & Vehicle
- Credit Card (State P-Card)
- Maintenance & Repair Supplies
- Janitorial Products & Trash Bags
- Waste Disposal & Recycling Services
- IT Services and Software

OMB
Office of Management
and Budget

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

If you have any questions, please contact the State Procurement Office at 701-328-2740 or infospo@nd.gov.

State Contract #10 – Toner & Printer Products

This contract includes OEM toner and printer products for Canon, HP and Xerox. The contractor is Universal Services, and detailed pricing information can be found on the OMB State Procurement website. Any items that are not listed in the market basket will be discounted 20 percent from the retail price. You can contact the vendor directly at sales@universalservicesnd.com or the procurement officer, Chad Keech, at ckeech@nd.gov or 701-328-2767.

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



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CPSI Certification Course Reaches Milestone

The Certified Playground Safety Inspector (CPSI) certification course has reached a milestone in North Dakota. The class has been offered by NDRPA and hosted by Bismarck Parks and Recreation District (BPRD) for 15 years. In that 15-year period, the course has averaged 40 attendees annually. At this time, there are 72 individuals in North Dakota that have the CPSI certification.

"We so appreciate the opportunity to provide this training to so many people across the state," said Randy Bina, executive director of BPRD. "This course has done so much for our profession and, even more importantly, it's helped all of us keep our park, school, childcare and community playgrounds safe."

Bina says the course would not have been accessible to many of the attendees if not for the support and scholarship program offered by the ND Insurance Reserve Fund and ND Parks and Recreation Department. "So many NDRPA member agencies have been able to send staff to this valuable training free of charge," he said.

The National Recreation and Park Association offers the course, which includes the most comprehensive

training on playground safety issues. Participants include not only park district staff, but also attendees from school districts, childcare centers, playground manufacturers and those in the legal profession. Attendees learn about surfacing requirements, risk management, hazard identification and how to establish a routine inspection system.

The next North Dakota CPSI course will be held in March 2018.



THANK YOU to our CPSI Course Sponsors



Mandan Hosting 2017 NDRPA State Conference

This year's NDRPA State Conference is scheduled for Sept. 12-14 at the Baymont Inn in Mandan. The conference will feature fun activities with opportunities to network. The keynote speakers for the conference are Rich DiGirolamo, Kyle Kirchmeier and Kostas Voutsas.

Rich DiGirolamo, the RECESSitator (or That Guy with the Propeller on His Head), works with organizations to create happier work environments, design new programs and products, and create better relationships with customers and peers. He is the creator/founder of "Recess at Work Day" and the nonprofit organization DoubleDDiner.org Inc., operators of "The World's Only Virtual Diner Fighting Hunger." DiGirolamo has authored five books, including his most popular, *Diary of the Happiest Employee on Earth*. He has been speaking to and consulting with the parks and recreation industry since 2006. He lives by the rule, "If you're not having fun, it's your own fault!"

Kostas Voutsas has been teaching management and human resource courses for more than 20 years. He is a tenured professor of business at Dickinson State

University at the Bismarck campus. He is also an author, a corporate trainer and keynote motivational speaker.

Below are some highlights to look forward to:

Tuesday, Sept. 12:


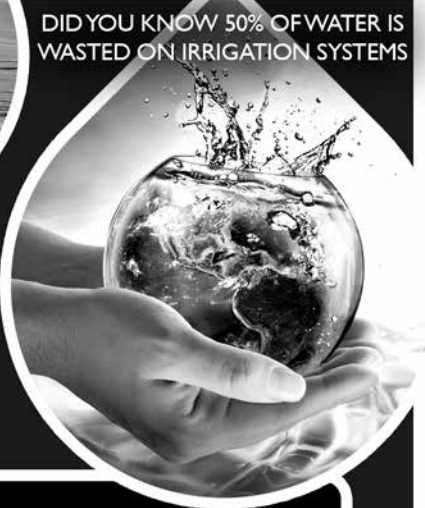
- Lunch and 4-Person Golf Scramble at Prairie West Golf Course
- Activities at Harmon Lake
- Dinner and Social at Mandan's Universal Playground

Wednesday, Sept. 13:

- Exhibitor Hall
- Educational Sessions
- Facility Tour
- Social and Awards Banquet
- Hypnosis Connection Performance

Thursday, Sept. 14:

- Educational Sessions
- Annual Meeting

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Parks Day at the Capitol Held March 7

During the 2017 Legislative Session, NDRPA partnered with the ND Parks and Recreation Department (NDPRD) to showcase park districts as part of the biennial Parks Day at the Capitol. NDPRD set up exhibits in Legislative Hall, while eight park districts joined NDRPA in Memorial Hall to highlight the diverse offerings of park districts across the state. Participating park districts included:

- Bismarck Parks and Recreation District
- Dickinson Parks and Recreation
- Fargo Park District
- Grand Forks Park District
- Mandan Park District
- Minot Park District
- Valley City Park District
- Williston Parks & Recreation District



Gov. Doug Burgum enjoys ice cream provided by NDPRD.



Clay Whittlesey, Fargo Park District, visits with Sen. Tim Mathern, District 11.



NDRPA Public Policy Chair James Kramer and Amber Mathieson, Dickinson Parks and Recreation, pose with NDPRD's mascot, Roscoe.

5 Easy Ways You Can Get Started with Park and Recreation Month

By Roxanne Sutton, NRPA Communication Manager

If you've never participated in Park and Recreation Month before, the amount of materials available in the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) toolkit can seem overwhelming. We've put together this quick start guide, so you can easily celebrate the important role of parks and recreation this July.

1. Hang the Park and Recreation Month poster

The easiest thing you can do to celebrate Park and Recreation Month is to hang the official Park and Recreation Month poster somewhere visible to others. You can download and print copies from the NRPA website, or you can hang the printed version that comes with the May issue of *Parks & Recreation* magazine.

2. Show your support on social media

Another great way to show your support is by sharing information about Park and Recreation Month on social media. The first thing you can do is use the hashtag #PlayOnJuly on all your social media posts about Park and Recreation Month. You can also update your avatars to be the Park and Recreation Month logo or use the Facebook and Twitter header images supplied in the toolkit. Closer to July, NRPA will share sample social media posts that you can easily customize and share with your community.

3. Proclaim July as Park and Recreation Month

Many municipalities will issue formal proclamations to acknowledge special days and events. Park and recreation is no different. You can ask your town, city or community council to proclaim July as Park and Recreation Month. On the NRPA website are tips for getting July proclaimed as Park and Recreation Month, as well as a template proclamation you can personalize and use.

4. List your July events as Park and Recreation Month events

While not currently active on the NRPA website, you will soon be able to list your July events on the official Park and Recreation Month event calendar



and map. You don't need to plan a special event to include it on the map. Many people list their 4th of July celebrations, summer camp activities, concerts and more. NRPA promotes this map and calendar to the general public as a way for people to discover the activities happening through your park and recreation department. You can use the other materials on this website to add Park and Recreation Month flair to your already planned events as well.

5. Submit a press release about Park and Recreation Month

Another piece that will be coming soon is a template press release that explains what Park and Recreation Month is and the ways in which your agency will be celebrating. This is a great opportunity to gain media attention for your parks, facilities and programs as well as include yourself as part of the broader media push around Park and Recreation Month. We always include tips for sharing your press release with reporters.

The main goal behind Park and Recreation Month is to promote the great work you are doing and to let the general public know that July is the perfect time to get out and discover the great things happening at their local parks and recreation.



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