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The Official Publication of the North Dakota Recreation and Park Association

Fall 2017



***NDRPA Awards Presented, Page 8***  
***Grant Opportunities from NDPRD, Page 10***

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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings! I would like to start off by saying I am honored to serve as the NDRPA President for the next year. NDRPA is an excellent organization that provides many opportunities for its members. I have seen this firsthand the last few years. I previously served on the NDRPA Board as secretary/treasurer and last year as president elect. A couple of items NDRPA provides are a unified voice for park districts during legislative sessions (thank you for all your work last year James Kramer, Cole Higlin and Dana Schaar Jahner) and educational opportunities through the annual State Conference, Certified Playground Safety Inspector course and member meetings.

We had a great State Conference in Mandan in September. Thank you to Cole Higlin and his team for putting on a wonderful conference. My favorite parts of the State Conference, other than golfing of course, is the chance to network and the roundtable discussions. I have realized over the last several years every park district in North Dakota is unique and everybody does things a little differently. However, there is so much we can learn from each other. We can take bits and pieces back to our own park district and apply it in a way that makes sense



## 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.

in our situation to make it better. There is such a vast amount of knowledge to be shared from the NDRPA membership that we can all benefit in some way.

One item the NDRPA Board will be looking at over the next year is our membership package. We will be reviewing the current membership package to see if there are ways we can improve membership to increase opportunities for professional development for all full-time employees and park commissioners of North Dakota park districts.

We will have another chance to network and receive education and enjoy a little recreation in Devils Lake Jan. 17-18. This is another opportunity NDRPA provides to support professional development for its membership. I encourage you to register if you are able. I look forward to seeing everyone there.

Finally, I would like to thank Bob Gillen, current past president, for his leadership of NDRPA during the past year. NDRPA had a terrific year in 2017, and I am looking forward to another successful year in 2018.

Enjoy fall while it lasts!



George Hellyer, NDRPA President



- |                    |                                       |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>Jan. 15</b>     | FOCUS Deadline                        |
| <b>Jan. 17-18</b>  | Member Meeting, Devils Lake           |
| <b>March 13-15</b> | CPSI Course, Bismarck                 |
| <b>April 18-19</b> | HR Collaborative Conference, Bismarck |
| <b>April 22-24</b> | Midwest Conference, South Dakota      |

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**Next *FOCUS* deadline:** Jan. 15, 2018

Cover photo: Roosevelt Park Zoo, Minot Park District

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# NDRPA Member Meeting

Jan. 17-18, 2018 • Devils Lake



## Wednesday, Jan. 17

**Noon** **Recreational Activity:** Ice Fishing (fee of \$20 for ice fish house rental may be required)

**3:00 p.m.** **Committee Meetings** (TBD)

**6:00 p.m.** **Dinner**

**6:30 p.m.** **Educational Session:** Hearing Loss, Deaf Culture and the ADA and You  
Learn about hearing loss and its impact on communication from Pam Smith, Kathy Frelich and David Zimmerman with the North Dakota School for the Deaf/Resource Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Develop an understanding of, and an appreciation for, deaf culture through the experiences of a teacher and coach who has been deaf since birth. Explore what the ADA has to say about appropriate accommodations for individuals with hearing loss and consider how this should guide the way you do business.

**8:30 p.m.** **Networking**

## Thursday, Jan. 18

**7:30 a.m.** **Breakfast and Board of Directors Meeting**

**8:30 a.m.** **Educational Session:** Customer Service  
Members of the Fargo Park District Customer Service Team will present on their Internal and External Customer Service Program. This program was rolled out last spring to all full-time and part-time staff to establish the standard expectation of customer service across the park district.

**10:00 a.m.** **Educational Session:** The Rise of Devils Lake  
Jeff Frith, Ramsey County Water Resource district manager, and Kyle Blanchfield, owner of Woodland Resort, will share the history of the rise of Devils Lake over the last 25 years.

**10:30 a.m.** **Member Business Meeting**

**RSVP Deadline – Dec. 15**

RSVP at [www.ndrpa.com](http://www.ndrpa.com)

**Accommodations Deadline – Dec. 15**

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## New Leadership Elected to Board of Directors

Amy Pederson from Valley City is the new president elect, and two new members joined the NDRPA Board of Directors at the Sept. 14 annual meeting in Mandan. Sam Frobig-Larson of Fargo was elected internal affairs chair, and the new public policy chair is Cole Higlin. Board contact information and a list of committee members can be found at [www.ndrpa.com](http://www.ndrpa.com).

## Make Sure NDRPA News Arrives in Your Mailbox

Do you receive the *NDRPA eUpdate* in your inbox each month? If not, make sure to provide NDRPA with your email address by contacting [sschutt@clearwatercommunications.net](mailto:sschutt@clearwatercommunications.net).

## Save the Date for Playground Safety Course

Mark your calendars for NDRPA's 16th annual Certified Playground Safety Inspector (CPSI) Course scheduled for March 13-15 in Bismarck. Registration and scholarship information will be available in December at [www.ndrpa.com](http://www.ndrpa.com).



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# NDRPA Awards Presented

NDRPA presented four awards during the 2017 Awards Banquet at the NDRPA State Conference in Mandan Sept. 13. Congratulations to all the award winners!

## Golden Egg Award

This award, established in honor of former Fargo Park District Superintendent Bob "Goose" Johnson, acknowledges outstanding and innovative park projects throughout the state.



**Gaukler Family Wellness Center**  
*Valley City Parks and Recreation Park Board President and Staff*

## Innovative Programming Award

This award recognizes and honors an NDRPA member agency or organization that demonstrates leadership with advanced groundbreaking ideas in programming.



**Nerf Wars, Williston Parks and Recreation District**  
*Mackenzie Blume*

## Outstanding Young Professional

This award honors professional members of NDRPA and NRPA who have experience of less than 10 years and are age 35 or younger.



**Bismarck Parks and Recreation District**  
*Jahna Gardiner*

## Scholarship Recognition

NDRPA annually recognizes outstanding university students enrolled in the fields of parks, recreation, leisure, natural resources and tourism through the Dr. Sandra Modisett Memorial Scholarship. Aimee Padgett (pictured below, left) and Krystal Wold (pictured below, right), both students in the sport management program at NDSU, were awarded \$750 scholarships.



NDRPA recognizes professionals who seek to enhance their knowledge through advanced degrees, conferences or other learning opportunities through the Dr. LaVernia Jorgensen Memorial Professional Development Award. Jill Nelson, Grand Forks Park District, received a \$500 award toward her master's degree in public administration.

## Citizen Advocacy Award

This award honors individuals for outstanding contributions to the park, recreation and conservation movement.



**Chris Johnson, Bowman**

*Pictured with his wife, Amanda, foreign exchange student Adam Petterson (back row), and children Harley and Arianna (front row)*

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# Grant Opportunities from NDPRD



## LWCF Grant Applications Due Dec. 4

The ND Parks and Recreation Department (NDPRD) received approximately \$845,281 of federal grant monies that will be available for outdoor recreation projects through the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). Applicants may request a minimum grant amount of \$15,000.

The LWCF is a 50/50 matching grant program administered at the state level by NDPRD and funded at the federal level by the U.S. Department of Interior, National Park Service. LWCF provides grants for outdoor recreation projects such as ball fields, pools, campgrounds, playgrounds and land acquisitions for park development. Projects will be required to start in the fall of 2018.

Applications are online at [www.parkrec.nd.gov](http://www.parkrec.nd.gov) under the Grants tab. The deadline is Dec. 4 at 1 p.m. CT.

## RTP Grant Applications Due Jan. 31

NDPRD is seeking Recreational Trails Program (RTP) grant applications for 2019. NDPRD will have approximately \$930,000 available for motorized and non-motorized recreational trail projects.

RTP is an 80/20 matching grant program administered at the state level through NDPRD with guidance from the Recreational Trails Program Advisory Council and federally through the Federal Highway Administration.

Applicants may request grant amounts ranging from a minimum of \$10,000 to a maximum of \$200,000 and must have at least 20 percent match available at the time of the application. Eligible projects consist of construction of new recreation trails, restoration of existing trails, development and rehabilitation of trailside and trailhead facilities and trail linkages, purchase and lease of recreational trail construction and maintenance equipment, land acquisition/easements and trail accessibility assessment. Projects will be required to commence in 2019.

Applications will be online at [www.parkrec.nd.gov](http://www.parkrec.nd.gov) under the Grants tab starting Dec. 1 with a deadline of Jan. 31 at 1 p.m. CT.

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# COMMISSIONER'S CORNER

Shane Norsdven was elected to the Killdeer Park Board in his early 20s. After being raised in Killdeer, he says he wanted to get involved in the community. "I was wanting to bring a younger perspective to the park board," he notes.

He has been on the board for nearly eight years and, for the past year, has served as board president, with the goal to provide the community with a "fun, safe place for kids to play."

"We want to get kids involved again and get our kids out into the community," he continues.

One of the ways the park board is focusing on this goal is through developing additional recreational activities. "We're working on providing more activities, and we got our baseball program up and running again. We want to provide more equipment and more places for kids to play," says Norsdven.

He says one of the challenges of being a park board member is developing new ideas and seeing them through to implementation. "It is all about getting the community



**Shane Norsdven**

support, feedback and participation to develop new ideas," Norsdven notes. "The hardest part is it can't all happen at once."

With the return of the community's baseball program, the park board and the city of Killdeer constructed a large baseball park. In addition, the park board has also been working to add additional playground equipment in the community.

NDRPA is a valuable resource for park boards, says Norsdven, providing the opportunity to network with other communities. "There are so many other cities that have been through what we have, and we can reach out to them."

Norsdven's favorite parks and recreation activities include baseball and softball. "Growing up, I was also always playing at the basketball courts."

He says the Killdeer Park Board is working hard to continue to enhance its great community. "It's a work in progress," Norsdven says. "Killdeer is a great place to raise a family in a small-town way of life."

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# Winter Workshops Hosted in Fargo

## NDUCFA Annual Tree Care Workshop

Jan. 28-31

The ND Urban and Community Forestry Association (NDUCFA) will present the 30th Annual Tree Care Workshop in Fargo Jan. 28-31. NDUCFA will again be combining its conference with the ND Nursery, Greenhouse and Landscape Association. Registration through either association grants attendees entrance to all speakers and access to the trade show floor.

Registration information will be available at [www.nducfa.org](http://www.nducfa.org) in November.



## NCTGA Workshop Feb. 28-March 1

The North Central Turf Grass Association (NCTGA) is hosting educational seminars Feb. 28-March 1 in Fargo about how to improve baseball fields, softball fields and sports turf.



Turf Surface Athletics will cover how to completely renovate a field and rebuild a pitcher's mound and batter's box. They will also share information on how to improve problem turf areas, like soccer mouth goals or football field compaction issues.

Tim Jallen with the FM Redhawks and Nick Baker with the St. Paul Saints will provide a Q & A on ballfield practices.

Sam DeMarais, Fargo Park District forester, will discuss tree trimming 101.

Online registration will open after Nov. 15 at [www.nctga.net](http://www.nctga.net) or contact Rene Smith at 701-552-1940 or [info@nctga.net](mailto:info@nctga.net) for more information.

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# PEOPLE ON THE MOVE



The ND Parks and Recreation Department welcomed **Melissa Baker** as the new agency director in April. Melissa was previously the assistant administrator and chief of operations for Montana State Parks. Melissa was born in Hayward, Calif., and grew up in South Fulton, Tenn. She earned a

master's degree in outdoor recreation management from Southern Illinois University in Carbondale and a doctorate in forestry from the University of Montana in Missoula.



**Shannon Lang** is the Valley Senior Services (VSS) nutrition director for the Fargo Park District (FPD). She was born and raised in Tower City. She loves to travel and experience new things. She is a graduate of NDSU and is a huge Bison fan.



**Jacob Olason**, park maintenance with FPD, grew up on his family's small grain and cattle farm in Valley City. He graduated from Valley City High School in 2014. He enjoys hunting, camping and going back home to help on the farm.



**David Ronning**, FPD VSS West Fargo High Rise cook, is married with a four-year-old son, Parker. He loves to take family trips and go fishing. He is also a Vikings fan and loves to go to games.



**Nancy Summers** is excited to be the new FPD VSS site manager at Trollwood Village, having been assistant manager at Broadway Station for the last year.



**Steven Willson**, park maintenance, is a Navy career veteran and has been working for FPD the past three years in playgrounds. He enjoys working, RV camping and spending time with his wife and German shepherd, Meika.

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**Hilary Kulczewski** is the new aquatics manager for Valley City Parks and Recreation (VCPR). Born and raised in Windsor, Calif., she graduated in 2014 from Valley City State University (VCSU) with a degree in social science education and a minor in coaching. While attending VCSU, Hilary played

softball and has been one of the coaches of the softball team at Valley City Junior/Senior High School since she graduated.



**CJ Cano** works as the sports coordinator, helping to schedule and organizes adult leagues and youth activities at Grand Forks Park District's Choice Health & Fitness. He also assists with the day-to-day operations at the club, specifically the sports department. CJ has lived in Grand Forks his whole life

and graduated from the University of North Dakota. He has been a coach in the area for high school soccer and basketball for the last nine years.



**David Dobier** is the facility maintenance supervisor at the Starion Sports Complex. He was recently promoted from park maintenance I. David joined the Mandan Park District (MPD) staff in 2012.



**Naomi Erdahl** is the recreation manager, recently promoted from a recreation supervisor, at MPD. She started her recreation career at Bismarck Parks and Recreation District and joined the MPD staff in 2015.



**Dave Frueh** is the facility manager at the Starion Sports Complex. He had been the recreation manager at MPD. Dave started his recreation career at the Williston Parks and Recreation District and joined the MPD staff in 2002.



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## Bismarck Receives Gold Medal Award

Bismarck Parks and Recreation District (BPRD) has been honored with the highest and most prestigious award attainable by a park and recreation agency: the 2017 Gold Medal Award for Excellence in Park and Recreation Management.

BPRD was named one of the four finalists for the award earlier this year. The American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration, in partnership with the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) and Musco Lighting, are sponsors of this award. The announcement was made during the Opening Session of the NRPA Annual Conference Sept. 26 in New Orleans.

The Gold Medal Awards program honors communities throughout the U.S. that demonstrate excellence in parks and recreation through long-range planning, resource management, volunteerism, environmental stewardship, program development, professional development and agency recognition.

“Bismarck is already known as an amazing and supportive community. This prestigious honor recognizes the investments we are making in our programs, parks and facilities. We are very honored to be a two-time recipient of this Gold Medal Award. This places BPRD in a very rare category of park agencies, and we accept this award on behalf of the citizens of Bismarck,” said BPRD Executive Director Randy Bina.



*Back row, left to right: Board of Park Commissioner President Wayne Munson, Operations Director Dave Mayer, Community Relations Manager Paula Redmann, Commissioner Jason Starck, Recreation Manager RaNae Jochim, Facilities and Parks Director Kevin Klipfel  
Front row, left to right: Commissioner Julie Jeske, Executive Director Randy Bina, Board of Park Commissioner Vice President Brian Beattie*

BPRD is a past recipient of the award, receiving the NRPA Gold Medal Award in 1993 and being a finalist in 1991, 1992, 1993, 1999, 2016 and 2017.

BPRD Board of Park Commissioners President Wayne Munson said, “To be selected as one of the top park and recreation agencies in the country is a proud and historic moment. This award recognizes our past, as well as the important work we do every day with eyes on a promising future. We’re both thrilled and humbled to be recognized for these efforts.”

## Wallace Inducted into Officials Hall of Fame

Terry Wallace, Devils Lake Parks and Recreation superintendent, is being inducted into the ND Officials Hall of Fame. He has officiated basketball for 43 years, football for 35 years and has also officiated high school baseball and softball.



He has officiated many district, region and state basketball tournaments and has officiated three High School State Football Championships. He has officiated many college games as well. Wallace has been the assignor of basketball games for the Devils Lake Officials Association for more than 30 years. He has served as an ND High School Activities Association workshop supervisor and helped many young officials get started in officiating. Wallace is still officiating basketball, football and softball.

## Starion Sports Complex Grand Opening in Mandan

The community of Mandan celebrated the Starion Sports Complex Grand Opening Sept. 29 with a ribbon cutting ceremony and Mandan High School’s homecoming.

The Starion Sports Complex is home to Mandan Braves hockey, football, track and field, and Dakota Star gymnastics. The complex boasts several unique areas within the 84,000-square-foot building, including eight locker rooms, a dryland skate training room, dual use concessions, press box, office space and a Mandan Park skate rental location, along with more than 450 paved parking spaces.

Starion Sports Complex enables Mandan to provide more recreational opportunities for all ages and improve the overall quality of life. Mandan Park District's goal has been to encourage a progressive community, attract new businesses, offer a common sense of pride for our community and make a difference for our youth.

For more information, visit [www.StarionSportsComplex.com](http://www.StarionSportsComplex.com).



## Bismarck Renovates and Upgrades Facilities

Work continues on the Capital Ice Complex in Bismarck, home of the renovated Schaumberg Arena and the all new Wachter Arena. The Bismarck Parks and Recreation District facility includes the new arena and 12 locker rooms, a new entrance, parking lot, concessions and ticketing area, along with a mezzanine and dryland training area. Nearby Wachter Park was also upgraded with a new playground and shelter. The facility is scheduled to open this fall.



The VFW Sports Center in Bismarck had compressors in both the main arena and curling rink floors replaced this winter. New boards and glass were installed in the main arena as well.



## Grand Forks Skatepark Project

The wheels are beginning to roll on the Skatepark Project in Grand Forks. As Phase 1 of the project gets underway, involving the relocation of features of the old skatepark, located downtown next to the police station, to the new location at Kannowski Park, the park is beginning to take shape. Features from the previous location, including the tri-tiered manual pad, grind ledge and HSS grind rail, have been moved and will be incorporated into the new park's design. In addition to the relocated sections of the park, the new skatepark will have 18 new features of varying structures, levels and obstacles. The main feature of the park consists of a large radius bowl, complete with walls and features surrounding it.

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# PARK DISTRICT NEWS

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Seeing a need to provide skaters of all ages with a safe place to gather, the Skatepark Committee and the Grand Forks Parks and Recreation Foundation created a vision for change many years ago. In the recent months, strides have been taken to make this dream a reality, with a huge contribution raised through the 12th Annual Rydell Car & Bike Show. The total amount has yet to be released, but projected numbers are expected to be around \$100,000. The Rydell Car & Bike Show's earnings will launch this project to the finish line.

The skatepark will provide a safe environment for children of all ages and their families, a place to be active and pursue skating as a sport. Not only do skateparks provide communities with many benefits, including reducing unlawful behavior and many physical and mental health benefits, they also aid in stimulating economic growth in the community, which is why there was a clear need for the park's overhaul and update. Visit at [gfparksfoundation.org](http://gfparksfoundation.org) to learn more.

## Special Olympics Softball in Bismarck

Bismarck hosted the North America Special Olympics Softball Championship Aug. 18-20. This was the first time this international event was held in Bismarck. A total of 25 teams and 400 athletes from across the United States and Canada came to Bismarck. The event included a Walk of Champions, Opening Ceremonies, lots of softball and finally medal ceremonies. Special thanks to all the championship sponsors, athletes and fans.



## Choice Health & Fitness Celebrates Five Years

Choice Health & Fitness (Choice) and the Grand Forks Park District hosted a 5th Anniversary Celebration Sept. 25. With themed-fitness classes, giveaways, a free throw contest and a lobby full of fun, including refreshments, archive videos and information on facility partners, the day of appreciation was a celebration years in the making. To continue the celebration the remainder of the week, Choice held five days of prize giveaways, discounted guest fees, fitness challenges, social media contests, cooking demos, deli discounts and more.

"The positive feedback we have received from our community over the last five years has been overwhelming," says Choice General Manager Mike Orr. "With the support of our strong partnerships, we are honored to serve our loyal members and the Grand Forks region."

"Our partnership with Choice Health & Fitness has increased accessibility of health and wellness services within our community, helped us enhance existing programs and services, and addressed unmet needs that our previous facilities were unable to accommodate or address properly," remarks Deb Thompson, Altru Family YMCA chief executive officer.

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Key partners of the IMAGINE Campaign, the community fundraising campaign that built Choice, are pleased with the success and community response experienced over the last five years.

“By partnering with the Grand Forks Park District, we have been able to combine resources, knowledge and expertise to deliver healthcare and provide unique wellness opportunities that best serve our community,” says Jenny Estad, manager of Altru’s Employer Health Solutions & Integrative Medicine.

“Aligned with our value, ‘better the places we live,’ Choice Health & Fitness has become a significant source of pride for our region,” comments Brian P. Johnson, Choice Financial chief operating officer. “We are so proud to be part of its success and everything it has done for the community.”

U.S. Department of Agriculture Human Nutrition Research Center’s Dr. James Roemmich says, “The exercise and fitness facilities at Choice Health & Fitness allow scientists at the Human Nutrition Research Center to conduct state-of-the-science research that it otherwise would not be able to complete.”



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# PARK DISTRICT NEWS

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## Welcoming Big Blue to Courts Plus Community Fitness

Courts Plus Community Fitness and the Fargo Park District are excited to announce the opening of a new fitness space at Courts Plus. The new area, a renovated racquetball court, offers members a functional fitness space and includes Big Blue, a functional training station



customized for Ninja Warrior style training. Big Blue is part of the MoveStrong Nova XL line of fitness equipment. This training space is perfect for individuals looking to take their workout to the next level and ideal for Crossfit, MMA, Kickboxing/Boxing, OCR, Climbing and Ninja Warrior training.

The room is available for general member usage and gives personal trainers another option for working with clients. On weekends, the room will be transformed into a space for youth ninja birthday parties, which will include instruction from one of their ninja coaches and an American Ninja Warrior style obstacle course competition. This new training space is a great addition to Courts Plus.

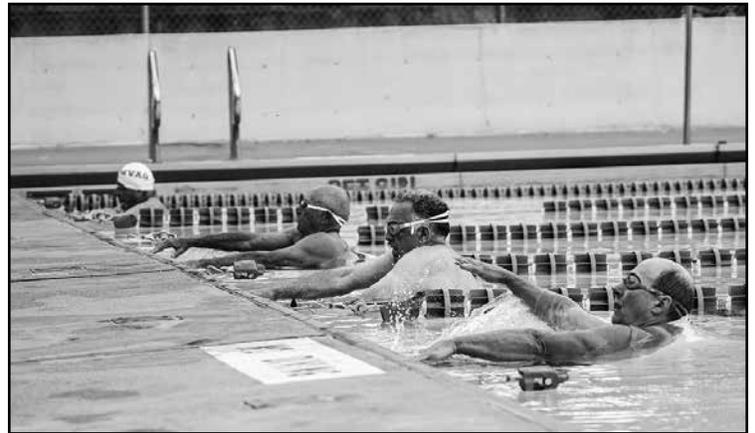
## Fargo Welcomes Back ND Senior Games

Ten years later, the Senior Games have been welcomed back to the state of North Dakota. The inaugural ND Senior Games took place Aug. 17-18, and it was welcomed with open arms and excited athletes.

Over the two days, the Fargo Park District, in partnership with the Fargo-Moorhead Convention and Visitors Bureau, hosted 178 athletes who competed in 13 different sports. On top of the games, competitors were welcome to take part in the Senior Games Social,

which took place at Fargo Billiards and Gastropub and was a huge hit among those who attended.

The partnership is already making headway on planning the 2018 ND Senior Games, which will be a qualifying year for the 2019 National Senior Games.



## New Giraffe in Minot

It's a boy! Roosevelt Park Zoo welcomed its newest addition – a baby giraffe – Sept. 21. It was born in the outdoor area of the zoo giraffe habitat in the company of a handful of zoo guests whose visit happened to be well-timed. Zoo staff watched excitedly, but neither baby nor mother giraffe required assistance in the successful birth.

The baby giraffe is the seventh calf born to the zoo's adult giraffe residents, Kianga and Mashama. Independent parenting and successful pregnancies have solidified Kianga's position as a highly ranked female in the giraffe Species Survival Program.



Continued on page 22

# SHAPED BY PLAY

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# PARK DISTRICT NEWS

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## Public-Private Partnerships Transform Madison Park

Sometimes small requests have big, unimaginable results. In the case of Madison Park in north Fargo, a massive five-year project all started with a simple request from the Legacy Children's Foundation: could woodchips be added at the Madison Park playground? This small request evolved into a series of wonderful private-public partnerships that ultimately culminated in an enhanced experience for community members. On Aug. 16, Fargo Park District, along with the Legacy Children's Foundation and Scheels, held a grand opening for three new, noteworthy amenities at Madison Park.

The Bicycle Playground features a miniature pump track in the center of the playground surrounded by a track featuring obstacles for the beginner rider to test their skills. Scheels was instrumental in moving this project forward.

A 70-by-70 skate park intended for beginners, unlike the more advanced Dike West Skate Park in downtown Fargo, was included in the park to get individuals interested in the sport.

Intended to be reflective of families living in the neighborhood, the public art installation at Madison Park features two unique pieces. The first is the largest brick sculpture in North America, which was created by Fargo artist Brad Bachmeier. He worked with brick mason Paul Sperial and neighborhood children in spring 2016 to sculpt each of the 5,000 bricks that make up the 30-foot-long lizard sculpture and brick archway. The second piece is a 10-foot-long wall mosaic created by artist Magda Szeitz and Madison Elementary art teacher Megan Johnson. The two worked together to find symbols of each culture represented in the school and neighborhood to include in the mosaic. Each child designed a square from recycled stained glass and blended them together into one cohesive design.

In addition to working closely with the Legacy Children's Foundation, the park district collaborated with multiple other individuals and organizations, including but not limited to Fargo Public Schools, City of Fargo, FM Area Foundation, Dakota Underground, Bachmeier Pottery, Paul Sperial, KLJ, Houston Engineering, Thorsteinson and Sons, Hebron Brick, Superior Contracting, Strata, Camrud Foss and Progressive Bike Ramps.

Through these partnerships, Madison Park has been transformed. What once was considered a derelict part of Fargo has now been converted to a safe environment for children to play. These new amenities have proven to be more than just play things – they have served to build community and togetherness.



## Roosevelt Park Zoo Receives Grant

The Minot Area Community Foundation has made its largest grant to date of \$500,000 to Minot Park District's Roosevelt Park Zoo to help build a new Amur tiger habitat.

The Roosevelt Park Zoo is the oldest zoo in North Dakota and has endured two major flood events in 1969 and 2011. The flood of 2011 derailed previous plans to redesign several areas of the zoo, which is now in the fundraising stages of their "Big Cat" redesign that will break ground in spring 2018. The zoo has already been awarded \$1 million from the city of Minot's Community Facilities Grant Fund.

Zoo Director Becky Dewitz said, "We are humbled and inspired by the generosity and support of Minot Area Community Foundation. This grant is immediately impactful to help improve the Roosevelt Park Zoo for our community and visitors. This gift insures we will be able to break ground on this project in 2018."

The Minot Area Community Foundation was established in 2000. Ken Kitzman, Foundation president, said, "Our zoo is an incredible facility that provides year-round entertainment for our community and the surrounding communities. We believe that the zoo, along with the park district, provide services that are vital to our quality of life and we are extremely excited to be supporting this project."

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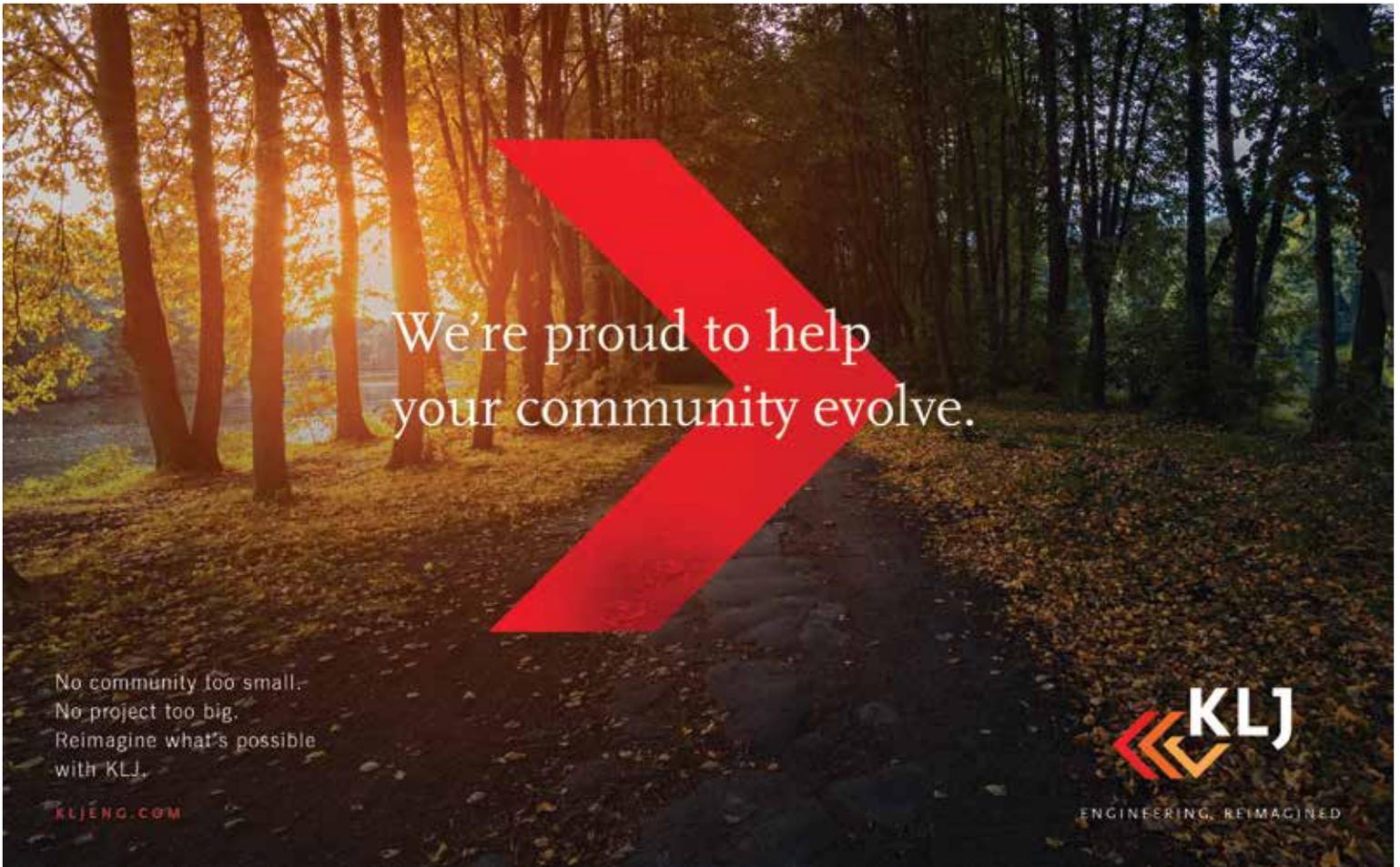
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