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Spring 2021



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



NDRPA President Sam Larson-Frobig enjoying the sunshine in Fargo Park District's Lindenwood Park.

Greetings park and recreation professionals! It was so fun to see many of you in person at the NDRPA Member Meeting in Jamestown. I did not realize how much I had missed face-to-face interactions until I was able to experience them again. A special thanks to the NDRPA Education Committee and Jamestown Parks and Recreation for putting together great tours, speakers and hosting the meeting.

Spring is a busy time for most of us as facilities start to open for the season. This is a welcomed crazy after last year and the feelings of uncertainty we all were experiencing. It is nice to know most of us are entering the spring and summer season like it is any other year. Are there some modifications? Yes. But for the most part, we are moving forward and not looking back.

I was super impressed by park districts across the state that created innovative new programs like e-sports and virtual art classes for their communities. Some districts will continue with this new approach as another

option for participants that are not comfortable (yet) with gathering in person. There is so much that each of us can learn from what others are doing and what better way to interact than through the new "Park and Recreation Professionals of North Dakota" Facebook group. If you have not joined, do it! It is a great way to share resources, ideas, training opportunities, and ask questions of others in the state.

Speaking of training opportunities, here are some important dates: HR Collaborative will offer a summer webinar series beginning June 10, the 2021 NDRPA State and ND Trails Conference in Bismarck will be Sept. 13-15, and the 2021 NRPA Annual Conference in Nashville will be Sept. 21-23. I cannot wait to see many more of you at conferences this fall!

Recently, I enjoyed reconnecting with family and friends after not being able to see many of them over the last year. I explored parks, nature preserves and waterways with my nephews. We even found a park with an old, metal merry-go-round where I relived the dizziness of my younger years. It is always nice to experience things through their eyes, and after a year of not experiencing much, it was a needed respite for all of us.

My advice to you is, after you finish reading this issue of *FOCUS*, take a walk, play on a playground or explore a path you have never taken. I promise that you need it, and you will not regret it!

Sam Larson-Frobig, NDRPA President



JUNE 10-AUG. 26

HR Collaborative
Webinar Series

JULY 15

FOCUS Deadline

JULY 16

Hall of Fame and
Awards Nomination
Deadline

SEPT. 13-15

NDRPA State
Conference
with ND Trails
Conference, Bismarck

SEPT. 21-23

NRPA Annual
Conference, Nashville

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.

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FOCUS is the official newsletter of the North Dakota Recreation & Park Association (NDRPA). It is distributed quarterly to almost 900 parks and recreation professionals and posted on the NDRPA website. Submission of articles and photographs are encouraged in digital format to ndrpaoffice@gmail.com. Photographs should be high-resolution (300 dpi or greater). Advertising information is available online at www.ndrpa.com.

Next *FOCUS* deadline: July 15, 2021

Cover photo: Wilds South Park, West Fargo Park District

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FOCUS

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Join NDRPA Facebook Group

The NDRPA Education Committee is excited to announce the newest professional development resource, the Parks and Recreation Professionals in North Dakota Facebook Group. The purpose of the group is to offer a place to share ideas, collaborate and learn from one another year-round. Join the group today by visiting www.facebook.com/groups/ndrpa.

HR Collaborative Hosts Summer Webinar Series

The HR Collaborative for Local Government is hosting a summer webinar series covering a variety of human resource topics. The series will be hosted on the second and fourth Thursday, June – August, from 10:00 a.m.-11:15 a.m. CT. Each session will include a 45-minute presentation followed by a 30-minute question and answer period. Registration for the entire series is \$50. More details and registration will be available May 1 on the HR Collaborative website at hrndgov.org.

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.
- Letter of support from a Hall of Fame member or Hall of Fame Council member.

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 on Sept. 14 in Bismarck. 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 July 16.

NDRPA Requests Nominations for 2021 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 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. The deadline to submit nominations for awards is July 16.

Countdown to Conference

It's less than five months until the premier annual gathering of North Dakota's park and recreation professionals. This year's NDRPA State Conference, held jointly with the ND Trails Conference, is Monday, Sept. 13, through Wednesday, Sept. 15, in Bismarck.

North Dakota is excited to welcome National Recreation and Park Association Executive Director Kristine Stratton, who will join in-person on Tuesday, Sept. 14, for an opening keynote, roundtable discussions and the awards banquet. Attendees will also enjoy keynotes from Andrea Travnicek, director of the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department and Minot native, and Chris Nunes, a parks and recreation professional who has led agencies in Maine, Colorado and Texas.

The conference features a diverse mix of educational sessions, networking events, exhibitor booths, tours, and opportunities to celebrate excellence at the awards banquet and support future professionals through the silent auction.

Stay tuned for all the details in the summer issue of *FOCUS*.

COMMISSIONER'S CORNER



Ryer Stark

In northeast North Dakota, Ryer Stark currently serves as the president of the Grafton Park Board. "I have been on the Grafton Park Board for five years, serving as the president for the last three," he said.

Stark became involved with parks and recreation because of his family's involvement in local leadership. "My grandfather and great uncle were heavily involved

for many years in local government here in Grafton, serving on the city council and as the mayor. I always respected the two of them for putting themselves in those roles," he said. "Being on the park board has been a great experience for me to become a better local leader and help make Grafton a better place to live."

When Stark started with the Grafton Park Board, he wanted to help guide the staff to be successful and respectful employees within the community. He also wanted to strengthen Grafton Parks and Recreation's footprint in the community through service and dedication.

The biggest challenge Grafton Parks and Recreation faces is staffing and turnover within the small town. "Finding qualified individuals to fill management positions is not easy. We have been pretty lucky in that aspect, but it has always been a concern of ours. Keeping labor costs down and running profitable programs has not been easy. We have a lot going on throughout the years and like any other park district in the state, everything we do is seasonal," Stark said.

He noted communication can also be a challenge for

the Grafton Park Board. However, it has been working on finding solutions in social media and text alerts.

The NDRPA has been beneficial to Grafton Parks and Recreation in a number of ways, noted Stark. With NDRPA's resources on its website and in its *FOCUS* publication, Stark has been able to educate new park board commissioners and utilize other member's experiences to help benefit Grafton Parks and Recreation.



Throughout the years, Grafton Parks and Recreation has increased the number of programs it is able to offer. With a large variety of activities including gymnastics, soccer, figure skating, baseball, golf, and year-round swimming lessons, Stark said Grafton Parks and Recreation has been able to provide many community programs throughout the year. One of its signature events is a corn maze, which runs every weekend from September through mid-October. "Our staff has really done a tremendous job building this thing from scratch the last three years. It is a great way to get the community involved and, more importantly, bring people to Grafton. The maze also allows us to get local organizations like youth hockey and the figure skaters a chance to raise money to help keep their program costs down," he said.

Grafton Parks and Recreation also manages a campground with 70 full hook-up sites, six cabins, a bathhouse, visitors center, laundry, and primitive sites. They offer both seasonal and daily rates for camping and the campground is located next to the park and pool.





In 2017, Grafton Parks and Recreation worked with the Blue Line Club to remodel its hockey arena lobby and ice plant. The beautiful and spacious

lobby now creates a welcoming environment that encourages the community to support local events. At the same time, the arena's ice plant was also updated to a Zero Zone, a system that runs more efficiently and is friendlier for the environment.

Grafton Parks and Recreation was awarded a North Dakota Game and Fish Department grant to install a floating fishing dock for its park. The project was completed in 2020 and provides the public with safer access to the Park River.

As the weather gets nicer and individuals have the urge to travel, Stark encouraged people to keep Grafton Parks and Recreation in mind. "We have a great group of board members and our staff does a fantastic job. I urge anyone reading to swing up or over to Grafton sometime and check us out!"



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PARK DISTRICT NEWS

Watford City Mini Golf a Community Cohesion Success

More than 850 community members enjoyed 18 holes of indoor mini golf at an event, which utilized the entire Rough Rider Center, in Watford City Jan. 29-31. Due to COVID-19, the space was utilized to follow CDC guidelines. Various themes were held throughout the weekend and included a session for those age 21 and older that involved onsite childcare, appetizers and other amenities. The Watford City Park District engaged industry leaders to encourage their participation and creativity. WB Supply, First International Bank & Trust, Nuverra, Watford City High School Football, and Future Farmers of America each built and donated holes to the



course. Friends in Medora also helped by lending clubs and balls. Based on participant and industry feedback, it has been confirmed future designs will involve advanced creativity and innovation and the event will grow to be a 27-hole course. The Watford City Park District's mission is about creating recreational opportunities that promote community cohesion and love of recreation while meeting the needs of the community. Given the difficulties of 2020, the 2021 event was a hole in one!



GooseChase App Adds Another Element to Earth Day Challenge

This year, the Fargo Park District (FPD) brought a new aspect to the Earth Day Challenge, which took place April 18-24. Participants were encouraged to support the planet all week by taking part in a variety of educational Earth Day challenges online via Facebook and with the GooseChase app.

The GooseChase app is a perfect way to get the community engaged in events. In the app, participants compete in challenges for points. The more challenges

completed, the better chance participants have at climbing up the event leaderboard. Each challenge is worth a certain number of points and all participants must submit a photo once the challenge is complete. This was a great opportunity for the FPD to get photos from the public while the community participated in their online event. The FPD put a disclaimer in the games allowing them to use any and all photos for marketing purposes.

There were seven Earth Day challenges this year on the GooseChase app and seven on the Fargo Park District Facebook event page. A few of the challenges included building a walking stick, creating a nature mobile, picking up litter, and taking notes on backyard trees.

The FPD Facebook page has more than 14,000 followers and it has had a lot of engagement when running similar virtual events in the past. Two lucky participants won a prize package at the end of the week-long event that helped focus on sustainability all year long.

The event was a great way to get the community engaged and talking about the earth!

Continued on page 10



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PARK DISTRICT NEWS

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Hatton Rehabilitates City Park

In November 2017, the Hatton City Park Board applied to rehabilitate Hatton City Park, which is a former Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) project. Questions are often asked if the LWCF can assist to update or renovate a former outdoor recreation project. As shown, the City of Hatton took the opportunity to renovate its park to include up-to-date accessible playground equipment and surfacing. "The community of Hatton really supported this project by assisting in securing matching funds, donating materials, equipment, and labor," said Barb Huus, Hatton City Park Board member.

The LWCF is a 50/50 matching grant reimbursement program administered at the state level by the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department (NDPRD) and funded at the federal level by the U.S. Department of Interior, National Park Service (NPS). The LWCF provides grants for outdoor recreation projects such as ball fields, pools, campgrounds, playgrounds, and land acquisitions for park development. For this project, the City of Hatton applied to renovate a former playground that was well-loved within its community.

The updates included a large play area with three slides, smaller play area with tunnel, slide and bongo drums, zip-line, seated bumper, and merry-go-round. Other updates included engineered wood fiber surfacing and



Park Rehabilitation



Rehabilitation Project

Continued on page 12



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PARK DISTRICT NEWS

Continued from page 10

playground edging. "It took a lot of time, effort and work, but the community enjoys the new playground. I see kids playing on the equipment all day well into the evening," Huus said.

The Hatton City Park has been successfully renovated thanks to the dedicated Hatton community and grant funding provided through the LWCF by the NDPRD in cooperation with the NPS.

If you would like to learn more about this project or have questions about the LWCF, please contact the NDPRD grants coordinator at 701-328-5357 or send an inquiry to parkrec@nd.gov.

Improving Playgrounds for More Inclusive Play

The Bismarck Parks and Recreation District (BPRD) has a long history of receiving Land and Water Conservation Fund grants to renovate or create new recreational opportunities for the City of Bismarck. From the first grant administered in 1966 to the most recent Sertoma Shelter 4 – Inclusive Playground Improvements, the BPRD has created, and continues to develop, new ways to improve lives through outdoor recreation and build the community of Bismarck.

With this most recent project, BPRD replaced the existing playground with a fully inclusive playground by adding an accessible ramp and transfer station, dual zip line and swings. The play area also includes pour-in-place surfacing for maximum accessibility.

When asked what the inspiration was behind the project, the BPRD decided playground updates are needed from public input surveys and their most recent strategic plan. Dave Mayer, BPRD operations director,



Dave Mayer, BPRD operations director, standing alongside the new playground improvements with the LWCF sign.

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said, "Ever since the playground was finished, I have driven by it often and see it used all the time. It is very busy and well received by the community."

The playground improvements add another successfully completed project to the already diverse 3,300 acres BPRD manages for outdoor recreation with more than 250 partnerships including the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department.

If you would like to learn more about this project or have questions about the LWCF, please contact the NDPRD grants coordinator at 701-328-5357 or send an inquiry to parkrec@nd.gov.



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NDRPA Awards Highlight

Partnership Award – New Rockford Eagles Club and New Rockford Lions Club

The New Rockford Lions Club and the New Rockford Eagles Club were the recipients of the 2020 NDRPA Partnership Award, which honors an agency or organization that has developed a successful partnership to create a project or program that benefits the community, region or state and increases awareness of the importance of parks, recreation and leisure services in quality of life. In New Rockford, these two organizations go above and beyond for their community and its park and recreation facilities.

The clubs have made an impact on the community through funding parks and recreation activities, facilities and programming, which includes the town's swimming pool, uniforms and coaching salaries for the baseball and softball teams, four new softball dugouts, the park district's sporting events and tournaments, annual Santa Days, the regional Central Dakota Stream Thrashers, and new baseball and football scoreboards.

Their support and projects also include volunteer meal cooking and use of their facilities for the annual Community Clean Up Day, in which laying woodchips and installing playground borders were the main focus. They also helped rebuild a park gazebo and purchased new picnic tables and benches, cooked meals and offered their facilities to the North Dakota Hunter's



Safety Education program, planted trees, and adopted highways adjacent to the town's park facilities. The Lions and Eagles Clubs' dedication to the community is vast.

These are just a few examples of how the clubs have served the community. In addition, both clubs support other areas of the community including, the New Rockford-Sheyenne School System, Fire Department, Sheriff Department, and the City of New Rockford. Both groups are a big part of what makes New Rockford special. A well-deserved congratulations to both!

Innovative Programming Award – Safety City, Dickinson



The 2020 NDRPA Innovative Programming Award was awarded to Safety City in Dickinson. The award recognizes and honors an NDRPA member agency or organization that demonstrates leadership with advanced groundbreaking ideas in programming. The award also highlights the efforts and impact an agency or organization has made in promoting or increasing awareness of the benefits of parks and recreation in their community through offering a variety of programs. Safety City was developed by the local Community Action Department but was cut in 2017 from the operational and budget plans. Seeing the value of the program for the community, it was reestablished in 2018 by Dickinson Parks and Recreation.

Safety City is designed to run over a two-week period and is offered to four- to six-year-olds to teach them the importance of "being safe" in real-life situations. The comprehensive safety education program is facilitated as a miniature city in which the participants learn real-



life safety standards in unsafe situations such as fire, animal, bicycle, railroad crossing, electrical, poison control, stranger danger, safety belt, camping, and farm and water aspects. Participants go through the training, and a graduation is held upon their completion of the program. The facilitation of the miniature city is set up to portray the mentioned situations in a rotation cycle of each to emulate a real-life occurrence that could be faced.

Through the program, awareness and precautions introduced in combination with bringing in volunteered professionals like firefighters, police officers and other specialists help the education of young children and their response to possible future predicaments. Safety City is a valuable program that starts safety knowledge for kids early on, initiating better response for their wellbeing.

Safety City involves a community effort and allows the program to aid in children's leadership growth and, in turn, will provide a safer community in Dickinson. The innovative expanse of Safety City in Dickinson has the potential to spread in all regions of North Dakota, making the state safer through mindful lessons and practice.



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Continued from page 12

Mandan Parks and Recreation Turns 100 Years Old

Mandan Parks and Recreation was “born” into the community in April of 1921, with the first election being held on June 2, 1921. One hundred years is a long time and while a lot has changed, Mandan Parks and Recreation’s core mission has remained the same, to preserve and provide recreational opportunities for all ages and abilities, while improving the quality of life for the citizens of Mandan and its visitors.

Some of the most memorable highlights throughout the past 100 years include:

- One of Mandan Parks and Recreation’s first facilities, the Mandan Municipal Golf Course, opened in 1925 and is almost 100 years old!
- Ordinances started on April 13, 1968. One of the first ordinances, created in 1976, allowed alcohol in the Mandan park system.
- The first Winter Daze started in 1982. The annual event still continues to bring the City of Mandan together through fun recreational activities.
- Most of you have been to a city commission or park board meeting. Mandan Parks and Recreation and the Mandan City Commission used to meet together in 1987. The shortest Mandan City Commission meeting, totaling one minute and thirty seconds, was held in 1987. Also in the 1980s:
 - Budget Hearing Fund: \$434,422
 - Payroll Tax Fund: \$26,300
 - Pension: \$4, 800
 - Share of Special Assessments: \$44,000
- Mandan Parks and Recreation received its first computer in 1990. It’s difficult to imagine a workday without one. Also in the 1990s, a normal part-time wage was \$4.25 an hour.
- 1992 marks the year Prairie West Golf Course came to be! But it wasn’t always called Prairie West. The course’s first name was Prairie Woods. Due to Fargo



having a course called Prairie Woods, Mandan Parks and Recreation made the decision to change the name to Whispering Winds. Then they renamed the course to Prairie West Golf Course. In the 1990s, 20 rounds of golf cost \$200 and now it costs \$700.

- Mandan Parks and Recreation purchased Raging Rivers and the golf/go-carts area on Feb. 11, 2009, for \$2.25 million.

And more recently:

- The Universal Playground opened to the public in 2015. The Universal Playground is now a destination and brings together people of all ages and abilities to play.
- 2017 was a big year for Mandan, with the Starion Sports Complex opening to the public on Sept. 29.
- Fundraising started for the Veteran’s Memorial Ballpark in 2017, and it opened to the public in 2019.
- All Seasons Arena Multipurpose Floor Courts opened to the public on May 1, 2018.
- In 2020, Mandan Parks and Recreation adjusted many programs and facility protocol due to COVID-19 and still managed to complete a variety of different projects.

Mandan Parks and Recreation looks forward to the next 100 years!



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Continued from page 16

Fargo Renames Pool to Honor Longtime Fargo Park District Executive Director



In late 2020, Fargo's Northside Recreational Pool was renamed after longtime Fargo Park District (FPD) executive director, Roger G. Gress. Gress started his time with the FPD in 1980, serving two four-year terms as a Fargo Park Board commissioner. In 1987, Gress served as the facilities coordinator at the FPD and was promoted to facilities

and park planner four years later. Gress retired from the FPD at the end of 2016, with a total of 36 years of service under his belt. One of Gress' first major projects as parks director in 1997 was the construction of the neighborhood outdoor pool near Fargo North High School that featured water features and a waterslide.

Various outdoor pools were built and renovated during Gress' tenure with the FPD. Amenities were added to the Northside, South and Madison pools, including slides and splash pads. A new outdoor pool was also added to the system under Gress at Davies High School in 2012, which has become a regional attraction. On June 7, when the FPD outdoor pools open for the season, a dedication event is planned to formally unveil the newly renamed Roger G. Gress Northside Pool and recognize Gress for his many years of service to the Fargo community.



ND Senior Games Scheduled for August

The North Dakota Senior Games is one of the largest multi-sporting events for ages 50 or better. Athletes from North Dakota and surrounding states will meet in Fargo Aug. 19-22 to compete in more than 20 events during the three-day North Dakota Senior Games.

The Fargo Park District has been hosting the North Dakota Senior Games for the past five years, and participation for the event has been steady. A big part of the participation is having ambassadors help spread the word about the event and the sports that participants can take part in.

The games feature a variety of competitions, both team and individual, to showcase the benefits of making regular physical activity a lifelong pursuit. The games offer something for practically every interest and ability. The current list of events includes archery, basketball, badminton, bowling, cycling, golf, pickleball, racquetball, softball, swimming, table tennis, tennis, track and field, power walk, and a 5k road race. Many events, as well as registration, will be based at Fargo's Courts Plus Community Fitness. The full slate of events will take place at venues throughout the Fargo area.

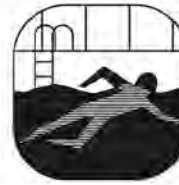
The North Dakota Senior Games is open to participants from North Dakota as well as across the country as part of the National Senior Games Association. This multi-day, multi-sport event is devoted to individuals ages 50 or better and gives them an opportunity to compete with others in their age group. Athletes can register at NDSeniorGames.com before July 26.

PEOPLE ON THE MOVE



Dana Schaar Jahner is the new community relations manager for Bismarck Parks and Recreation District (BPRD). A North Dakota native, Schaar Jahner has more than 20 years of experience working for local government and nonprofits. She served

as NDRPA executive director from 2007-2020 while vice president and partner at Clearwater Communications in Bismarck. She has a bachelor's degree from North Dakota State University and a master's degree from the University of Colorado-Boulder. She is excited about being a part of the BPRD team and advocating for the important role of public parks and recreation in Bismarck.



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Preparing Your Amenities or Facilities for Spring

By Corey Olson, NDIRF Director of Member Services

Given the Center for Disease Control (CDC) reports, you are less likely to be exposed to COVID-19 when you attend outdoor activities, stay at least six feet apart and limit the amount of time you spend with people who don't live with you¹. It's easy to understand why North Dakotans have been managing pandemic fatigue by getting outside – hitting the trails for walks, runs, hikes, and rides; playing sports on open fields and courts; or swinging and sliding at local playgrounds.

As we prepare for warmer spring and summer temperatures, and the likelihood that even more people will be heading outside, it's important local government entities ensure the continued safety of their employees and the public who use their amenities or facilities.

Here are some actions you can take to ensure your amenities or facilities are ready for increased traffic:

Sidewalk and Lawn Care

Anywhere employees or members of the public could step creates a need for your organization to review the status of your grounds, searching for damage or holes that may present a tripping hazard and repairing them. As you perform ground maintenance, be sure you mark areas in which pesticides were used by posting signs and remove poisonous plants, such as poison ivy and poison oak.

Remove Sand and Debris

Sand and debris buildup on roads and paths is inevitable following a snowy season, so be sure to clean up these areas to help reduce falls. Debris can be especially dangerous for people on wheels, including bikers and rollerbladers, so it's important to tackle removal early and regularly throughout the season as branches make their way onto paths.



Clean Up Leaves

Yes, leaves could be included in the debris section, but we separated them from that section because the hazards they can potentially cause are different. Wet leaves can be the culprit of slips and falls, and piles of leaves can disguise pavement heaves, cracks or holes that could lead to falls. By cleaning them up, you're helping people safely navigate the terrain under their feet, as well as identify the areas you need to address with repairs.

Tree Trimming and Removal

The weight of heavy snow can expose weak tree limbs, making them more likely to fall and cause damage to facilities or possibly injure an employee or member of the public. Be sure to survey your grounds and work with a local tree care professional to identify and properly remove any hazardous tree limbs. Further, if any limbs reduce vehicle or pedestrian visibility, or traffic sign visibility, be sure they are trimmed to prevent accidents.

Tree care professionals should also be consulted to determine tree health, removing trees that may be vulnerable to falls that could cause damage to facilities or possibly injure an employee or member of the public.

Parking Lot and Signage Paint

Condensation and temperature changes naturally erode street, parking lot and trail paint over time. To help keep these zones accident free, be sure to repaint any faded traffic and parking cues and signage. Traffic cues include entrance and exit signage and speed bumps, and parking cues include curbing and parking spot lines. Additionally, if you are using barriers, including draping chains or cables, to prevent access to a specific area, be sure the materials are highly visible and include a sign. Brightly colored flexible plastic tubing covering chain or cable helps to make these barriers stand out.

LocalGovU features Work Zone Safety for Local Government and Work Zone Traffic Control that provides recommendations for signage and barrier use.

Signage should also be evaluated to determine if signs are properly located and contain the vibrancy needed to attract attention and warn people to proceed with caution. For example, a trail sign that

warns people about an upcoming sharp curve or narrowing of the path should be highly visible in both placement and color.

Outdoor Buildings

As you prepare to reopen outdoor buildings, be sure to inspect the following aspects to make sure buildings are safe for employees and the public:

Chimneys

Chimneys should be inspected by a local professional to guarantee snow and/or ice hasn't created cracks in the flue or mortar joints and that it has been properly cleaned and maintained, both of which help to ensure carbon monoxide properly exits the building.

Roofs

As snow continues to melt, now is the time to look at the condition of building roofs and identify any spots that may be leaking or sagging, as well as any surface disruptions (i.e., bends, ripples, cracks, missing shingles, etc.) that may indicate issues with the integrity of the structure. You should also thoroughly inspect flashing to confirm there are no gaps in the

seams and remove any obstructions from gutters. Obstructions, such as leaves and sticks, should also be removed from exterior drains.

Work with a licensed contractor to make repairs if any issues are discovered.

Other

Additional pieces you should check to ensure are properly functioning include sump pumps, electrical boxes, air conditioning units, heating units, boilers, landscaping equipment (sprinkler systems, etc.), plumbing, and fire protection (alarms, extinguishers, etc.). Windows and doors should also be checked to see if they open and close properly, cracks or holes in seals are repaired, and broken screens are replaced.

If your entity plans to reopen outdoor buildings, be sure to adhere to recommended COVID-19 safety guidelines from the CDC as well as NDRresponse.

If you need any help evaluating your amenities or buildings that will reopen in the spring, contact NDIRF Director of Member Services Corey Olson at 701-751-9107 or corey.olson@ndirf.com.

¹Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/participate-in-activities.html>.



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Accommodating Everyone This Summer

By the North Dakota School for the Deaf and Resource Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

As the school year draws to a close, parents will be enrolling their children in summer activities. The North Dakota School for the Deaf and Resource Center would like to remind everyone that some of those children may have a hearing loss. Those parents may be requesting accommodations for their child to access communication.

The American Disabilities Act (ADA), P.L. 101-336, was passed on July 26, 1990. This civil rights law establishes prohibition of discrimination on the basis of disability and guarantees deaf and hard of hearing people participation in all phases of society including employment, state and local programs, public accommodations, and telecommunications.

People who have hearing, speech or vision disabilities (communication disabilities) use different ways to communicate. For example, people who are deaf or hard of hearing may give and receive information through writing or

sign language rather than through speech.

The ADA requires that Title II entities (state and local) communicate effectively with people who have communication disabilities. The goal is to ensure communication is equally effective as communication with people without disabilities. The entities must provide auxiliary aids and services to make sure they effectively communicate with people who have communication disabilities.

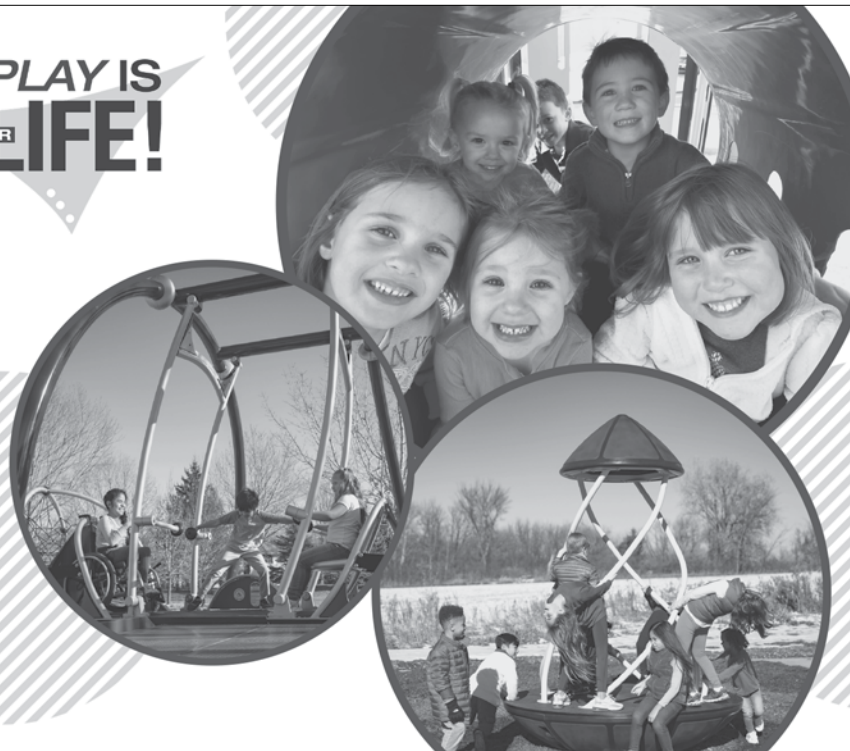
For people who are deaf, have hearing loss or are deaf-blind, this includes providing a qualified sign language interpreter, oral interpreter or captioner to name a few.

The full ADA requirements regarding effective communication can be accessed at the U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division under the disability rights section.

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