

FOCUS

The Official Publication of the North Dakota Recreation and Park Association

Winter 2022

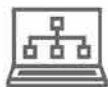




THE NEW TENNIS SERVICE CENTER

Discover tools, resources, education
and training, now in one location.

**We're streamlining resources
to better service you**



Serve Tennis

Digital Tools to manage programs and your business.



Safe Play

USTA's comprehensive athlete safeguarding program, where you become part of a community that ensures athlete well-being.



Curriculum

Extensive educational resource library developed by the USTA and its partners.



Marketing Generator

Free tools to design and customize your own marketing materials.



Facility Assistance

Services that offer assistance with development, technical, advocacy and more.



Tennis Industry United

Access to resources focused on financial assistance and relief.

Learn more at usta.com/tennisservicecenter

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It's hard to believe the holiday season has come and gone.

January is always an exciting time in the world of parks and recreation. For many of us, our winter registrations are in and new leagues are getting set to begin. Our winter outdoor recreation is open and depending on the year, we are hoping for cold temperatures so the outdoor rinks can hold but not too cold that our citizens can't get out and enjoy them. Our indoor rinks are busy from sunup to sundown and for many of us, our rec centers are busy with people set on keeping their New Year's resolutions.

At the Minot Park District, we are nearing the completion of our indoor parks and recreation study. We have been working on the study over the past year and have a plan to unveil our findings for community input early next month. As we all know, public input meetings can be completely unpredictable but also a key component of any planning process. It can be intimidating to put a year's worth of meetings and work on display for the public to come and review. I don't know if intimidating is the right word; maybe downright terrifying is more accurate.

We put a big part of ourselves into our work. For many of us, we use the facilities we work at just as much personally as we do professionally. We



NDRPA President Elly DesLauriers with her family.

are both the employee and the customer. That's what makes us good at our jobs but also makes us sweat just a little bit more when we open it up for public comment.

However intimidating those public forums may be, I do think they can make the difference in what makes a park district good and what makes a park district great. Our citizens all have a different perspective as they all use our parks and our facilities in different ways. They all have their own unique list of components that will improve their quality of life. As park and recreation professionals, it is our goal to provide our community with as many opportunities as we can to improve the quality of life for people of all demographics. It's

a big task, it's a big responsibility, but it's also an amazing opportunity.

Elly DesLauriers, 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.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

MARCH 15-17

Certified Playground Safety Inspector Course (CPSI), Bismarck

APRIL 15

FOCUS Deadline

APRIL 20-21

HR Collaborative Course, Bismarck

SEPT. 13-15

NDRPA State Conference, Minot

CONTENTS

President's Message	3
Mark Your Calendar	3
NDRPA News	5
Commissioner's Corner	6
Park District News	8
Jamestown Parks and Recreation Announces New Leadership	14
NDRPA Awards Highlights	16
The Intangible Values of Master Planning	18
Park Maintenance Crews	20
People on the Move	22

ADVERTISERS

USTA Northern	2
WSB	5
Dakota Playground	7
MTI Distributing	9
The Tessman Company	11
My Turn Playsystems	11
Confluence	12
Cunningham Recreation/GameTime	13
ND State Procurement Office	13
Associated Supply Company, Inc.	14
Boom Concrete	14
ACME Tools	14
Norby Golf Course Design	17
Recreation Supply Company	19
Grondahl Recreation Inc.	19
ND Insurance Reserve Fund	21
R.J. Thomas Manufacturing/Pilot Rock ..	21
My Turn Playsystems	23

**Thank You to our *FOCUS* advertisers.
We appreciate your business!**

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: April 15, 2022

Cover photo: Flurry Fest Winter Photo Contest submission by Nicole Ahmann, Elk Ridge Park, Bismarck Parks and Recreation District

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President Elly DesLauriers

Minot Park District
420 3rd Ave SW
Minot, ND 581701
elly@minotparks.com

Past President Sam Larson-Frobog

Fargo Park District
701 Main Ave
Fargo, ND 58103
slarson-frobog@fargoparks.com

President Elect Mike Orr

Grand Forks Park District
PO Box 12429
Grand Forks, ND 58208-2429
morr@choicehf.com

Secretary/Treasurer Tyler Jacobson

Valley City Parks and Recreation
PO Box 422
Valley City, ND 58072
tylerj@vcparks.com

Public Policy Chair Cole Higlin

Mandan Park District
2600 46th Ave SE
Mandan, ND 58554-4749
chiglin@mandanparks.com

Education Chair Matt Mack

Dickinson Parks and Recreation
2004 Fairway Street
Dickinson, North Dakota 58601
mmack@dickinsonparks.org

Engagement Chair Leah Kelm

West Fargo Park District
601 26th Ave E
West Fargo, ND 58078
leah@wfparks.org

STAFF

Executive Director

Shannon Schutt

PO Box 1091
Bismarck, ND 58502
701-355-4458
ndrpaoffice@gmail.com

FOCUS

DESIGN AND EDITING

Shelly Duppong

and Scooter Pursley

Clearwater Communications

WEBSITE

www.ndrpa.com

NDRPA Offers 2022 Partner Webinars

NDRPA is excited to offer 2022 partner webinars, providing NDRPA members with access to monthly professional development opportunities from the comfort of their home or office.

FRPA Virtual Education

NDRPA is partnering with the Florida Recreation and Park Association (FRPA) to provide webinars from January to May, covering topics from how to work as a strong team to investing in yourself. The cost is \$20 per member per session.



IPRA Skills Development Webinar Series

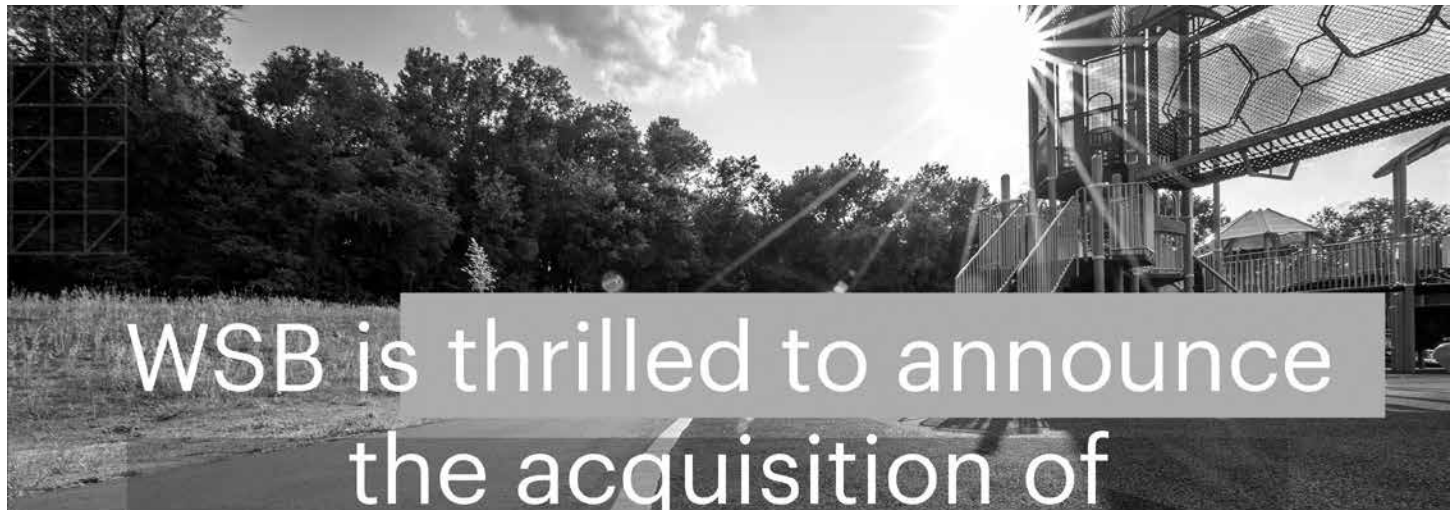
NDRPA has partnered with Illinois Park and Recreation Association (IPRA) to offer the 2022 Skills Development Webinar Series, featuring nationally known speakers and leaders in the field of parks and recreation. The series includes a live webinar each month from February through December and access to the previously recorded webinars for 2022. CEUs are available. Group participation and interaction is highly encouraged. The cost is \$275 for NDRPA members. The registration deadline is Oct. 29.



Registration and schedule details for both webinar series are available on the NDRPA website at www.ndrpa.com.

Renew Your NDRPA Membership

Don't forget to renew your membership so NDRPA is able to continue its work to advance parks, recreation and conservation for an enhanced quality of life in North Dakota. NDRPA membership investments cover a calendar year. The renewal deadline is Jan. 31. Call 701-355-4458 or email NDRPA at ndpraoffice@gmail.com with questions.



WSB is thrilled to announce the acquisition of Peaks to Plains Design

We look forward to shaping the future with our clients throughout North Dakota, one park, field, trail, or playground project at a time.

More is possible when we work together.



Forge ahead.
wsbeng.com

COMMISSIONER'S CORNER

Justin Johnsrud – Watford City Park Board



Justin Johnsrud

Watford City School Board.

A dozen years ago, Johnsrud realized it was his turn.

"I was born and raised in Watford City, as was most of my family. Many of them had held public positions or served on various boards throughout their lives," Johnsrud said. "Watford City was still a small town when I joined the park board, and the idea to get involved and give back to the community I grew up in seemed like the right thing to do. Pride in our community and our community's willingness to jump in and help out are what make Watford City a great place to live."

In 2010, at the height of the Bakken oil boom, Johnsrud was elected to the park board. A park district employee in high school in the 1990s, Johnsrud saw the changes happening all around him as people flocked to the city and recreational needs exploded.

"The growth in our area has been a big change,

and the learning curve was a challenge," Johnsrud said.

When he first joined the board, the district had one full-time and a dozen seasonal employees during the summer months. The district now has 20 full-time and 30 to 50 year-round part-time employees.

Many of those positions are necessary to run the new Rough Rider Center (RRC), a 268,000-square-foot multipurpose facility with sports courts, fields, swimming pool, and convention center.



"The management of a \$100 million facility like the RRC has been the most challenging. It is a facility unlike any other, so there was no one to call and pull advice on what had been done or worked or didn't work. Having a facility that has hosted a hockey tournament, basketball games,

concert, wedding receptions, vendor shows, and a banquet all on the same Saturday is a great enhancement to our community."

In addition, the district has added more walking trails, a dog park, the Kent Pelton Nature Park, softball complex, and two football/soccer fields. The McKenzie County Veterans Park also is nearing completion.

Johnsrud lists winter indoor mini-golf, a cooperative effort between the park district and area businesses, the summer



farmer's market and fall's haunted house as his favorite events.

Not one to shy away from challenges, Johnsrud, a teacher at Watford City High School, also accepted the football coach position in 2013, replacing state football legend Fred Fridley, who retired after 42 years.

"I enjoy watching and attending sporting events. ... Football and baseball take up most of the rest of my time," Johnsrud said.

Johnsrud said membership in the NDRPA benefits everyone. "The connections made are the biggest benefit of the NDRPA," he explained. "Board members, as well as park district staff, have an excellent opportunity to make connections all across the state and sometimes beyond state borders.



Those connections facilitate the exchange of ideas, enhancement of programs and offerings, and the improvement of park district operations for whoever chooses to participate."

Your top provider of commercial playgrounds for 50 years



Park & Play

USA

sales@parkandplayusa.com

844-261-2942

parkandplayusa.com



Dakota Playground

sales@dakotaplayground.com

844-599-0757

dakotaplayground.com

Your place for site amenities and sports equipment

PARK DISTRICT NEWS

Agreement Reached on Mandan Tennis Center

Mandan Parks and Recreation has entered into a 15-year agreement with Mandan Tennis Center LLC to construct a tennis facility. The 41,600-square-foot facility will feature six tennis courts inside the dome. Three of the courts will be multi-striped to allow for 10 pickleball courts. Outside the dome, there will be a 3,000-square-foot welcome center and four outdoor pickleball courts.

The facility will serve a growing need in the Mandan community for tennis and pickleball and will be available to boys' and girls' tennis teams and summer parks and recreation programs. Free court space will also be set aside each week for first responders and active military.

The dome will have the potential to host regional and state high school tournaments, college matches, USTA-sanctioned tournaments, and USAPA-sanctioned tournaments. The dome also will allow for tennis and pickleball lessons and leagues to be played in the fall, winter and spring months. It will be Mandan's first indoor tennis facility.

Photos are samples. Actual layout and manufacture will be determined in the bid process.



Scheels Donates \$250,000 to Scheels Complex at South Hill

Scheels has donated \$250,000 to the Scheels Complex at South Hill in Minot. Projects at the Scheels Complex include completely renovated restrooms, concession stand, locker rooms, and safety netting. The project is beneficial not only to the athletes that call Scheels Complex home but also to the many spectators, fans and visitors that enjoy the complex.

"We are grateful to Scheels for their support of this project and continued support of our community," said Ron Merritt, executive director of the Minot Park District. "The Scheels Complex welcomes thousands of visitors every year. These renovations will allow for a better and safer experience for players, coaches and fans. The newly upgraded complex will also give Minot the opportunity to host more tournaments, increasing the economic impact to our community."

The Scheels Complex is home to Magic City, Minot High and Bishop Ryan girls' and Minot State women's fastpitch softball. The Scheels Complex also is used by more than 500 participants in Minot Park District baseball and T-ball leagues throughout the summer. Additionally, the



Dream Catchers adaptive field for people of all ages and abilities is located at the South Hill complex.

In a recent economic impact study of recreation facilities completed by Stai, Bertsch and Ondracek for the Minot Park District, it was estimated that Minot's baseball/softball complexes welcomed more than 105,000 visitors in 2019 and had an economic impact of \$5,006,866.





CALL US TODAY AT 888-537-2488

READY FOR SPRING?

**TAKE CONTROL OF YOUR
IRRIGATION WITH
RAIN BIRD'S
IQ PLATFORM**



**TRADITIONAL AND 2 WIRE
CONTROLLERS WITH CLOUD
BASED COMMUNICATIONS**

RAIN BIRD

**DESIGNED AND TESTED
FOR RELIABILITY**



**TORO
T7 SERIES ROTORS
BUILT TO WITHSTAND
HARSH CONDITIONS**

TORO®

State Parks Continuing 12-Month Hiking Challenge

Outdoor enthusiasts looking for an activity to do throughout 2022 should consider participating in the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department's 12 Months-12 Hikes Challenge, which kicked off on Jan. 1. Participants are challenged to hike one North Dakota state park trail each month as part of the statewide challenge. Those who complete 12 hikes by the end of the year earn a collectible 12 Months-12 Hikes medal and have a chance to win a prize.

"We are excited to provide interesting and

exhilarating opportunities for outdoor recreation activities that can be enjoyed year-round, such as the 12 Months-12 Hikes Challenge," North Dakota Parks and Recreation Director Cody Schulz said. "We look forward to sharing another great year with our new and returning park visitors."

This year's challenge includes some exciting enhancements, including month-long hiking periods, additional participating state parks, an easier check-in process, and registration open to all ages. Participants can choose to complete their hikes on any of the 21 qualifying trails across 13 state parks. The challenge also offers three bonus hiking trails to make up for any months missed. Full details and official rules can be found at parkrec.nd.gov/challenges.

All North Dakota state park users are subject to entrance fees in the amount of \$7 per vehicle. Park users can also purchase a 2022 annual permit for \$35 or family permit for \$55. Permits can be purchased at the parks or online at parkrec.nd.gov.



Update on Fargo Park District's Sports Complex Project

In January, the Fargo Park District Board reviewed and awarded bids for the Fargo Parks Sports Complex Project. Project construction manager McGough Construction split the project into 34 bid packages and received 95 bids from subcontractors. Bid prices came back favorable and below base estimates.

The park board unanimously approved the \$77.7 million project and authorized administration to work with the construction manager to award contracts and proceed with the project.

The park board also directed the staff to publicly bid for special inspections/testing for the project. Funds for the inspector are accounted for in the total cost. According to code, a qualified inspector must be named to perform special inspections and testing for the project before a targeted groundbreaking in the spring of 2022.

The Fargo Park District's vision is for a destination facility with indoor space for more than 13,000 local kids and 20 local community organizations to use regularly. The Fargo Parks Sports Complex has potential for many types of events and programs. The facility is expected to attract more than 600,000 visitors annually and host more than 40 community events.





FARGO, ND
(701) 232-7238

ST. PAUL
(651) 487-3850

TEA, SD
(605) 368-2586

LANDSCAPE • GREENHOUSE • LAWN CARE • TURF • WINTER EQUIPMENT



CONTACT US FOR A FREE QUOTE

855-268-7529



A PLAYCORE Company



info@myturnplaysystems.com • www.myturnplaysystems.com

PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT • ENGINEERED WOOD FIBER • BASKETBALL SYSTEMS • SHELTERS • SITE AMENITIES

Fargo Broadway Square Awarded a Broadway Monument Award

In November 2021, the Fargo Park District's Broadway Square was awarded a Downtown Community Partnerships 2021 Broadway Monument Award in recognition of the significant impact Broadway Square has made on downtown Fargo.

Monument Awards are presented annually to community members and organizations demonstrating outstanding service to Downtown Fargo through the giving of time, talents and resources to further the goals and objectives of the Downtown Community Partnership.

The Fargo Park District, Block 9 Partners (RDO Equipment Co. and Kilbourne Group) and the City of Fargo have shaped Broadway Square as the community hub recognized today. The park district has brought the community together and grown Broadway Square through consistent programming and events across all seasons.



Launched in December 2020, Broadway Square is a four-season outdoor gathering space that celebrates and creates space for the community, diverse voices, collaboration, conversations, storytelling, experiences, and new ideas.

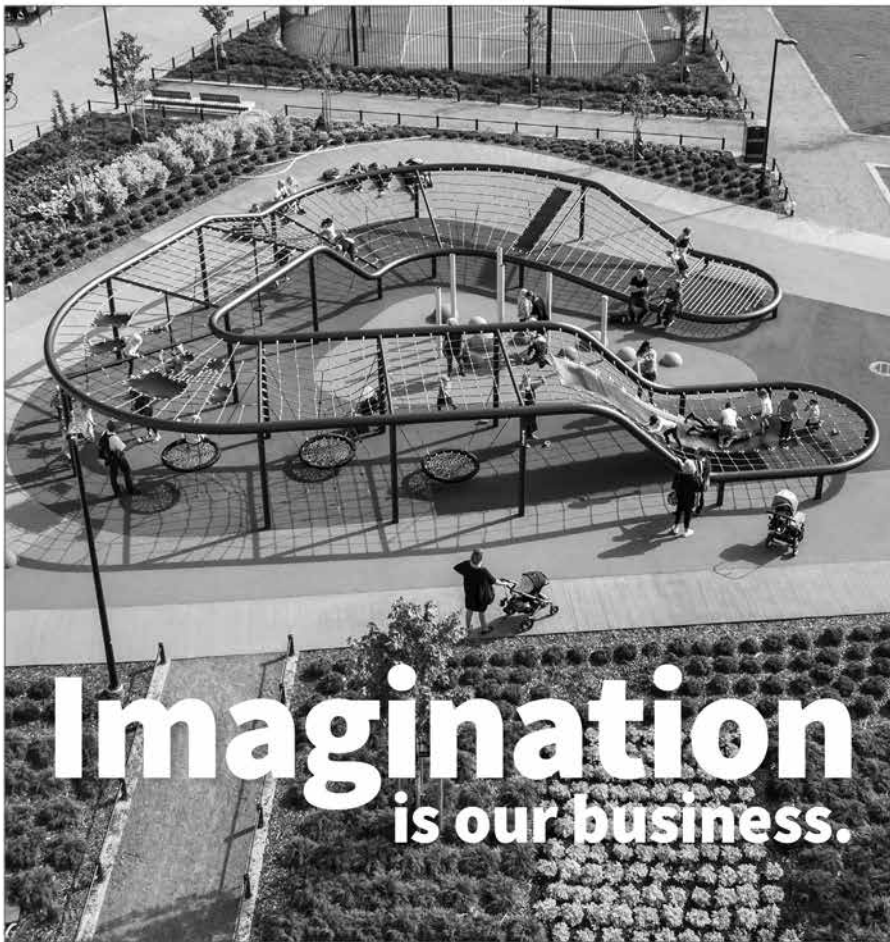


CONFLUENCE

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | PLANNING | URBAN DESIGN

CEDAR RAPIDS | CHICAGO | DENVER | DES MOINES | FARGO | KANSAS CITY | MINNEAPOLIS | OMAHA | SIOUX FALLS

www.thinkconfluence.com



We are much more than the traditional post and platform playgrounds your grandfather played on. From design to installation, our team of experts can help you create the perfect play and recreation space. If imagination is our business — *imagine what we can do for you.*



800.438.2780 | cunninghamrec.com

THE STATE CAN HELP YOU AFFORD WHAT YOU NEED.

SAVE TIME & MONEY WITH
STATE COOPERATIVE
PURCHASING CONTRACTS!



Computers • Copiers/Multifunctional Devices • Software • Vehicles • Paper & Paper Products
Janitorial Products & Trash Bags • Batteries • Food • IT Consulting • Government Credit Card

NORTH
Dakota
Be Legendary.™

Procurement
MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

701.328.2740 • INFOSPO@ND.GOV
OMB.ND.GOV/COOPERATIVEPURCHASING

Jamestown Parks and Recreation Announces New Leadership

Amy Walters, Executive Director

Former Two Rivers Activity Center (TRAC) Facility Manager Amy Walters has been selected as executive director of the Jamestown Parks and



Recreation District. Walters assumed her duties on Dec. 1.

By starting in her new position on Dec. 1, Walters was able to work with Doug Hogan for a month before his official retirement date of Dec. 31. Hogan had led the department since 1998 before announcing his

impending retirement in August.

"Doug has been there for a long time, and he has a lot of institutional knowledge," Parks and Recreation Commission Chair Mindi Schmitz said. "This worked out perfectly."

"I think it is going to be great for the future of Jamestown Park and Recreation," Schmitz added. "Amy's commitment to the community has been proven over and over again. She is ready to hit the ground running, and we are really excited about it."

Walters, who began her career with Jamestown Parks and Recreation at TRAC in 2016, will oversee five departments employing 158 employees, 58 of which are full-time. She said the department will analyze all resources available to the park district, and the next step is to have conversations with parks and recreation user groups and stakeholders.

"I feel like we can't start moving forward until we take some time to really review what we currently have," Walters said.

Hogan said Walters has been successful at writing grants, and her grant-writing ability is an asset for Jamestown Parks and Recreation. He said Walters has helped secure over \$1 million in grant funding for the park district.

"I'm really honored to have the opportunity to serve the community of Jamestown and work to provide a high-quality product for our community," Walters said.

Jamestown Parks and Recreation Commissioner Ron Olson had praise for Walters, saying she will go above and beyond with her duties. "She will do 110

percent," he said. "That's just the way Amy is. She is a go-getter. I think Jamestown Parks and Recreation will move forward with her in the driver seat."

Boya Quichocho, TRAC Facility Manager

Boya Quichocho, former TRAC wellness program supervisor, has been promoted to TRAC facility manager.



"Boya has been a key part of our success, and we were thrilled to promote him to this position," Walters said.

Quichocho joined TRAC in 2018 and quickly became an asset to the team. In his position as the wellness program supervisor, he managed

the wellness department, which includes group fitness and personal training. Quichocho also kicked off the ELITE Athletic Enhancement Program that has become a staple in the community.

"I am so thankful for the opportunity to serve as the new facility manager at TRAC," Quichocho said. "I look forward to leading such a great group of individuals and continuing to provide high quality wellness programs for the Jamestown community."

TRAC is a state-of-the-art recreation center designed to support health and wellness for all ages. It was the recipient of the 2019 NDRPA Golden Egg Award.



BOOM CONCRETE

PO Box 437
Newell, SD 57760
605-456-2600
www.boomcon.com
Email: concrete@boomcon.com

Various Landscape & Precast Products Available

Clovermist Vault Toilets
Benches
Bird Baths
Cisterns
Garbage Cans
Fuel Containment Tanks
Retaining Walls
Septic Tanks
Stock Tanks
Storm Shelters
Call for a Complete List
Products & Prices



Clovermist Standard



Clovermist Double



Clovermist Plus



Associated Pool Builders, Inc.

For All Your Pool Building Needs...

2121 Lovett Avenue - PO Box 2318
Bismarck, North Dakota 58504

Phone: (701) 258-6012 - Fax: (701) 224-9729
Visit us @ www.associatedpool.com



For All Your Pool Supply Needs...

2121 Lovett Avenue - PO Box 2318
Bismarck, North Dakota 58504

Phone: (701) 258-7302 - Fax: (701) 224-9729

SINCE 1948



ACME TOOLS®

BUILDING • REMODELING • WOODWORKING • LANDSCAPING™

DO YOUR BEST WORK™

GRAND FORKS

1705 13th Ave. N
701-746-6481

BISMARCK

3840 E Rosser Ave.
701-258-1267

FARGO

920 36th St. SW
701-476-4600

MINOT

700 20th Ave. SE
701-839-2263

WILLISTON

4960 Hwy. 85
701-577-2263

Mon - Fri: 7:00 - 5:30

Sat: 8:00 - 5:30
(2:00 Williston)

10 Locations To Serve You in ND, MN and IA

QUALITY • SERVICE • SELECTION • VALUE

COLD WEATHER SOLUTION EXPERTS



— Power — Heaters — Clothing — Snow Removal

NDRPA Awards Highlights

Tyler Jacobson, Valley City Parks and Recreation director, and Mike Wald, Bismarck Parks and Recreation District programs and facilities director, were presented with **Distinguished Professional Awards** at the 2021 annual NDRPA awards banquet.

The award recognizes professional members of NDRPA and NRPA with more than 10 years of experience. Recipients must exhibit leadership through involvement in local organizations, state or regional associations, committees, special projects, or any other community involvement; achieved accomplishments, including awards, commendations, honors, and advancement through their work in parks and recreation; made significant contributions to the park, recreation and leisure field through research, advocacy, community efforts, and public relations; or any contributions to the profession which has affected the philosophy or practice of parks and recreation.

Tyler Jacobson

In 1993, Tyler Jacobson received his bachelor of science in recreation and leisure services from the University of North Dakota (UND). The following year, he joined the UND Recreation and Leisure Services and Advisory Committee and became director of Casselton Park District. In 1997, the Casselton Business Association awarded him the Community Service Award and he was the recipient of the NDRPA Outstanding Young Professional Award. He also became a Certified Parks and Recreation Professional that same year.

In 2001, Tyler became director at Valley City Parks and Recreation where his responsibilities include managing the full-time staff of municipal parks, recreation programs, golf courses, swimming pools, athletic fields, and building complexes. He also provides public relations for the district.

Jacobson drew up the idea for the Gaukler Family Wellness Center, a facility that would add value to the park district, city, university, and overall community of Valley City, on a napkin. Within a few years, his idea went from a napkin concept to a tangible plan that he led as construction manager. To accomplish the project, Jacobson formed partnerships with the Sheyenne Valley Community Foundation, Valley City State University (VCSU), Dacotah Bank, and other nonprofits and government agencies. He led fundraising, grant and sales tax initiatives to raise the money needed for the \$16 million project

and collaborated with many partners to open the Wellness Center in 2016. In 2017, the Wellness Center was the NDRPA Golden Egg Award recipient.

Jacobson has also served on the Barnes

County United Way Board; been president of the Youth Sports Complex; an instructor and member of the VCSU Kinesiology and Human Performance Advisory Committee; and a member of the Valley City Image and Beautification Committee, Valley City Public Schools Nutrition Advisory Board, Barnes County on the Move Board, and Valley City Grant Writers Round Table. He has received the Valley City Optimist Club's Community Service Award, Valley City Chamber of Commerce

Community Spirit Award and Valley City Chamber of Commerce Hi-Line Award.

Jacobson has held various NDRPA leadership roles, including membership chair, president elect, president, and past president. He is currently serving as the secretary/treasurer and chair of the NDRPA Park Board Manual Taskforce. He also actively attends the NDRPA and NRPA conferences each year. Congratulations to Jacobson on receiving the NDRPA Distinguished Professional Award.



Mike Wald

Mike Wald has spent his entire professional career with the Bismarck Parks and Recreation District, starting as a part-time seasonal employee in 1984 in park shop maintenance and working his way up to his current position of programs and facilities director.

After earning his bachelor's degree in physical education and health from the University of Mary, Wald worked in arenas and pool maintenance. Throughout his career, he has been the facility manager for the Bismarck Community Bowl, Fore Seasons Center, Capital Racquet and Fitness Center, and BSC Aquatic and Wellness Center. He also worked as a recreation manager for several years, which included dealing with FEMA on flood issues.

Wald is knowledgeable about overall park district operations and always lends a hand to help others. He also prioritizes continuous learning and teaching. He is a certified pool/spa operator and a Certified Park and Recreation Professional and has been a member of two Bismarck Parks and Recreation accreditation teams.

Wald is the go-to person for the park district's AED program, ensuring staff are trained in using the equipment to respond to a crisis. He has worked with

the Bismarck and Mandan Fire Departments, Metro Ambulance and North Dakota Safety Council for several years to identify AED locations throughout the community. Currently, the local group utilizes an app called Pulse Point to mark public locations where AEDs are available. Wald ensures the park district's 30 current AED locations are uploaded to the app and facilitates the efforts to expand the number of AEDs in the park district's facilities.

Wald has been a part of numerous tournament committees, including U.S. Paralympics swimming events, national softball championships and state amateur basketball tournaments. In addition, he was the local organizing director for two Prairie Rose State Games. He currently serves on the NDRPA Revenue Committee and has been a member of past conference

committees.

In addition to his parks and recreation duties, Wald also coached the Century High School hockey and amateur hockey teams. He has also been involved with the North Dakota Amateur Hockey Association and USA Hockey. Congratulations to Wald on his receipt of the NDRPA Distinguished Professional Award.



NORBY GOLF COURSE DESIGN



Phone: (952)361.0644

Email: kevin@norbygolf.com web: www.NorbyGolfDesign.com

The Intangible Values of Master Planning

Jolene Rieck, PLA

Director of Landscape Architecture West Region, WSB

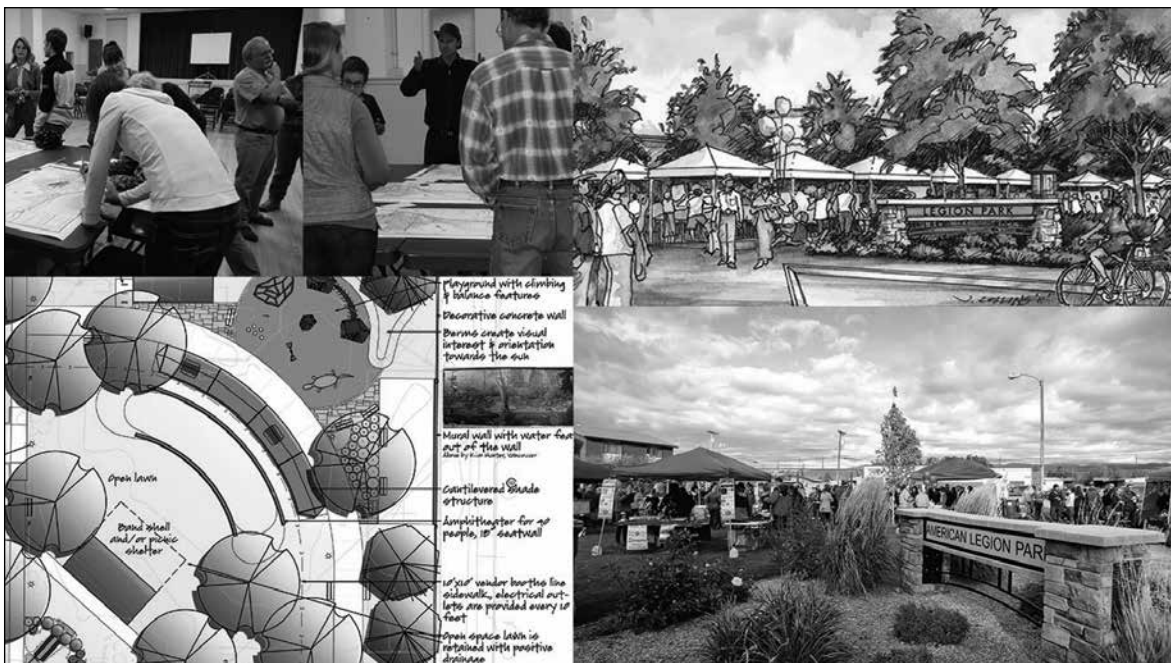
The author of *The Art of War*, Sun Tzu, is quoted as saying, “Strategy without tactics is the slowest route to victory. Tactics without strategy is the noise before defeat.” The quote originated in the 6th century BC, but the wisdom can be applied to many modern endeavors. It is easy to dismiss the need for planning because the outcome of a plan usually lacks a tangible outcome. But even in today’s materialistic society, leaders who take the time to plan before execution will achieve their goals faster and with the clarity that your team and constituents deserve. The following five reasons are why you should invest in master planning:

1. Engagement. Planning is a collaborative way to engage and connect with your constituents. People create a sense of ownership and pride when genuinely asked about their opinions. Invite diverse perspectives to the table, including those who may not be in favor of your goal. By eliminating the curtain on “the government” or “the (faceless) man” and interacting with your constituency, you create social entrepreneurs who will become your most effective advocates.

2. Momentum. Dreaming of “what can be” is energizing and uplifting. Appreciative planning

starts from a strengths-based perspective of focusing on things that are going right and using that momentum as a springboard to your desired future state. A well-facilitated planning process can get you past the airing of the grievances and focus on what you really need: a shared vision of what good looks like and a roadmap to get there.

3. Vision. If you can visualize it, you can achieve it. Spend time defining the purpose and desired outcomes. Often people have a gut instinct of what they want or is needed but fall short of being able to articulate that feeling to others. A professional planner listens to all the feedback, eliminates the noise, focuses on the key themes, and clarifies the need. The vision is often expressed in words and imagery – the simpler the better.



American Legion Park, Hamilton, Mont., was able to quickly move from concept to built product based upon a shared vision developed from a master plan process. The park is now the focal point of several community events and increased pride and continued momentum in the revitalization of the community’s downtown.

4. Accountability. An outcome from planning is that it creates an expectation – a promise to deliver. Continued momentum and credibility are outcomes of a successful plan. Failure to deliver contributes to apathy. A vision that is realistic and achievable creates a sense of shared purpose that empowers people. A plan that includes tactical objectives creates accountability for people, policies and processes. Include measurements of success or key performance indicators (KPIs) to track implementation.

5. Growth from Experience. Use the master plan as the litmus to identify blind spots and learn from them. Reserve the right as the gatekeeper to course-correct the plan when unexpected influences appear, but use professional judgment when deciding on the power of the influence. Spend time at the conclusion of the planning process to review and note what went well (and use it again). Finally, celebrate early and often the accomplishments that are tied to the plan. This demonstrates the intangible value in the time and funding spent to create the plan.



RecSupply.com

The Commercial Pool Supply Specialists!™



LOCATED IN BISMARCK!

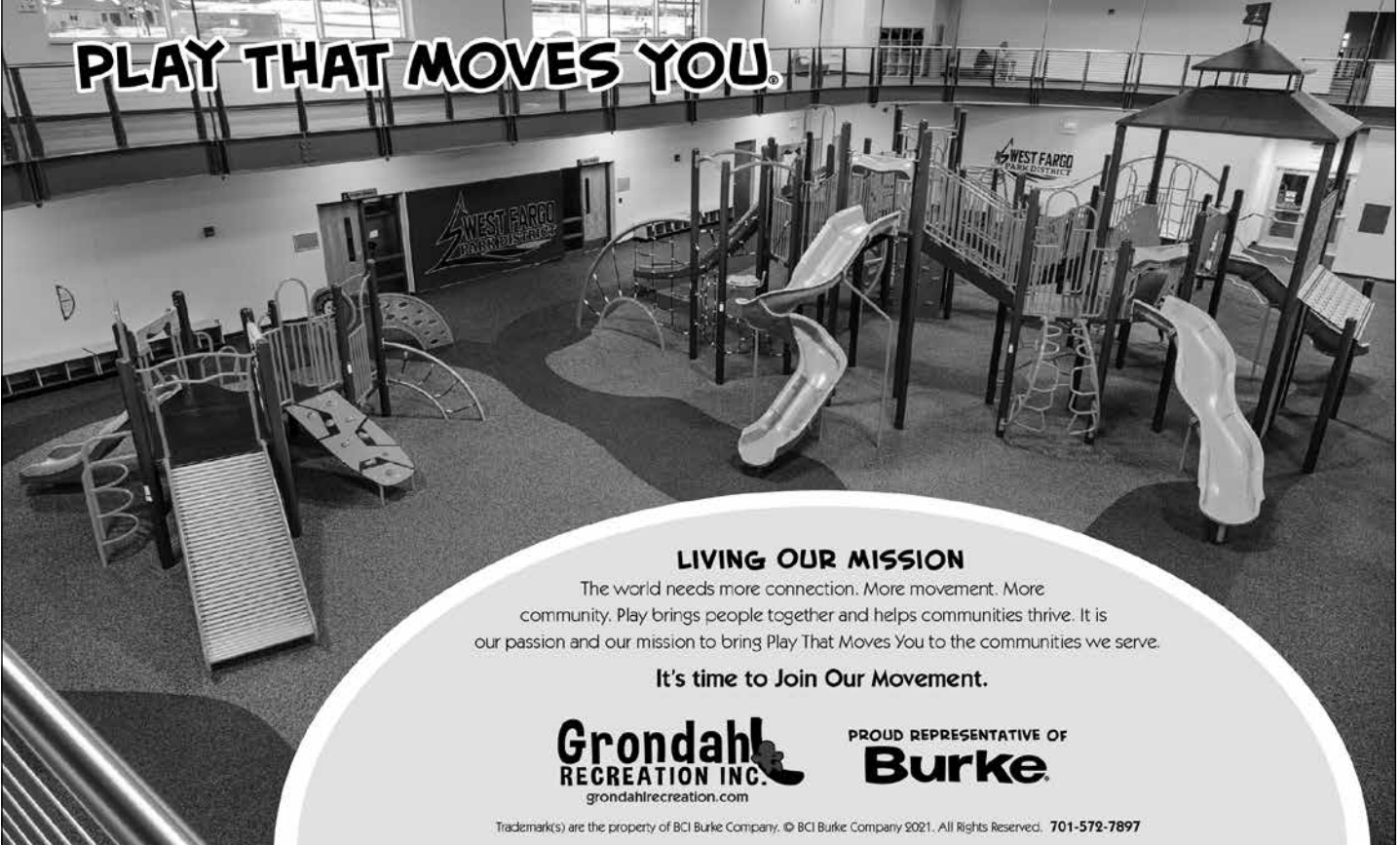
**Chemicals & Testing • Pool Paint & Repair • Safety & Rescue
Cleanup & Maintenance • Aquatic Fitness • Deck Equipment**

FREE SHIPPING ON QUALIFYING ORDERS OF \$100 OR MORE!

Request a catalog or shop online!

1.800.437.8072 • www.recsupply.com

Recreation Supply Company • 515 Airport Rd • Bismarck ND 58504




PLAY THAT MOVES YOU.®

LIVING OUR MISSION

The world needs more connection. More movement. More community. Play brings people together and helps communities thrive. It is our passion and our mission to bring Play That Moves You to the communities we serve.

It's time to Join Our Movement.



grondahlrecreation.com

PROUD REPRESENTATIVE OF

Burke.

Trademark(s) are the property of BCI Burke Company. © BCI Burke Company 2021. All Rights Reserved. 701-572-7897

Park Maintenance Crews

Unsung heroes keep the motors running, facilities open in all weather

*Josh Mathern, Park Operations Manager
West Fargo Park District*

As weather conditions get cold, many of us are happy to do some planning for spring and work in our office. At the same time, there are park maintenance crews out there with the dedication to keep winter operations running smoothly. Their work continues through blizzard warnings, winter storm watches, wind chills, and extreme cold warnings.

There are many things that become more challenging when the weather gets cold. Like many of our own bodies, equipment also gets a little slower and stiff in the cold conditions. Vehicles need more time to warm up so they can operate correctly. Many maintenance vehicles run on diesel fuel, which, unlike gasoline, turns to a butter-like gel in extreme cold. These vehicles often run continuously to keep the fuel warm, which is more efficient than trying to restart a cold vehicle. Hydraulic fluid also gets very thick and needs to stay warm to operate correctly. This affects garbage trucks, tractors, loaders, skid steers, and plows.

While administrators are considering whether or not conditions are bad enough to close facilities, park maintenance crews are already at work clearing a path for others. Across the state, throughout parks and facilities, there are hundreds of miles of trails and walks that the public relies on to get to work and school and for recreation.

Equipment, machines, lights, buildings, and other infrastructure are more difficult to maintain in the cold and damage can happen. When it does, park maintenance crews work out in the conditions to ensure equipment is back up and running so they can keep trails open, rink lights on, programs running, and facilities open.

Take some time to thank your park maintenance crews for making sure our parks, facilities and programs keep running in all weather.



Pilot Rock®

**PARK • STREET • CAMP
SITE PRODUCTS**

Across our different product lines we offer hundreds of choices in style, size, features, materials and colors.

Commercial quality products able to withstand years of use and exposure.

Made in the USA since 1959.

RJ Thomas Mfg. Co., Inc.
Cherokee, Iowa
800-762-5002
www.pilotrock.com
customerservice@rjthomas.com



**For North Dakota.
For Local Government.
For You.**

NDIRF NORTH DAKOTA
INSURANCE
RESERVE FUND

www.NDIRF.com • (701) 224-1988

PEOPLE ON THE MOVE



Jason Avramis has joined the Grand Forks Park District as an assistant golf course superintendent/facility assistant for Lincoln Golf Course during the summer/fall months and ICON Sports Center for the winter months. Avramis has experience at Pinehurst in North Carolina and years of turf management knowledge.



Matt Brandvold is the new pro shop manager at Bjornson Municipal Golf Course and the special events coordinator for Valley City Parks and Recreation (VCPR). A native of Valley City, Brandvold graduated from Valley City State University in 2021 with a bachelor's degree in exercise science, sports management. He has been with VCPR since starting out as an intern in the fall of 2019.



Adam Chaussee joined the Bismarck Parks and Recreation District (BPRD) team as a facilities specialist at Fore Seasons Center and Pebble Creek Golf Course in November. He grew up in Bismarck and earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Mary. His prior work experience includes teaching at Rugby High School, working for BPRD at Riverwood Golf Course and teaching golf lessons. Chaussee was the golf coach for St. Mary's Central High School this past fall. In his free time, he enjoys watching and participating in sports, particularly golf.



Amy Flynn has joined Grand Forks Park District as Choice Health and Fitness' customer service coordinator. The Hibbing, Minn., native has worked part-time for Choice for the past eight years. Flynn manages the functions of the customer service desk and assists with information management and

dissemination related to all programs and department services within the facility and for members.



Tatiana Friese has joined the Fargo Park District as an events supervisor. She recently graduated from North Dakota State University majoring in hospitality and tourism management with a minor in business administration. She has been working with Fargo Parks since the summer of 2021 as a part-time events coordinator. Friese enjoys hanging out with friends, playing with her cat, photography, and arts and crafts.



Chris Larson was named head golf professional at Fargo Park District's Osgood Public Golf Course in November. Larson has more than 20 years of golf experience as an instructor and administrator. He is a 2005 graduate of Kansas State University where he earned his golf course management degree. He was elected to Class A PGA membership in 2013 and is an active member of the Dakota Chapter PGA. He also sits on the board for The P4 Junior Golf Foundation. Larson is a proud north Fargo native, where he resides with his family of four. He and his wife, Crystal, have two daughters.



Danny Mattson has been hired by the Grand Forks Park District as the new facility assistant supervisor for ICON Sports Center and the Altru Wellness Village, where he plays a crucial role in the maintenance and upkeep of the facilities. Mattson is originally from Warren, Minn., and a graduate of North Dakota State University.

Michael Snelgrove joined the Fargo Park District maintenance team in September. In his free time, Snelgrove enjoys spending time outdoors, hunting and fishing.



Dylan Thiem, CPRP, was hired as Bismarck Parks and Recreation District (BPRD) facilities manager for ice arenas and outdoor pools in November. He has worked for BPRD since 2012 and has had the opportunity to help open several new and renovated facilities

while at the park district, including the Hillside Aquatic Complex and the Capital Ice Complex. Thiem earned his bachelor's degree in recreation and sports management from St. Cloud State University in Minnesota. He enjoys ice fishing and spending time with his wife, Steph, and his dog, Murphy.



Mike Wald, CPRP, was hired as programs and facilities director at Bismarck Parks and Recreation District (BPRD) in October. He has spent his entire professional career with BPRD, serving in a variety of positions, including facility manager and

recreation manager. He received the 2021 NDRPA Distinguished Professional Award. Wald earned his bachelor's degree in physical education and health from the University of Mary. He enjoys spending time with his friends and family and especially his twin granddaughters, Layla and Cecilia.



Brent Weber has been hired by the Mandan Park District as a golf professional for Prairie West and Mandan Municipal golf courses. His start date was Dec. 1. Weber grew up in Bismarck and was active in golf and the Century High School student newspaper.

He attended St. Cloud State University and earned a bachelor's degree in recreation and sports management. He recently worked at Pebble Creek Golf Course and Fore Seasons Center in Bismarck as a facility specialist. Brent is active in golf, softball and basketball.

IS YOUR PLAYGROUND COMPLIANT?

IPEMA REQUIRES THAT ENGINEERED WOOD FIBER MUST BE INSTALLED AT A COMPACTED DEPTH OF **12"**



CONTACT US FOR A FREE QUOTE:
MY TURN PLAYSYSTEMS
855-268-PLAY

info@myturnplaysystems.com



FLEX FIBER

ENGINEERED WOOD FIBER

- ✓ 12' FALL HEIGHT
- ✓ IPEMA CERTIFIED (ASTM 1292 & 2075)
- ✓ ADA COMPLIANT (ASTM 1951)
- ✓ SHIPPED LOCALLY (reduced freight costs)
- ✓ HIGH IMPACT ABSORBING and ECONOMICAL

www.myturnplaysystems.com



FOCUS

PO Box 1091
Bismarck, ND 58502

PRESORTED
STANDARD
US POSTAGE
PAID
BISMARCK, ND
PERMIT 256



North Dakota
RECREATION
AND **PARK ASSOCIATION**
2022 STATE CONFERENCE

MINOT, NORTH DAKOTA
SEPTEMBER 13-15, 2022

do what you can
with what you have
WHERE YOU ARE.

Theodore Roosevelt

