

# 2023

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## NDRPA Annual Report

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

# YEAR IN REVIEW

NDRPA was actively engaged in the **2023 State Legislative Session**.

The association worked successfully to pass legislation to include grant opportunities for local park districts in North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department (NDPRD) appropriations, add infrastructure projects for recreation and community facilities to the list for qualifying loans under the Infrastructure Revolving Loan Fund, and require increased penalties for drug offenses within 300 feet of a public park. NDRPA filled Memorial Hall with exhibits showcasing the value and benefits of parks and recreation in February during **Parks Day at the Capitol**, held in partnership with NDPRD.

NDRPA offered **virtual education** to members in partnerships with Florida Recreation and Park Association who held webinars January through May, and with Illinois Park and Recreation Association who hosted the Skills Webinar Series and CPRP and CPRE exam preparation courses.

NDRPA launched a **Cohort/Peer Mentor Program** in efforts to better connect park and recreation professionals across the state to share resources and knowledge. The program includes info-share workshops hosted by volunteer park districts sharing staff expertise on a particular topic and quarterly cohort meetings led by member volunteers to facilitate discussions.

The **Certified Playground Safety Inspector Course** was held for the 21st year on March 21-23 in Bismarck. The North Dakota Insurance Reserve Fund (NDIRF) and North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department (NDPRD) sponsored the training.

The annual **state conference** with the theme “Rockstar Leadership” was hosted by Grand Forks Park District in September.

Karen Assel was inducted into the **NDRPA Hall of Fame**, the association’s highest honor. The following **NDRPA awards** were also presented: Outstanding Young Professional – Dylan Thiem, Bismarck Parks and Recreation District; Golden Egg – Dale Pahlke Arena at Dakota Community Bank & Trust Rodeo Grounds, Mandan Park District; Partnership Award – City of Bismarck and Bismarck Public School District; Innovative Programming – Stay Active and Independent for Life (SAIL) Program, West Fargo Park District.

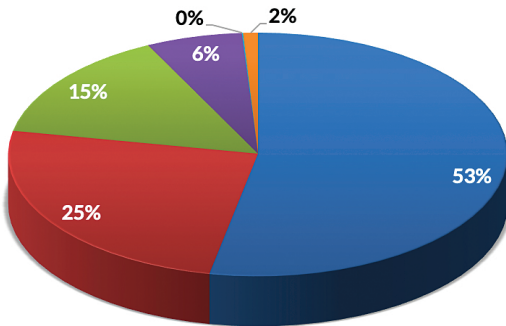
NDRPA continued its **publications**, the monthly electronic *NDRPA eUpdate* and quarterly magazine *FOCUS*.

# MEMBERSHIP

MEMBERSHIP TYPE	2023
Agencies .....	64
Professionals .....	502
Board Members.....	317
Allied Organizations .....	7
Allied Individuals .....	2
Universities/Colleges .....	2
Students .....	0
Lifetime.....	14
Commercial.....	12
<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>920</b>

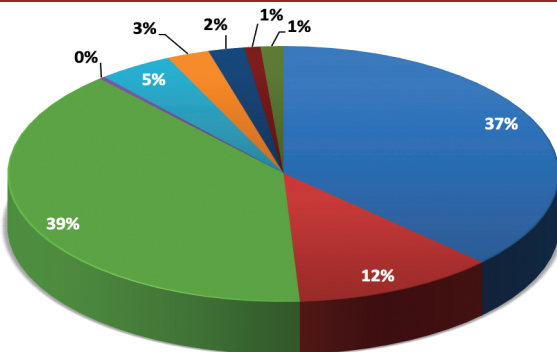


# FINANCIALS



## REVENUE \$133,739

- State Conference
- Membership
- CPSI Course
- Publication Advertising & fees
- Workshops & Meetings
- Special Projects & Misc



## EXPENSES \$142,233

- Executive Director Services
- CPSI Course
- State Conference
- Workshops & Meetings
- Publications
- Office & General
- Awards & Scholarships
- Special Projects

# LEADERSHIP 2022-2023

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mike Orr, President  
Elly DesLauriers, Past President  
Mike Wald, President Elect  
Ashley Martinson, Secretary/Treasurer  
Cole Higlin, Public Policy Chair  
Dylan Thiem, Engagement Chair  
Amy Walters, Education Chair

## COUNCILS, COMMITTEES AND LIAISONS

Hall of Fame Council: Randy Bina, Chair

Conference Committee, Grand Forks Park District:

- Caitlin Dahl
- Catie Trontvet
- Jenelle Swenberger
- Jill Nelson
- Wesley Colborn

North Dakota Community Forestry Council: Dave Leker

North Dakota Missouri River Advisory Council: Cole Higlin

North Dakota Outdoor Heritage Fund Advisory Board: Tyler Jacobson



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