



# NDRPA Annual Report 2025

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

## YEAR IN REVIEW

NDRPA was actively engaged in the 2025 **State Legislative Session**, successfully advancing several priorities for park districts. Key outcomes included passage of a voter-approved opt-out provision with a 3% annual property tax levy cap, expanded cooperative purchasing authority, and an increased public improvement bid threshold to \$250,000. Additional changes included new requirements for public comment policies at all regular board meetings, updated audit procedures reducing retained payments to 5% and new transparency requirements for board member and candidate disclosures. Several unfavorable proposals were defeated or amended, including preserving existing bonding authority and day light saving time.

NDRPA also partnered with the ND League of Cities, ND Association of Counties, ND School Boards Association, and ND Township Officers Association to host the inaugural **Local Government Capitol Connection**, highlighting the impact of local governments across North Dakota.

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

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

The **Certified Playground Safety Inspector Course** was held for the 23rd year on March 11-13 in Bismarck. The North Dakota Insurance Reserve Fund (NDIRF) and North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department (NDPRD) sponsored course scholarships for the training.

The annual **state conference** with the theme "Camp NDRPA" was hosted by the Fargo Park District in September.

Barb Erbstoesser and Dave Klundt were inducted into the **NDRPA Hall of Fame**, the association's highest honor. The following **NDRPA awards** were also presented: Golden Egg – Fargo Parks Sports Center at the Sanford Sports Complex, Fargo Park District; Citizen Advocacy Award – Jake Lauritsen, West Fargo; Innovative Programming Award – Teen After Hours Program, Dickinson Parks and Recreation; Partnership Awards – NDSU Extension, Barnes County and Vision Zero.

NDRPA continued its online publications, the monthly **NDRPA eUpdate**, quarterly **FOCUS** and biennial **Professional Directory**.

# MEMBERSHIP

MEMBERSHIP TYPE	2025
Agencies.....	67
Professionals.....	576
Board Members.....	337
Allied Organizations.....	10
Allied Individuals.....	3
Universities/Colleges.....	1
Students.....	3
Lifetime.....	16
Commercial.....	16
<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>1,032</b>

# LEADERSHIP 2024-2025

## Board of Directors

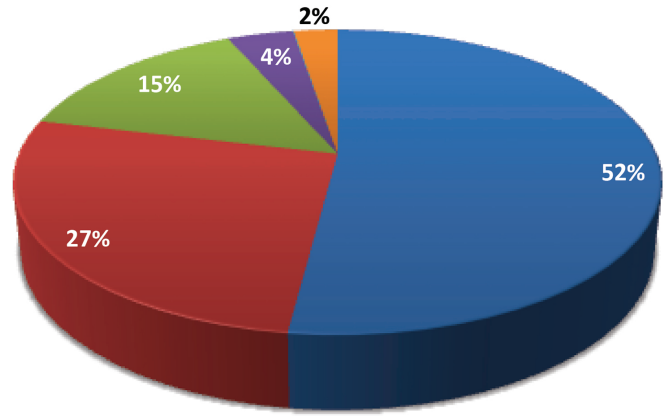
- Joe Barsh*, President
- Mike Wald*, Past President
- Ashley Martinson*, President Elect
- Dylan Thiem*, Secretary/Treasurer
- Cole Higlin*, Public Policy Chair
- Jill Nelson*, Engagement Chair
- Amy Walters*, Education Chair

## Councils, Committees and Liaisons

- Hall of Fame Council – *Randy Bina*, Chair
- Conference Chair (Fargo Park District)  
– *Stephanie D’Ambrosio*
- North Dakota Community Forestry Council  
– *Jeremy Ludlum*
- North Dakota Insurance Reserve Fund  
– *Tyler Jacobson*
- North Dakota Missouri River Advisory Council  
– *Cole Higlin*
- North Dakota Outdoor Heritage Fund Advisory Board  
– *Tyler Jacobson*
- RTP Advisory Committee – *Tony Schmitt*

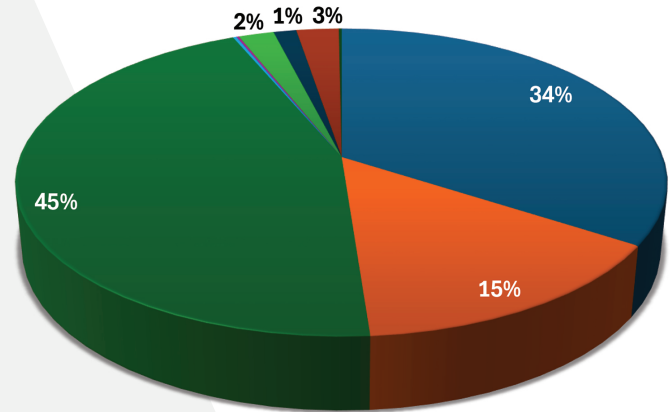


# FINANCIALS



## REVENUE \$177,171.89

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



## EXPENSES \$172,799.14

- Executive Director Services
- CPSI Course
- State Conference
- Workshops & Meetings
- Publications
- Office & General
- Travel & Meetings
- Awards & Scholarships
- Misc Expenses



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