



Greetings from the Illinois Association of Park Districts and the Illinois Park and Recreation Association!

First and foremost, we send our very best to you and yours as we continue to navigate the challenges of COVID-19. We have been inspired by your perseverance in discovering unique and creative ways to safely serve your communities with essential programs, facilities, and services.

We have been hopeful that we could bring our park, forest preserve, conservation, recreation and special recreation community together, in person, for the IAPD/IPRA *Soaring to New Heights Conference*. Regrettably, this is not possible due to limits on group size and the need for social distancing making large-scale, in-person events like this impossible to take place. The safety of our membership is paramount.

Today, the IAPD and IPRA leadership agreed that the only safe and responsible path forward is to transition to a fully virtual solution for the 2021 conference.

While we are disappointed that we will not meet in person, we are excited about the opportunity to reimagine our event! We are designing an exceptional virtual experience that continues our tradition of providing content rich educational sessions, engaging social activities, and an interactive exhibit hall. We are confident that this new virtual format will be a positive and rewarding experience.

As we continue to finalize our plans, we will keep you informed with updates through emails, social media, and our conference website, www.ilparksconference.com, about the exciting developments taking place. Stay tuned for more information and for registration opening later this month.

We look forward to having you join us in January for the finest park and recreation conference in the country!