

90

1928-2018



A Legacy of Innovation and Excellence



ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION OF PARK DISTRICTS

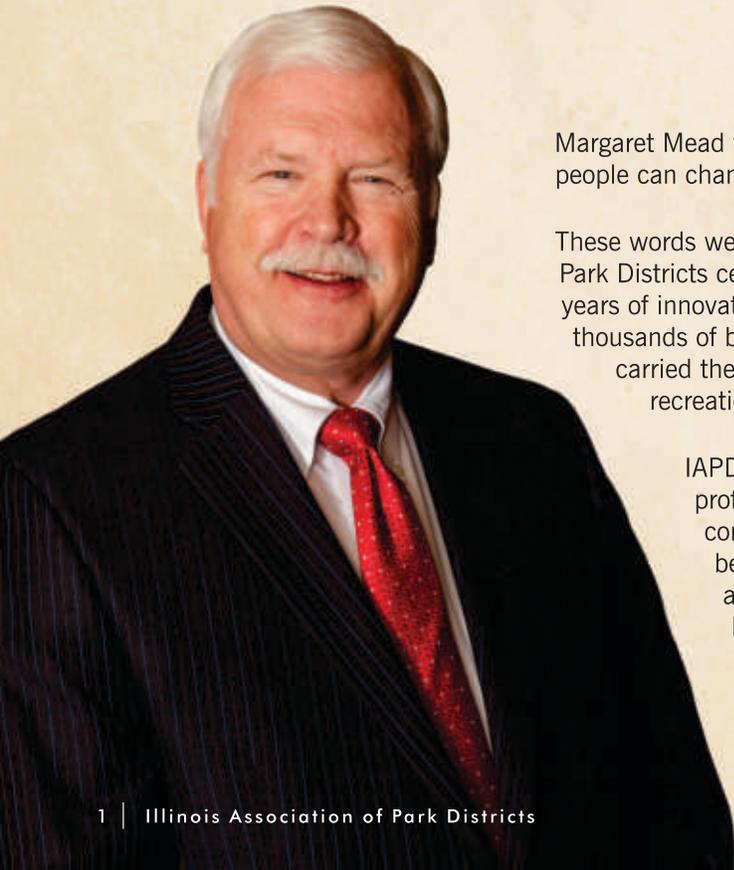
1928
2018 **90** years **IAPD**
A Legacy of Innovation and Excellence



THE ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION OF PARK DISTRICTS AT

90
years

A Legacy of Innovation and Excellence



Margaret Mead wrote, “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”

These words were as true in 1928 as they are today as the Illinois Association of Park Districts celebrates our 90th anniversary in 2018. As we look back on 90 years of innovation and excellence, we are inspired by and grateful to the thousands of board members, professionals, staff and volunteers who have carried the torch that was kindled nine decades ago for Illinois parks, recreation and conservation.

IAPD was created with the goal to make citizen board members and professional staff of Illinois park districts, forest preserves, conservation, recreation and special recreation agencies the very best in Illinois, and in the nation. When we look around the state at those who have dedicated years of their lives to the mission of IAPD and to making Illinois a better place, we know that not only did we achieve this goal, but we continue to exceed it far beyond our founders' wildest dreams!



Citizen advocates for parks, open space and recreation are central to the history of Illinois park districts and forest preserves. In the city of Chicago in the 1850s, groups of residents campaigned for park development and against a growing lakeside cemetery to create Lake Park (now called Lincoln Park). These citizen groups started what has become one of the nation's best citywide public park systems. Downstate in Urbana, the initial drive to preserve green space was led by a man who purchased 39 acres of forestland to save the trees from a lumber mill. He opened the area for steamboat rides and picnicking. Renamed Crystal Lake Park, this became one of the first parcels of land donated to the Urbana Park District when it was established in 1902.

It is no surprise that today's elected officials from park districts, forest preserves, conservation, recreation and special recreation agencies reflect the same spirit of grassroots activism regarding state and national issues as their predecessors. In fact, park officials from throughout the state discovered each other in the halls of the State Capitol in 1927, seeking legislation for their similar interests. It was there that the idea to form a statewide organization started, and a year later, Alfred Dewey McLarty, secretary of the Illinois Municipal League, used a letter-writing campaign to rally the cause for creating a statewide association for park officials.

Please enjoy this special look back at some of the significant milestones of the association and the achievements of its leaders. A more comprehensive history will be published in a book titled, *The History of the Illinois Association of Park Districts*, to be released later this year. But even in this excerpt, you will discover as we did, that some things never change. History indeed repeats itself, and IAPD's commitment to its core mission remains unchanged throughout time.

For the last four decades, it has been my honor to have known and worked with individuals who have come together as a collective voice to protect open space and transform Illinois into a tapestry of parks, forests and abundant recreational opportunities for every citizen.

It is a vision realized.

Peter M. Murphy, Esq., CAE, IOM
President and CEO



1928

According to the 1929 president's address of Fred J. Bohn, IAPD's second president and a park official from Chicago's River Park District, the "progressive founders" of the Illinois Association of Park Districts met in the halls of the State Capitol in Springfield as early as 1927. Representatives from the Small Parks Association of Cook County, established in 1922, and park officials from other counties of the state were there seeking legislation to change several laws that affect park districts. (The law enabling creation of special districts became effective June 1, 1893.)

Bohn says that nothing formal was done, however, until the services of A.D. McLarty, secretary of the Illinois Municipal League, were secured to organize the association in 1928. The historian for the Illinois Municipal League paints the picture of McLarty as entrepreneurial in his interest to start a separate association for park districts. It was difficult to do business at the State Capitol, meeting with a legislator on one day wearing a hat for city municipalities and the next wearing one for park districts.

Regardless of motive, McLarty's efforts to create a statewide organization of park district officials was met with great enthusiasm from leaders of Illinois park districts. McLarty sent a questionnaire to park district officials on March 9, 1928. A summary of results from these communications

was published and sent to park officials on March 30 of that year with an invitation to attend an organizational meeting May 17 and 18 in the Rose Room of the Hotel Sherman in Chicago. The State of Illinois' James R. Thompson Center now stands on the site of the Sherman Hotel, which was demolished in 1980.

1930

The Illinois Association of Park Districts gets its name with the 1930 constitution - adopted and amended on October 17, 1930 - at the annual conference in Springfield. The purpose of IAPD was stated as follows: "to serve as a mutual agency for cooperation among park districts of the state in the practical study and in the opportunity for discussion of park district problems, park policy and administration; to gather and circulate information and experience on park district affairs; and to secure legislation beneficial to and to oppose legislation injurious to the park districts."

1937

IAPD holds its first regional meeting in Oak Park on February 16, 1937, attended by officials from 25 park boards. Designed to foster networking among neighboring agencies and to bring non-members into the association, these roundtables were held



A.D. McLarty

J.C. Blair

"You may save several thousand for your park district by the use of a single bit of information picked up at the meeting in Joliet," wrote IAPD's first president, J.C. Blair about the association's first state convention.

throughout the state. In 1977, they were called "Drive-Ins." In 1994, they became "Regional Roundtables," and today, IAPD offers the annual "Ask the Commissioner" roundtable at the state conference.

The *Illinois Park Board Bulletin* is first published as the statewide newsletter for IAPD.



Chicago's Hotel Sherman, site of the organizational meeting of the Illinois Association of Park Districts, was a popular nightspot and conventioner hotel in the 1920s.



THE NUMBERS

Were there 16 “founding” park districts or 14 or 28? Why are only two park districts listed as members in 1928?

In our research for the 90th anniversary, we suspect some revisionist history lurks in print. It is remarkable and wonderful that the IAPD history files begin with minutes from 1929 meetings of the association. Regrettably, no minutes exist from 1928 nor a list of the park districts present at the organizing meeting held in Chicago's Hotel Sherman.

So, here we offer a list of current IAPD member agencies that joined in the first five years of the association.

Early Members of the Association

Dates reflect the year dues were first recorded.

1928

Pleasure Driveway and Park District of Springfield
Urbana Park District

1929

Arlington Heights Park District
Berwyn Park District
Blue Island Park District
Canton Park District
Champaign Park District
Chicago Heights Park District
Clyde Park District
Des Plaines Park District
Elmhurst Park District
Foss Park District
Freeport Park District
Glenview Park District
Joliet Park District
Kankakee Valley Park District
Park District of Oak Park
Pekin Park District
Pleasure Driveway and Park District of Peoria
Rockford Park District
Veterans Park District
Waukegan Park District
Winnetka Park District

1930

Glen Ellyn Park District
Lake Bluff Park District
Park Ridge Recreation and Park District
Riverdale Park District

1931

Park District of Highland Park
Park District of LaGrange
Lombard Park District
Memorial Park District
Savanna Park District

1932

Decatur Park District
Glencoe Park District
Northbrook Park District
Skokie Park District
Sterling Park District
Sycamore Park District

Association Membership by Decade

1929...38*
1930...52
1940...55**
1950...96
1960...153
1970...177
1980...223
1990...258
2000...349
2010...470

*The earliest record of association membership begins in the year 1929.

**The 1934 convention proceedings record the loss of 18 members through the consolidation into one park district of 22 park districts in Chicago, all organized under the 1895 Act. The newly formed Chicago Park District became a member of IAPD in 1935.

1941

On July 15, 1941, the association lobbies for Senate Bill 184, which authorizes park districts to levy the .05% recreation tax. It is approved by Governor Dwight Herbert Green.

1946

For the first time, the Illinois Recreation Association, or IRA (now called the Illinois Park and Recreation Association) holds its annual convention at the same time and place as the IAPD with several joint sessions. It isn't until 1960 that the two associations continuously held joint conferences.

1948

In June of 1948, the association's publication is renamed *Illinois Parks*.

“Our problem is one of strengthening park board organization and making the park board service rendered by individual park districts as effective as possible. We can accomplish this only with the wholehearted and active cooperation of every park district official in the State of Illinois.”

- A.D. McLarty, *Illinois Park Board Bulletin*, January 1937

1951

On May 17, 1951, Governor Adlai Stevenson signs the historic *Park Law Codification Bill*, combining all the laws relating to park districts in one section of state law. The members of the IAPD codification committee initiated the legislation six years earlier, and as is typical with legislation of this magnitude, it took some time to bring it to fruition. The number of IAPD member districts organized in the 55-

year-period (1896 to 1950) before codification was 94; in the 37 years after codification (1951-1988), 150 districts were organized.

1953

On June 1, 1953, the association becomes a full-time organization and Marjorie M. Dickinson

becomes the full-time executive director. From 1928 to 1943, she served as assistant to A.D. McLarty, then as secretary of the association until October 1, 1944. She served as executive director until 1965 and was named executive director emeritus upon her retirement in 1966.



Marjorie M. Dickinson

"I hope Illinois park commissioners will guard well their heritage. You are elected by and responsible to the citizens of your community."

- Marjorie M. Dickinson, Oct. 30, 1978



Members of the Codification Commission and Association Officers who witnessed the signing of the Codification Bill are pictured left to right: John Savage, Joliet; Ray Dobbins, Champaign; Lawrence Hoff, Springfield; Frank Opeka, Des Plaines; State Representative Hugh Green, Jacksonville; Frank Pfeifer, Springfield; President Leo Donovan, Peoria; and IAPD Executive Secretary Marjorie Dickinson, Springfield.

1954

On September 22, 1954, the association organizes its Past Presidents' Club. The group is composed of past presidents still active as park commissioners. Membership is eventually extended to any interested past presidents.

The IAPD Presidents

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1928 Joseph Cullen "J.C." Blair, Urbana | 1957 Hon. Marvin F. Burt, Freeport | 1978 Gerald Wernick, Rockford | 2000 Judith Locke, Decatur |
| 1929 Fred J. Bohn, Chicago | 1958 Robert H. Wiegman, Morton Grove | 1979 Barbara Williams, Olympia Fields | 2001 Roger Florey, Rolling Meadows |
| 1930 Frank Wilkins, Chicago | 1959 Henry O. Gleiss, Skokie | 1980 Robert L. Cole, Decatur | 2002 Mary Garrison, Winnetka |
| 1931 C.A. Wilard, Oak Park | 1960 L. Mike Kraus, East St. Louis | 1981 Peter J. Koukos, Highland Park | 2003 Dennis Flanagan, Lan-Oak |
| 1932-36 James B. Kenny, Joliet | 1961 Prof. Fred F. Weinard, Urbana | 1982 Morgan C. Powell, Champaign | 2004 Clint Hull, St. Charles |
| 1937 Fred Heggie, Joliet | 1962 John E. Cassidy, Jr., Peoria | 1983 Don G. Prindle, DuPage Co. | 2005 Pamela O. Newton, Lake County |
| 1938 Charles Demeter, Freeport | 1963 W. Milton Worthen, Granite City | 1984 Bonnie W. Noble, Peoria | 2006 David Mason, DeKalb |
| 1939 A.E. Miller, Lombard | 1964 Thomas J. Oliva, Memorial | 1985 Roger Toohey, Wheaton | 2007 Scott R. Triphahn, Hoffman Estates |
| 1940 Archie Aimen, Peoria | 1965 Robert E. Pilcher, Joliet | 1986 Ralph Cianchetti, Highland Park | 2008 Mike Krost, Chillicothe |
| 1941-44 Dr. C.W. Milligan, Springfield | 1966 W.L. McCullough, Fox Valley | 1987-88 Sandra Fernstrom, Arlington Heights | 2009 Colette Kubiesa, Elmhurst |
| 1945-46 Ferdinand C. Arndt, Des Plaines | 1967 Louis A. Gietl, Springfield | 1989 Kenneth VanNattan, Morton | 2010 George Longmeyer, Schaumburg |
| 1947 C.W. Hulit, Canton | 1968 Robert O. Pohl, Glenview | 1990 Bernadine Rechner, River Trails | 2011 Wally Frasier, Mundelein |
| 1948 Stanley McBroom, Kankakee | 1969 Donald F. Bresnan, Champaign | 1991 Michael Curtis, Carbondale | 2012 Linda Johnson, Crete |
| 1949 J.V. Kammer, Lombard | 1970 Eugene C. Pomerance, Elmhurst | 1992 Ronald Lehman, Channahon | 2013 Don Andersen, Oak Lawn |
| 1950 Leo Donovan, Peoria | 1971 Betty C. Irons, Homewood-Flossmoor | 1993 Donald Jessen, Addison | 2014 Joseph Petry, Champaign |
| 1951 William Arthur Jackson, Park Ridge | 1972 Michael J. Cassidy, Freeport | 1994 Judy Beck, Glenview | 2015 Diane Main, Westmont |
| 1952 Thomas E. Paulett, Granite City | 1973 Allan A. Weissburg, Skokie | 1995 Phyllis Cossarek, Wilmette | 2016 Ken Collin, Freeport |
| 1953 Tom J. Montgomery, Des Plaines | 1974 Webster D. Wiley, Kewanee | 1996 Bruce Larson, Urbana | 2017 Tom Barz, Frankfort |
| 1954 Arthur E. Kelly, Joliet | 1975 Henry C. Deihl, Salt Creek Rural | 1997 Fred Hohnke, Woodridge | 2018 John Hoscheit, Kane County |
| 1955 Frederick P. Schlitt, Springfield | 1976 Tim G. Soldwedel, Pekin | 1998 Michael Gilfillan, Arlington Heights | |
| 1956 W.W. Berg, Kewanee | 1977 Peter T. Trenchard, Deerfield | 1999 Oscar L. Dahl, Northbrook | |

1957

For the first time, IAPD arranges for an indoor exhibit of park equipment and supplies at the annual convention. Nineteen exhibit spaces are purchased with designated exhibitor networking hours from 3:00 – 5:00 on Thursday.

1959

During the 71st Session of the Illinois General Assembly, the association introduces Senate Bills 1005 and 1006, which are passed by both houses and are approved by Governor William G. Stratton on July 9, 1959. They added Article 12.1 to the Illinois Park District Code, which preserved the immunity of Illinois park districts from liability for torts.



1960

IAPD representatives meet with the Illinois Recreation Association to plan a joint annual conference of the two associations. The conference is regarded as highly successful, with more than 500 in attendance.

1961

Illinois Governor Otto Kerner serves as the keynote speaker at the annual conference, presenting *A Better Tomorrow Through Parks and Recreation*.

The 72nd General Assembly approved Senate Bill 229, which created the Torts Law Commission, the purpose of which was to codify and make uniform the various statutes relating to immunity of liability of the various municipalities and quasi-municipalities. Governor Otto Kerner appointed the Association's legal/legislative

consultant, Robert A. Stuart, to serve as a member of this commission, which functioned until the passage of the Local Governmental and Governmental Employees Tort Immunity Act.

1964

IAPD's first Legislative Seminar is held at the Chicago Park District. Attendees leave with the conviction that much has been accomplished in the way of education and understanding for both

legislators and park commissioners. It is determined that the program should be continued and expanded.

1967

Arthur L. Schultz becomes IAPD's executive vice president on January 1. He comments that he was professionally motivated to accept the position because the leisure movement is growing and there is a true challenge in Illinois.

IAPD holds the first *Park Commissioners Seminar*, a training opportunity for newly-elected park officials, on February 17 and 18 at the Illini Union Building in Urbana. The seminar attracts 130 park commissioners from 50 park districts.

1968

The Joint Coordinating Council is created to establish a closer working relationship between IAPD and the Illinois Park and Recreation Society.

Miss Illinois 1968, Sharon Mitchell, attends IAPD's annual conference as a special guest at Pheasant Run in St. Charles.

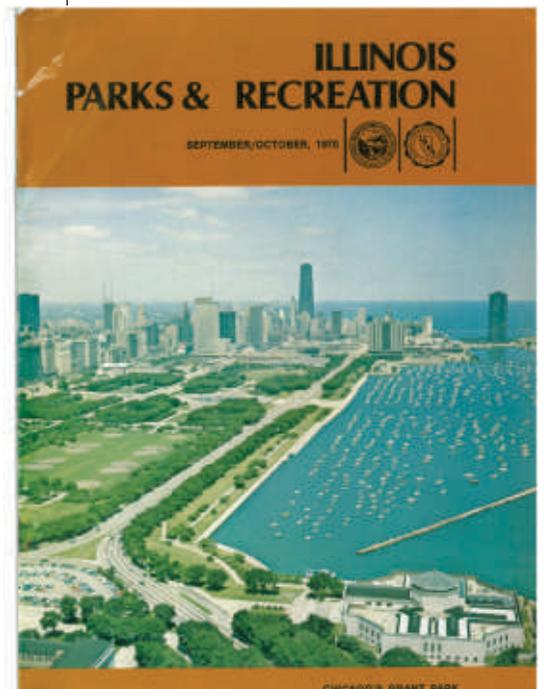
1969

IAPD produces a statewide public relations tool kit including six print advertisements, two tape recordings for radio spots and three photo slides for TV purposes. Kits are sent to each member agency to place in their own publicity outlets as a strategy related to the Constitutional Convention (Con-Con).

IAPD jointly sponsors the first National Institute for Citizens with the National Recreation and Park Association and its national commissioners-board members branch. The institute is for citizens throughout the country who serve on park and recreation advisory and policy-making boards, commissioners and other representative bodies.

1970

IAPD and IPRA agree by resolution to jointly produce the statewide bimonthly magazine, renamed *Illinois Parks & Recreation* beginning with the September/October 1970 issue.





1971

IAPD's Community Relations Committee organizes a tree planting with Governor Richard B. Ogilvie in recognition of Arbor Day. Governor Ogilvie plants a tree with IAPD representatives in Aurora.

Eugene Berghoff, a native of Bethalto, Illinois, succeeds Arthur L. Schultz as IAPD's executive vice president on June 1, 1971.

1972

The first annual *Illinois Park and Recreation Fund Raising Dinner* is held at the Marriott Hotel in Chicago. The event is sponsored by the Illinois Park & Recreation Foundation, Illinois Park & Recreation Society and the Illinois Association of Park Districts to raise funds that will enable the organizations to expand services to meet the needs of the membership.

IAPD's Constitution is amended to provide regular membership to conservation and forest preserve districts.

1973

Park districts receive authorization to levy a tax for joint recreational programs for the disabled and authorization to levy a tax for the organization and maintenance of a park police system.

1975

IAPD promotes *Mayors and Local Officials*

Day at the Illinois State Fair, an event organized by the Department of Local Government Affairs in cooperation

1976

Legislation passes adding article 11.2 to the *Park District Code*, authorizing creation of a working cash fund and the levy of .025%.

1977

IAPD receives a Special Citation Award by the Commissioner Board Member branch of the National Recreation & Park Association. This is the first time the award is presented to an organization versus an individual. The award recognizes the outstanding leadership and service as a state organization for commissioners/board members.

1978

A nationwide search is conducted to fill the newly-created position of IAPD executive director. Robert M. Artz, general manager of the Simi Valley



with the Illinois State Fair. IAPD sponsors its first Legislative Reception, which is met with overwhelming success.

Sections of the Park District Code are amended to permit a change from 5 to 7-member boards and to permit a change from 6 to 4-year terms in office.

Recreation and Park District in California, is selected to lead IAPD.

IAPD celebrates its 50th anniversary with a dinner program held at Forum 30 in Springfield. A telegram from President Jimmy Carter is read as well as a letter from Governor James R. Thompson in "appreciation for the great contribution of IAPD to the success of parks and recreation in Illinois."

1979

Robert M. Artz, nationally-recognized park and recreation professional and the newly-hired IAPD executive director, tragically dies in a DC-10 plane crash in Chicago. His life and work are memorialized in the July/August 1979 issue of *Illinois Parks & Recreation* magazine.

During a special emergency meeting of the IAPD Board of Directors on June 8, Peter T. Trenchard, Deerfield Park District commissioner, is appointed acting executive director of IAPD on a part-time basis and is placed on a committee to lead the search for a full-time executive director. Trenchard resigns his position on the IAPD board.

The first annual IAPD *Legislative Conference and Reception* is held in Springfield. The program is designed to provide attendees with first-hand, up-to-date information on existing state and federal assistance programs and pending legislation.

1980

Theodore B. Flickinger, Ph.D., Great Lakes Regional Director of the National Recreation & Park Association, is hired as Executive Director of the Illinois Association of Park Districts effective March 1, 1980.

Peter M. Murphy, Esq., CAE, IOM - an attorney with the Legislative Reference Bureau of the Illinois General Assembly - is hired as Director of Governmental Services effective May 1, 1980. He becomes IAPD's General Counsel in 1984 and its President/CEO in 2010.

Legislation passes increasing the non-referendum bonding ability of park districts from .5% to .575%.

Peter Murphy develops the first annual *Legal Symposium* with more than 120 attendees and conducts five legislative meetings throughout the state to serve as training programs for grassroots legislative advocacy.

The annual *Legislative Reception and Conference* are restructured and enhanced to include a more organized networking venue with legislators and a full day of educational sessions designed to assist members in becoming well-informed advocates for parks, recreation and conservation.

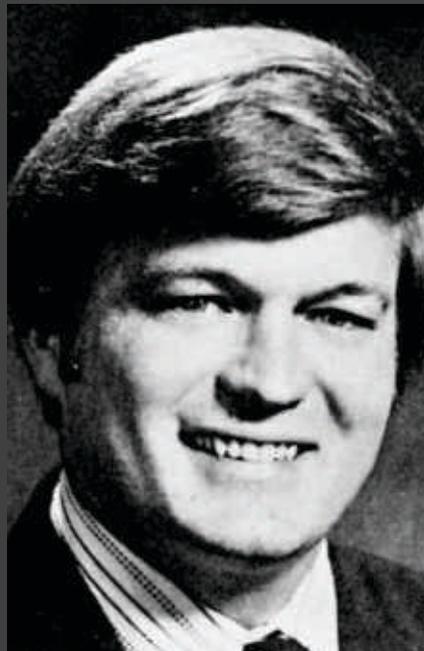
From 1980 to 1988, the IAPD passes more legislation than was passed in the previous 52 years of its existence.

1981

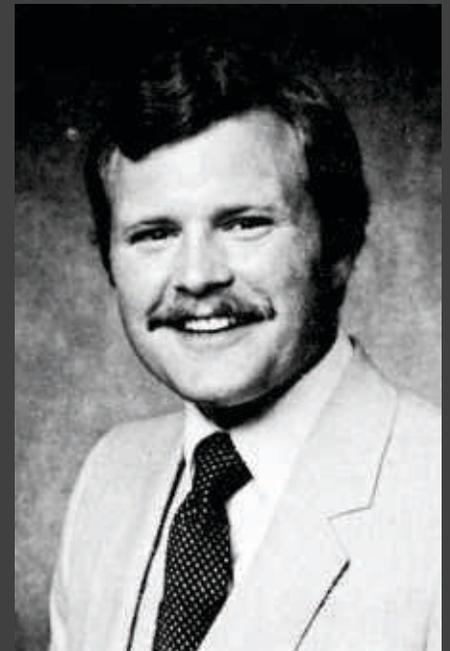
IAPD effectively advocates for Senate Bill 565, which amends the Park District Code to provide that districts may levy an annual tax for the purpose of establishing a working cash fund for any four years. This legislation passes in 1982.

IAPD becomes the first state association to offer assistance to the Springfield Convention & Visitor's Bureau by sponsoring the *LincolnFest* statewide volleyball tournament as a public awareness project. Teams enter the tournament from as far away as Waukegan. More than 100,000 people attend the July 4-5 extravaganza in celebration of Abraham Lincoln and our country's birthday.

The *Legislators Secretarial Plant Program* is initiated, distributing plants to all secretaries working for the Illinois House and Senate legislators. Plants are provided from the Oak Park Parks & Recreation Department.



TED B. FLICKINGER



PETER M. MURPHY

Allan A. Weissburg Commissioner of the Year Award Winners

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1982 - Robert Nichols, Bensenville Park District | 2001 - Michael S. Gilfillan, Arlington Heights Park District |
| 1983 - Donald F. Bresnan, Champaign Park District | 2002 - James L. Shook, Round Lake Area Park District |
| 1984 - Peter Koukos, Park District of Highland Park | 2003 - Mary Garrison, Winnetka Park District |
| 1985 - Morgan Powell, Champaign Park District | 2004 - Millie Keith, Freeport Park District |
| 1986 - Robert Cole, Decatur Park District | 2005 - Dennis Flanagan, Lan-Oak Park District |
| 1987 - Bonnie Noble, Peoria Park District | 2006 - Timothy J. Cassidy, Pleasure Driveway and Park District of Peoria |
| 1988 - Michael Cassidy, Freeport Park District | 2007 - David Mason, DeKalb Park District |
| 1989 - Eugene Pomerance, Elmhurst Park District | 2008 - Mary Ann Chambers, Northbrook Park District |
| 1990 - Ralph Cianchette, Park District of Highland Park | 2009 - Ann Austin, Rock Island Parks & Recreation Department |
| 1991 - Michael Curtis, Carbondale Park District | 2010 - Scott R. Triphahn (posthumously), Hoffman Estates Park District |
| 1992 - Bruce Larson, Urbana Park District | 2011 - Edward Karasek, Berwyn Park District |
| 1993 - Ron Lehman, Channahon Park District | 2012 - Chris Riley, Decatur Park District |
| 1994 - William Sherman, Jr., Downers Grove Park District | 2013 - Colette Kubiesa, Elmhurst Park District |
| 1995 - Donald Jessen, Addison Park District | 2014 - John Hoscheit, Forest Preserve District of Kane County |
| 1996 - Judith Beck, Glenview Park District | 2015 - Doug Brooks, Rockford Park District |
| 1997 - Waldon Degner, Palatine Park District | 2016 - David Johnson, Schaumburg Park District |
| 1998 - Phyllis Cossarek, Wilmette Park District | 2017 - Sebastian "Buzz" Puccio, Bloomingdale Park District |
| 1999 - Fred Hohnke, Woodridge Park District | |
| 2000 - Oscar Dahl, Northbrook Park District | |

IAPD creates a *Legislative Hotline Service*, featuring an 800-number telephone line to allow members to call in free of charge to receive important daily legislative messages.

Illinois Parks & Recreation magazine features a new column created by Peter Murphy, dedicated to recently reported court decisions and law-related topics affecting the field.



1984

IAPD leaders testify before the Subcommittee to the Interior and Related Agencies in Washington, D.C. on federal legislation to continue the Land and Water Conservation Fund, the Urban Parks and Recreation Recovery Program Fund and the Historic Preservation Fund under HR-2837.

1982

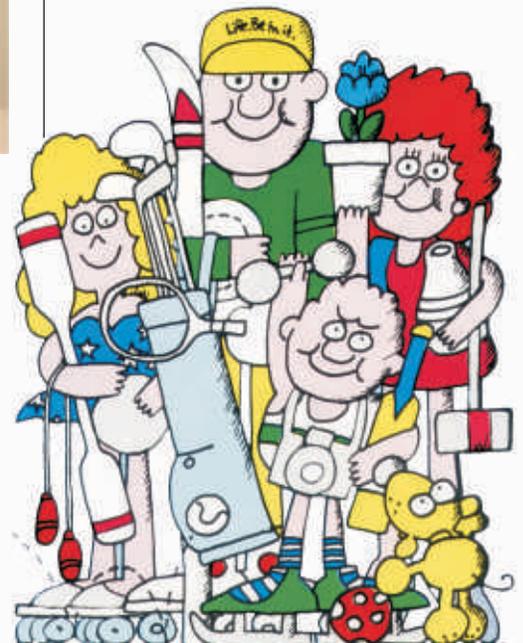
The first *Allan A. Weissburg Commissioner of the Year Award* is presented to Robert Nichols of the Bensenville Park District. The prestigious award recognizes commissioner involvement on the local, state and national levels. Weissburg, a commissioner from the Skokie Park District, was the IAPD president in 1974.

IAPD assumes management of *Illinois Parks & Recreation* magazine, beginning with the September/October issue. This newly-

revamped issue features exclusive written interviews from gubernatorial candidates Adlai Stevenson and James Thompson.

1983

The *Life. Be In It.* public awareness campaign debuts in Illinois, emphasizing the importance of being active every day. IAPD secures a \$30,000 grant from the Department of Commerce and Community Affairs to promote the program.



Life. Be in it.

IAPD creates a special section of membership for park, forest preserve, conservation and recreation foundations.

IAPD's newsletter, *Leisure Review* makes its debut as the new version of the IAPD/IPRA combined newsletter.

1985

IAPD and IPRA adopt a *Memorandum of Understanding* to coordinate joint projects and committees.

The *Illinois Parks and Recreation* magazine photo contest is initiated with the winning photo to appear on the cover of a future issue of the magazine.

Peter Murphy's *Legislative Scene* in the July/August issue of *Illinois Parks and Recreation* commends the IAPD and IPRA membership for its work to focus attention on the importance of the \$5 million per annum Open Space Lands Acquisition (OSLA) portion of *Build Illinois*.



This marks the first year that IAPD's *entire* legislative platform becomes law – and it is the first time in the history of this state that Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development (OSLAD) is set up to be funded throughout a five-year period.

IAPD creates the first IAPD/IPRA *Joint Membership Directory*.

1986

IAPD spearheads efforts to seek funding from the *Build Illinois* program to support grants to units of local government under the *Open Space Land Acquisition and Development (OSLAD) Act*. For the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1986, \$4 million is designated for the OSLAD program.

IAPD passes legislation to create the *Illinois Park District Liquid Asset Fund Plus*, (IPDLAF+), which provides comprehensive financial services exclusively for Illinois park districts.

IAPD partners with Governor Jim Thompson's office to implement the *Governor's Conference on the Economic Significance of Recreation in Illinois*.

More than 48 agencies support *Illinois Park, Recreation and Conservation Day* with the Chicago White Sox. Agencies bring nearly 4,000 fans to the ballpark with t-ball teams, cheerleading squads and other park district groups participating in pre-game activities.



1987

Peter Murphy and Ted Flickinger testify before Governor Thompson's Revenue Review Committee to contribute ideas about future funding sources for park land acquisition and development. The IAPD leaders suggest that a real estate transfer tax may be the new source of funding to meet the needs of a trust fund in Illinois to generate revenue on an annual basis.



IAPD occupies its new headquarters at 211 East Monroe Street in Springfield, 100 yards from the Illinois State Capitol. *Partners in Progress* make contributions to the building, and the mortgage is paid off in three years.

Legislation is passed doubling the Special Recreation Association (SRA) tax and removing the referendum requirement. Other legislation increased the bid limit for park districts from \$4,000 to \$10,000.

IAPD becomes a founding member of Governor Thompson's *Partners in Conservation* coalition, which eventually becomes the Conservation Congress.

The Illinois Department of Conservation's *Outdoor Highlights* publication is included as a section in *Illinois Parks and Recreation* magazine.



IAPD sponsors *Fitness is Leading the Way* with Country Companies and IPRA. The event features three teams (one run, one bicycle and one walk) which crisscross the state for a three-day, 450-mile journey to bring the scissors and ribbon to Governor Jim Thompson at the Illinois State Fair's opening ceremony.

1988

The first *Governor's Conference on Tourism* is co-sponsored by IAPD and the Illinois Travel and Tourism Council to raise awareness for the tourism impact of park districts and forest preserves.

The IAPD/IPRA Joint Public Awareness Committee kicks off the statewide marketing campaign, *Take Time for Fun!* with a logo, graphics and premiums available for member agencies to use locally.

Partners In Conservation Lobby for OSLAD Funds



Nearly 1,000 Partners in Conservation participated in Lobby Day activities on May 18 in Springfield. They heard comments by the Governor, and by members of the House and Senate leadership.

Park commissioners and staff are among the nearly 1,000 members of *Partners in Conservation* who meet at the State Capitol in support of dedicated funding for conservation programs.

History is made as for the first time, OSLAD and the Natural Areas Acquisition Funds get a dedicated funding source – a portion of the real estate transfer tax – through Public Act 86-925.

IAPD produces its new *Grassroots Legislative Advocacy* video featuring key legislative leaders and park commissioners.

IAPD sponsors the first national *Rails-to-Trails* conference.

Legal/Legislative Scene

Governor Thompson Approves OSLAD Funding!



By Peter M. Murphy
IAPD Legal Counsel

1989

IAPD lobbies successfully to pass legislation for the *Bicycle Path Grants* program, creating a dedicated source of funding for bike paths.

IAPD Gets Unprecedented Bikeway Legislation Passed!



Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development (OSLAD)

The *Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development* program (OSLAD) is a permanent grant program that provides matching funds to local agencies to assist in the acquisition of open space and the development of recreational opportunities for the citizens of Illinois.

Permanent Funding

IAPD spearheaded efforts to seek funding from the *Build Illinois* program to support grants to units of local government under the *Open Space Lands Acquisition Act* or *OSLA*

(renamed OSLAD in 1989.) For the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1986, \$4 million was designated for the OSLA.

One of the legislative accomplishments that we are most proud of occurred in 1989 when IAPD passed legislation to give OSLAD and the *Natural Areas Acquisition Fund* (NAAF) a dedicated source of funding from a portion of the real estate transfer tax. More than \$414 million in OSLAD grants have been made to date, which equates to over \$1 billion invested into the recreational infrastructure of the state of Illinois.

Protecting OSLAD

IAPD was one of the founding members of the *Partners for Parks and Wildlife* coalition (PPW) organized in 2004 with more than 130 member organizations. This grassroots coalition is dedicated to securing and increasing funding for open space and park acquisition, natural area preservation, wildlife habitat protection and recreational opportunities in Illinois. When there have been threats to the OSLAD program, IAPD has rallied its membership to educate legislators and the Governor about the critical need to keep the program intact.

1991

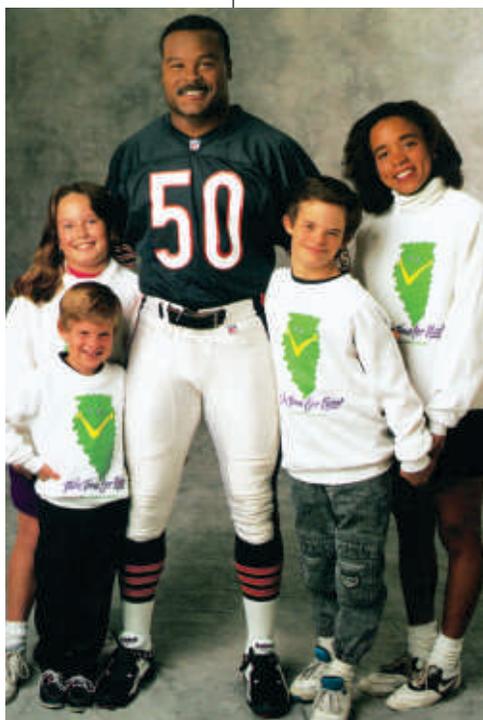
IAPD publishes *The Economic Benefits of Illinois Park District Leisure Services*.

The Illinois Parks Association Risk Services (IPARKS) program is created to provide park districts with an alternative to traditional property and casualty insurance coverage.

1992

Chicago Bear Mike Singletary becomes spokesman for the *Take Time for Fun!* campaign.

IAPD creates the *Director Search Program* to provide cost-effective, professional and confidential assistance to park boards in their search for qualified directors.



IAPD sponsors the Governor's Conference on *New Horizons for Conservation, Parks and Recreation* to identify future trends, challenges and issues affecting the field.

IAPD publishes the first manual for park board leadership, *Are You on Board: A Leadership Guide for Agency Executives and Board Members*.

Walk Illinois, a statewide fitness program sponsored by *Take Time For Fun!* park districts and recreation agencies, is featured at the Illinois State Fair. Local walks are organized by more than 50 park agencies between May and July, with a final event held in Conservation World during the Illinois State Fair.

1993

IAPD general counsel Peter Murphy is elected president of the Illinois Society of Association Executives, representing more than 200 associations throughout Illinois.

The IAPD/IPRA *Joint Legislative Committee* creates a park-like setting on the second floor of the Illinois State Capitol with flowering plants, shrubbery and photos representing park districts throughout the state.

IAPD publishes the first *Handbook on Illinois Park District Law* as a vital resource for park commissioners and administrators.



The first *Distinguished Park and Recreation Agency Awards* are presented to the Arlington Heights Park District, Western Springs Recreation Department and the Woodridge Park District.

House Bill 1924 protects Illinois park districts from frivolous dissolution attempts.

Public Act 88-91 authorizes park districts to establish fees for resident and nonresident participation.

1994

Governor Jim Edgar designates the second Saturday of the Illinois State Fair *Park District Conservation Day* to recognize the tremendous positive impact of park districts, forest preserves and natural resource agencies to the state's economy and quality of life. IAPD co-sponsors the day with the Illinois Department of Conservation and IPRA. The event showcases park district entertainment and wildlife displays, and the Wheelchair Bulls Basketball team plays an exhibition game.



1995

Governor Jim Edgar signs Public Act 89-49 creating the *Conservation 2000 Fund* to be used to establish a program to protect Illinois' natural

resources through cooperative partnerships among state government, public and private land owners.

IAPD presents the first *Leisure and Aging Summit* in cooperation with the Illinois Department on Aging (IDOA). IAPD and IDOA receive the *Silver Eagle Corps Leadership Recognition* from

The President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports for their cooperative efforts.

Through a partnership with Illinois Attorney General Jim Ryan's office, youth-at-risk grants totaling \$358,000 are awarded to seven park districts throughout the state.

IAPD forms the *Research Advisory Committee* to fund trend-focused and benefits-based research for parks and recreation.

A major legislative initiative of 1995

IAPD's dedicated advocacy efforts result in the passage of Senate Bill 368, restoring bonding authority to districts subject to the crippling tax cap legislation of 1991.

1996

IAPD's first website goes live at www.als.uiuc.edu/iapd/ with an e-mail address of iapd@eosinc.com.

IAPD general counsel Peter Murphy receives the Illinois Society of Association Executive's highest honor - the *Distinguished Member Award* for outstanding leadership.

Murphy Receives ISAE's Highest Honor



Peter M. Murphy, CAE, received the Illinois Society of Association Executive's (ISAE) Distinguished Member Award for his outstanding leadership and achievement in association management. Murphy, general counsel and lobbyist for the Illinois Association of Park Districts, has contributed to ISAE in many capacities, most recently as a member of the Legislative and Non-Dues Revenue Committees and as president of ISAE in 1993. (Peter Murphy, left, is pictured here with ISAE's Awards Chairman David Voepel.

Park District Conservation Day

Saturday, August 20
at the
Illinois State Fair

★ Sponsor a bus load of people to attend the fair:

- Park district attendees receive a 50% discounted admission rate.
- Buses park free.
- Bus drivers receive free admission.

★ Attendees can:

- Join in the Park District Conservation Day Kick-Off Ceremony.
- Watch exciting performances provided by park districts throughout the state.
- Participate in the annual *Walk Illinois*, a 1K walk in Conservation World.

* Agencies are required to contact IAPD for proper State Fair credentials.
CALL IAPD TODAY FOR MORE INFORMATION, (217) 522-4554.





IAPD coordinates a 50th birthday party for Smokey Bear at *Kids Funfest* in Springfield.

IAPD co-sponsors Mike Singletary's *Take Time for Fun! Day* in Chicago's Lincoln Park, with more than 2,500 children participating in park district activities and listening to Mike Singletary speak about the importance of fun and fitness.

IAPD publishes the *Park Commissioners Handbook*.

IAPD co-sponsors *Mobilizing Communities for Youth: Partnerships and Park District Programs that Work*, with Attorney General Jim Ryan.

1997

The IAPD *Ambassador Program* is launched, with many IAPD board members visiting districts to present the newly-created *IAPD Membership Benefits* video.

The *City Park & Recreation Committee* mobilizes to address the unique needs of IAPD's member city recreation departments.

1998

James Heberer of the Kewanee Park District receives IAPD's first *Rising Star Award* for 1997. The award, presented at the 1998 annual conference, recognizes up and coming commissioners serving their first term.



IAPD partners with the Illinois Arts Council to offer special funds for park district art programs, and the association promotes a statewide art contest with 3,000 Illinois school children.

The fundraising arm of IAPD, *Friends of Illinois Parks*, is established to involve citizens in IAPD's mission to preserve land and expand recreational opportunities for youth.



Rising Star Award Winners

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1997 - James Heberer, Kewanee Park District | 2008 - Suzanne Hart, Naperville Park District |
| 1998 - Scott Triphahn, Hoffman Estates Park District | 2009 - David Doerhoefer, Vernon Hills Park District |
| 1999 - Paula Gilbert, South Barrington Park District | 2010 - John Karesh, Westmont Park District |
| 2000 - Clint Hull, St. Charles Park District | 2011 - Tim Pasternak, Round Lake Area Park District |
| 2001 - Earl Creutzburg, Champaign County Forest Preserve District | 2012 - Eric Entler, Park District of Forest Park |
| 2002 - Steven Born, Naperville Park District | 2013 - Mike Reilly, Naperville Park District |
| 2003 - Christine Gentes, Round Lake Area Park District | 2014 - Adriane Johnson, Buffalo Grove Park District |
| 2004 - Jim Popp, Manhattan Park District | 2015 - Kevin Riley, Batavia Park District |
| 2005 - Christopher T. Riley, Decatur Park District | 2016 - Matt Walsh, Park District of Forest Park |
| 2006 - Rick Main, Medinah Park District | 2017 - Dan Engelkes, Oregon Park District |
| 2007 - Mark Gartland, Park District of Oak Park | |

1999

IAPD lobbies for the Open Land Trust to fund local open space preservation projects. During Governor George Ryan's administration, this program provides just under \$64 million for 63 local projects to preserve more than 8,700 acres of land for

preservation and outdoor recreation use.

The millennium campaign *2000 Trees by the Year 2000* results in 6,000 new trees planted by Illinois park districts.

2000

IAPD aggressively takes part in a nationwide campaign for the *Conservation Area Reinvestment Act* (CARA), an effort that ultimately restores funding to the *Land and Water Conservation Fund*.

Illinois Attorney General Jim Ryan serves as honorary chair of IAPD's new *Eagle Eye Neighborhood Park Watch Program*.

Illinois Parks and Recreation magazine is placed online as a result of a partnership with Northern Illinois University. Members can view entire issues, print articles or search by keywords.

IAPD and Illinois Attorney General Jim Ryan Campaign Against Youth Smoking



IAPD partners with Attorney General Jim Ryan for the high-profile "Al Right" Anti-Smoking Initiative. "Al Right" is the mascot created by the Attorney General's Office to deliver educational messages to children regarding the dangers of smoking. Agencies receive a newsletter and guidelines for entering a poster contest.

2001

The first scholarships are awarded for the *Donald F. Bresnan Commissioner Scholarship Fund*, named for Bresnan, a longtime commissioner for the Champaign Park District.



Donald F. Bresnan
Commissioner Scholarship Fund

The first *Mike Cassidy Commissioner Community Service Award*, named for Mike Cassidy of the Freeport Park District, is awarded to Harris H. Agnew of the Rockford Park District.

IAPD creates *Web-Park in a Box*, a software program for member agencies to create a basic website.



2002

Governor Ryan signs Public Act 92-697, creating the *Park District Youth License Plate*, which generates funding for beyond-school programming at IAPD member park, recreation and conservation agencies.

IAPD produces two key reports: the *Statewide Attitude and Awareness Survey* by Richard Day Research and *Illinois Land at Risk*, published jointly with The Trust for Public Land.

IAPD funds development of the *Recreation Access Illinois* website with a grant from the Vitamin Anti-Trust settlement. The website includes a searchable database of programs and facilities that help people with disabilities become more active.

IAPD receives a second grant from the Vitamin Anti-Trust settlement for *PowerPlay!*, a new grant program for park district fitness and nutrition-based programming. Since its inception, \$661,450 in *PowerPlay!* grants have been awarded by IAPD to its member agencies.

Beyond the Boardroom newsletter debuts, replacing the *Leisure Review* for park board members.

Mike Cassidy Commissioner Community Service Award Winners

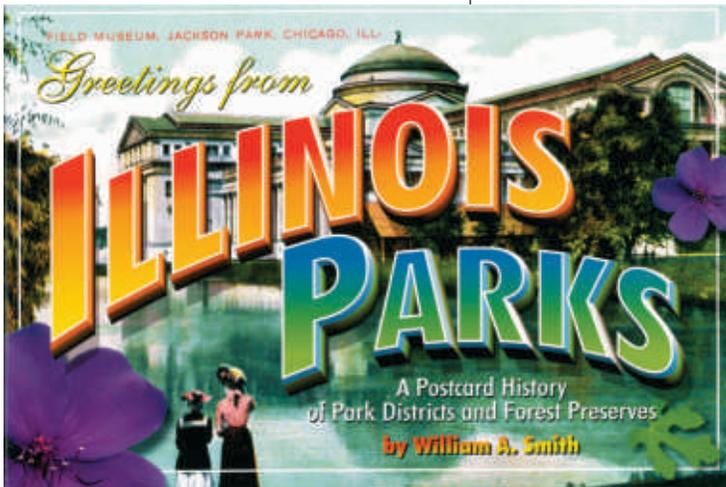
- 2001 - Harris H. Agnew, Rockford Park District
- 2002 - James F. Cooke, St. Charles Park District
- 2003 - Martha Weiss, Buffalo Grove Park District
- 2004 - Fred Hohnke, Woodridge Park District
- 2005 - Lois M. Nickson, Macomb Park District
- 2006 - Mary Garrison, Winnetka Park District
- 2007 - Steve Pennock, Oregon Park District
- 2008 - Wally Frasier, Mundelein Park & Recreation District
- 2009 - Nathaniel Martin, Rockford Park District
- 2010 - Ernest Shymanik, Mundelein Park & Recreation District
- 2011 - Wayne Motley, Waukegan Park District
- 2012 - Mike Renner, Cary Park District
- 2013 - Linda Johnson, Crete Park District
- 2014 - Patrick Nevins, Homewood-Flossmoor Park District
- 2015 - Dr. Larry Reiner, Buffalo Grove Park District
- 2016 - Penny Randel, Northbrook Park District
- 2017 - Kevin Dolan, Mundelein Park & Recreation District

The first annual IAPD *Summer Golf Tour* is held, providing board members and professionals the opportunity to connect with old and new acquaintances and learn more about golf operations, design and maintenance.

Parks Day at the Capitol debuts in conjunction with IAPD's *Legislative Reception and Conference*. Fifty member park agencies are represented with displays promoting the benefits of open space and recreation.

2003

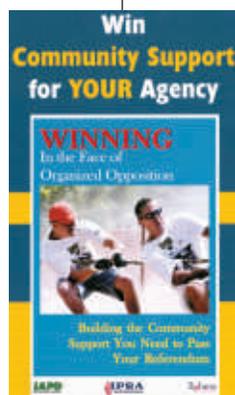
Greetings from Illinois Parks, A Postcard History of Park Districts and Forest Preserves is published.



IAPD achieves a milestone by successfully overriding two gubernatorial vetoes on Senate Bill 83 and Senate Bill 1881, restoring bonding authority for 16 park districts and eliminating the tax cap restrictions on services for the disabled.

IAPD's 75th Anniversary Gala Dinner and Dance, a fundraiser for *Friends of Illinois Parks*, is held at the Hyatt Regency Woodfield in Schaumburg.

The first *IAPD Honored Professional Award* is presented to Kevin Kendrigan with the Northwest Special Recreation Association. The award, presented at the 2004 conference, recognizes park, recreation or conservation professionals who work closely with citizens and IAPD to improve the quality of life for all people in Illinois.



2004

IAPD forms *Partners for Parks and Wildlife* (PPW), a coalition of park, conservation and sportsmen's organizations, to rally against Governor Blagojevich's proposed funding "holiday" for the Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development fund and the Natural Areas Acquisition Fund. Senator Barack Obama speaks in support of open space funding at a rally, coordinated by PPW and held in conjunction with IAPD's *Parks Day at the Capitol*.

The Grassroots Legislative Commitment: The Power of Citizen Advocacy DVD is developed and sent to each IAPD member agency. The DVD outlines how commissioners and professionals can become involved in the legislative process and effectively deliver their message.

Winning in the Face of Organized Opposition is designed and released in cooperation with the *Joint Public Awareness Committee*. This publication helps agencies answer challenges from groups critical of their efforts during a referendum campaign.

IAPD partners with IPRA to promote *Bike Illinois Land of Lincoln* (BILL), a bicycle trek across Illinois to raise funds and awareness for bike trail development in Illinois.

IAPD publishes *Get on Board – Essential Wisdom for Board Members and Executives*.

Honored Professional Award Recipients

- 2003 - Kevin T. Kendrigan, Northwest SRA
- 2004 - Liza McElroy, Winnetka Park District
- 2005 - Alex Marx, Mundelein Park & Recreation District
- 2006 - Jeff Nehila, Round Lake Area Park District
- 2007 - Jan Buchs, Wheeling Park District
- 2008 - Dean Bostrom, Hoffman Estates Park District
- 2009 - Jeff Boubelik, Frankfort Park District
- 2010 - Ron Diehl, Effingham Park District
- 2011 - Run Gunter, Westmont Park District
- 2012 - Bobbie Herakovich, Champaign Park District
- 2013 - William "Bill" Nelson, Rock Island Parks and Recreation Department and Greg Lewis, New Lenox Community Park District
- 2014 - Larry Piekarz, Park District of Forest Park
- 2015 - Greg Petry, Waukegan Park District
- 2016 - Tim Dimke, Rockford Park District
- 2017 - Dr. Larry Reiner, Butterfield Park District



2005

IAPD completes *The Economic Impact of Local Parks and Recreation in Illinois*, a study that concludes investing in park districts, forest preserves, conservation and recreation agencies is a sound investment, because these agencies have a tremendous, positive impact on Illinois' economy.

The first statewide *Flying 4 KIDS* kite fly takes place with more than 60 park and recreation agencies participating in this public awareness event designed to promote the *Park District Youth License Plate* program.



IAPD's *A Guide to Marketing*, detailing trends in marketing, research methods, goals and establishing a budget is sent as a free resource to all member agencies.

Quarterly News, IAPD's printed newsletter, becomes the *IAPD e-News*, the association's first electronic newsletter.

The first *Park District Youth License Plate – Best Promotional Practices Award* is presented to the Mundelein Park & Recreation District for excellence in promoting the *Park District Youth License Plate* program.

2006

The first *Benefits of Membership* publication is sent to every IAPD agency to promote IAPD's services and programs.

IAPD billboards appear along Illinois' roadways, serving as visual reminders that park districts pump \$3.1 billion into Illinois' economy each year.

An IAPD partnership with several member agencies results in *Park District Youth License Plate* billboards throughout Illinois, encouraging the public to "Join the Drive to Fight Childhood Obesity."

Park District Youth License Plate – Best Promotional Practices Award Recipients

- 2005 - Mundelein Park & Recreation District
- 2006 - Springfield Park District
- 2007 - Vernon Hills Park District
- 2008 - Crete Park District
- 2009 - Decatur Park District
- 2010 - Chillicothe Park District
- 2011 - Alsip Park District
- 2012 - Hoffman Estates Park District
- 2013 - New Lenox Community Park District
- 2014 - Foss Park District
- 2015 - Bloomingdale Park District
- 2016 - Pekin Park District
- 2017 - Buffalo Grove Park District

Tell Your Story in 2006 educates citizens, policymakers and lawmakers about the benefits of parks, recreation and conservation.

IAPD partners with the Illinois Federation of Outdoor Resources and the Illinois Environmental Council to host a *Conservation Forum* with leadership from more than 80 conservation, recreation and environmental organizations.

IAPD partners with the University of Illinois in a research project to determine citizen attitudes, perceptions and experiences with local park districts. Results are published as *Illinois Park Districts: Citizen Perspectives*.

IAPD joins with the American Heart Association to encourage park and recreation agencies to host *Worldwide Day of Play* events to fight childhood obesity.

A poster for the Worldwide Day of Play. At the top, it says "MARK YOUR CALENDAR!" in white on an orange background. Below that is the "WORLDWIDE DAY OF PLAY" logo, where "WORLDWIDE" is in red and "DAY OF PLAY" is in blue and orange. To the right, it says "Saturday, Sept. 29, 2007" and "Join the fun!". Below the logo, there is a paragraph of text: "The Worldwide Day of Play is an annual celebration that promotes active play for kids. For more information, or to host a Worldwide Day of Play event at your agency, visit www.il.parks.org. Registration is free, and is open through August 31." Below that, another paragraph: "You'll receive guidelines and materials that build upon the 'Healthy Playbook 4 KIDS' Toolkit distributed by IAPD and the American Heart Association at the January conference." At the bottom, there are three logos: IAPD (Illinois Association of Park Districts), Nick Jr. (LET'S JUST PLAY), and Alliance for a Healthier Generation.

2007

The first Illinois Association of Park Districts' *Best of the Best Awards Gala* is held at Wheaton Park District's Arrowhead Banquet Facility. More than 300 people attend, honoring businesses, media, citizen volunteers and legislators.

The Eagle Eye Neighborhood Park Watch Program is represented at the National Crime Prevention Council's National Watch Groups Summit.

IAPD's *Financial Procedures for Park Districts* is created, covering budget philosophy and preparation, levies, truth in taxation, annual audits, annual statements, bonds, investments and more.

A new website is created by IAPD and IPRA for the *Soaring to New Heights Conference*. The joint website, ILparksconference.com, enables members of both associations to register for conference, make hotel accommodations, get educational session and workshop details, learn about exhibitors and much more.



IAPD holds a news conference in the Blue Room of the Illinois State Capitol as part of *Partners for Parks and Wildlife* to release the study, *Illinois State Land Conservation Funding*, showing Illinois falling dramatically behind other states in protecting open space.

IAPD coordinates park and recreation agency visits with Miss Illinois 2006, Heidi Ekstrom, who encourages children to lead healthy, active lifestyles.

Position Papers from the Illinois Association of Park Districts is published as a proactive approach to dealing with the challenges faced by Illinois communities, families, park districts, conservation, recreation and special recreation agencies.

IAPD and the American Heart Association distribute a free *Healthy Playbook 4 KIDS* CD, complete with tips, tools and ideas for IAPD member agencies to address childhood obesity.

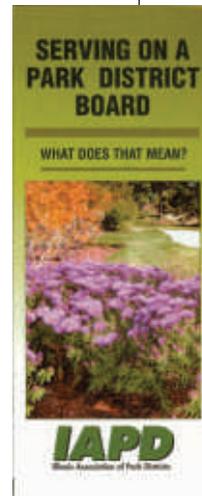
learn about exhibitors and much more.

2008

IAPD publishes *Serving on a Park District Board – What Does That Mean?* The brochure is distributed to agencies as a resource for citizens thinking about running for a park board.

IAPD partners with Good Sports, Inc., a nonprofit organization that provides sports equipment for disadvantaged youth.

IAPD begins the *Legislative Key Contact Program*, urging each member agency to appoint one commissioner or trustee to serve as the agency's legislative key contact. Key contacts receive e-mails regarding action needed on specific issues.



2009

Governor Pat Quinn addresses attendees at the *Soaring to New Heights Conference Awards Luncheon* on his first day in office.

IAPD introduces the nation's first standardized online training curriculum specifically for park board members and executives.

IAPD lobbies for the passage of House Bill 242 (P.A. 96-0501) which adds the Consumer Price Index (CPI) to the debt service extension base of all park districts, forest preserves and conservation districts.

Arts Alliance Illinois presents the first *Arts in the Park Award* at the *Best of the Best Awards Gala*. The partnership recognizes park agencies that promote and support the arts.

2010

Peter M. Murphy, Esq., CAE, IOM, takes over as President and CEO of the IAPD upon the retirement of Ted Flickinger.

IAPD's successful lobbying efforts result in passage of the *Park and Recreational Facility Construction Act*, which provides new funding for park and recreation construction projects.

IAPD works to obtain the release of \$25 million for the Park and Recreational Facility Construction grant program and an additional \$15 million for the Illinois Public Museum Capital Grant Program under the *Illinois Jobs Now!* program.

IAPD's Facebook page is created as a promotional tool and a new form of communication with the membership.

2011

IAPD expands its social media outreach to include Twitter, YouTube and flickr as quick, convenient ways for commissioners and professionals to stay connected.

The IAPD App is developed as a free tool to provide direct connection to our website.

IAPD utilizes QR Codes to enable quick, efficient access to specific information about IAPD programs and services.

IAPD advocates for the passage of Senate Bill 1686, saving member agencies thousands of dollars each year by eliminating their

most costly newspaper publication requirement, the annual treasurer's report.

The association assists 77 member agencies in obtaining nearly \$2.5 million to employ more than 800 youth under the *Illinois Youth Recreation Corps* summer grant program.

New, personalized membership cards are distributed to more than 1,700 board members statewide.

The first *Park Pentathlon and Recreation Relay* are held during *Park District Conservation Day* at the Illinois State Fair. Seven teams including the Illinois Secretary of State's Office and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources compete in a variety of recreational activities.



IAPD leaders meet with Representative John Shimkus during the *NRPA Legislative Forum* in Washington D.C. to discuss key issues including the

2012

IAPD offers its first live stream of the *Legal Symposium* so that members who could not travel to this important educational session have the ability to watch it in real time.

IAPD publishes *Illinois Park District Financial Procedures* and the *Guide to Illinois Sunshine Laws*.

The *IAPD Career Center* is added to the website for posting or searching park, recreation and conservation-related jobs.

Land and Water Conservation Fund and the importance of including funding for trail access in the pending transportation legislation.

2013

First annual *IAPD Legislative Awareness Picnic* takes place,

bringing nearly 200 IAPD members, their legislators and families together for an old-fashioned picnic highlighting the positive role park districts play in bringing families and communities together.

IAPD lobbies for the passage of Senate Bill 1637, which provides a major benefit to member agencies by allowing them to access 50% of OSRAD grant funds at the time the grant is awarded with the remainder distributed quarterly on a reimbursement basis.



Introducing Another Membership Benefit from the Illinois Association of Park Districts

Yeah. We've Got an App for That!

The **FREE IAPD App.**

Go to the iTunes Store, search "IAPD" and click on the **FREE IAPD App** now to:

- Access the latest IAPD news feeds including timely legislative information
- Search contact information for other IAPD member agencies and your colleagues in the field - view their profile or post on their wall
- Access your message center
- Upload photos or view photo galleries

Go to www.il.parks.org for more information. IAPD App is compatible with the iPhone, iPad and iPod touch

IAPD
Illinois Association of Park Districts

The *Forest Preserve Law Handbook* and *Conservation Law Handbook* are published and distributed to all IAPD member forest preserves and conservation districts as a member benefit.

IAPD's first webinar, *Alternative Sources of Revenue*, is offered as a complimentary educational program to IAPD members.



Miss Illinois, Megan Ervin, who finished in the Top 10 of the 2013 *Miss America Pageant*, speaks to *Legislative Conference* attendees about the role that park, recreation and conservation agencies play in the fight against childhood obesity.

IAPD's new *Guide to Employment Laws* joins IAPD's library of resources, providing information about hiring, discipline and discharge; equal opportunity employment laws; employee privacy; worker classification issues; wage and hour laws; benefits; leave of absence; workplace investigations and labor relations.

IAPD's partnership with Living Lands & Waters results in the planting of 19,372 trees through the *Million Trees Project*.

2014

The first *IAPD Leadership Institute* is unveiled as a premier educational series of workshops and webinars designed to foster leadership abilities, boardmanship and professional development among board members and professionals.



IAPD successfully lobbies for the passage of House Bill 4483, allowing newly-elected and appointed officials of park districts, forest preserves and conservation districts to satisfy their one-time Open Meetings Act training requirement by attending a special IAPD course.

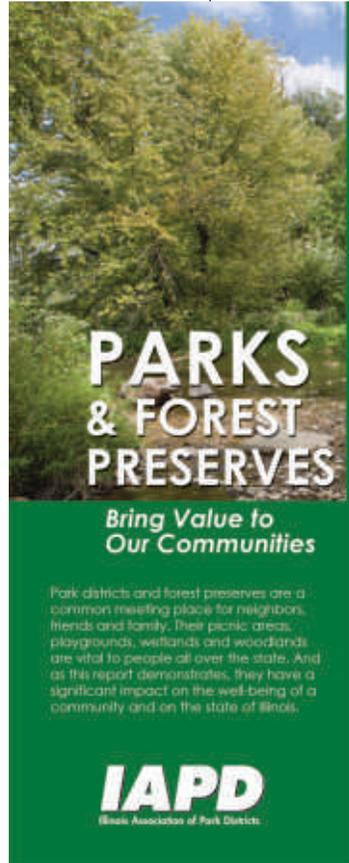
The brochure *Parks & Forest Preserves Bring Value to Our Communities* is created to highlight the positive findings of IAPD's latest research and provide a platform for members to showcase the programs and services they offer as solutions to issues of local concern.

IAPD's dedicated efforts at the State Capitol increase the amount of OSLAD grant funding by 70% for FY 2015, for a total appropriation amount of \$24 million.

Funding for Youth Recreation Corps grants is expanded through IAPD's efforts, providing 83 IAPD member agencies with more than \$4.5 million to employ 1,500 youth.

IAPD creates the *Park & Recreation Disaster Relief Fund* in response to a devastating tornado that swept through Illinois, destroying a majority of the town of Washington. Through this fund, \$25,100 was raised, with \$15,100 going to individuals from the

Washington Park District who were personally affected by the tornado, and \$10,000 going to the park district's foundation for scholarships to families affected by the tornado.



2015

IAPD launches an aggressive campaign to protect the OSLAD grant fund when a special fund sweep occurred, taking nearly \$1.4 million from approximately 100 special funds to cover the State's general operations. IAPD's campaign highlights the short-term and long-term benefits of OSLAD, PARC and the Public Museum Capital Grant program and the ways in which these matching grants address some of the State's fiscal needs.

A statewide permanent property tax freeze is analyzed and IAPD leads

the charge to raise awareness of the specific impact it would have on the day-to-day operations of park and recreation agencies. IAPD's key talking points are utilized by members to enhance their advocacy efforts.

Impact of Unfunded Mandates on Illinois Park Districts, a 57-page report providing a survey and analysis of the costs and recommendations for improvements to 17 different state and federal laws, is published as a valuable advocacy tool.

IAPD leadership attends all 17 meetings of the Lieutenant Governor's *Local Government Consolidation and Unfunded Mandates Task Force* to closely monitor activities and articulate the specific ways the park district model results in an efficient and effective delivery of the highest quality park and recreation services to Illinois citizens.



The *Power of Park Districts and Forest Preserves* is promoted on colorful banners adorning the light poles around the Illinois State Capitol. The banners appear in conjunction with *Parks Day at the Capitol* and the *Legislative Conference* to provide highly-visible messaging to members of the Illinois State Legislature and the public.

IAPD jump starts its *Living Legends Video Series*, memorializing the experience and dedication of park board members throughout Illinois to create an awareness of the commitment made by locally-elected park board members throughout the state.

2016

IAPD meets with members of the governor's administration, the IDNR director and key legislative leaders to convey the importance of appropriating funds for OSLAD and PARC in the June stop-gap budget. This successful communication strategy results in a \$50 million appropriation for OSLAD and a \$50 million appropriation for PARC in a budget that contains relatively little capital appropriation aside from transportation expenses.

IAPD partners with the University of Illinois on a research report that includes a national literature review on the issue of local government consolidation. The report concludes that consolidation does not save taxpayer dollars, and in fact, may result in higher costs for local taxpayers.

IAPD's active participation in the governor's *Local Government Consolidation and Unfunded Mandates Task Force* results in an invitation from Lt. Governor Sanguinetti for IAPD to speak at a task force press conference. IAPD is commended for providing valuable information about the impact of unfunded mandates on park districts.

A newly-designed, all-inclusive publication on legal advocacy is developed for all IAPD *Legislative Conference* attendees. This valuable resource features legislative tools and advocacy tips.

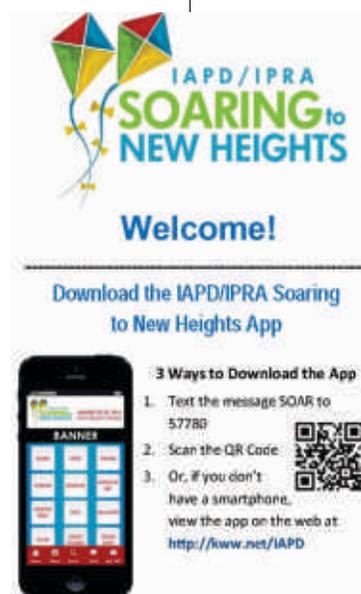
The *Power of Parks: Beyond the Playgrounds* advocacy campaign features colorful graphics and messaging to emphasize that park districts and forest preserves provide essential services to Illinois communities.



The first annual *IAPD Leadership Classic* golf outing presents an outstanding opportunity for member park, recreation and conservation agency commissioners, directors and staff to invite their local leaders for a day of golf and connectivity.

An exclusive conference app is unveiled, enabling attendees to effectively manage their conference schedules and receive alerts and reminders at the touch of a button.

IAPD works with aQity Research & Insights to conduct a statewide survey of W-2 and revenue data for park districts, forest preserves, conservation districts and special recreation agencies and to investigate the role these agencies represent as employers and job generators.

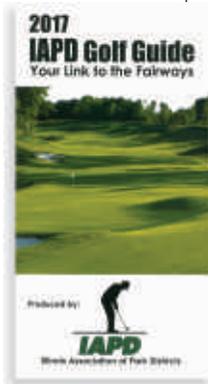


2017

Nearly 150 new commissioners are welcomed into the IAPD family with a new commissioner tool kit titled, *Make the Most of Your Illinois Association of Park Districts Membership*. The kit outlines the wide array of IAPD member benefits and includes a new board member checklist, an IAPD fact sheet, an IAPD member benefit summary, a photo directory of the IAPD Board of Trustees and staff and an IAPD padfolio.

IAPD successfully advocates for the passage of House Bill 3120/Public Act 100-0154, which helps member agencies and their taxpayers save hundreds of dollars every year by providing the option to publish their annual prevailing wage notice on their website rather than in the newspaper.

IAPD's *Golf Guide* is made available as a hard copy and a downloadable PDF for IAPD members and the public as an informative resource for golfers around the state. The guide features a comprehensive list of member golf courses in Illinois complete with photos, contact information and highlights of each course.



2018 and Beyond

IAPD has a long and successful history as a recognized and trusted voice for parks, recreation and conservation, and we attribute our success to the tremendous commitment of the IAPD Board of Trustees and the dedication of elected board members and directors from our member agencies. Our original purpose, “to serve as a mutual agency for cooperation of park districts in the state in the practical study and in the opportunity for discussion of park district problems; park policy and administration; to gather and circulate information and experience on park district affairs; to secure beneficial legislation and oppose legislation injurious to park districts,” still stands today.



Steve Prefontaine said, *“To give anything less than your best is to sacrifice the gift.”* The dedicated individuals who planted the seed of a statewide association for Illinois park districts, forest preserves, conservation, recreation and special recreation agencies altered the course of history; and we have made the most of the gift for more than 90 years.

The continued, steadfast support of the IAPD membership will ensure that the Illinois park district system remains vibrant and strong. We pledge to our membership a promising future dedicated to excellence and service that is second-to-none.





1928
2018 **90** years **IAPD**
A Legacy of Innovation and Excellence