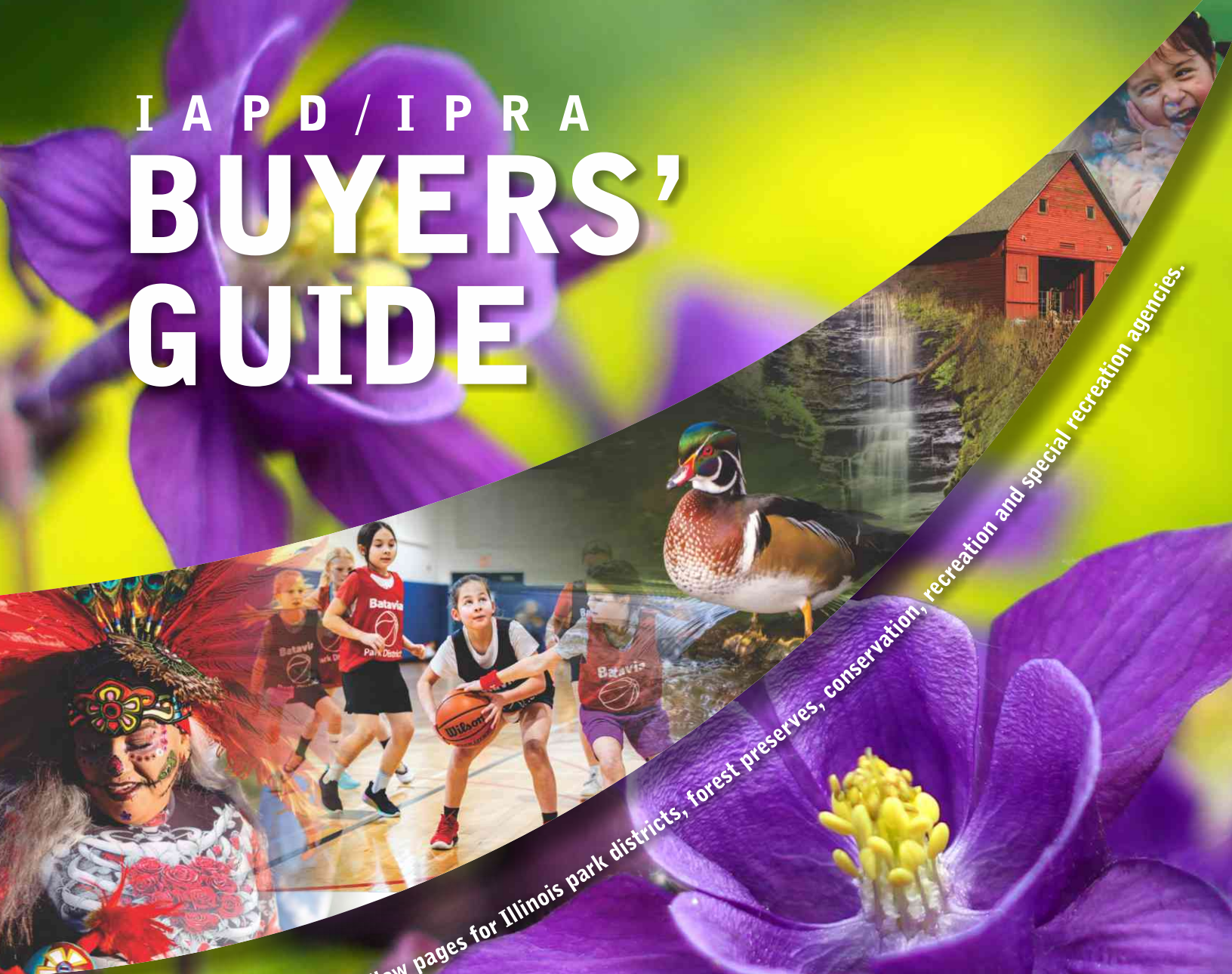


IAPD / IPRA BUYERS' GUIDE



The yellow pages for Illinois park districts, forest preserves, conservation, recreation and special recreation agencies.

IAPD
Illinois Association of Park Districts

ILLINOIS
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PARK & RECREATION ASSOCIATION

2026



What an IPARKS Membership Means to You!



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Contact information for IPRA members can be found online in the Membership section of the IPRA website at ILipra.org.

For instructions on how to update your contact information, visit ILipra.org.



Looking for Agency Contact Information?

You can find contact information for IAPD member agencies by visiting our website at ILparks.org, clicking on 'About Us', hovering over 'Membership' and clicking 'IAPD Agency Members'. You can also look for information using the 'Member Search' button. To update your agency's information, please do so by emailing changes to iapd@ILparks.org.



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Distribution Policy

The IAPD/IPRA Buyers' Guide is published annually as a special supplement to *Illinois Parks & Recreation* magazine for the use of members of the Illinois Association of Park Districts and the Illinois Park and Recreation Association.

IAPD member agencies receive one copy for each commissioner and attorney, as a benefit of membership. IPRA members each receive one copy. IAPD corporate members and IPRA commercial members receive one copy. Display advertisers receive one copy. Libraries, colleges, universities and not-for-profit agencies may purchase the Buyer's Guide for \$25 each.

Disclaimer

Considerable effort has been made to verify listing accuracy; however, we can assume no liability for error or omission.

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ABOUT THE



About IPRA – Elevating Your Impact

The Illinois Park & Recreation Association (IPRA) invests in its members, and we continue to concentrate our efforts, programs and benefits on what matters most to you: your growth, your network and your impact.

One of the most significant highlights this year is the launch of IPRA's new Learning Management System (LMS), IPRA University, which is designed to make professional development more accessible, flexible and meaningful. This new platform brings together a wide range of educational opportunities, allowing you to learn at your own pace while staying connected to the broader parks and recreation community. Whether you're pursuing certifications, expanding your leadership skills or diving deeper into specialized areas of the field, the LMS is built to support every stage of your career. Each year, several courses will be included with membership, making it even more valuable. IPRA University is a space to reinforce learning, provide CEUs and help you stay on the cutting edge of industry trends. Beyond the technology, IPRA is committed to strengthening the professional foundation for all members. This deepens your impact.

At the same time, IPRA remains laser-focused on one of the most critical challenges facing the field: workforce recruitment. Across Illinois, agencies are navigating staffing shortages and increased demand for services, making it more important than ever to attract and retain talented professionals. IPRA continues to lead efforts that raise awareness about careers in parks, recreation and conservation, promote the value of the profession and connect potential candidates with meaningful opportunities. The online resources found in the Workforce Recruitment Kit coupled with in-person Ambassador visits to high schools across the state will strengthen the pipeline and ensure a steady flow of passionate, qualified individuals entering the field. This expands your impact.

In addition to recruitment, there is a strong emphasis on retention and development. Supporting the current workforce is just as important as bringing in new talent, and IPRA provides resources, training and networking opportunities to help professionals grow and thrive. By fostering a culture of continuous learning and connection, IPRA helps agencies build resilient teams that are prepared to meet the evolving needs of their communities. Through shared courses, collaborative opportunities and integrated communication features, members can exchange ideas, learn from one another and build lasting professional relationships. This broadens your impact.

Looking ahead, IPRA is beginning its next strategic planning process in 2026, with a full launch anticipated in 2027. This is an important moment for the organization; it is an opportunity to step back, evaluate where the profession is heading and align efforts with the needs of members and communities across Illinois. Grounded in IPRA's mission, the strategic plan will serve as a roadmap for the future, guiding decisions, priorities, and investments. It will also reflect the collective voice of the membership, ensuring that the direction of the organization is shaped by those it serves. Members will play a vital role throughout this process. IPRA will gather input, encourage participation and create space for diverse perspectives. This collaborative approach ensures that the strategic plan is not only forward-thinking but also practical and responsive to real-world challenges. This maintains your impact.

IPRA is, and has been, dedicated to supporting members. We look forward to building a future that supports you as a professional, strengthens your agency and impacts the value of the industry.

WORKFORCE RECRUITMENT RESOURCE KIT



Download



[ILipra.org/workforce](https://ilpra.org/workforce)

Attract the right candidates with customizable tools, data, and messaging!



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Northbrook Park District

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City of Collinsville

Central Region Representative

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Chicago Metro Region Representative

Keith Wallace
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Lincolnway Special Recreation Association
(LWSRA)

Northwest Region Representative

Scott Crowe
Executive Director
Huntley Park District

At Large Representative

Michael Gianatasio
Executive Director
Downers Grove Park District

IPRA Sections

IPRA's eight special interest groups – or Sections – are a great way for members to meet and collaborate with their colleagues who have similar roles and responsibilities. These sections, and their sub-committees, allow for unlimited educational, networking and leadership opportunities. All sections are free and open for members to join and become involved. Join as many as you like!

Administration & Finance

Director: Jackie Iovinelli
Park District of Forest Park

Communications & Marketing

Director: Cassidy Reinhard
Glenview Park District

Diversity

Director: Manuel Aguilar
Memorial Park District

Facility Management

Director: Katy McKinnon
Elmhurst Park District

Forest Preserve & Conservation

Director: Jenny Heider
McHenry County Conservation District

Parks & Natural Resource Management

Director: Bob Johnson
Oak Brook Park District

Recreation

Director: Kimberly Barton
Hoffman Estates Park District

Therapeutic Recreation

Director: Mia Ross
Northern Illinois Special Recreation Association
(NISRA)



2026 IPRA Upcoming Events

8th Annual Unplug Illinois Day

July 11, 2026

Events happening throughout Illinois

Join agencies state-wide in planning an event to highlight the programs and facilities that make your community thrive! Unplug Illinois promotes the value that parks, recreation and conservation play in creating healthier communities and encourages people to get out, unplug, play, and engage with one another through experiences at local park, recreation, and conservation agencies.



Professionals Yearly Soirée - a celebration of innovation, leadership, and the dedicated professionals who make parks, recreation and conservation thrive throughout Illinois. This inaugural event will bring together IPRA members for an afternoon of awards, networking, food, and memorable experiences.

Software Symposium

October 16, 2026

Bolingbrook Park District's Recreation & Aquatic Complex (B.R.A.C.)

Join IPRA's Administration & Finance (A&F) Section for the 2026 Software Symposium at the Bolingbrook Park District. Attendees will experience engaging 45-minute demonstrations, connect with industry experts in the interactive Exhibit Hall, and discover tools and services that can elevate an organization's efficiency and impact.



Aquatic Symposium

November 5, 2026

Carol Stream Park District's Fountain View Recreation Center

Dive into innovation at IPRA's inaugural Aquatics Symposium, hosted by the Facility Management Section. Attendees will gain valuable insights from engaging educational sessions, discover the latest trends and solutions in aquatic facility management, and connect with peers facing similar challenges.



IPPYS

September 10, 2026

Oak Brook Park District

Step into the spotlight at the Illinois Park & Recreation Association's brand-new IPPYS - Illinois Park



For details and registration, please visit the IPRA event calendar at ILipra.org



IPPYS

ILLINOIS PARK PROFESSIONALS
YEARLY SOIRÉE

SAVE THE DATE

Thursday, September 10, 2026

CENTRAL PARK WEST

1500 Forest Gate Rd
Oak Brook, IL



Explore today! IPRA University

- Virtual & on-demand courses
- Learning aligned with industry competencies specific to Illinois
- Practical, skills-based training
- 24/7 access, anywhere you have an internet connection



IPRA University



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Walter Roy	1944-46	Fred Hall	1977	Jane Hodgkinson	2004
Russell J. Foval	1947	Ron Dodd	1978	Jim Reuter	2005
Howard Copp	1948	Jerry Oakes	1979	Bill McAdam	2006
John Ludlum	1949	Dan Newport	1980	Amy Charlesworth	2007
Vernon Hernlund	1950-51	Robin Hall	1981	Tracey Crawford	2008
Allen Sapora	1952	Dave Phillips	1982	Ron Salski	2009
Harold Bean	1953	Patti Roth	1983	Carrie Hauptert	2010
Bevier Butts	1954	Tom Richardson	1984	LoriKay Paden	2011
Russell Perry	1955-59	George Whitehead	1985	John Curran	2012
Alan Domer	1960-61	Robert Dunsmuir	1986	Allison Niemela	2013
Francis Heinlen	1962-63	Connie Newport	1987-88	Jan Hincapie	2014
Ralph Birks	1963-64	Tom Kruse	1989	Rick Hanetho	2015
Dr. E. H. Storey	1964	Jerry Handlon	1990	Mary Jeanne Hutchison	2016
Ronald Johnson	1965	Keith Frankland	1991	Rita Fletcher	2017
Robert Toalson	1966	Terry Schwartz	1992	Matt Corso	2018
Richard Johns	1967	Steve Persinger	1993	Jeff Fougerousse	2019
Rhodell Owens	1968	Steve Pohlman	1994	Erin Folk	2020
Charles Pezoldt	1969	Debbie Carlson	1995	Doug Damery	2021
John Lindberg	1970	Ray Morrill	1996	Trisha Breitlow	2022
Ted Kavadas	1971	Mike Rylko	1997	Lisa Sheppard	2023
Ernest Nance	1972	Mark Badasch	1998	Andy Thurman	2024
Michael Pope	1973	Don Van Arsdale	1999	Erika Strojinc	2025
Jack White	1974	Liza McElroy	2000		
Richard Johns	1974	Mike Clark	2001		
Chuck Paxton	1975	Jill Bartholomew	2002		
Joe Daud	1976	Elizabeth Kessler	2003		



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ABOUT THE

IAPD

Illinois Association of Park Districts

The Illinois Association of Park Districts, headquartered in Springfield, has been serving park districts, forest preserves, conservation, recreation and special recreation agencies since 1928.

IAPD represents more than 2,100 elected and appointed board members and is composed of nearly 400 park districts, forest preserves, conservation, recreation and special recreation agencies, as well as corporate members.

The Illinois Association of Park Districts offers exclusive programs designed to maximize our members' resources and advance their mission, goals and objectives. IAPD's core service areas include:

- Grassroots Legislative Advocacy
- Board Training and Development
- Legal Services
- Education
- Research
- Technical Assistance
- Public Awareness
- Affinity Programs

The Illinois Association of Park Districts is the oldest and most successful statewide association of its kind. As a grassroots organization, IAPD's voice for parks, recreation and conservation is strong and respected throughout Illinois and the United States. Since 1980, legislation initiated by IAPD has passed 92 percent of the time.

Thanks in large part to the work of IAPD, Illinois citizens enjoy more than 560,000 acres of open space for recreation and parks.

IAPD Mission

IAPD is a non-profit service, research and educational organization that serves park districts, forest preserves, conservation, recreation and special recreation agencies. The association advances these agencies, their citizen board members and professional staff in their ability to provide outstanding park and recreation opportunities, preserve natural resources and improve the quality of life for all people in Illinois.

IAPD Vision

As a national leader, IAPD will provide superb association services to its members.

We will achieve our vision by:

- Strengthening our alliances with environmental, economic and human service agencies throughout Illinois and the nation
- Maintaining a strong relationship with state and national government leaders
- Establishing grants and other new revenue streams for our members
- Addressing the problem of decreasing open spaces and natural areas in Illinois
- Assisting our members in the promotion of healthy lifestyles for all ages and abilities
- Assisting our members in their ability to meet community challenges, such as youth at risk, obesity and the demands of increasingly senior and diverse populations
- Helping our member agencies thrive in spite of a shortage of tax-based revenues

- Educating elected and appointed officials to work in cooperation with fellow board members to promote a stronger community through public parks, recreation and conservation

IAPD organizational strengths include, but are not limited to:

- Orientation and training programs for citizen board members
- Citizen advocacy initiatives that direct and draw on the power of individuals to educate policymakers on issues of vital importance to the mission of park, recreation and conservation agencies
- Educational materials such as *Illinois Parks & Recreation* magazine, books and newsletters, a dynamic website, in-depth and challenging educational seminars and an annual conference
- Technical assistance that helps member agencies increase their efficiency, meet their goals or acquire more funding
- More opportunities for member agencies to save costs on such budget items as utilities, insurance and other operational expenses

The IAPD will continue to achieve these results in a fiscally responsible manner that ensures the association's viability and makes membership a cost-effective necessity.



Peter Murphy
IAPD President and CEO

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2026 IAPD Calendar of Events

April-May

Flying 4 Kids Months

Statewide Kite Fly

May 5

Parks Day at the Capitol

State Capitol, Springfield

May 5

Legislative Reception

Illini Country Club, Springfield

May 6

Legislative Conference

Crowne Plaza, Springfield

June 22

Summer Golf Tour #1

Old Orchard Country Club
Prospect Heights Park District

June 23, 2026

IAPD Leadership and Governance Forum

Plainfield Park District's
Prairie Activity & Recreation Center

Monday, July 20

Summer Golf Tour #2

Bridges of Poplar Creek
Hoffman Estates Park District

Monday, July 27, 2026

IAPD Leadership and Governance Forum

Normal Parks & Recreation Department's
Community Activity Center

August 11, 2026

IAPD Leadership and Governance Forum

South Barrington Park District's
South Barrington Club

August 22

Park District Conservation Day

State Fairgrounds, Springfield

Monday, September 14

Summer Golf Tour #3

Foxford Hills Golf Club
Cary Park District/GolfVisions Management, Inc.

September 17, 2026

IAPD Leadership and Governance Forum

Wilmette Park District's
Lakeview Center at Gillson Park

October 9

Best of the Best Awards Gala

Chevy Chase Country Club
Wheeling Park District

November 5

Legal Symposium

Hyatt Lodge/Conference
Center, Oak Brook

January 28-30

2027 IAPD/IPRA Soaring to New Heights Conference

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Illinois Association of Park Districts

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