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**Geneseo Park District Executive Director Named Chair of Illinois Park & Recreation Association Board of Directors**

La Grange, IL – The Illinois Park & Recreation Association (IPRA) proudly announces the election of Andrew Thurman as the 2024 Chair of its Board of Directors.



Andrew Thurman grew up in Geneseo, Illinois and graduated from the University of Northern Iowa with a Bachelor of Arts in Leisure, Youth and Human Service. His career began at the Lake Bluff Park District, and in 2014, he accepted the position of Superintendent of Recreation at the Geneseo Park District. There, he was very involved in the construction of the John & Carla Edwards Aquatic Center, which received the IPRA Outstanding Facilities and Park Award in 2018. In 2016, he accepted the Executive Director position in Geneseo. Under his leadership, they've made refurbishments to the gymnasium, worked collaboratively with local organizations, and introduced numerous free

community events, made possible through the Geneseo Park District Foundation's support

Andy, his wife Morgan, and their two children love spending time camping, hiking and just being outside. He is also an avid runner, and in 2022, he completed his first half ironman! Andrew serves on the boards of the Geneseo Youth Baseball/Softball Association and the Geneseo Chamber of Commerce. Additionally, he is honored to be a Geneseo Rotarian, contributing to the betterment of Geneseo's vibrant community.

Reflecting on his upcoming role, 'I'm honored to serve as Chair of the IPRA Board. The foundation has been set by those before me, and with a new Strategic Plan and a vibrant, engaging staff we are excited for the future' – Andrew Thurman, CPRP



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‘We are thrilled and fortunate that Andy will be serving as IPRA Board Chair this year. With his extensive background and knowledge of the field and the association, he is the perfect leader to help guide staff as we embark on a new strategic plan,’ – Suzi Wirtz, IOM, Executive Director. ‘I personally am excited to work with him and the entire IPRA Board to develop and achieve the goals necessary to continue advancing this important profession.’

Established in 1944, the Illinois Park and Recreation Association serves nearly 3,000 park, recreation, and conservation professionals throughout the state, and is a national leader in providing premier education, networking, and resources. For more information about IPRA, its board and mission, please visit the IPRA website: [www.ilipra.org](http://www.ilipra.org).

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