

For Immediate Release

Contact Information:

Heather Weishaar

Communications & Marketing Director

heather@ilpra.org

708.588.2280

Illinois Park & Recreation Association (IPRA) Names Buffalo Grove Park District Executive Director as 2024 Chair-Elect

La Grange, IL – The Illinois Park & Recreation Association (IPRA) Board of Directors has appointed Erika Strojinc, CPRE, Executive Director at the Buffalo Grove Park District, as its 2024 Chair-Elect. She will become IPRA’s Board Chair in January of 2025.



Erika Strojinc, CPRE, a dedicated professional with a rich background in parks and recreation, proudly traces her roots back to Sheboygan, Wisconsin. Growing up in the northwest suburbs of Chicago, Erika's passion for community engagement and recreational activities has been a constant throughout her life.

Erika's journey in the parks and recreation field began with part-time roles at both Arlington Heights and Buffalo Grove Park Districts, where she gained valuable experience and laid the foundation for her career. Her academic pursuits led her to the University of Illinois at Chicago, where she earned undergraduate degrees in English and Psychology. Later, she furthered her education at Northern Illinois University, achieving a master's degree in Public Administration with a specialization in Strategic Public Management and Leadership.

Joining the Buffalo Grove Park District in December 2005 as an Assistant Director for the Clubhouse program, her roles within the district have been diverse, ranging from recreation supervisor to superintendent of recreation, director of recreation and facilities, and, most recently in May 2023, she assumed the position of Executive Director.



536 East Avenue / La Grange, Illinois 60525 / P 708.588.2280 / F 708.354.0535 / ilipra.org

Since 2020, she has served on the IPRA Board of Directors, contributing her expertise to various capacities within the Recreation Section, including a role as section Director, and the Membership Council.

Erika enjoys practicing and teaching yoga, holding a certification for the past ten years, and spending time with her husband, their dog, and travel.

‘I am pleased to serve IPRA as the Chair-Elect. I believe in this association, its positive impact on the profession, and its value to the professionals who work in the field. I am grateful for the opportunities IPRA has provided me throughout the years. The impact it has had on me professionally has helped me shape my personal goals and aspirations, and I look forward to continuing my service in this new capacity.’ – Erika Strojinc, CPRE

‘We are very fortunate to have Erika on the Board and serving as IPRA Chair-Elect this year. As we embark on a new strategic plan in 2024, her background, knowledge and dedication to the field and the association are a perfect fit,’ – Suzi Wirtz, IOM, Executive Director. “I personally am excited to work with Erika 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.

###