

# IPRA Today

June 2008  
Volume VIII, Issue 11



## ALGONA RECEIVES HERSHEY AWARD

Algona Parks & Recreation Department was the recipient of the 2007 Hershey Track & Field Youth Program Outstanding Local Chapter Award. Terry Gray, State Coordinator for Iowa, presented the award to Peg Bell, Parks & Recreation Director, at IPRA's Annual Conference. Algona received the award based on their strong commitment to the Hershey program.

Past Hershey award winners include:

Sioux Center (Dave Ruter)  
Marshalltown (Terry Gray & Tim Bell)  
Norwalk (Nancy Kuehl),  
Ankeny (Todd Schenck)  
Iowa City (Bill Blanchard)  
Council Bluffs (Cati Demasi)  
Decorah (Andy Nimrod)  
Carroll – Diane Christensen  
Hull & Boyden – Bev Haack



Hershey realizes that this program cannot succeed without the support of the local communities. There are a lot of great people who are committed to the Hershey Program, and it is only fitting that their efforts are recognized. For more information on national and state programs, visit [www.hersheystrackandfield.com](http://www.hersheystrackandfield.com).



*Our Mission ...  
"To support the  
advancement of park,  
recreation and  
environmental  
conservation  
opportunities through  
education,  
resource tools and  
advocacy."*

[www.iapra.org](http://www.iapra.org)

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# Recipients of Lay Organization Award Announced

*(Terry Hoffman, Parks and Recreation Manager, City of Sioux City, nominated two organizations from Sioux City for this prestigious award. The following text was taken from his nomination information:)*

The **Siouxland Trails Foundation** has been the leading advocate for trail improvement, safety, education and maintenance in our area. This all-volunteer, non-profit corporation has been the catalyst for several important projects.

They have been instrumental in upgrading our trail maintenance by donating the funds to purchase a rotary broom attachment for weekly trail grooming to keep the path clear of debris. Another project they have taken the lead on is the development of an area trails map. They provided the funding to purchase 3600 copies of the map to be distributed to trail users and area businesses.

The Siouxland Trails Foundation has a record of successes in gathering funding from grants, donations and charitable events. They host an annual bike ride with over 250 participants to raise money that supports the mission and goals of their organization. The Trails Foundation is participating in the development of a new Trails Master Plan for the City of Sioux City. Three members of their organization are serving on the Master Plan Committee.

The organization's most ambitious project to date is the raising of \$150,000 towards the funding of the Big Sioux River Trail Bridge. This bridge will join Iowa to South Dakota and complete the tri-state trail connection. We are fortunate to be able to ride in three states from a five-mile stretch of trail. In a little over five months, the Trails Foundation reached their goal with support from corporations to individual riders.

With an organization like the Siouxland Trails Foundation, a great deal can be accomplished. Their members are passionate about improving the quality of life in Sioux City through the development of trail systems. Their vision has taken us beyond our own goals. Sioux City walkers, joggers, in-line skaters and cyclists are fortunate to have the Trails Foundation. Visit [www.siouxlandtrails.org](http://www.siouxlandtrails.org).

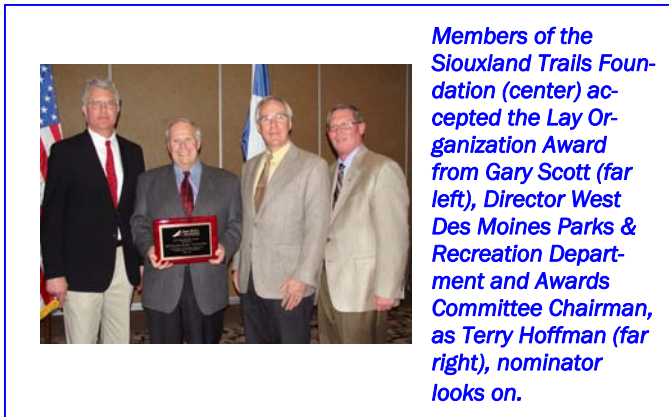
## Sioux City Boundless Playground Committee

An idea born out of the need to serve kids with special needs has led to the development of a playground that is the first of its kind in Iowa.

The project was proposed to the City by a member of a local agency that serves clients with head injuries. It just so happens that this person is married to a member of the City Council. With Council support, a public/private partnership was formed between City and the Chamber Foundation, Opportunities Unlimited and others to build the playground. The \$180,000 project raised \$160,000 privately, \$20,000 from the City along with in-kind services and support from several local contractors. The fundraising campaign included over 50 donors ranging from \$25 to over \$25,000. The sources varied from casino revenue to the Christopher Reeve Foundation to local philanthropists.



*Representatives of the Sioux City Boundless Playground Committee (center) are shown with Gary Scott (far left) and Terry Hoffman, Manager of the Sioux City Parks and Recreation, and nominator of the award. (far right).*



*Members of the Siouxland Trails Foundation (center) accepted the Lay Organization Award from Gary Scott (far left), Director West Des Moines Parks & Recreation Department and Awards Committee Chairman, as Terry Hoffman (far right), nominator looks on.*

On a "Boundless" playground, every child can reach the highest play deck through the use of universally accessible pathways and surfacing. Swings and bouncers include back supports while activity panels and sand table are elevated for children of all abilities. The site had to meet several sensory needs such as sound, light, shade, touch and smell. From the parking lot, the playground looks like every other playground. The enhancements to meet special needs blend into the structure. In Sioux City, it is by far our most popular playground because of the design features.

The project was dedicated on October 16, 2007. Thanks to the support of many, Sioux City has addressed the special needs of kids in our community. The project has built relationships which will benefit our citizens far into the future

# Claude Ahrens Community Service Award

I have known Jim Kapple and his family for about ten years now. I first met Jim when we were on the same city league basketball team when I moved to Grinnell. I met Traci and the boys (Jordan and Kolton) shortly thereafter when they had to take Jim home after he sprained his ankle for the 68th time, by Traci's count.

Jim has always been supportive of recreation in the community of Grinnell, even though his job was in Newton and currently in Montezuma. He was a founding member of the Grinnell Soccer Club and is still a board member. He's helped with introductory sports programs for 3 to 5-year-olds in addition to volunteering as a coach for numerous youth teams: soccer, basketball, flag football and baseball—sometimes even multiple teams and sports at the same time!

Jim was busy enough before his ankles finally stopped him from playing basketball (we're supposed to say he stopped playing, whenever Traci's around.) But those bad feet didn't keep him from becoming even more involved...he took up officiating. He's officiated youth and adult soccer and basketball games ever since his "retirement" from playing.

Jim has also instilled a sense of community in Jordan and Kolton by asking them to help score keep youth basketball tournaments and City League games for our department and to officiate soccer when they were barely older than the participants. Jordan also helped out the Soccer Club this past season by filling in as a coach for a team that didn't have one. How does the old saying go? "They do everything except sell concessions." Sorry, they've done that, too.

And let's not forget Traci. She's supported the recreation department by being a Soccer Club board member and coordinator of travel arrangements to many out-of-town tournaments. But most importantly, she keeps the coaching, officiating, playing and meeting schedules of the family straight. If you need someone to help with something, a Kapple is always willing, but you'd better check with Traci's calendar first.

In closing, one time when Jim was asked why it was taking him so long to finish his backyard fence, he replied, "I don't want my boys to remember this was the summer Dad put up the fence. I want them to remember that I always said 'Yes' when they asked me to play catch or shoot baskets." With that kind of attitude, I can't think of more deserving people than the Kapple family to receive the Claude Ahrens Community Service Award.

*(Nominated by Jeff Sears, Program Supervisor, Iowa City Parks and Recreation Department and former Grinnell Recreation Director.)*

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## Service Club Award of Excellence

The Elks Lodge of West Des Moines has been a vital supporter of Iowa Parks and Recreation for many years. Elks Club members volunteer their time each year to make IPRA a better organization. The WDM Elks Club has assisted with the Iowa Park and Recreation at the Iowa State Fair Day each year since 1996 by coordinating and implementing the Iowa State Fair Spot Shot Contest.

Dave Aronson, president of the Elks Club in 1996, approached WDM Parks and Recreation with the interest of offering a basketball shooting contest for local youth. At the time, Todd Seaman with WDM Parks and Recreation, was IPRA State Fair Day Chairperson. He suggested the Elks provide support for the basketball shooting event at the fair instead of just offering a local event.

The West Des Moines Elks offered their support and the partnership has been in place for more than 10 years. Because the Elks are willing to offer their assistance each year at the fair, IPRA is able to provide staffing for additional events for fair goers. These two organizations working together are able to provide a top quality event for thousands of participants each year at the Iowa State Fair.

The Elks also supplement the event by providing additional prizes and give-a-ways to event participants. Elks Lodge members volunteer their time to work various shifts throughout the day at the fair. Approximately 14 people volunteer their time.

The Elks Lodge is also active in many other community causes that include Hoop Shoot Contests throughout the state, drug awareness programs and poster contests, adopt-a-vet programs, law enforcement recognitions and an essay contest for sixth graders.

*(Nominator Todd Seaman, Superintendent of Recreation, City of West Des Moines, contributed the text for the award nomination.)*

# EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

## City of Eldridge Parks and Recreation Director

The city of Eldridge, Iowa is accepting applications for the position of Park and Recreation Director. Eldridge is located 10 minutes north of the Quad Cities. Population of Eldridge is 5,500.

### Job Summary

Under general direction of the Eldridge Park and Recreation Board, this position plans, directs and coordinates a comprehensive recreational and leisure time program, including management of the Eldridge Recreation and Fitness Center; supervises any full and/or part-time staff and all volunteers engaged in recreational services and program operations, works closely with representatives in the community in developing and implementing specific programs or competitive events. Work involves a combination of operational, managerial, administrative tasks including maintenance, administration and public relations.

### Requirements

Bachelor's Degree in Recreation, Physical Education, or a related field. Previous experience preferred.

### Compensation

Salary range for this position is \$30,000 to \$35,000. A competitive benefit package includes health, dental, life and short-term disability insurance, and IPERS.

For application and questions, contact:

Scott Campbell

Eldridge Park and Recreation Board

E-mail: [scampbell@northscottpress.com](mailto:scampbell@northscottpress.com) (Preferred)

Phone: 563-508-0635

City web site: [www.eldridge.org](http://www.eldridge.org)

Application deadline: 4:30 p.m., Friday, June 13, 2008

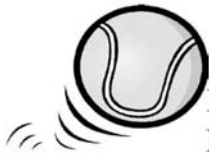
Please note the information below regarding the IPRA Public Parks YOUTH Tennis Tournament. Any park department that brings players to this IPRA tournament will also receive a free t-shirt for the park staff attending.



## IPRA Public Parks YOUTH Tennis Tournament

**Monday, August 11th**

*(Rain date, August 12th)*



Des Moines, IA - McPherson (Birdland) Courts.

Hosted by Des Moines Parks & Recreation Dept.

For youth players with novice and recreational skills, this is a non-sanctioned tournament.



Singles, age divisions for both boys and girls:  
10 & Under, 12 & Under, 14 & Under, 16 & Under  
One day tournament, short set play, no-ad scoring.  
Cost: \$19 per player - FREE t-shirt for every player

To receive an entry blank, contact John at 515-237-1405

or visit [www.iowaparkandrecreation.org](http://www.iowaparkandrecreation.org)

Entry Deadline: August 7, 2008

*Come Share  
the Fun!*

# Job Posting

## Recreation Program Supervisor City of Norwalk

The City of Norwalk, Iowa, is accepting applications for the position of Recreation Program Supervisor. Norwalk is located just minutes south of Des Moines. Its population is about 9,000.

### Job Summary

Under general supervision of the Parks and Recreation Director, to perform a variety of tasks including the development, implementation, and direction of recreation programming for all age groups of the community. Assignments include developing and monitoring of program budgets, working with the Park and Recreation Commission and other adhere groups that focus on community recreational needs, generation of reports, analyzing program activities and maintaining a positive public image for department activities.

### Requirements

Graduation from an accredited institution in leisure services, community recreation, sports management or physical education is required. Ability to become licensed as a certified pool operator (CPO), lifeguard training within one year, certified in first aid and CPR. Experience in a municipal/institutional recreation setting recommended.

### Compensation

Salary range for this position is \$29,300 to \$44,000. A competitive benefit package includes health, dental, life and short-term disability insurance.

Apply to:

Nancy Kuehl  
City of Norwalk  
Director of Parks and Recreation  
1100 Chatham Ave  
Norwalk, IA 50211

Phone: 515-981-9206  
Fax: 515-981-5839

Email: [NancyKuehl@ci.norwalk.ia.us](mailto:NancyKuehl@ci.norwalk.ia.us)  
City web site: [www.ci.norwalk.ia.us](http://www.ci.norwalk.ia.us)

Deadline: June 13, 2008 @ 4:30pm

## Parkticipate – July 8, 2008

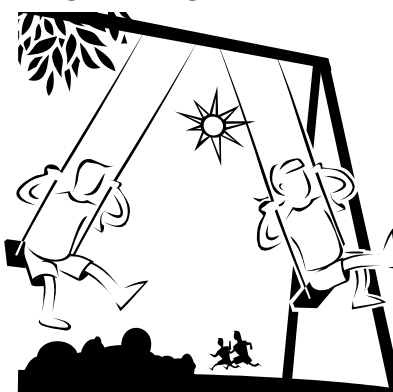
July is National Parks and Recreation month and to celebrate it the Iowa Park and Recreation Association encourages all state departments to participate. The IPRA Board, as part of its three-year action plan, established a goal of developing a statewide health-wellness day. The purpose of the program is to promote and encourage Iowans to take advantage of activities offered by local Park and Recreation agencies. Through this, the IPRA offered a *Winter Wellness Week* last January that 17 departments participated in. The second component of this program is Summer **Parkticipate**. **Parkticipate** will be held on Tuesday, July 8<sup>th</sup>. We ask that all departments take part in this unique opportunity to offer to your community.

Throughout the state of Iowa, IPRA would like to see departments offer an assortment of activities and events in parks, recreation centers and community centers for people of all ages. The goal is to create a state wide play day. The state wide play day is an excellent way to engage participants in:

- a variety of activities
- healthy lifestyles
- programs/event opportunities through Parks and Recreation

Activities and events can be promoted in a number of ways. Outdoor movies, concerts in the parks, park dedications and program demonstrations are just some ideas.

Ankeny Parks and Recreation is looking forward to promoting this unique event to its citizens in a number of different ways. Day camp participants will be actively involved with tree planting and park clean-ups. The night aspect will feature a “carnival” atmosphere that will take place at one of Ankeny’s prominent parks, Hawkeye Park, and will allow citizens of all ages to be active throughout the night. Sidewalk chalk, BINGO, canoe rides, scavenger hunts, a fun run, sports activities, crafts and more are on tap.



Brainstorm, plan and implement **Parkticipate** into your community on July 8<sup>th</sup>.

(Submitted by Ryan Penning, Recreation Coordinator, Ankeny Parks and Recreation.)



## IPRA Board of Directors Update

The board of directors met on March 6 in the Lakeside Center located in Ankeny. A short board meeting was conducted prior to our annual leadership summit.

Directors at large in attendance were: Troy Anderson, Terry Gray, John Hagener, Jan Herke, Ben Page, Duane Randall, Todd Redenius. Glen Cowan, Doug Bylund and Matt Salvatore were newly elected directors, who also participated.

Meeting highlights:

- January 17, 2008 meeting minutes approved.
- Approval of a board action form by-laws change which increased the length of term service for the treasurer and directors at large from two years to three years. This change is effective with the 2008 election. It does not affect the length of service for president, vice president or NRPA Great Lakes Regional Council.
- Site Selection for the 2010 Spring Conference and Fall Workshop. Staff solicited bid host proposals from all member agencies to host the Fall Workshop and select few who could host the Spring Conference. At the time submittals were due, only two communities sent proposals for the Conference and two for the Fall Workshop. After much positive discussion, the board approved the following host agencies and dates: Spring Conference—Sioux City April 5, 6, 7 and Fall Workshop—West Des Moines consortium September 14, 15, 16.

Following the board meeting, our second annual leadership summit was held. Those in attendance include the aforementioned board members and the following current committee chairs: Matt Beatty (Special Training & Seminars), Janet Ellerbrock (Aquatics), Nick Lenox (Scholarship), Deborah Martinez (Publications) and Scott Prochaska (Membership). Purpose of the gathering was to determine the direction of our next “three year action plan”. What better way to secure our future then to have a serious yet fun joint meeting between directors and committee chairs. Prior to the brainstorming discussion, John Hagener and Steve Jordison shared a short MS PowerPoint presentation highlighting the basic functions of IPRA, financial situation and current three year action plan status. Next the individuals were put into groups and given a task to formulate what membership priorities would look like within a new action plan. Vice President Ben Page and his team will craft a plan based upon our vision and mission statements. Contained within the plan will be goals, objectives, due dates and task responsibility assignments. It will be effective July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2011. Once finalized and approved by the board of directors, it will be used to drive our next budget cycle.

Next board meeting will be held via a conference call in late June. Business includes staff evaluations, three year action plan and FY 2008/2009 budget.

For additional information and previous board minutes please visit the IPRA Web site [www.ipra.org](http://www.ipra.org).

Current board of directors include:

**President** – John Hagner (Des Moines) term expires 2009

**Vice President** – Ben Page (Des Moines) term expires 2009, then becomes President

**Treasurer** – Angie Cole (Hiawatha) term expires 2011

**NRPA Great Lakes Regional Council Senior Representative** – Vicki Hensley (Clear Lake) term expires October 2008

**NRPA Great Lakes Regional Council Senior Representative** – Glen Cowan (Indianola) term October 2008 to October 2009

**DAL** - Troy Anderson (Coralville) term expires 2009

**DAL** - Duane Randall (Vinton) term expires 2009

**DAL** – Mark Ripplinger (Cedar Falls) term expires 2009

**DAL** – Doug Bylund (Indianola) term expires 2011

**DAL** – Faron Van Nostrand (Coralville) term expires 2011

**DAL** – Matt Salvatore (Ida Grove) term expires 2011



*New board members sworn in at IPRA Spring Conference in Council Bluffs—from left: Matt Salvatore, Doug Bylund, Faron Van Nostrand, and Angie Cole.*



NOTE THIS PHONE NUMBER CORRECTION FOR DICK KLIENGL AND IA ATHLETIC CONSTRUCTION:

PHONE: 515-832-7962

FAX: 515-832-4838

Information that appears in the 2008 IPRA Membership Directory is inaccurate and should be replaced with the information printed above.

IPRA Day at the Iowa State Fair will be held Thursday, August 14. Anyone interested in volunteering to help with this event should contact Doug Bylund, Recreation Superintendent, Indianola Parks and Recreation, at 515-961-9420 or [dbylund@cityofindianola.com](mailto:dbylund@cityofindianola.com) as soon as possible.



## MORE REAP MONEY AVAILABLE THIS YEAR

The Legislature and Governor Chet Culver have approved a 15 percent increase over last year in REAP funding.

Cities in Iowa will have about \$2.8 million to compete for parks and open spaces projects, according to Ross Harrison, REAP coordinator for the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. The deadline for applications is always August 15.

All information needed to understand how REAP works, including applications, is available at [www.iowareap.com](http://www.iowareap.com). Since REAP began in 1989, it has provided more than \$32.5 million to city park and recreation departments for trails, park land purchasing, and more. The REAP Act sets annual funding at \$20 million per year, but legislative support has been far under that until recent years.

Harrison explained that until two years ago, REAP funding had been averaging about \$10 million per year. Last year it reached \$16.5 million; and for the current year, it has reached \$19 million. In recent years, REAP has been funded from gaming revenues.



City park projects are allocated 15 percent of all REAP funds in a competitive grant program that divides the money between small, medium and large cities to even-out competition. In the coming year cities under 2,000 population will compete for \$608,000; cities 2,000 to under 25,000 for \$908,000; and cities over 25,000 population for \$1.26 million. Grant applicants need to have their grant reviewed and signed by their county REAP committee, as explained on the web site.



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Fax: 641.236.6779  
[www.iapra.org](http://www.iapra.org)

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Publications Committee Chair, Deborah  
Martinez, [deborah@lightenupiowa.org](mailto:deborah@lightenupiowa.org)

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Cathy Shutts  
[cshutts@pcpartner.net](mailto:cshutts@pcpartner.net)

## IPRA Calendar of Events

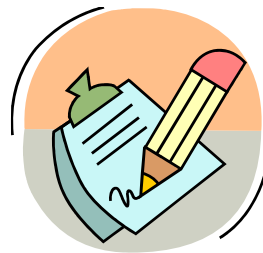


### June

- 9 CEU/Aquatic Workshop—Fort Dodge
- 10-11 Certified Pool Operator's Course— Fort Dodge
- 18 Foundation for Iowa Parks and Recreation  
Board meeting—Grinnell

### July

- 4 IPRA State Offices Closed—Independence Day
- 8 *Parkticipate*
- 24-26 Great Lakes Regional Council meeting at Quality  
Inn and Suites, Des Moines



#### JOT DOWN THESE DATES!!

IPRA 2008 Fall workshop will be  
held in Cedar Rapids September  
16, 17, 18

IPRA 2009 Spring Conference is  
scheduled for April 5-6-7 at the  
Marriott Hotel in Coralville

## Congratulations!

Gene Rathje has accepted the position of Director of Parks and  
Recreation for the City of Ottumwa. Contact information as follows:  
Phone—641-682-7873; E-mail—[rathjeg@ci.ottumwa.ia.us](mailto:rathjeg@ci.ottumwa.ia.us)

Andy Lueth is the new Recreation Director for the City of Sheldon.  
Contact information as follows: Phone—712-324-2769; E-mail—  
[alueth@cityofsheldon.com](mailto:alueth@cityofsheldon.com)