

IOWA



PARKS AND RECREATION ASSOCIATION

FALL WORKSHOP 2024 Fort Dodge

September 16–18, 2024

Visit



Fort Dodge IOWA

www.DodgeTheOrdinary.com

FALL WORKSHOP 2024 – Fort Dodge

September 16–18, 2024



Hotel Information:

Best Western

1518 3rd Ave NW

Fort Dodge, Iowa 50501

Single Queen—\$89 plus per night

Single King—\$99 plus per night

Reservations:

Room Block Name: Iowa Parks & Rec

Room Block Ends: September 6, 2024

Guests can use the Best Western link below for reservations:

https://www.bestwestern.com/en_US/book/hotel-rooms.16032.html?groupId=X30ZF7U7

Thank you to the City of Fort Dodge
for hosting IPRA!

**A special shout out to the Tiger Team members
for helping to organize this event:**

Hannah Angstrom - Fort Dodge

Erin Arndt - Fort Dodge

Alexis Wolfe - Fort Dodge

Danya Moore - West Des Moines

Amanda Randerson - Davenport

FALL WORKSHOP 2024 – Fort Dodge

September 16–18, 2024

Delegate Registration:

Registration Deadline - Friday, September 6th at Noon

IPRA Member Rate

Non Member Rate

Full Package: \$175

\$275

Tuesday only: \$135

\$210

Student Full Package: \$20

Late Registration - Begins Friday, September 6th at 12:01 PM

IPRA Member Rate

Non Member Rate

Full Package: \$225

\$325

Tuesday only: \$185

\$235

Student Full Package: \$20

Additional Fall Workshop information and Registration can be found at -

<https://iapra.org/education/fall-workshop/>

Contact Information:

Kelly Johnson Rose, CPRP

President & CEO

kelly@iapra.org

641-325-2164

Mallory Iverson

Vice President of Member Engagement
& Communications

mallory@iapra.org

641990-3887

Monday, September 16

12:00 - 5:00 PM Golf Outing

Lakeside Municipal Golf Course
617 Central Ave, Fort Dodge

Shotgun start at Noon / Best Shot / \$60 per golfer

Presented by:

Boland Recreation



Golf Fee Includes:

Light sack lunch

18 holes

Cart

Two beverage tickets

Flight and hole prizes

Evening social

*Registration for the golf outing is separate from
the registration for Fall Workshop.*

5:30 - 7:30 PM Evening Social

River's Edge Discovery Center
20 N 1st Street, Fort Dodge

**Golf outing awards will be presented during the Monday evening social

Presented by: Bolton-Menk



Real People. Real Solutions.

Tuesday, September 17



7:30 AM—Registration Table Opens

Presented by: Shade Creations by Waterloo

8:30-9:30AM Educational Sessions

Session #1 - Can Play: Where Recreation Has No Bounds

Melissa Clarke Wharff & Amanda Oleson / Can Play

Room: Neptune CEU 0.1

Join us for an inspiring session that redefines recreation as a truly inclusive experience, led by the team at Can Play in West Des Moines, Iowa, where play has no limits. Let's move beyond diagnoses and focus on ensuring every child has access to the joy of recreational sports. We'll explore the powerful impact of inclusive play, hear success stories, and brainstorm strategies to overcome barriers. Get ready to learn how to foster inclusive adapted recreation in your community and discover how to partner with Can Play to make a difference!

Session #2 - YPN Roundtable

Paxton Peterson / City of Humboldt & Chad Tiemeyer / City of Carroll

Room: Jupiter

Open to all delegates age 35 years and younger. Mix and mingle as we share the good, bad, and ugly. Our goal is to listen and learn how to improve our work environment, new program ideas, and creating a network of like-minded colleagues.

Session #3 - Good Tree Data, Good Results

Emma Hanigan / Iowa DNR

Room: Saturn CEU 0.1

From tree inventories, to canopy cover assessments, to management software, there are many tools that can assist with proactive and efficient engagement of your communities tree resource.

9:30-9:45 AM—Break

Presented by: MSA Professional Services



9:45-10:45 AM Educational Sessions

Session #4 - Recipe for Success: Bringing Concessions In-House

Brian Rohret & Danya Moore / City of West Des Moines

Room: Neptune CEU 0.1

Bringing concessions in-house is like following a recipe, as we walk through each step in the process you can create a successful model for your food and beverage program. During this recipe experience we will navigate you through multiple concession models (Aquatics, Ball Parks, Golf, and Recreation Centers, etc..) as you follow each step of the recipe your end result will be a full functioning concession stand ready to enhance all of your guests experience while making you a little dough.

Tuesday, September 17

9:45-10:45 AM Educational Sessions continued

Session #5 - The History of Lighting in Sports

Jason Schillig / MUSCO

Room: Jupiter CEU 0.1

Light in sports has evolved significantly. Lighting advancements continue to transform sporting events, improving player performance and spectator experiences while pushing the boundaries of what's possible on the field. This session will take the audience through the major milestones in the evolution of lighting in sports.

Session #6 - Managing Native Habitat with Fire in an Urban Park Setting

Brody Bertram / Webster County Conservation

Room: Saturn CEU 0.1

We will begin by introducing habitat management and areas in need where fire can be an effective tool and why. From there the presentation will discuss building a plan and how to identify hazards of putting fire on the landscape in a city park setting. Then we will move into 3 main ways of executing the plan with understanding how the habitat, administration, and public will be impacted. To finish the presentation, we will look at a burn unit within in the city limits of Fort Dodge and how we plan to execute a prescribed fire with health, safety, and natural resource objectives being accomplished. This presentation is meant to be informative with attendee interruption when questions or scenarios arise.

Off-Site Tour #1 - Rogers Sport Complex

Max of 15 participants. Pre-register at Registration Table

10:45-11:00 AM—Break

Presented by: RecDesk



11:00-12:00 PM Educational Sessions

Session #7 - Engagement Through Pop-Up/Community Events

Shawn O'Shea / MSA

Room: Neptune CEU 0.1

This session will provide the audience with examples and best practices in holding booths at pop-up and/or community events to engage all age groups in planning efforts. Already established or well-planned community events are a great way to bring community engagement to your constituents. One of the goals of including community engagement at these events is to reach an audience that includes all age groups from young children to senior citizens. Past planning projects that included engagement booths, pop-up/community events will be presented to the audience with lessons learned. We will discuss advertising best practices prior to the events and activities to include at the booth to attract participants. We will also present how booths at community events can enhance and overlap with other community engagement efforts in a planning process.

Tuesday, September 17

11:00-12:00 PM Educational Sessions continued

Session #8 - A Closer Look at Synthetic Turf in Our Play Spaces

Colby Gingles / SYNLawm

Room: Jupiter CEU 0.1

In this course, we will talk about the history and evolution of synthetic turf and how to incorporate it with existing materials and designs.

Session #9 - Learn to Swim for Free!

Brian Ruffles & Sidney Carstensen / City of Cedar Rapids

Room: Saturn CEU 0.1

This session will go through the creation, development, and challenges with our Free Swimming Lessons for second graders in Cedar Rapids, along with brainstorming on how to get a program in your community started.

Off-Site Tour #2 - Rogers Sport Complex

Max of 15 participants. Pre-register at Registration Table

12:00-1:30 PM—Buffet Lunch

Presented by: Burbach Aquatics, Inc

Location: Zodiac



Highlights include but not limited to new board member installation, announcing new board officers, financial update, annual report, and more Association insider tips.

1:30-2:30 PM Educational Sessions

Session #10 - PEEPs: What IPRA Can Do For You

Kelly Johnson Rose / IPRA

Room: Neptune

If you have ever thought about joining the IPRA mentorship program PEEPs, as either a mentor or mentee, now is your chance to ask us questions about the time commitment, expectations and why you should join.



Session #11 - Robotic Cleaner Technology

Jason Seaton / Carrico Aquatic Resources

Room: Jupiter CEU 0.1

An overview of all the commercial robotic cleaners on the market and what to look for when you're ready to purchase. All robots have the same components, but the technology varies by manufacturer.

Tuesday, September 17

1:30-2:30 PM Educational Sessions continued

Session #12 - Fish and Wildlife Management in Urban Areas

Tyler Stubbs & Andy Kellner / Iowa DNR

Room: Saturn CEU 0.1

To address Iowa's increasing urban population, the Iowa DNR developed the Community Fishing Program to focus on fishing opportunities in Iowa's communities. In this session you will learn how the knowledge of angler needs can help you to improve their experience and fishing at the same time.

2:30-2:45 PM—Break

Presented by: Pilot Rock / RJ Thomas



2:45-3:45 PM Educational Sessions

Session #13 - Diversifying Park Facilities for a Changing World

Chad Nath / Ahrens Park Foundation

Room: Neptune CEU 0.1

A community park will need to develop short-term implementation measures and a long-range road map to achieve a vision for the park's available spaces. This requires a flexible framework that allows design professionals to be creative while integrating ecosystems and enhancing the performance of the landscapes and outdoor spaces.

Session #14 - Strengthening Efforts by Collaborating with Community Tourism

Kerry Kuiper & Tiffany Conrad / Visit Fort Dodge

Room: Jupiter CEU 0.1

This session will discuss the how and why DMO's and Parks & Rec Departments should work together to strengthen the community's tourism efforts. It will discuss the long-term strategies benefiting both the DMO's and Parks and Rec Departments.

Session #15 - Preparing for Medical/Trauma Emergencies

Terry Evans / Fort Dodge Fire & Rescue

Room: Saturn CEU 0.1

Discuss actions and equipment for preparing and responding to medical or trauma emergencies while you wait for EMS to arrive.

3:45-4:00 PM—Break

Presented by: MUSCO Lighting



Tuesday, September 17

4:00-5:00 PM Educational Sessions

Session #16 - The Good, the Bad, and the Crazy

Brian Pauly / City of Mason City

Room: Neptune CEU 0.1

Absolutely, they exist, and they're headed to your programs and facilities: angry, nasty, and downright unreasonable customers determined to express their displeasure. Their behavior can be challenging! By discussing a few techniques and asking the right questions, you can even help some of these angry customers leave feeling better (or have a game plan before they leave). This session will cover topics like creating community support groups, reverse referendums, NIMBY/CAVE people, and other topics. You can come to listen or learn from others!

Session #17 - Parks Procedure Manual Roundtable

Tyler Baird / City of Iowa City

Room: Jupiter CEU 0.1

Do you have a procedure manual for your Parks Department? What is included in your manual? What do you know is missing from your manual? What is your annual training for the procedures in your manual.

Session #18 - Iowa's Largest OHV Park

Natasha West / Webster County Conservation

Room: Saturn CEU 0.1

Learn how Gypsum City OHV Park came to be and how Webster County Conservation got Involved. Tasha will share the beginning stages of the park, what the park has to offer now and what to look for in the future. Gypsum City is the largest OHV Park in Iowa and has visitors from all over the Midwest and beyond.



**OFF-SITE TOUR
OPPORTUNITY!**

Rogers Sports Complex

Tuesday, September 17

9:45 AM—10:45 AM

11:00 AM—12:00 PM

**Pre-register at registration table

Tuesday, September 17

6:00 - 10:00 PM Evening Social

Fort Frenzy

3232 1st Ave North, Fort Dodge



Mingle with other professionals while enjoying a variety of amenities - from outdoor games and activities to indoor games for those looking to unwind. We'll have delicious pizza to keep you fueled throughout the evening and a bags tournament for those with a competitive spirit. Whether you're looking to relax, compete, or connect with others in your industry, this event has something for everyone. Don't miss the chance to build new connections, enjoy great food, and have a fantastic time in a casual and friendly atmosphere. We look forward to seeing you there!

The evening will also include the Iowa Foundation for Parks and Recreation Auction!

Shuttle Service

5:30 PM and 6:30 PM from Best Western to Fort Frenzy

9:30 PM and 10:00 PM return to Best Western



Presented by: Carrico Aquatics



Wednesday, September 18



JEO CONSULTING GROUP

7:30 AM—Registration Table Opens

Presented by: JEO Consulting Group

8:30-9:30 AM Educational Sessions

Session #19 - Improving the Safety of Athletic Fields

Adam Thoms / Iowa State University

Room: Neptune CEU 0.1

This presentation will cover how to safely manage athletic fields and what it takes to make the safest playing surface possible. I will discuss both synthetic and natural grass surfaces and how to maintain them. Various aspects of maintenance discussed will include mowing, height and timing, fertilization, weed control, and aeration for natural grass fields as well as grooming, decompaction, and paint removal for synthetic surfaces. I will also present on how to better understand the safety decisions used for each surface.

Session #20 - The Next Conversation

Holly Espenhover / Unity Point Health

Room: Jupiter CEU 0.1

This session will discuss preparing yourself to have a conversation where you need to deliver feedback to another person. Prior to delivering feedback to another individual, it is important to first assess yourself and also to understand how much emotional capital you have with the recipient. Participants will learn steps and tips to engage in open, honest dialogue to deliver meaningful feedback in order to be a successful leader.

9:30-9:45 AM—Break

Presented by: Kay Park Recreation



SYNLAWN[®]
Plant-Based Artificial Grass

9:45-10:45 AM Educational Sessions

Session #21 - Foundation 101

Hannah Angstrom / Iowa Foundation for Parks and Recreation

Room: Neptune

The foundation's journey over time, its current activities, and its future goals are all important to explore. Understanding how the Foundation can support professionals is crucial for fostering a positive path forward.

Wednesday, September 18

9:45-10:45 AM Educational Sessions continued

Session #22 - Deciphering Child Labor Laws

Lisa England / ILOC/IMWCA

Room: Jupiter CEU 0.1

Most of your seasonal workforce are under the age of 18. Are you following Iowa Child Labor Laws, Federal Labor Laws or a combination of two. This session will cover what leaders need to know to ensure they are following the law and keeping staff safe.

10:45-11:00 AM—Break

Presented By: Concrete PolyFix



11:00-12:00 PM Educational Sessions

Session #23 - Aquatics Roundtable

Katie McGrane / City of Ankeny

Room: Neptune

Roundtable session to wrap up the end of the aquatics season. We'll discuss what went well, areas for improvement and strategies for making the most of the off-season. This educational session is a great opportunity to share best practices, learn from each other, set goals for the coming year, and to help you maximize your team's potential and plan for success in the off-season and beyond.

Session #24 - 1-Day Special Events Roundtable

Shelby Miller / City of Grinnell & Whitney Garcia / City of Ankeny

Room: Jupiter CEU 0.1

Join us for a roundtable discussion on potential 1-day special events that can be held at your department. During this session, speakers will present a few ideas for events and then open up the floor for attendees to discuss and share ideas from their own departments. This will be an interactive session aimed at exploring creative and engaging event that can be organized within your department.

A special shout out to the Tiger Team members for helping to organize this event:

Hannah Angstrom—Fort Dodge

Erin Arndt—Fort Dodge

Alexis Wolfe—Fort Dodge

Danya Moore—West Des Moines

Amanda Randerson—Davenport

Speaker Bios

Melissa Clarke Wharff—Can Play Co-Founder, Can Play

Melissa Clarke-Wharff is the Founder of Can Play Adapted, a non-profit organization dedicated to serving children across Iowa who face various barriers. Can Play's innovative adapted programs provide opportunities for children living with physical, cognitive, emotional, and chronic health conditions to be active and engaged, regardless of their challenges. The inspiration for Can Play came from Melissa's personal experience when her son Jack suffered six strokes at the age of eight. Navigating Jack's new "normal," Melissa discovered significant gaps in the availability of recreational activities for children with special needs in her community.

Determined to address these gaps, she founded Can Play to ensure that all children, regardless of their abilities, have access to inclusive and adaptive recreational programs. Before establishing Can Play, Melissa had a successful career in the hospitality industry, where she worked for nearly 25 years. She held roles in catering sales and served as a Food and Beverage Director, gaining valuable experience in management and operations. Melissa is a proud native of Des Moines, Iowa, and an alumna of Roosevelt High School and the University of Iowa. She currently resides in West Des Moines with her husband and their six children



Amanda Oleson—Licensing & Curriculum Manager, Can Play

As the Licensing and Curriculum Manager at Can Play, Amanda Oleson's long-standing commitment to the children of Iowa and their families is evident in her over 25 years of experience in education and adaptive sports. She specializes in creating inclusive recreational sports programming for youth of all abilities and is dedicated to helping others implement Can Play Adapted programs across Iowa communities. Amanda is involved within her West Des Moines community through the Friends of Parks and Recreation and enjoys exploring the outdoors by visiting state and national parks.



Paxton Peterson—Recreation Director, City of Humboldt

Paxton Petersen is the Recreation Director for the City of Humboldt and has been with the City of Humboldt in various roles since 2017. Paxton graduated from the University of Iowa in 2015 with a bachelor's degree in Exercise Science. Paxton oversees the Humboldt Recreation Center, Humboldt Family Aquatic Center, Humboldt Community Center, youth & adults sports and programs, and special events for the Recreation Department. Paxton oversees 2 full-time employees as well as 15-60 part-time employees throughout the year. Paxton is a CPRP and CPO and has served on multiple tiger teams for IPRA.

Speaker Bios

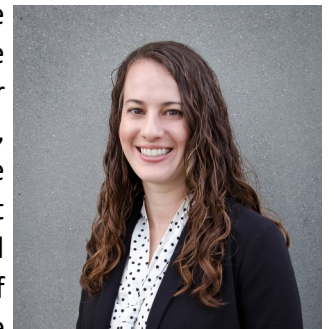
Chad Tiemeyer—Director of Parks and Recreation, City of Carroll

I have been the Director of Parks and Recreation for the City of Carroll since November of 2021. Previously I served as the P & R Director of Shenandoah for 7 years. In 2024, I was the Co-Chair for the IPRA Young Professionals Network, and will be leading the YPN in 2024. I thoroughly enjoy learning from my peers as well mentoring others in the profession.



Emma Hanigan—Urban and Community Forestry Coordinator, Iowa DNR

Emma Hanigan is the State Urban and Community Forestry Coordinator for the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. She is responsible for the statewide Community Forestry Program, providing technical assistance to all 99 counties. Her work as a coordinator includes education and training to city staff, tree boards, volunteers and others interested in managing the public tree resource. Additionally, she assists with tree inventories, urban forest management plans, mitigation planning for invasive species, updating tree ordinances, and planting selection for underserved communities. She is an International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Certified Arborist. Emma graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Forestry with an emphasis in Urban and Community Forestry from Iowa State University.



Brian Rohret—Food & Beverage Coordinator, City of West Des Moines

I have over 25 years in the culinary industry, I hold certifications as a Le Cordon Bleu French Chef, Culinary Chef, Food Protection Professional, Dietary Manager, Food Scientist, ServSafe, and IPACT. As a Restaurateur I have owned and operated many different culinary concepts, As the Food Service and Concession Coordinator with The City of West Des Moines I manage and operate their concession stands and continue to work with our leadership team to find ways on creating new revenue sources within the food and beverage sector for our parks and recreation department.



Speaker Bios

Danya Moore—Guest Services Supervisor, City of West Des Moines

Danya has been involved with Parks & Recreation for 15 years. She started working at Mason City Parks & Recreation as a Program Coordinator overseeing Childcare programs, Adult Sports, Aquatics, and concessions. Danya currently works for the City West Des Moines MidAmerican Energy RecPlex as the Guest Services Supervisor. She oversees all youth programs at the RecPlex, Childcare programs, Special events, and a liaison the concession stands at the RecPlex and our other city locations.



Jason Schillig—Sales Executive, MUSCO Sports Lighting

Jason Schillig, based in Muscatine, Iowa, has been a valued member of the Musco team since 1998. Known for his strong work ethic and dedication to customer satisfaction, Jason is passionate about providing innovative lighting solutions that meet the unique needs of each client. His decades of experience and long-standing tenure at Musco are a testament to his expertise and the strong relationships he has built with contractors, school administrators, parks and recreation officials, and other influential decision makers.



Brody Bertram—Parks & Trail Technician, Webster County Conservation Board

Brody Bertram has been a parks and natural resource professional for 15 years and currently serves the Webster County Conservation Board as their Parks & Trail Technician. Among all the various tasks and experiences prescribed fire has been one of the most challenging and rewarding parts of the job, not to mention a great team and network building task. In his presentation he will introduce fire as a management tool and give insight on how to plan and find resources to execute a successful prescribed burn.



Shawn O'Shea—Urban Planner, MSA

Shawn O'Shea, AICP is a Client Service Manager, Urban Planner and Remote Pilot. His experience includes Community/Regional Planning and Design, GIS Analysis and Planning, Comprehensive Planning, Land-use Planning, Downtown Planning, Park Planning, Funding and Public Engagement. He is a certified planner (AICP). Shawn has 13 years of experience as an urban/regional planner. Shawn holds a master's degree in Community and Regional Planning from Iowa State University.



Speaker Bios

Colby Gingles—Regional Manager, SYNLawn

With a decade of hands-on experience both in the field and manufacturing, Mr. Gingles possesses a unique expertise that empowers designers to make well-informed decisions. His approachable style dismantles the complexities often associated with artificial grass, while spotlighting key features such as SuperYarn technology and soy-based backings that not only support American farmers but also enhance bio-security.



Brian Ruffles—Aquatics Program Supervisor, City of Cedar Rapids

Brian has been the Aquatics Program Supervisor for The City of Cedar Rapids since the spring of 2022. Prior to that, he was the Aquatics Director at Coe College and oversaw the creation and grow of their swimming lessons program. Brian has been involved in swimming lessons in some capacity since the summer of 2000, and has experience working in five different swimming lessons curriculums, including along with helping to create two curriculums from scratch.



Jason Seaton—Director of Robotics, Carrico Aquatic Resources

Jason Seaton is a retired US Army veteran with 20+ years of service. He has also spent 10 years in the commercial aquatics industry, specializing in robotic cleaner sales, service, technology and development.



Tyler Stubbs—Community Fisheries Biologist, Iowa DNR

Tyler Stubbs has been the statewide Community Fishing Biologist for the Iowa Department of Natural Resources based out of Des Moines since 2016. Prior to being in this position he was a Fisheries Biologist with the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks for 5 years. He received his education from Iowa Central Community College (AA), South Dakota State University (BS), and Mississippi State University (MS). In his spare time, Tyler enjoys fishing and exploring the 100+ city park fisheries with his family in the Des Moines metro.



Speaker Bios

Andy Kellner—Wildlife Depredation Biologist, Iowa DNR

Andy Kellner has been working in the Iowa DNR Wildlife Bureau since 2011, with over 10 years specifically with human-wildlife conflict. Hailing originally from southeastern Wisconsin, Andy earned degrees in Anthropology and Conservation Biology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison (Go Badgers). He has completed the Certified Public Manager course through Drake University and is a certified Master Gardener through ISU Extension.



Chad Nath—President & CEO, Ahrens Park Foundation

Chad Nath is the President and CEO of the Ahrens Park Foundation. Chad previously served as LINK Grinnell’s Executive Director for two years. Prior to his role with LINK, Chad spent sixteen years with UnityPoint Health – GRMC; seven as Director of Wellness, Fitness, and Integrated Health, nine as Director of Safety, Security, and Emergency Preparedness and all 16 as Director of the Summer Day Camp. He has also served on the Board of Directors for the Ahrens Park Foundation, Imagine Grinnell, Kids Against Hunger, and the UnityPoint Health – GRMC Foundation. Chad has over twenty-eight years of experience in child education and development, and community health and wellness.



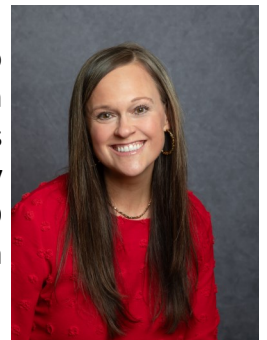
Kerrie Kuiper—Executive Director, Visit Fort Dodge

Kerrie Kuiper is the Executive Director for Visit Fort Dodge (VFD) and works with event planning, tourism development, operations, advertising, VFD marketing grant program, and chair for the Fort Dodge Regional Sports Authority grant, and Latino-focused promotional project. Kuiper represents VFD on multiple statewide and regional associations including the Iowa Travel Industry Partners and Midwest Travel Network. She is the VFD liaison to the Greater Fort Dodge Growth Alliance Board, Main Street Fort Dodge Board, Fort Dodge Public Art Commission, and Friends of Webster County Conservation Board.



Tiffany Conrad—Community Sales Manager, Visit Fort Dodge

Tiffany Conrad is the Community Sales Manager for Visit Fort Dodge (VFD) and works to recruit events including sporting events, conventions/meetings, and motorcoach tours. She works multiple niche trade shows to promote the community including Sports ETA, TEAMS, Smart Meetings, and more. She also works to coordinate community services and the visitor experience for groups coming to the area. Conrad represents VFD on statewide and regional associations including Iowa Travel Industry Partners, Iowa Society of Association Executives, and Meeting Planners International.



Speaker Bios

Brian Pauly—Superintendent for Recreation & Golf, City of Mason City

Brian Pauly is currently working as the Superintendent of Recreation and Golf for the City of Mason City. He has oversight of all recreation programs, the Mason City Family Aquatic Center, MacNider Campgrounds, Highland Park Golf Course, Mason City Arena, a number park development projects, and both the Adult and Youth Sports Complexes. Prior to Mason City, Brian was the Child and Youth Program Administrator for Naval Air Station Key West. He was awarded the John “Pat” Harden Award from the Armed Forces Recreation Society and The National Recreation and Park Association. This award goes to a manager who has been in a management position for less than 5 years and has continuously gone above and beyond the “Call of Duty” from all four military branches. He has supervised community and youth recreation programs for over 24 years in Iowa and Florida, as well as abroad in Europe and Asia.



Tyler Baird—Superintendent for Parks & Forestry, City of Iowa City

Tyler Baird is the Superintendent of Parks and Forestry for the City of Iowa City. He has worked in the parks industry for over a decade and started working for Iowa City in 2015. Tyler holds a Bachelor of Landscape Architecture from Iowa State University, Master of Human Dimensions in Ecosystem Science and Management from Utah State University, and Master of Public Administration from Drake University. Additionally, he is a Certified Park and Recreation Professional, Certified Public Manager, and Certified Arborist. He loves plants, cats, art, and spending time with his wife.



Mike Cimprich—City Arborist, City of Marion

Mike Cimprich is an Iowa native from the Cedar Rapids/Marion area and has a bachelor’s degree in Conservation Management from Upper Iowa University. He has been working full-time with Marion Parks and Recreation since 2008, where he started as an equipment operator until taking on the City Arborist role in 2016 and managing the new Urban Forestry division. Mike makes safety a priority in daily work and promotes a training and personal development culture throughout the department. He also serves on various other boards and committees across the state including the Marion Tree Board, the Iowa Arborist Association, the Iowa Urban Tree Council, the Corridor Metropolitan Planning Organization and the Linn Area Mountain Biking Association. Mike is a steward for green design, nature components, sustainability, and trail connections in the urban environment!



Speaker Bios

Adam Thoms, Associate Professor, Iowa State University

Adam is an Associate Professor of Commercial Turfgrass at Iowa State University and the State Turfgrass Specialist. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Tennessee. Currently, he teaches, conducts research and fields Extension calls for Iowa State.



Holly Espenhover—Regional Director of Human Resources, UnityPoint Health

Holly is an Iowa native and has been working in the healthcare industry for the past 15 years in human resources, leadership, organizational development, and organizational strategy. She served as the Chief People Officer for Stewart Memorial Community Hospital for almost a decade and made the jump to UnityPoint Health – Fort Dodge in 2021 and serves on the Senior Team as their Regional Director of Human Resources. In her early career, she served active-duty Army from 2001-2007 and was stationed in Italy for her entire tour. This is also the place she met her husband Adam who is also from Iowa. They live in Carroll and have two sons, Ethan (19) and Connor (14). Ethan recently finished his Army training and will be going back to Italy to the unit Holly and Adam served under and the place he was born. Connor is 14 and starting his freshman year in High School and was accepted into the early college academy program through DMACC and will start college classes this fall. As a family they love to travel, ski, camp, complete home renovations, and be with extended family! Holly received a master's degree from Drake University in Leadership Development and is in her final year of completing her doctorate in Interdisciplinary Leadership through Creighton University. She has found her strengths and focus have led her to a fulfilling career in organizational and leadership development to grow cultures that breed respect, kindness, excellence, and purpose.



Hannah Angstrom—Vice President, Iowa Foundation for Parks and Recreation

Hannah Angstrom is the current Assistant Director of Recreation Services for the City of Fort Dodge, and Vice President for the Iowa Foundation of Parks and Recreation. She has been with the City of Fort Dodge for 9 years, and on the Foundation Board for a little more than 1 year. Hannah enjoys spending time with her family, being outside and reading. Hannah especially enjoys being on the Foundation Board to see the changes that happen in communities of all sizes in regards to quality of life.



Terry Evans—EMS Supervisor, Fort Dodge Fire & Rescue

Terry Evans has been a member of the Fort Dodge Fire/Rescue for 6 years as the EMS Supervisor. Prior to that Terry was employed by Unity Point Health Trinity Regional Medical Center for 12 years as a Paramedic, the last 5 of those years as the Ambulance Supervisor.

Speaker Bios

Lisa England—HR/Management, ILOC/IMWCA

Lisa is the Human Resources and Management Adviser for the Iowa League of Cities, and IMWCA. She assists managers and supervisors in human resources and management including, developing the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary to successfully lead and coach their employees. Lisa has a professional and personal diverse background that contributes to her expertise and experience. She has held human resources director positions and functioned as a consultant. She is a former Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) and Firefighter (FF) and has served on various non-profit boards of directors and as a library board member.

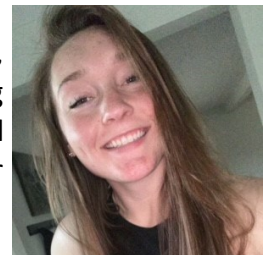
Katie McGrane—Recreation Supervisor-Aquatics, City of Ankeny

Katie has worked in the aquatics field for 10 years. She has experience working for municipal aquatic centers, University of Northern Iowa Wellness & Recreation Center, and the YMCA, as well as getting the opportunity to work for the Navy MWR in Yokosuka, Japan. Katie has been with Ankeny Parks & Recreation for just over 2 years and currently oversees two aquatic centers as well as a variety of youth and adult recreation programs, sports leagues, and special events.



Shelby Miller—Recreation Coordinator, City of Grinnell

I have almost four years of sports, recreation and aquatics programming experience, including the organization of special events. My favorite part about my job is connecting with the entire community. If I'm not working, you can find me with my husband and daughter, at the gym, exploring the outdoors, or relaxing on the couch watching our favorite show.



Natasha West— Trail Technician II, Webster County Conservation

Tasha West has worked for Webster County Conservation for 10 years. Through those years she has held various jobs but since 2018 she manages and maintains Gypsum City OHV Park. She has attended numerous trainings and conference's all over the U.S. on Off-Highway Vehicle maintenance, OHV safety, and best practices. She also holds the Secretary position on the board of directors for the National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council.



Whitney Garcia—Recreation Supervisor, City of Ankeny

Whitney Garcia has worked in the recreation field for 14+ years. She started as a Recreation Specialist for Fort Bragg FMWR for 3 years, then moved back to Iowa and has been a Recreation Supervisor for Ankeny Parks & Recreation for the last 11 years. She currently oversees Ankeny's new Senior Community Center as well as a variety of youth and adult recreation programs, sports leagues, special events, the dog park and more.

