IPRA

Awards Program

Awards presented at spring conference on:

Wednesday, March 30, | 2027 | 6:00 - 8:00 PM

2026 Award Winners







Nomination Electronic Deadline

Noon, Friday, January 29, 2027

IOWA PARKS AND RECREATION ASSOCIATION

Slattery / Trueblood Professional **2026 Recipient — Matt Salvatore, CPRP (Sioux City)**

The highest professional award in IPRA, the Slattery/Trueblood Professional encompasses many traits. To be considered for this award, the nominee should be a person who has given of themselves as they work with their clientele. Their everyday life should exemplify outstanding, dedicated, and unselfish service to the profession, community, and to IPRA.

Eligibility Requirements:
· Current IPRA membership.
· Must have been an IPRA member for a minimum of 10 years.
Evaluation Criteria:
· Current or past IPRA involvement. Please include as much engagement history as possible.
· Professional work experience and length of service which specifically bear on nominee's qualifications.
· National, state, and local professional parks and recreation organization affiliations.
· Education and/or training.
· Membership in other organizations, honors, awards or special accomplishments.
· Community service—professional and volunteer, related and non-related to parks and recreation.
· Contributions and dedication to the parks and recreation field.
· Outstanding personal characteristics: ability to work, direct and train others; ingenuity; versatility within all areas of the field.

Dr. Carole Hanson New Professional **2026 Recipient — John Byrnes, CPRP (Bettendorf)**

This award recognizes the professional who has exemplified commitment and outstanding service to the parks and recreation profession and to the Association. Focus shall be for individual members who are age 35 years and younger with at least three (3) years of IPRA membership in good standing. Association membership is required to be eligible to receive this award.

Eligibility Requirements:
· Current IPRA membership.
Evaluation Criteria:
· Current or past IPRA involvement. Please include as much engagement history as possible.
· Professional work experience and length of service which specifically bear on nominee's qualifications.
· National, state and, local professional parks and recreation organization affiliations.
· Education and/or training.
· Membership in other organizations, honors, awards or special accomplishments.
· Community service—professional and volunteer, related and non-related to parks and recreation.
· Contributions and dedication to the parks and recreation field.
· Outstanding personal characteristics: ability to work, direct and train others; ingenuity; versatility within all areas of the field.

T. Ray Frame Park Maintenance **2026 Recipient — Matt Polito (Johnston)**

The T. Ray Frame Park Maintenance award is given to the outstanding maintenance person with a parks and recreation department who has demonstrated a high level of skill in his/her work; goes beyond what would be considered adequate or expected in the position; shows a devotion on and off the job. This is a "blue collar" award designed for an individual in a non-supervisory or working supervisor position. The individual may be a full-time, part-time or seasonal employee.

Eligibility Requirements:
· IPRA membership not required for recipient.
Evaluation Criteria:
· Professional work experience and length of service which specifically bear on nominee's qualifications.
· National, state, and local professional parks and recreation organization affiliations.
· Education and/or training.
· Membership in other organizations, honors, awards or special accomplishments.
· Community service—professional and volunteer, related and non-related to parks and recreation.
· Contributions as well as dedication to parks and recreation field.
· Outstanding personal characteristics: ability to work, direct and train others; ingenuity; versatility within all areas of the field.

Permanent Part-time Team Member

Permanent part-time or ongoing seasonal employees are an integral asset to local park and recreation agencies. These individuals perform necessary duties in providing top quality programs, special events, and other services which full-time staffers do not have the time or financial wherewithal.

Eligibility Requirements:
· IPRA membership not required for recipient.
Evaluation Criteria:
· Must be a permanent part-time employee (less than 30 hours/week on a yearly basis or annual seasonal/program).
· Cannot be a park maintenance employee.
· Demonstrate via nomination a passion and enthusiasm for the profession, agency, and public.
· Demonstrate leadership in providing quality programming and/or services.
· Demonstrate leadership in developing fellow part-time and/or seasonal employees.

Administrative Assistant **2026 Recipient - Brittany Hamer (Cedar Rapids)**

Administrative and/or clerical staff are an integral asset to local park and recreation agencies. These individuals perform necessary duties in providing excellent administrative services so the department can provide top quality programs, special events, and superior customer service, in addition to other behind the scenes encouragement.

Eligibility Requirements:
· IPRA membership not required for recipient.
Evaluation Criteria:
· Nominee must work year-round averaging no less than a minimum of twenty (20) hours per week.
· Demonstrates outstanding administrative support.
· Exhibits a passion and enthusiasm for the profession, agency, and public.
· Displays leadership in providing quality programming and/or services.
· Expresses exceptional customer service along with remarkable internal and external communications.

Claude Ahrens Community Service **2026 Recipient — Kristine Bartley & Mike Rowley (Des Moines)**

Recognizes an individual(s) outside of our profession who has provided support and contributed to the strengthening of programs and resources within his/her community, area or state. In addition, selected nominee may be recognized during a local community presentation.

Eligibility Requirements:
· IPRA membership not required for recipient.
Evaluation Criteria:
· Key individual(s) involved with contributions.
· Description of financial or in-kind contributions provided for community, county or state.
· Describe the impact/benefit of the person, group or club to the local parks and recreation agency.

2027 AWARDS COMMITTEE MEMBERS

CHAIR:
Juli Seydell Johnson, CPRP (Iowa City) - term expires Conference 2027

MEMBERS:
Vice Chair - Matt Salvatore, (Sioux City) - term expires Conference 2028
Hannah Angstrom, CPRP (Fort Dodge) - term expires Conference 2027
John Byrnes, (Bettendorf - term expires Conference 2028
Katie McGrane, CPRP, (Ankeny) - IPRA Board of Directors

Questions:

Call: 641-325-2164 or E-mail: kelly@iapra.org

Nomination(s) deadline is Noon, Friday, January 29, 2027
sent electronically to Kelly Johnson Rose, CPRP, President & CEO kelly@iapra.org