

IPRA Today

September 2009
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Go Green at the 2009 Fall Workshop Ames, Iowa—September 22, 23, 24

The buzz is starting to build as the IPRA Fall Workshop Committee and Ames Parks and Recreation employees gear up for this year's Fall Workshop which is coming to Central Iowa. Participants will become familiar with "Excellence Through People" which reflects the city of Ames' continuous efforts to provide quality services. Because excellence is the standard we all strive for in our programs, activities, and facilities, we hope you will be able to incorporate some of these concepts into your departments.

During this three-day workshop, participants will experience off-site tours including visits to Iowa State's Jack Trice Stadium, Jacobson Athletic Building, Ames' Dog Park, the beautiful \$6,800,000 Ada Hayden Heritage Park, one of our most popular facilities - Carroll Marty Disc Golf Course and the up and coming Furman Aquatic Center. Another highlight will include visiting an environmentally-sensitive recreational area, Calhoun Park.



Jack Trice Stadium, ISU

The planning committee is stressing the importance of "going green" and have asked that all presenters and participants join us in making the workshop paper free. In an effort to support green initiatives, there will be no printed session handouts. Instead all handouts will be posted to the IPRA web site after the 2009 Fall Workshop at www.iapra.org. The workshop will also feature a golf outing that will take place at Coldwater Golf Links. This environmentally-friendly facility is constructed in a floodplain and incorporates wetlands to naturally filter chemicals and retain storm water run-off prior to being discharged into the river.

Along with our excitement about the many things planned, we are also gearing up for a BBQ at beautiful Score Park in Nevada. The evening will also include a night of fun at Perfect Games followed by an early Thursday morning Fun Run to promote healthy, active living.



Ada Hayden Heritage Park, Ames

We are pleased to welcome many wonderful professionals from all over Iowa to speak and share valuable information about the on-going learning and growth they are experiencing in their line of park and recreation work. Just to highlight a few, we have Steve Schainker, Ames City Manager, sharing how Ames has brought Excellence Through People to life. Our keynote speaker Donna Gilligan will be sharing her reflections on the importance of the work of Parks and Recreation professionals, the engagement of children and their parents, and the impact these have on the children, families and the community as a whole. Tim Hansen,

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

www.iapra.org

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Employment Opportunity

City of Iowa City Director of Parks and Recreation

The city of Iowa City is seeking a Director of Parks and Recreation to direct the department's operational, financial, personnel and capital improvement activities. A bachelor's degree or equivalent in Parks and Recreation Administration is required. Certification as a Parks and Recreation professional and Master's degree preferred. A full job description is available at www.icgov.org/prdirector.

Salary range: \$75,130 to \$119,008, plus excellent benefits. Submit resumes to :

Karen Jennings
Personnel Administrator
City of Iowa City
410 E. Washington Street
Iowa City, IA 52240
E-mail: karenjennings@iowa-city.org.



FOUNDATION GOLF OUTING ANOTHER SUCCESS

Friday, August 21, 36 golfers took their shot at the always challenging Bunker Hill Golf Course in the rolling hills of Dubuque. The event was the Iowa Foundation for Parks and Recreation's annual fundraiser. The format was two person teams playing a ryder cup style which included six holes of best shot, alternate shot and best ball. A social and steak dinner followed the golfing.

Darin Andresen and Brad Ketels from Marion were the tournament champions, shooting a -2 for the eighteen holes. The pair of hackers were very humble winning this title and praised their swing coaches, Richard "Bucket of Balls" Fox and "Toast 'em Todd" also from Marion.



Of course, the real winners from this golf tournament are the parks and recreation professionals in the state who take advantage of all of the forums and workshops that are sponsored by the Iowa Foundation for Parks and Recreation. The funds raised by this outing will not only allow the foundation to keep funding these important events, but they will also help the foundation meet their mission to provide resources to deliver the benefits of parks and recreation to all of Iowa.

Almost \$5,000 was raised by hole sponsors, silent auctions and raffles held during the event. Special thanks to all those who worked so hard to provide hotel and golf packages, shirts, engraved stones, clubs and so many other great items. Also, a big THANK YOU to all of the golfers who were very generous during the raffles and silent auctions.

This event went very well even with a little rain (okay—a lot of rain!), and it wouldn't have been possible without the efforts of Gil Spence, Pat Prevenas and the staff of the Dubuque Leisure Services Department. Their generosity toward the foundation's event was once again unbelievable. Thanks to everyone who did their part in this event to help the foundation with its vision to build a better Iowa through parks and recreation.

(Submitted by Duane Randall, Director, Vinton Parks and Recreation)

IPRA/Iowa ASA 14 Inch Slow Pitch State Tournament Results



A total of forty softball teams took the field at Tait Cummins Softball Complex in Cedar Rapids August 21, 22 and 23 to participate in the annual IPRA/Iowa ASA 14 Inch Slow Pitch State Tournament. Three classifications of play were offered, and winning teams are shown below. Team trophies were awarded to the top four teams in each classification.



Pope Insurance of Boone, winners of the IPRA/Iowa ASA Men's 14 Inch Major State Tournament.

Winners of the IPRA/Iowa ASA Men's 14 Inch Class A State Tournament—Emil's Deli of Cedar Rapids.

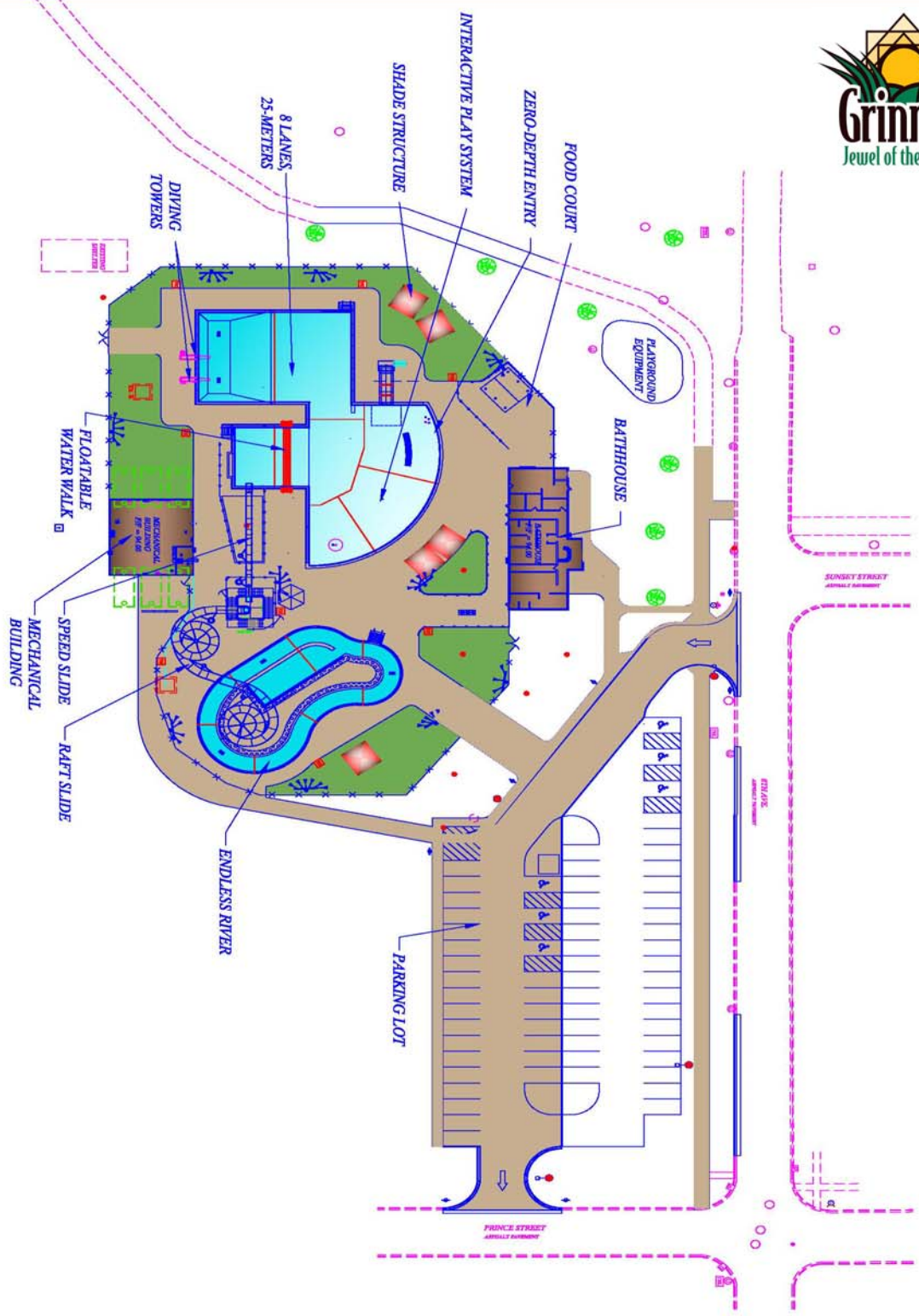


Receiving the honor of first place finish for the IPRA/Iowa ASA Men's 14 Inch Class B Tournament was the team Mechanical Service, Inc. of Cedar Rapids.

Huxley Secured a Youth Soccer Month Proclamation

The Huxley Parks and Recreation Department has secured a Youth Soccer Month Proclamation from the State of Iowa for September. The proclamation encourages a collective effort for greatness and achievement in our young people, while stating that soccer provides a great foundation and offers skills for a lifetime. Huxley Parks and Recreation Director, Josh Larsen, asks local residents to promote the good things about soccer in the community. "In our community, soccer is one of our most popular youth sports, as it is across the State of Iowa and the United States, and we especially want to recognize and promote the sport of soccer during this month," said Larsen. September is National Youth Soccer Month as recognized by the U.S. Youth Soccer organization. More information is available at <http://www.usyouthsoccer.org/soccermonth>.





SS Title: SITE FLATWORK Project: GRINNELL MUTUAL FAMILY AQUATIC CENTER 80 8TH AVENUE GRINNELL, IA 50112	Owner: CITY OF GRINNELL 927 4TH AVE. GRINNELL, IA 50112	PROJECT NO. - NUMBER 1 CAD DWG. FILE - SITE.DWG	Consultant: BURBACH AQUATICS, INC. ARCHITECTS & ENGINEERS 2014 New Orleans Blvd. Suite 100 Box 721 PO Box 908127 Dallas, TX 75291-8127 TEL: 972.352.5500 FAX: 972.352.5501 WWW.BURBACHAQUATICS.COM	NO. DATE REVISION	BY
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There's a lot happening in Grinnell despite the weak economy. Kelly Johnson Rose, Director of the Grinnell Park and Recreation, shared information on new construction projects for the city.

Grinnell Mutual Family Aquatic Center

"SPLASH" is the theme for our fundraising efforts to bring a new \$5.5 million aquatic center to the city of Grinnell. In 2005, Burbach Aquatics Inc. was hired to develop a conceptual master plan for a new aquatic facility. The facility will replace the existing pool and bath house which was in need of major structural repairs and was very costly to operate. The money raised for the new facility was funded through a combination of private donations, grants, fundraising events, product sales and a one-cent sales tax. Through the tough economic times that started in the fall of 2008, the fundraising committee was still able to raise enough money to build the facility as originally presented to the community. The new aquatic center will be more family friendly and provide a wide range of activities for a diverse group. The new facility will include the following: zero-depth entry, lazy river, speed slide, tube slide, floatable water walk, one-meter and three-meter diving boards, eight 25-meter lanes, concession stand, bath house, shade umbrellas and grassy area for lounging. The site plan is shown to the left on Page 6.



Construction has begun on the new facility with the opening date set for June 1, 2010. The Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance Company donated almost \$800,000 which gave them naming rights to the facility. The company will host the first pool party the night before the facility opens to the public.

Along with the Aquatic Center, the one-cent sales tax is helping fund the Drake Community Library and the new public safety building which will house the fire and police departments. The library and the public safety building will open later in 2009.

Disc Golf Course

The city of Grinnell just opened a brand new disc golf course located at Miller Park (Lake Nyanza). The current course has nine holes and is a par 27 course which wraps itself around the southern and eastern shores of Lake Nyanza and the oaks, cedars and maples of Miller Park. There are no greens fees; admission is free. The Park and Recreation Board has just approved the addition of the back nine holes which was completed prior to their first tournament August 29.

Grinnell Area Recreation Trail (GART)



Our bike trail is expanding. The addition of the Arbor Lake to Industrial Avenue section of the bike trail is under construction and should be done by this fall. The current trail starts at Hwy 6 at the Iowa Valley Community College parking lot and travels past the Grinnell Newburg High School and extends out to Rock Creek State Park. Eventually the two sections of the trail will connect and make it out to Interstate 80.

(Continued on Page 6)



Grinnell Skate Park

The city of Grinnell is paving the way for a new skate park to be located at Bailey Park on the corner of Prince Street and 8th Avenue. The idea evolved nearly 10 years ago, and the city of Grinnell is ready to move forward with the project. Several groups, kids and adults have been involved in the long process. Professional Skater Tony Hawk has also reviewed the plans and has put his stamp of approval on our layout.

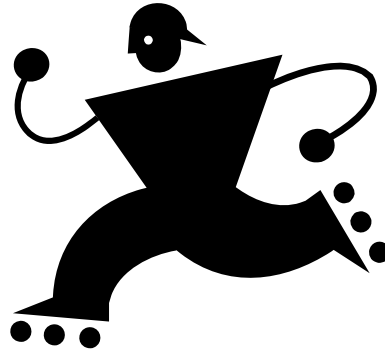
Currently the skate park has received donations from local organizations, student run activities and some small fundraisers. To date, over \$30,000 has been raised to start the process. The committee hopes to raise another \$30,000 to complete the project that has a price tag of \$60,000.

The Skate Park Committee has several letters of support from community partners, the Mayor of Grinnell, Grinnell Newburg Middle School and High School staff along with Grinnell College.

The location for the skate park was chosen due to its close proximity to the new Grinnell Mutual Family Aquatic Center that is to be completed in June 2010. This campus area also includes the Grinnell Area Recreational Trail (GART) that connects Bailey Park Elementary, Iowa Valley Community College, Rock Creek State Park, the Grinnell Mutual Aquatic Center and the proposed skate park.

The skate park will feature eight elements including:

- 4' roll-in
- 4' halfpipe with ledges and roll-in
- 4' quarterpipe with center bank
- 6' quarterpipe
- 2 1/2' bank & table with 14" flat rail & angled ledges
- 3' bank with center quarterpipe
- 16" bank, box with rail
- 10" grind box



Our next fundraising event will be on Saturday September 12. We will have eight bands battle it out for the "Battle of the Bands". This event is being held at the Grinnell Airport where there will be plenty of concrete to skate around and no neighbors to worry about keeping the volume turned down. Admission will be \$5 per person with proceeds to help fund the skate park.



Warren Spurgeon Accepts New Position

Warren Spurgeon, former Director of the Anamosa Parks and Recreation, has accepted a position as the Executive Director of the Sandwich, Illinois Park District. Sandwich is one hour west of Chicago and about two hours from the Quad Cities. The community of Sandwich is 7,300.

Warren will be supervising a growing park system, community center and numerous full-time staff members. Warren states that he is looking forward to the change and professional opportunity. He had served as the director in Anamosa for the last seven years and has been a member of the IPRA for the past 15. "I have been blessed by the many friendships and professional growth opportunities that are provided by the Iowa

Park and Recreation Association. I am sure that our trails will cross in the future as I bleed black and gold!" declared Warren. Best of luck to you, Warren!

The city of Anamosa is currently seeking a successor to Warren.

Brady Randall of Vinton has accepted a position as a Graduate Assistant at LSU in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. He will be serving as Assistant Director of Aquatics and Facilities with UREC at LSU while working on a Master's Degree in Sports Management. Brady is a 2009 graduate of the University of Northern Iowa with a degree in Human and Leisure Services and was a past IPRA scholarship recipient. Brady has made a two-year commitment at LSU and can be reached at branda3@tigers.lsu.edu.

IPRA has received information from **Thom Summitt** that he is no longer Recreation Manager for Pella Community Services.

National
ALLIANCE
For Youth Sports

**Background
Checks in
Youth Sports:**

**Guidelines
for Your
Organization**



NAYS Teams with Background Check Provider Priority Research

Youth sports decision makers must make sure to cover all the bases when it comes to protecting youngsters in their programs. When recruiting and evaluating volunteers, no youth

sports administrator wants to strike out by appointing someone who may not be qualified for the job, or who puts children in danger.

To help decision makers with these crucial responsibilities, the National Alliance for Youth Sports (NAYS) has teamed up with Priority Research, one of the nation's premier background check providers, to introduce an all new system for the leagues and associations to totally manage their volunteer youth sports coaches.

This new system enables NAYS members to access and view valuable volunteer background screening information directly on a league's NAYS Chapter Management page. It also allows NAYS Chapter Directors to request important background check information directly from the View/Update Member feature on the Chapter Management site. NAYS members who access the background check service through the Chapter Management site will receive an exclusive discount on background checks. League administrators and decision makers can now also view background check information results directly on an individual

Communities that have already begun conducting background checks can use this new Chapter Management feature to organize existing volunteer profiles and screening results in an easy-to-use database.

Background screening results also appear directly alongside each coach's NYSCA rating, making it the perfect tool for managing and monitoring volunteers. The NYSCA coach rating system provides an anonymous way for parents to comment on the performance of their child's coach in a number of important areas.

"Conducting comprehensive background checks on volunteer coaches is just one part of our four-step process, followed by training, evaluation and accountability," said John Engh, chief operating officer of NAYS. "Conducting a reliable background check may be the most important step in that process, and that is why we are striving to make these tools as accessible to our chapters as possible."

NAYS also provides a link to its comprehensive report on background checks that includes guidelines and recommended disqualifiers.

To check out these exciting new features, go to www.nays.org and log in using your clinician ID# and your last name.

2009 IPRA State Fair Day Success!!!!

Thursday, August 20 brought sunny skies and pleasant temperatures to the annual IPRA Day at the State Fair. More than 1,000 people of all ages participated in the annual events such as Bubble Gum Blowing Contest, Pie Eating Contest, Big Wheel Races, Arts and Crafts, Sidewalk Bowling, Bozo Ball and the Elks Spot Shot.

Special thanks to the more than 100 volunteers from all over the state that helped to make this annual event a success. IPRA members, staff, and families from Ames, Norwalk, Indianola, Des Moines, Jefferson, Coralville, West Des Moines, Urbandale, Adel, Waukee, Ogden, Clarion, Pleasant Hill, Huxley, Sioux City, Marshalltown, Spencer, the Iowa Games and the West Des Moines Elks Club volunteered their time.

Once activities were over and everything was picked up, IPRA Day volunteers met up on the fairgrounds at The Depot for some beverages, pizza and networking.

Special thanks goes out to our sponsor, Outdoor Recreation Products, for continuing to help keep this annual tradition going!

(Submitted by Nick Schenck, Parks and Recreation Director, City of Adel.)



outdoor recreation products



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IPRA Calendar of Events



September

(Local PPP competitions offered throughout September and October)

- 7 Office Closed—Labor Day Holiday
- 22-24 Fall Workshop—Ames

October

- 10 District PPP Competitions: Ankeny (SW) & Sioux City (NW)
- 13-16 NRPA Congress—Salt Lake City, UT
- 17 District PPP Competitions: New Hampton (NE) & Coralville (SE)
- 20 CEU/Aquatic Workshop—Cedar Rapids
- 21-22 Certified Pool Operator's Course - Cedar Rapids
- 24 State PPP Competition—Ames

2009 Fall Workshop

(Continued from Page 1)

Nevada Director of Parks and Recreation, and Mike Miner, Garner Recreation Director, will also share how their communities have successfully built and sustained their parks and recreation facilities and programs. Merry Rankin, ISU Sustainability Programs Director will share how to “green things up” and will highlight Iowa State University’s visions, goals and collaborations that support and drive the ISU Live Green initiative.

Meet us in Ames for an excellent Fall Workshop!

(Article submitted by Anna Anderson, Recreation Assistant, Ames Parks and Recreation Department.)



Coldwater Golf Links, Ames