



October 5, 2011

The Illinois Park and Recreation Association (“IPRA”) is pleased to announce our new partnership arrangement with U.S. Communities Government Purchasing Alliance.

IPRA chose U.S. Communities as our purchasing partner because of its long history of working with recreation and government agencies and their ability to save our members time and money. U.S. Communities is a national nonprofit cooperative, instrumentality of government, and is jointly sponsored by the Association of School Business Officials International (ASBO), the National Association of Counties (NACO), the National Institute of Governmental Purchasing (NIGP), the National League of Cities (NLC), and the United States Conference of Mayors (USCM).

The partnership with U.S. Communities replaces IPRA’s Cooperative Purchase Program. In response to a recent cooperative purchase program participant survey, the program changes will include: just in time delivery, ability to order throughout the year, and known pricing.

IPRA encourages you to register with U.S. Communities so that your agency will have access to the thousands of quality products from multiple vendors available through its contracts. By registering for the program, you are neither committing to participate nor binding your agency in any manner; your agency will still have the ability to make choices outside of U.S. Communities. However, we believe that you will be impressed with the variety of offerings and the quality of products and services.

The process is simple:

Register with U.S. Communities (no cost – no obligation), so your agency can access the U.S. Communities website where vendors, products and prices are available for review. Registration with U.S. Communities (which you can do online at their website at www.uscommunities.org) is to ensure that your park district or parks and recreation agency is provided the Master Intergovernmental Co-Operative Purchasing Agreement. This is necessary for your records and audit. Registration does not obligate you to purchase through the program, but it does introduce you to a wide-range of quality products at outstanding prices. Compare the U.S. Communities contracts with the contracts your agency currently has in place. We believe you will be impressed with their offerings.

When you register with U.S. Communities please register as:

**1) Independent Special District and
2) Park/Recreation**

By registering in this manner, you will help IPRA easily identify our member’s participation, which will benefit your Association.

Some of the contracts offered include:

- Park and Playground-Gametime and Kompan
- Athletic and Camp Supplies- BSN Sports/US Games
- Office Supplies-Independent Stationers
- Janitorial Supplies –ZEP
- Pool Chemicals – HD Supply
- Grass Seed/Fertilizer – Home Depot
- First Aid Supplies – Safeware-Mallory
- Maintenance, Repair and Operations- HD Supply Facilities Maintenance, The Home Depot and Applied Industrial Technologies
- Electrical & Lighting and Data Communications- Graybar
- Office Furniture – Haworth, Herman Miller and Knoll
- Technology Products-Insight Public Sector and Tech Depot
- Technology Solutions-Insight, Tech Depot and GTSI Corp.
- Office Machines- RICOH, Savin, Lanier, and Ikon
- Homeland Security Solutions- Safeware-Mallory
- Roofing Supplies and Services-Garland
- Auto Parts and Accessories-Carquest
- Synthetic Turf & other Athletic Surfaces- AstroTurf USA

For additional information, go to the following website: www.uscommunities.org.

IPRA and U.S. Communities will be hosting two webinars on October 20th at 10:00 am and October 28th at 10:00 am to provide you with additional information on this purchasing solution, as well as provide you with an opportunity to ask questions.

Thanks in advance for your continuous support and we hope you find this partnership both financially and professionally beneficial.

Best,



Jan Arnold, Executive Director
Illinois Park and Recreation Association