

Press Release

For Immediate Release

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**The Illinois Park & Recreation Association Board
Installs Rita Fletcher as 2017 Chair**



La Grange – The Illinois Park & Recreation Association (IPRA) has installed Rita Fletcher, CPRP and Executive Director of Bartlett Park District, as its 2017 Chairman of the Board at the association’s annual conference, held January 19-21 at the Hilton Chicago.

Rita Fletcher has over 25 years of experience in the field of parks and recreation and is currently the Executive Director of the Bartlett Park District. Since taking over as Executive Director in 2005, the District has received over \$1.4 million dollars in grants, is a two-time NRPA gold medal finalist, and successfully passed an \$18 million dollar referendum.

Rita has also served on both the IPRA Certification Board and the Facility Management Board. Locally, Rita has been a member of the Bartlett Rotary for 10 years. Rita has a Bachelor’s Degree in Parks & Recreation Administration from Eastern Illinois University and a Master’s Degree from Aurora University, and is a Certified Park and Recreation Professional.

Reflecting on her role, “I’m honored to be selected to lead an organization of outstanding professionals. I look forward to serving the entire state and working with professionals that serve their communities by providing beautiful parks and facilities, outstanding recreational opportunities, special recreation programs and conservation education.” -Rita Fletcher, Executive Director, Bartlett Park District.

“We are thrilled that Rita Fletcher will be 2017 Board Chair. Rita has been a strong leader in IPRA for some time and has been a board member representing the Chicago Metro Region for the last three years. Rita’s leadership style is to always ask good questions, and her passion for



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parks and recreation and leadership will take IPRA to the next level. ”- Debbie Trueblood, IPRA Executive Director.

Established in 1944, the Illinois Park and Recreation Association’s mission is to provide and promote exceptional standards of education, networking, and resources for all professionals in the Illinois park, recreation, and conservation communities. For more information about IPRA, its board and mission, please call us or visit the IPRA website: www.Ilipra.org

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