

Press Release

For Immediate Release

Contact: Heather Weishaar, Outreach Director

The Illinois Park & Recreation Association Board Elects Rita Fletcher as 2016 Chair-Elect



La Grange – The Illinois Park & Recreation Association (IPRA) has selected Rita Fletcher, CPRP, Executive Director of Bartlett Park District as its 2016 Board Chair-Elect.

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 is completing her first term on the IPRA Board of Directors as the Chicago Metro Representative, and currently serves as co-chair of the IPRA/IAPD Joint Distinguished Agency Committee, where she has been a member since 2005. Rita has also served on both the IPRA Certification Board and the Facility Management Board. Locally, Rita has been a member of 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 upcoming 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 our 2016 Chair Elect and 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- why are we doing something, how will that be perceived by our members and the public, and what problem are we trying to solve? Rita has a passion for parks and recreation



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and she has leadership skills to 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.Illipra.org

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