



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Program Manager Gary Foiles 12th in State to Receive CPRE Certification *First in Naperville to be Certified as a Parks and Recreation Executive*

Naperville Park District Program Manager Gary Foiles recently passed the National Recreation and Park Association's Certified Park and Recreation Executive (CPRE) exam, making him the 12th individual in Illinois to receive the certification and 109th nationally.

CPRE certification establishes a national standard for managerial, administrative and executive parks and recreation professionals. This mastery-level credential focuses on the practical knowledge and current real-world skills needed in today's changing park and recreation environment.

Foiles, having achieved the first level of certification (Certified Park and Recreation Professional) in 1994 is the first Naperville Park District staff member to receive the CPRE. He has been with the Park District for 31 years, managing multiple programs in athletics, and has served as an elected park commissioner for the Batavia Park District for the past five years.

"Professionally, pursuing the CPRE seemed like a great thing to do," said Foiles, who also is a past chairman of the National Recreation and Park Association's CPRP Test Committee.

“As a nationally accredited and state accredited agency, we encourage our employees to seek continuing education and to pursue the highest standards of achievement in the industry, so that we can bring excellent programs and services to our community,” said Executive Director Ray McGury.

To earn the CPRE certification, individuals must hold a current Certified Park and Recreation Professional (CPRP) certification, meet specific requirements for education and experience, and successfully pass an exam covering a comprehensive set of topics including communication, finance, human resources, operations and planning.

For more information about the Naperville Park District, please visit www.napervilleparks.org.

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About the Naperville Park District: *Created in 1966, the Naperville Park District is an independent, municipal agency serving the recreation needs of its residents. An Illinois Distinguished Agency since 1994, the District is one of only 1% of park districts across the country to be nationally accredited through the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA). The Naperville Park District’s mission is to provide recreation and park experiences that enrich the quality of life for our community, including benefits such as community health, environmental education, social connections, and personal growth. The District maintains and operates more than 2,500 acres with 140 parks and facilities and provides more than 1,400 recreational, arts and environmental programs and special events annually. Included within the District’s operations are two championship golf courses, a multitude of playgrounds, trails, athletic courts and sports fields, two inline skating and skateboarding facilities, the Millennium Carillon, a paddle boat quarry, historic Centennial Beach, and the beautiful Riverwalk.*

The National Recreation and Park Association *is a national not-for-profit organization dedicated to advancing park, recreation and conservation efforts that enhance quality of life for all people. Through its network of 20,000 recreation and park professionals and citizens, NRPA encourages the promotion of healthy lifestyles, recreation initiatives, and conservation of natural and cultural resources. For more information, visit www.NRPA.org. For digital access to NRPA’s flagship publication, Parks & Recreation, visit www.parksandrec-magazine.org.*



Naperville Park District Program Manager Gary Foiles, CPRE