

Board of Directors  
and Recreational Sports Commission  
**Nominee Information Form**



Nominee's Name: Jacob Andersen

Current Employer/Organization: Ramsey County Parks and Recreation

Current Title/Position: Assistant Parks Operation Supervisor

Nominated For: East Metro Board Member

**1. How has MRPA helped you to grow professionally?**

- MRPA has been very impactful professionally in my career over the last five years. Moving to Minnesota in 2018, I wanted to connect and join the state association. As a professional in both Iowa and Nevada, I saw the value in connecting with the state association. MRPA, with the educational opportunities and annual conference, has allowed me develop relationships that have become some of my closest friends and that if I have an issue or an idea, I can reach out to them and work through the idea or problem. The MRPA Mentorship Program has also connected me with directors and leadership in the field that have instilled knowledge and created lasting relationships. These relationships have allowed me to discuss my career and provided me insight on where I would like my career to progress. The connections that I have made throughout MRPA allows me to reach out and cultivate new ideas and has allowed me to seek out new opportunities that I would have passed on before. I have been a member of several state associations and MRPA is one association that has numerous opportunities to get involved and connect with others in the field. MRPA has also allowed me to build friendships that will last throughout my career. And as a member of the Board of Directors I would like to give back to the association and instill in the young professional the benefit of a great organization that will open doors and be a resource throughout their career.

**2. What do you believe are the strategic plan priorities and how would you help to implement those priorities?**

- I know over the last several years, I know that member communication and feedback and looking how MRPA delivers educational opportunities to its members has been a priority of the board. I feel that it is imperative that these initiatives continue and be completed within the next year or two. A couple of years ago, MRPA had listening session to hear what the members are wanting from the association and those results, I am sure, that information has been used to inform the board of directors, but that information has not been provided to the general membership. I feel that it should be compiled, distributed, and available to review whether it is published on the website or mailed out. If elected to the Board of Directors for MRPA, I would try to ensure that the process of evaluating the education offerings of the association and listening sessions is very transparent to the general membership.

Another priority that I see as a member of MRPA is getting more people involved with networks, committees, and conferences. Over my time as a member, I have made sure that I have become involved with the various opportunities to grow and connect with other professionals while taking a leadership role with the organization. However, so many times, the same individuals are seen spearheading committees, network, and conference committees. The Board of Directors and MRPA should make a concerted effort to involve those who are not engaged. This could be where board members and MRPA staff go to meet with departments with new staff or welcome packets for new professional members outlining the benefits and ways to get involved. MRPA is great at engaging during conference and various other times however, we can do a better job throughout the year thanking them and getting to know the members.

**3. What are the opportunities and challenges to be addressed by the Board of Directors and the MRPA membership during your term of office, if elected, as well as in the long-term? How do these areas relate to the Association's core values?**

- There are many opportunities and challenges facing the association including continuing the membership outreach and ensuring that all members are heard and engaged. The three pillars of MRPA are Education, Recreation, and Legislation. Currently, I know that MRPA could offer more educational opportunities throughout the year, and this is one aspect that is discussed frequently when discussing the association. I have been a member of other state associations and they have focused on having more educational experience for its members during the winter spring and summer months. I think that MRPA should have a focus on engaging the membership with educational opportunities. It is fantastic that MRPA offers recreation opportunities to the public but as members we need more offerings geared towards the general membership. These educational opportunities could focus on the Core Values of MRPA as well. They could provide opportunities in leadership, wellness, conservation, and inclusion. As recreation professionals, we want to continue to learn and grow the field. And providing opportunities to learn and engage with others in the field and MRPA should be at the forefront of the offerings.

Long-term goals of my term are to continue to grow the field through outreach with communities and high education. As it was discussed at the conference by several professionals that many professionals do not start in the field growing up wanting to be a parks and recreation professional. Doing outreach or providing information to high school students will help build the profession. However, if we have more new graduates coming into the field, we must lobby and work individual municipalities and counties to grow the field as well. It is imperative that local governments understand the need and benefits of Parks and Recreation. MRPA could work with members to develop talking points, stats and figures that enforce that the Parks and Recreation field is an essential service and impacts and benefits every department within that organization. MRPA can be a partner in growing each department and growing the field.

#### **4. Professional Work Experience in Park and Recreation Profession**

- My professional career starting at the City of Kalona, IA as their Parks and Recreation Superintendent from 2011 to 2013. My duties included youth and adult sports, fitness, park maintenance, community center and aquatic programming. This position allowed me, as a new professional, new experiences and develop skills in programming and staff leadership. I then moved to Las Vegas, NV and became the Assistant Aquatic Coordinator and ultimately the Aquatic Coordinator for Boulder City, NV from 2013 through 2018 where I oversaw the Aquatic Division for the Boulder City Parks and Recreation Department. This included all aquatic programming, special events, maintenance, and staff supervision. In 2018 to 2023, I became the Aquatic Supervisor for Brooklyn Center overseeing all community center and aquatic programming. Starting in July 2023, I accepted a position with Ramsey County Parks and Recreation as the Assistant Park Operations Supervisor. I oversee full-time Park Maintenance and Operation Staff for over 6,500 acres of park land, walking, hiking, bike, and ski trails, boat launches and rental pavilions.

#### **5. Education and Training**

- University of Iowa- B.S. Recreational Management- 2011
- Certified Parks and Recreation Professional

#### **6. MRPA Positions Held (Sections, Committees, Offices, etc.):**

- MRPA Programming Network- Vice Chair- 2019
- MRPA Programming Network- Chair- 2020
- MRPA Conference- Virtual Support Conference Committee Co-chair- 2021

**Board of Directors  
and Recreational Sports Commission  
Nominee Information Form**



Nominee's Name: Kelly Distad-Arvold

Current Employer /Organization: New Brighton Parks and Recreation

Current Title/Position: Recreation Supervisor, Sports & Aquatics

Nominated For: East Metro Region

1. How has MRPA helped you to grow professionally?

MRPA has helped me grow professionally in many ways. One of the biggest ways is through networking opportunities. MRPA events have provided me with a platform to connect and build relationships with other professionals. These events have given me the opportunity to learn from my peers, share best practices and problem-solve industry challenges.

MRPA has also contributed to my professional development and leadership skills. Workshops, trainings, mentorship program and the annual state conference have been key contributors to my professional development. ERLI and serving on various conference committees have enhanced my leadership skills.

2. What do you believe are the strategic plan priorities and how would you help to implement those priorities?

All four strategic, actionable goals - optimize, educate, innovate, lead - are important priorities for MRPA and its members. Not having a traditional RPLS background, I think it is important to remember not all new professionals (or students) know what MRPA is and what the membership has to offer. While department heads can relay what they know and talk about their experiences and involvement, I think it would be helpful for MRPA to lead and create a tool kit that highlights their educational opportunities, resources, databases, goals, priorities, etc. Within that, it would also be important to highlight how members can become involved with MRPA. Optimizing through new members can bring in fresh, innovative ideas and experiences that could positively impact MRPA and its membership.

**3. What are the opportunities and challenges to be addressed by the Board of Directors and the MRPA membership during your term of office, if elected, as well as in the long-term? How do these areas relate to the Association's core values?**

I think one of the biggest challenges is adapting to change. Everyone knows change is inevitable in the parks and recreation industry - change in program trends, technology, weather, facilities, etc. - and everyone knows change is hard. MRPA has the opportunity to be the forefront leader and provide resources that help City's problem-solve and adapt to these changes.

Change is also enviable with member's wants, needs and desires. MRPA has to be willing to adapt to these changes and do their part to be continually enhancing the profession of parks, open space recreation and leisure services. Big or small, changes should always have the association's core values in mind: leadership, stewardship, wellness, engagement, integrity, and inclusion.

**4. Professional Work Experience in Park and Recreation Profession**

**2020 - Present**

**New Brighton Parks and Recreation  
Recreation Supervisor, Sports and Aquatics**

- I create, execute and supervise youth and adult sports and aquatics programs as well as coordinate outdoor athletic field rentals while creating and maintaining partnerships with community organizations.

**2017- 2020**

**National Sports Center  
Coordinator, Sports and Recreation**

- I planned, developed and implemented recreational events that included adult and youth development programs, camps, leagues and tournaments at the world's largest amateur sports facility.

**Prior to 2017**

**Internships with Northfield Community Education, Minnesota Wild,  
Timberwolves, and Lynx**

**5. Education and Training**

Minnesota State University, Mankato - Bachelor of Arts in Sport Management  
with a Marketing minor

Concordia University, St. Paul - Master of Arts in Sport Management

University of St. Thomas - Professional Project Management Certification

MRPA - Emerging Recreation Leader Institute

**6. MRPA Positions Held (Sections, Committees, Offices, etc.):**

2021 MRPA Conference - Networking Co-Chair

2023 MRPA Conference - Marketing Co-Chair

**7. Other Volunteer Professional Association/Community Involvement**

MRPF - golf tournament

Target USA CUP - soccer tournament

Stick It To Cancer - hockey tournament

Feed My Starving Children

Mankato Marathon

Leisure Education for Exceptional People (LEEP)

Board of Directors  
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**Nominee Information Form**



Nominee's Name: Zac Dockter

Current Employer/Organization: City of Cottage Grove

Current Title/Position: Parks & Recreation Director

Nominated For:

**7. How has MRPA helped you to grow professionally?**

**The networking and educational opportunities are priceless. We are lucky to have such a dynamic professional network who share their experiences when things are going well and just as importantly, when things don't go as well so we can learn from each other. I learned very quickly that MRPA is a great resource and we are continuously improving our industry by developing stronger professionals as individuals, teams, organizations and communities. I truly can't imagine trying to navigate a professional career without MRPA. There is generational knowledge at each members fingertips that improve the careers and lives of individuals and communities daily.**

**8. What do you believe are the strategic plan priorities and how would you help to implement those priorities?**

**The MRPA mission of improving the quality of life in MN by enhancing the profession of parks, open space, recreation and leisure services is the foundation of our organization. All four pillars and potential actions of the strategic plan feed into that mission. Board members need to keep an ear to the ground to assure opportunities are met with open minds, investigation/discussion and relatively swift action. Our world is changing rapidly and we need to be amenable to change. I believe our industry does it as well as any, but it needs to be a leading focus of MRPA. For**

**MRPA to continue to be a resource to our future professionals, all four pillars (Optimize, Educate, Innovate and Lead) ALL need to be working in synchronization.**

- 9. What are the opportunities and challenges to be addressed by the Board of Directors and the MRPA membership during your term of office, if elected, as well as in the long-term? How do these areas relate to the Association's core values?**

**Parks and Recreation as a whole is succeeding in our world. It is the result of people seeing the difference nature and recreation makes in their lives and their communities. In order for that continued success, we need to continuously build, adapt and advocate for our professional network to support the growing demand. The core values of leadership, stewardship, wellness, inclusion, engagement and integrity are the glue holding MRPA together and helping our professionals fulfill their role(s). I do not have a magic solution to a "better MRPA". My term would lead with learning and assure that we are preserving and building on the legacy of MRPA by adapting the organization to meet the needs of all professionals, communities and patrons.**

- 10. Professional Work Experience in Park and Recreation Profession**  
**City of Cottage Grove Parks and Recreation Director (2011-current)**  
**City of Cottage Grove Ice Arena/Parks/Recreation Manager (2001-2011)**  
**Princeton Ice Arena (1999-2001)**  
**Municipal Athletic Complex Supervisor/Grounds Lead (1997-1999)**  
**National Hockey Center Supervisor/Event Manager (1995-1999)**  
**Sports Official (Forever...)**

- 11. Education and Training**  
**Bachelors Degree Business Management (St Cloud State University)**  
**Certificate of Ice Arena Management (University of Michigan)**  
**Refrigerant/Boiler Certifications**  
**Certified Pool Operator**

- 12. MRPA Positions Held (Sections, Committees, Offices, etc.):**  
**N/A – looking to get more involved!**

- 13. Other Volunteer Professional Association/Community Involvement**  
**Lions Club Member (Vice President)**  
**South Washington County Athletic Scholarship Committee (Current Chair)**  
**Vocational School Scholarship Committee (Current Chair)**  
**District 8 Hockey Scholarship Committee Chair**  
**District 8 Hockey Vice President**  
**Former Church Council Vice President**  
**Youth and High School Baseball Coach and Umpire**  
**Youth Hockey Coach and Referee**  
**Former Lower St Croix Watershed District Board Member**  
**Friends of the Mississippi, MN Historical Society Member**  
**Baseball Tournament Director**

Board of Directors  
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**Nominee Information Form**



Nominee's Name: Mike Ramirez

Current Employer/Organization: City of Eagan

Current Title/Position: Recreation Supervisor

Nominated For: East Metro Region

**1. How has MRPA helped you to grow professionally?**

I have done so many different things and have had different roles over the past 10 years. Founding and Chairing the Athletic Management Network enhanced my organization and facilitation skills that I bring to work each day. Serving on the conference committee in 2017 planning and running the Adventure Race introduced me to new people to learn from and enhanced my event logistics skills. Working to restructure MRPA's Sections, Committees, and Networks was such a great experience to think outside the box to streamline our efforts which has now led to the infusion of several new networks reaching more people than we ever have. I am a better professional because of my years of service in MRPA.

**2. What do you believe are the strategic plan priorities and how would you help to implement those priorities?**

In 2022 the board listened to the members who served on various sub-committees looking into how MRPA serves its members and voted to hire a consultant to objectively look at the organization's operations, budget process, staffing model, IRS status, and more. The consultant spent the first two quarters evaluating everything, engaging members, and updating the board. Through deep discussion we now have priorities to address to grow as an organization.



Priorities for the next two years are to review MRPA's 501(c)4 status, engage the membership on what legislative priorities are important to for our lobbyist to pursue at the Capitol, begin to shift away from recreational sports, evaluate and potentially restructure membership dues, defining the relationship with MRPF while working together to create engagement strategies to engage high school and college students to promote our career field, review the board structure, and fiscal responsibility and transparency.

As a representative I will work with the board, staff, and legal counsel to evaluate our 501(c)4 status, discuss pros and cons, and work to transition to a 501(c)3. This transition would extend our reach in applying for grants and providing a tax break to our current NorthStar partners while giving us the ability to attract new NorthStar partners giving MRPA the opportunity to provide more education and benefits to the membership. With the new tax code this would give the association the ability to give and provide financial assistance. During the pandemic MRPA was disqualified from many government grants and aid due to the 501(c)4 status.

Members spoke loud and clear that our presence at the Capitol needs to be better and more targeted. As your representative I will continue to work with staff, our lobbyist, and legislative committee to engage the membership before setting the next year's legislative platform to ensure that we are focusing on what matters most to our industry. For example, working to have recreational cannabis to change to non-medicinal cannabis to take our professions name out of the picture.

The survey says ... focus less on recreational sports and enhance educational and networking opportunities. Continuing to evaluate MRPA's sports offerings and slowly phasing them out is a priority to amplify our educational offerings. With this staff should be a resource to communities to host tournaments for various sports, as many cities already have successful tournaments for basketball, pickleball, and volleyball.

Looking at our membership due's structure is a priority to ensure that we are serving the agencies and all members correctly. A couple current board members and I have already begun to research how other state organizations structure their membership dues to get a feel for where we stand nationally. In the past we had a good number of student members. This is a space we need to focus on as they are our future.

Defining our relationship with MRPF is critical over the next year particularly as MRPA looks at transitioning to a 501(c)3. As a former MRPF President I believe that the more aligned the two organizations are the better off Minnesota parks and recreation is. Being vested in both organizations I will continue to work to strengthen the relationship to benefit all of Minnesota and our boarder cities.

I have been an advocate of restructuring the board of directors to better serve the membership. I will continue to advance this work with other board members. This includes discussions and actions regarding term length, consecutive term limits, and evaluating the region model, plus more.

Currently on the board we have worked diligently to pay down the association's line credit and come up with policies to fund our investment account while maintaining a balanced annual budget. Having fiduciary responsibility over the association is something I do not take lightly and hold firm to spending money wisely on what the membership wants.

**3. What are the opportunities and challenges to be addressed by the Board of Directors and the MRPA membership during your term of office, if elected, as well as in the long-term? How do these areas relate to the Association's core values?**

The board of directors houses great professionals with the passion to help our industry in Minnesota. When I look at our industry and board, I see a lack of ethnicity represented. This has been and continues to be a challenge in Minnesota. I believe that as a Latino male I provide a perspective of an underrepresented community that we ultimately all answer to daily. REAC continuing their work, I feel that I could support them in their mission to think globally and empower diversity. This work is related to the values of Inclusion and Engagement, as we are tasked with being an inclusive entity that engages all persons in the communities that we serve.

An opportunity is with the restructuring of the networks we are seeing great turnouts. The attendance of the networks breakout at the conference was heart filling and shows that we are continuing to move the right direction to benefit the membership better. As a consistent attendee of a variety of networks, I know that I can be a strong advocate for the networks as they continue to grow. This ties directly to Leadership as we are in the business of building leaders and well-rounded professional to better serve community members. I do believe that leaders are built, not born – this comes to Engagement, as we should continually be out reaching new professionals and engaging them to be involved in the hope that they become the next great leaders in our field. Also, we must work to engage the students at not only the three close recreation programs at Mankato, Winona, and La Crosse, but sports management programs throughout the state and surrounding areas. Serving on the Advisory Board for the RPLS program at MSU, Mankato I know that the faculty is committed to working with professionals, MRPA, and MRPF to reach both college and high school students.

I do believe in transparency, and we should be in the habit of providing all business proceedings to our members. How are membership dollars being spent? Are we being as effective and efficient as we can? What gaps are we not seeing operationally? If elected, I am eager to engage the members while working hand in hand with all region directors to best serve the membership and work on the priorities that they hold highest. This is Integrity. We need to continually gain the trust of our members, and I know that interacting with them in an open manner can go a long way to instill trust in the association. With the survey results from our consultant there is a lot of work to do in the next three years to reimagine how MRPA operates and serves members. I am committed to seeing this through.

Currently our legislative efforts are a little too broad. As stewards of our parks and leisure programs we must target what is important to our state, agencies, and communities. An opportunity is to rethink our engagement of the membership for ideas to come up with a strong and targeted legislative platform for our lobbyist consultant to advocate at the Capitol for.

We have good educational opportunities, but the membership is continually looking for social gathers to interact and network with familiar and new professionals. This is a way that a little money can go a long way to continually building new relationships amongst the members. Wellness is the name of the game for this. Education is paramount, but the social aspect is just as important to growing our industry and creating camaraderie.

**4. Professional Work Experience in Park and Recreation Profession**

Recreation Supervisor, City of Eagan (2023-Present)  
Recreation Supervisor, City of Brooklyn Park (2020-2023)  
Recreation Supervisor, City of Bloomington (2016-2020)  
Recreation Coordinator, City of Lathrop, CA (2015-2016)  
Sports Coordinator, City of Bloomington (2014-2015)

## **5. Education and Training**

Hamline University – Master of Public Administration (2019)

Minnesota State University, Mankato – Bachelor of Science: Recreation, Parks and Leisure Services with an emphasis in Leisure Planning and Management (2014)

## **6. MRPA Positions Held (Sections, Committees, Offices, etc.):**

MRPA Board of Directors (2022-Present)  
Committees: Sections, Committees, and Networks (2018-2019) and Conference Adventure Race (2017)  
Past Chair: Athletic Management Network (2019)  
Chair: Athletic Management Network (2017 & 2018)  
Co-original Committee Organizer: Young Professional and Student Network (2016)  
Founder: Athletic Management Network (2016)

## **7. Other Volunteer Professional Association/Community Involvement**

NRPA Leadership Development Network Committee (2022-Present)

Minnesota State University, Mankato RPLS Advisory Board (2022-Present)

Minnesota Recreation & Park Foundation Board of Trustees (2017-2021)  
Board President (2021)  
Board Vice President (2020)  
Silent Auction & Raffle Manager (2017-2019)  
Student Scholarship Committee (2018)

Minnesota Recreation & Park Foundation  
New Initiative Grant Committee (2016)  
Silent Auction & Raffle Coordinator (2014)  
Student Scholarship Committee (2014)

MPRA State Adult Volleyball and Basketball Tournaments (2014)

Students United (2011-2014)  
Board of Directors Vice Chair (2012-2014)  
Campus Coordinator at MSU, Mankato (2011-2012)

Board of Directors  
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**Nominee Information Form**



Nominee's Name: Bryce Shearen, CPRE

Current Employer/Organization: City of Little Canada

Current Title/Position: Parks & Recreation Director

Nominated For: East Metro Region

**1. How has MRPA helped you to grow professionally?**

MRPA has helped in my professional growth by expanding networks, participating in multiple different workshops and trainings, and continuing to learn industry best practices by attending the annual conferences and the multiple publications that are sent out. Participation in the MRPA has resulted in more robust programming for our community, resources for all parks and recreation activities and projects, and instrumental in sharing the mission in our community of improving the quality of life in parks, open space, recreation, and leisure services. Early on in my parks & recreation professional career, I was able to seek out information and guidance that helped in creating new programs and events and discuss with others on things that worked and things that could be improved. I continue to utilize MRPA for those, but want to make sure that value of helping all succeed is maintained.

I have recently embarked on the opportunity to share and educate members on the great things that the MRPA is doing and document MRPA news, highlights, and stories through podcasting. This new adventure with MRPA has been a fantastic experience and I hope it brings value to the association.

**2. What do you believe are the strategic plan priorities and how would you help to implement those priorities?**

All of the current strategic plan goals - optimize, educate, innovate, and lead are excellent priorities, but would like to shift the focus to the potential approval of an updated strategic vision plan in Q1 of 2024. It would be more important to focus on those new initiatives and start to contribute to forming a path and work plan for implementing them. A lot of engagement has been completed in creating the new strategic vision plan and getting the plan approved and implemented will be my first year initiative.

**3. What are the opportunities and challenges to be addressed by the Board of Directors and the MRPA membership during your term of office, if elected, as well as in the long-term? How do these areas relate to the Association's core values?**

Prioritizing and implementing the strategic plan initiatives will be a challenge. A great opportunity will be to continue to educate and expand everyone's networks and connections so that the MRPA can serve as a great resource to all members and help all professionals be successful together.

**4. Professional Work Experience in Park and Recreation Profession**

I have over sixteen years of public sector professional experience. I have been in my current role as the Parks & Recreation Director for the past seven years with the City of Little Canada. Before becoming a Director I was in maintenance.

**5. Education and Training**

Hamline University – Master of Public Administration  
Hamline University – Leadership Academy  
North Hennepin Community College – Public Works Certificate  
University of Wisconsin River Falls – Bachelor's of Science – Business Administration-  
Management

MRPA Facility Management Series  
FEMA Incident Command Training  
Metropolitan State University – Strength-based Leadership Certificate  
Multiple MRPA workshops on various topics  
Multiple NRPA workshops on various topics

**6. MRPA Positions Held (Sections, Committees, Offices, etc.):**

Co-host of MRPA on the Air  
MRPA Mentorship Program

**7. Other Volunteer Professional Association/Community Involvement**

Volunteer Firefighter of the Little Canada Fire Department  
Emergency Medical Responder (EMR)  
Member of the Little Canada Recreation Association (LCRA) and Liaison to the City  
ISD 623 & Local Government Member  
Maplewood's Parks & Recreation Programming Task Force Member  
Speaker at the MRPA Conference  
Certified Parks & Recreation Executive (CPRE)  
Speaker at the NRPA Conference  
Member of Roseville Area Optimist Club  
Ramsey County – Implementing an All Abilities Transportation Network  
Feed My Starving Children Volunteer

Board of Directors  
and Recreational Sports Commission  
**Nominee Information Form**



Nominee's Name: Andy Soltvedt

Current Employer/Organization: Anoka County - Parks

Current Title/Position: Assistant Director

Nominated For: East Metro Representative

**1. How has MRPA helped you to grow professionally?**

MRPA has allowed provided access for me to an incredible network of professionals that provide support and education that I feel is unmatched in other professions. The collaborative culture of the association is built on helping everyone succeed, no matter what part of their career they are in or what community they serve. I've gained great mentors and friendships that have allowed me to learn and make mistakes in a supportive environment. The formal trainings, conferences and events continue to provide me with unique perspectives and learnings even after being in the field for a significant number of years.

**2. What do you believe are the strategic plan priorities and how would you help to implement those priorities?**

MRPA should continue to expand its role at the legislature and other areas of advocacy. MRPA should become the "go to" resource on all topics parks and recreation. Through partnering with media outlets, governing bodies, and similar organization, MRPA will be

able to advance the vision of the parks and recreation profession. My experience with communications, marketing, and recent work with elected officials at the state legislature will allow me to provide a unique insight and ability to help MRPA in this objective.

**3. What are the opportunities and challenges to be addressed by the Board of Directors and the MRPA membership during your term of office, if elected, as well as in the long-term? How do these areas relate to the Association's core values?**

Diversity and inclusion is and will continue to be a key opportunity and challenge for MRPA to address. Both in the education and training of professionals but also in recruiting people to the profession and meeting constituents changing recreational needs. This meets the core values of leadership, inclusion, engagement, and integrity.

Preserving and providing access to green spaces, natural areas, and parks within close proximity to all is also a challenge. The importance of natural areas to assist with climate change and wellness will continue to be a battle due to costs and demands for development of lands. MRPA will need to be prepared to assist communities on ways to show the importance of open spaces in urban, suburban, and rural environments. This meets the core values of leadership, engagement, and stewardship.

**4. Professional Work Experience in Park and Recreation Profession**

Anoka County Parks – Assistant Director, 2019 - Present  
Anoka County Parks – Marketing & Visitor Services Manager, 2012-2019  
Golden Valley Park & Recreation – Recreation Supervisor (2009-2012)  
New Brighton Parks & Recreation – Recreation Supervisor (2004-2009)  
New Brighton Parks & Recreation – Recreation Coordinator (2004)

**5. Education and Training**

University of Minnesota, Twin Cities  
Bachelors of Arts - Recreation, Park and Leisure Studies:  
Public Parks and Recreation Emphasis

Hamline University, St. Paul  
Masters – Public Administration

**6. MRPA Positions Held (Sections, Committees, Offices, etc.):**

MRPA East Metro Board Member 2018-2019  
Facility Management Academy Planning Committee Co-Chair 2017  
Annual Conference Co-Chair, 2014  
MRPA East Metro Board Member 2016-2017  
MRPA West Metro Board Member 2011-2013  
Emerging Recreation Leaders Institute Planning Committee 2010-2011  
Annual Conference Committee Member 2006, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2012, 2017



Membership Committee Member 2008-2011  
Programming Section Chair 2008-2009  
Programming Section - Summer Leadership Workshop Committee Chair 2007  
Programming Section - Summer Leadership Workshop Committee Member 2005, 2006

**7. Other Volunteer Professional Association/Community Involvement**

2017 MRPA Jack Niles Award Recipient  
2017 MRPA Presidential Award Recipient  
Elk River Parks & Recreation Commission – Vice Chair  
Member – National Recreation & Park Association  
Member – Minnesota Recreation and Park Foundation  
2007 & 2009 MRPA Award of Merit Recipient  
2008 MRPA Horizon Award Recipient