



1991 - 2026



IPARKS QUARTERLY

SPRING 2026

IPARKS CELEBRATES 35 YEARS

In 1991, Carbondale Park District and Urbana Park District came together to form IPARKS, launching a member-driven program focused on affordable, specialized coverage and practical loss-control support for Illinois park, recreation, conservation, and forest preserve agencies.

Today—35 years later—IPARKS has grown from two founding districts to 183 members statewide, united by a shared commitment to safe, vibrant community spaces.

WHO WE ARE

For more than three decades, IPARKS has delivered on simplifying risk management, supporting member agencies, and protecting Illinois parks and recreation.

We're proud to offer:

- Tailored coverage designed specifically for Illinois park and recreation risks
- Guidance, resources, and training to help agencies keep communities safe
- Partnerships that strengthen districts, protect assets, and support the people they serve

THANK YOU TO OUR MEMBERS

IPARKS exists because of you—your trust, your partnership, and your dedication to the communities you serve. For 35 years, your leadership has shaped the program, strengthened our mission, and ensured that Illinois parks, recreation, and conservation agencies continue to thrive.

We look forward to many more years of supporting your work and protecting the parks that enrich life across Illinois.

Thank you for making IPARKS a success—yesterday, today, and for decades to come.

CELEBRATING OUR MEMBERS

This year, IPARKS honors nine agencies marking 35 years of membership:

- Carbondale Park District
- Clyde Park District
- Glen Ellyn Countryside Park District
- Harrisburg Township Park District
- Memorial Park District
- Ridgeville Park District
- Roxana Community Park District
- Tri-State Park District
- Urbana Park District

We also proudly recognize additional member milestones:

- 30 Years: 5 Members
- 25 Years: 22 Members
- 20 Years: 5 Members
- 15 Years: 2 Members
- 10 Years: 1 Member

IN THIS ISSUE:

Member Spotlight	pg 2
Get Your Parks Ready For Spring	pg 3
Micromobility In Parks	pg 4
Resource eLibrary	pg 5
& More	pg 6-8

UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL

- National Youth Sports Safety Month
- Distracted Driving Awareness Month
- Earth Day (April 22)
- National Playground Safety Week (April 20 – 23)

MAY

- National Water Safety Month
- National Heatstroke Prevention Day (May 1)
- National Bike Safety Month
- National Safe Boating Week (May 16 – 22)

JUNE

- National Safety Month

JULY

- Park and Recreation Month
- Park and Recreation Professionals Day (July 17)



Questions? Contact your IPARKS representative at iparks@iparks.org
www.iparks.org

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

ROXANA COMMUNITY PARK DISTRICT

Roxana Community Park District has been a proud IPARKS member for 35 years. This quarter we are highlighting the district's commitment to community-focused recreation and sharing insights from Debbie Ferry, Park District Director, on how IPARKS has supported their operations and risk management efforts over the years.

A PARK DISTRICT ROOTED IN COMMUNITY

Roxana Community Park District maintains 32 acres of thoughtfully developed recreational space designed to serve all ages. From serene walking paths to bustling sports facilities, the district is dedicated to promoting wellness, connection, and outdoor enjoyment.

FACILITIES & AMENITIES

The park district is home to an impressive array of amenities, making it a standout destination for recreation in the region.

- **Sports Fields:** Baseball/softball diamonds, soccer fields, basketball and pickleball courts.
- **Outdoor Swimming Pool:** A summer favorite for families.
- **Rox-Arena:** District offices and meeting rooms for showers, parties and special events.
- **Community Building Gym** with a multipurpose indoor court.
- **Trails & Greenery:** Walking and biking paths surrounded by lush landscapes and mature trees — perfect for springtime strolls.
- **Picnic Shelters & Playgrounds:** Ideal for community gatherings and family play.
- **Disc Golf Course:** Perfect for league play and recreational enjoyment.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

The Roxana Community Park District is known for hosting movies in the park, sports programs, an annual car show and family-friendly events throughout the year — keeping the community engaged and connected. They are most recognized for their festive Christmas light display. Spring and summer are especially active as outdoor programs return in full swing.



AN INTERVIEW WITH PARK DISTRICT DIRECTOR, DEBBIE FERRY

Q: What do you enjoy most about being part of IPARKS?

A: I greatly appreciate the quality of overall service that our small agency receives. Not only do we benefit from exceptional protection and competitive rates, we have easy access to representatives and processes.

Q: How has being part of IPARKS helped you manage risks more effectively?

A: The assistance and tools in place providing training and recommendations tailored to the specific nature of park and recreation facilities, programs and operations is invaluable. Our uniqueness presents challenges that require an elevated level of expertise and I believe that IPARKS exceeds expectations. I feel confident that many safety practices implemented have made a positive impact within our agency.

Q: If applicable, can you share a specific example of how IPARKS has supported your organization during a challenging time?

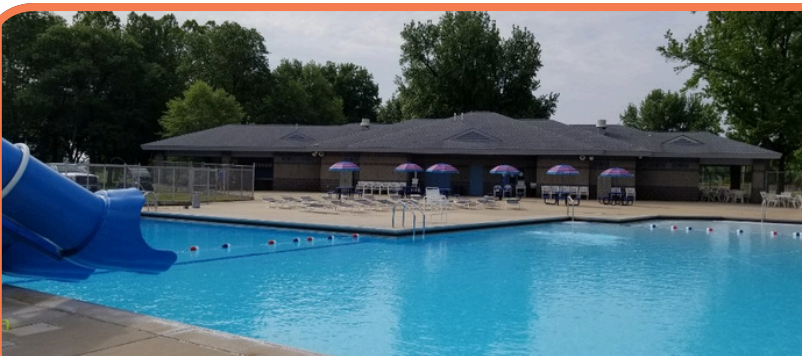
A: A few years ago, our agency was sued by a pool patron who slipped and fell in the shower of our pool house. IPARKS immediately assigned a representative and local counsel to work with us. It was a stressful time and the case continued for nearly three years due to delays with the plaintiff's attorney. Needless to say, our attorney made the process as painless as possible and the outcome was positive.

Q: What advice would you give to someone considering joining IPARKS?

A: To research all that IPARKS has to offer, compare the risk pool to other insurance plans and definitely review testimonials from agencies that are current members.

Q: What's one thing you've learned or gained from being part of IPARKS that you didn't expect?

A: The grant opportunities that give back to the members.



GETTING YOUR PARKS READY FOR SPRING

A SEASONAL PREP GUIDE

As warmer weather approaches, parks and playgrounds are gearing up for increased visitors, busy program schedules, and the natural renewal that spring brings.

Here's a quick guide to help ensure your parks are ready for the season.

WINTER DAMAGE CHECK

Before diving into spring tasks, walk your parks and look for:

- Broken or hanging limbs
- Erosion along trails or water edges
- Cracking sidewalks, pathways, and parking areas
- Playground equipment wear or damage

A quick assessment helps prioritize repairs and keeps visitors safe.

GROUNDS & LANDSCAPING REFRESH

Spring landscaping sets the tone for the entire season. Key to-dos:

- Clear leaves and winter debris
- Dethatch and aerate turf
- Apply pre-emergent weed control
- Re-mulch planting beds
- Repair worn turf around high-traffic areas

Healthy grounds make your parks welcoming—and reduce summer maintenance headaches.

TRAIL & FACILITY TUNE-UPS

With more people hitting the outdoors, make sure amenities are ready:

- Inspect and clean playgrounds, sports courts, and picnic shelters
- Open restrooms and drinking fountains
- Test irrigation systems and repair leaks
- Refresh trail markers and safety signage

Small improvements now prevent bigger issues later.

SUPPORT NATURAL AREAS

Spring is a crucial season for ecosystems.

Tasks may include:

- Removing invasive plants early
- Restoring native plantings
- Inspecting wetlands and drainage areas
- Protecting sensitive habitats during nesting periods

A balanced approach ensures both recreation and conservation thrive.

SAFETY & STAFFING PREP

Before crowds return:

- Update emergency procedures
- Inspect lighting, cameras, and AEDs
- Stock first-aid supplies
- Train seasonal staff and volunteers

A prepared team is your strongest safety asset.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Spring is a perfect time to welcome residents back with:

- Park clean-up events
- Early-season sports leagues
- Outdoor fitness classes
- Nature programs and guided hikes

Community involvement helps build pride and stewardship in your parks.

READY TO GO!

With a bit of planning and a strong start, your parks can ensure their outdoor spaces are safe, beautiful, and ready for a vibrant spring season.

IPARKS MEMBERS:

DON'T MISS YOUR 2026 GRANT OPPORTUNITIES!

IPARKS offers three grant programs to support safety initiatives, training, and risk-management efforts across your organization.

All grant applications are due October 31, 2026.
Learn more at [iparks.org](https://www.iparks.org).

MICROMOBILITY IN PARKS

MANAGING RISK & CLAIMS FOR ILLINOIS PARK DISTRICTS

The growing use of e-bikes, e-motos, and e-scooters is reshaping how visitors move through Illinois parks. These devices bring recreational and environmental benefits, but they also introduce new safety considerations and potential liability exposures for park districts.

REGULATIONS & RISK CONTROL

Illinois officials continue evaluating regulations for micromobility devices, including defining device classes, identifying where they may operate, and reviewing safety-related requirements. Park districts can begin preparing now by implementing clear and consistent risk-control strategies.

Effective measures include:

- Designated use areas to reduce conflicts on busy trails.
- Enforced speed limits to help minimize accidents.
- Signage and visitor education promoting safe operation.
- Coordination with municipalities to keep rules aligned across jurisdictions.

CLAIMS & LIABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

Many park district exposures arise when riders bring privately owned or rented devices from neighboring communities into district property. Even when districts do not permit or provide these devices, incidents involving micromobility equipment may still generate claims.

Districts should focus on:

- Indemnification arrangements with operators or neighboring municipalities when possible.
- Accident documentation procedures for consistent reporting.
- Regular trail inspections to ensure surfaces remain safe for all users.

CHECKLIST: WHAT PARK DISTRICTS SHOULD DO NOW

Micromobility Readiness Checklist

- Identify where micromobility devices are allowed or prohibited
- Post signage outlining rules, speed limits, and safety expectations
- Communicate policies through websites, maps, and trail kiosks
- Establish procedures for documenting incidents or complaints
- Inspect and maintain trails for trip hazards or surface damage
- Coordinate with nearby cities on rental programs and enforcement
- Train staff on how to respond to micromobility-related incidents

Note: Legislative proposals currently under consideration may affect local authority over micromobility devices. Risk management strategies discussed here assume local agencies retain the ability to establish and enforce trail-use rules.

PLANNING AHEAD

Micromobility use will continue to grow, and early planning helps reduce exposure while supporting safe recreation. By strengthening risk-control practices and reviewing claims protocols, Illinois park districts can better protect their visitors and facilities.

For general safety resources, districts can visit the Illinois Secretary of State's [Ride Safe](http://www.ilsos.gov/departments/drivers/traffic-safety/micromobility-in-illinois.html) materials. www.ilsos.gov/departments/drivers/traffic-safety/micromobility-in-illinois.html



RESOURCE ELIBRARY

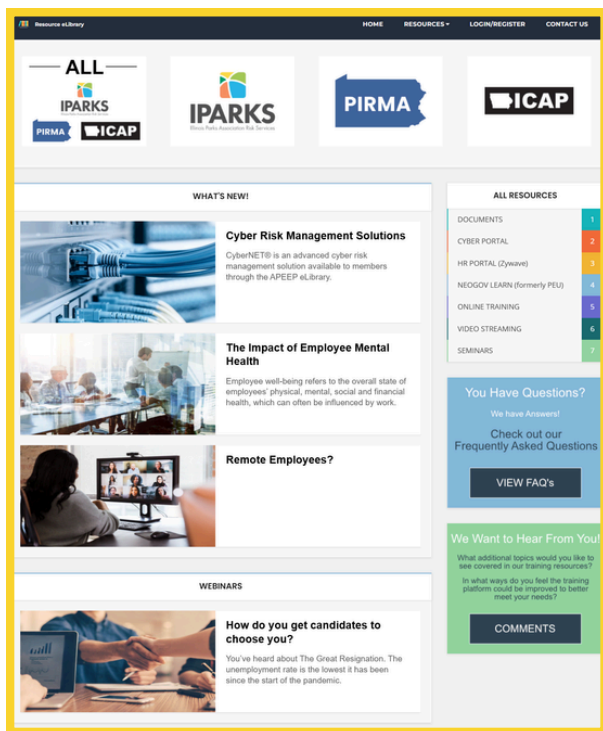
NEW MODULES & UPDATED LOOK

 <https://apepelibrary.com>

 support@elibrary.com

NEW LOOK: EASY NAVIGATION

- ✓ *Improved Layout* with a modern user friendly design
- ✓ *Quick Search Bar* and organized drop-down menu
- ✓ *Intuitive Pool Tiles* to easily filter pool exclusive materials



Search documents

+ Health & Wellness	+ Cybersecurity & IT
+ Parks and Recreation Safety	+ HR & Administration
+ Harassment Prevention	+ Safety and Equipment Training
+ Public Safety	+ Miscellaneous

DID YOU KNOW?

The Resource eLibrary offers hours of safety training for our IPARKS members.

All staff members can register for access. If you're not yet registered, you can self-register at apepelibrary.org.

NEW MODULES: NEOGOV LEARN

Business Skills

- From Conflict to Clarity
- Behavior-Based Interviewing
- Risk Management: Risk Treatment
- Risk Management: Hierarchy of Controls
- Risk Management: Identifying Fraudulent Claims

Cybersecurity

- Protecting Your Work Devices
- Locking Down Your User Accounts
- Securing Your Inbox
- Sharing Files Securely
- Browsing the Web Safely
- Protecting Your Personal Devices
- Verifying Phone Calls
- Scanning QR Codes Safely
- Managing Your Social Media Accounts
- Using Chatbots Responsibly
- Detecting Deepfakes

Diversity & Inclusion

- Communicating Effectively with People with Disabilities

Health & Safety

- OSHA Top Four Hazards

Appropriate Workplace Behavior Series

- Appropriate Technology Use
- Avoiding Discrimination
- Avoiding Harassment
- Avoiding Microaggressions
- Handling Conflict
- Handling Workplace Preferences
- Navigating Humor
- Preventing Gossip
- Reporting Misconduct
- Respectful Communication Styles
- Respecting Personal Boundaries
- Understanding Impact

Emergency Preparedness Series

- All Emergencies
- Biological Threats
- Bomb Threats
- Earthquakes
- Floods
- Hurricanes
- Tornadoes
- Wildfires
- Winter Storms

COVERAGE CONVERSATIONS

2026 COVERAGE UPDATES

2026 CYBER ENHANCEMENTS: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

BUSINESS INTERRUPTION (\$250K OR OPTIONAL \$1M LIMIT)

Reasonable and necessary amounts incurred to recover and/or electronic data that is compromised, damaged, lost, erased, corrupted or stolen, and business income loss and extra expenses incurred, due to an unplanned outage, interruption, failure, suspension or degradation of service of a service provider computer system that is caused by specific cyber perils, including a denial of service attack, malicious code, and acts of cyber terrorism.

Example: A third-party vendor that stored and managed a member's client database fell victim to malicious code, and the member's client data was left inaccessible. This coverage provided costs to restore the member's data as well as business interruption losses and extra expenses incurred to keep the member's operations up and running.

BRICKING LOSS (\$250K OR OPTIONAL \$1M LIMIT)

Losses incurred to replace computer hardware or electronic equipment that becomes nonfunctional or useless for its intended purpose (but not physically damaged) due to a hacking attack, up to 125% of replacement value.

Example: A number of the member's computers were rendered useless after a hacking attack that involved reprogramming of firmware. This coverage responded and covered the costs for the member to replace the affected computer hardware.

POST-BREACH REMEDIATION (\$50K WITHIN LIMIT)

Post breach remediation costs incurred to mitigate the potential of a future security breach or privacy breach.

Example: After experiencing a disruptive data breach and working with its cyber carrier to resolve the issue, the member was worried that it could happen again and recognized that it may be unaware of its potential vulnerabilities. This coverage covered post breach remediation costs, allowing the member to conduct an information security risk assessment and hire a data security expert to identify ways that the member could better protect its data and prevent further cyber incidents.

OPTIONAL \$1M LIMIT OFFERING

In the event of a cyber incident, costs such as expert guidance, forensic investigation, data restoration, and ransom payments can grow quickly. Please reach out if you are interested in increasing your limit.

Example: A member experienced a ransomware attack, requiring extensive IT forensics to identify what happened, breach counsel engagement to guide the member's response and advise it on required notifications, data restoration costs to recover and rebuild its databases. The costs to execute these activities, navigate legal implications, and restore their operations exceeded \$700,000.

EQUIPMENT BREAKDOWN- ELECTRONIC VANDALISM

Starting on your anniversary date, your Certificate will sub-limit coverage for electronic vandalism under Equipment Breakdown. This coverage defines "Electronic Vandalism" which can occur in various fact scenarios.

Below is a brief, although not comprehensive overview of the coverage changes.

Electronic Vandalism Definition

Intentional damage to computer systems, including:

- Destruction or corruption of data or programs
- Harmful code (like viruses) that slows or damages systems
- Unauthorized access or remote control of systems
- Denial of Service (DoS) attacks that block access

What's Not Covered

- Damage from electronic vandalism unless covered under specific extensions
- Illness or disease caused by viruses, bacteria, or microorganisms (unless it leads to equipment breakdown)

Additional Coverage Changes

- Electronic Vandalism: Coverage damage to equipment caused by electronic vandalism, up to \$100,000 total per policy period, no matter how many locations.
- Defense Costs: If you're sued for property damage, defense costs are provided within the coverage limit.
- New Generation Replacement: If you upgrade your damaged equipment to a newer version, the policy pays up to 125% of the replacement cost.

*Please review your endorsement GPA 0648 for full details and coverage limits.

For more information, reach out to your IPARKS Services Team at 1-800-748-0554.

INSIDE IPARKS

IAPD CONFERENCE-SOARING TO NEW HEIGHTS

Celebrating Connection at Soaring to New Heights.

The IPARKS service team loved seeing so many of our members at this year's IAPD/IPRA Soaring to New Heights Conference. It was wonderful to welcome new faces and reconnect with familiar ones at both our booth and our fourth annual Member Appreciation Reception.

Thank you to everyone who stopped by to visit, celebrate with us, and help make the event another success. Your engagement and support continue to make IPARKS strong.

We look forward to seeing you again next year!

HELP US MAKE SURE YOU RECEIVE OUR EMAILS

We are excited to share that IPARKS is now using HubSpot to send our email campaigns and important member updates. As we transition to this new system, members may not be receiving our eblasts due to security settings or spam filters set by IT.

To ensure you stay informed, please take a moment to check that our messages can reach you.

Not Seeing Our Emails? Here's What to Do

1. Check your Junk or Spam folder

- Sometimes new senders get filtered automatically.

2. Add us to your Safe Senders list

- Please add these email addresses to your contacts or safe senders list:
 - iparks.org@hubspotstarter.hs-send.com
 - iparks@iparks.org

3. If you find one of our emails in spam:

- Open the email
- Mark it as "Not spam" or "Not junk"
- Move it to your Inbox

4. For IT managed systems (Outlook, Office 365, corporate Gmail)

- Share this information with your IT team so they can allowlist our sending domains:
 - shared.hubspot.com
 - hubspotemail.net
 - iparks.org@hubspotstarter.hs-send.com

Thank you for taking a moment to update your settings. These quick adjustments will help ensure you never miss important announcements, resources, and updates from IPARKS.



RECOGNITION

IPARKS is pleased to share recent updates to our Board of Directors and to recognize the outstanding service of our long-standing board members. Their leadership and commitment continue to strengthen IPARKS and support our mission.

BOARD LEADERSHIP UPDATE

In accordance with our bylaws, IPARKS has appointed new board officers:

BOARD CHAIR - C.J. Metcalf

BOARD VICE CHAIR - Rachel Lenz

BOARD SERVICE MILESTONES

- Peter Murphy
35 years of board service (since 1991)
- Jason Anselment
15 years of board service (since 2011)
- Tim Bartlett (Service from 2017 to 2025)

We also acknowledge and appreciate Kevin Yates and Ted Schulz for their continued service on the board and for their prior leadership as Chair and Vice Chair.

IPARKS remains grateful for the dedication of all board members as we continue to grow and serve agencies across Illinois.

REMINDER

CAPTURE THE MOMENT SUBMIT YOUR PHOTO!

Want to see your agency featured in the 2027 IPARKS Calendar? Submit your photo today!

Be sure to download and complete the IPARKS Photo Release Form from iparks.org before submitting.

Photo submissions are due by **October 9, 2026**, and can be emailed to iparks@iparks.org.





IPARKS

Illinois Parks Association Risk Services

IPARKS Service Center
315 S. Kalamazoo Mall
Kalamazoo, MI 49007

If our mailing records need to be updated, please contact the IPARKS Service Center at (800) 748-0554.
IPARKS newsletters are available for viewing and printing at www.iparks.org.



IPARKS is the risk management affinity partner of Illinois Association of Park Districts (IAPD), working to provide affordable, specialized coverage programs and valuable loss control resources for park districts, recreation and conservation districts, river conservancy districts, forest preserves and special recreation agencies.