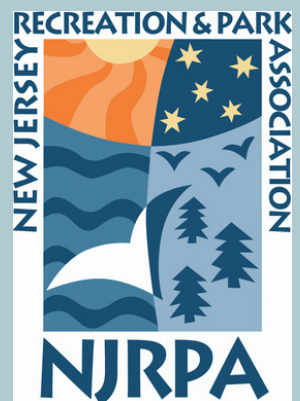


A large, light blue map of New Jersey is centered on the page. The map is filled with various nature photographs: the top half shows a bright blue sky with scattered white clouds, and the bottom half shows a dense green forest. The text 'ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023' is overlaid in white on the lower-left portion of the map.

ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023



NJRPA

MISSION

The mission of the New Jersey Recreation and Park Association is to unite the public and professional interests in parks, recreation, and conservation throughout the State of New Jersey.

VISION

The vision of the New Jersey Recreation and Park Association is to be the lead organization in the State of New Jersey inspiring and promoting the development of healthy communities and lifestyle.

ADMINISTRATION

2022-2023 EXECUTIVE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

- **President, Tim Roetman**
- **Past President, Lenny Celluro**
- **President-Elect, Jeanne Montemarano**
- **Vice President, Jill Daggon**
- **Treasurer, Chris Myers**
- **Member-At-Large, Ralph Bernardo**
- **Member-At-Large, Katie Frey**
- **Secretary, Gabrielle Bolarakis**

STAFF

- **Executive Director, Kathleen Avitt**
- **Member Services Manager, Vacant**
- **Association Services Coordinator PT, Kimberly Cameron**

The NJRPA hired one new employee. In December 2022, Kimberly Cameron was hired as the new PT Association Services Coordinator. Currently, there is a search for the next Member Services Manager.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as NJRPA's 2022-2023 President. Our professional association has grown, improved and achieved over the past year. Thanks to the combined efforts of our professional staff, the Board of Trustees, our numerous committees and volunteers, NJRPA is well positioned to continue to provide educational opportunities, networking opportunities, support and resources for our parks and recreation professionals and commercial members. NJRPA is on solid financial ground, and will continue to be effective in its mission to unite the public and professional interests in parks, recreation and conservation throughout the State of New Jersey.

I am proud to report our membership has increased in size from 587 to 692 members over the past year. Eighteen new commercial members, forty two mayors, and forty five new professional members have been welcomed since June of 2022. Hopefully you have had the chance to meet some of our new members. If you are a new member reading this, welcome, and don't be shy! One of the best reasons to be a member of NJRPA is the networking opportunities. This is one of the friendliest and most helpful professionals in the world; and I thank each of you for making an effort to help each other succeed.

Our Association continues to do a great job providing educational and networking opportunities. I'd like to thank our Resource Development Committee for re-starting the Mentorship Program and hosting one of the largest golf outings in NJRPA history. Our Community Recreation Society provided excellent and timely educational sessions at our annual

(Cont'd Next Page)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONTINUED

Fall Workshop and League of Municipalities. Our Conference Planning Committee put together a great variety of educational programs in Atlantic City. These networking and educational opportunities allow us to grow and improve ourselves and the services provided to each of our communities.

I'd like to thank our commercial members for their generosity, support and passion for this industry. The relationships developed between our commercial members and parks and rec professionals help communities grow in positive ways; whether it is a program, service, or new playground, the products our commercial members offer provide value to our State, counties and municipalities.

Thank You to Executive Director Kat Avitt for preparing the Annual Report. I encourage everyone to review it and celebrate our collective accomplishments. Let's continue to provide New Jersey's residents with the best we can offer!

Tim Roetman, President 2022-2023



2022-2023 EXECUTIVE BOARD OF TRUSTEES



**MEMBERSHIP
TOTAL 692**

594

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERS

98

COMMERCIAL MEMBERS

56

ACR MEMBERS

DISTRICTS

DISTRICT CHAIR COORDINATOR - DAWN THOMPSON

DISTRICT 1 - DEBBIE OLIVER, CHAIR

Bergen, Passaic and Hudson Counties

DISTRICT 2 - PATRICK NICHOLS, CHAIR

Essex County

DISTRICT 3 - SAMANTHA GRINDLINGER, CHAIR

Union County

DISTRICT 4 - CHRIS MCMANUS & ERIN WERN, CO-CHAIRS

Middlesex, Monmouth and Ocean Counties

DISTRICT 5 - RICK AUDET & SAMANTHA CRUZ, CO-CHAIRS

Atlantic, Cape May, Cumberland and Salem Counties

DISTRICT 6 - KARIN POVEROMO, CHAIR

Burlington, Camden, Gloucester and Mercer Counties

DISTRICT 7- JOHN VOLI, CHAIR

Hunterdon, Morris, Somerset, Sussex and Warren Counties



D1 HOLIDAY PARTY



D3 VENDOR SPEED DATING & MORE EVENT



D4 HOLIDAY PARTY

SECTIONS

The sections are professional interest groups among the membership.

ACTIVE ADULTS - MARY BETH WHEELER & ANAHITA FELTZ, CO-CHAIRS

119 members

Active Adults hosts a Fall Zoom entitled "Emerging Issues and Topics in the Senior Programming Field." They also hosted a January Zoom on "Refreshing your programming and how to evaluate your programs." The third meeting was an in-person Breakfast on current issues in Senior Centers.

AQUATICS - ALEX SPERLING, CHAIR

131 members

Aquatics hosted a 2022 Bathing Suit & Goggle Drive. The drive collected over 400 bathing suits and goggles that were given to the communities of Newark, Orange, Jersey City and Perth Amboy. Other events included Certified Pool Director trainings with Montclair State University, Pre-conference Workshop and Summer Pool School. The Aquatics Spring Workshop with 39 attendees and don't forget May is Water Safety Month Proclamation.



POOL SCHOOL - CLARK POOL



BATHING SUIT AND GOGGLE DRIVE



AQUATICS SPRING WORKSHOP

COMMERCIAL - PATTY TUMMINELLO, CHAIR

98 members

Members have given financial support via sponsorships to district meetings, the annual conference, and many other events during the year.

There are also 56 ACR members that go above and beyond to support our mission.

SECTIONS



CR FALL WORKSHOP

COMMUNITY RECREATION - ALEXIS VOLI, CHAIR

390 members

The Fall Workshop held at Maggiano's was "Inclusion Best Practices: The Why and How of Inclusion" which had 120 in attendance. There were three sessions hosted by the Community Recreation Section at the NJLM Conference in November.



PR FALL WORKSHOP

PARK RESOURCES - FRANK MASINI, CHAIR

193 members

Park Resources held on a morning workshop entitled "Green Horizons: Planting and Maintaining Trees for a Brighter Tomorrow". There were 33 in attendance. The Section also worked with the Conference Program Committee to offer "Playground Inspection & Maintenance 101" and "Invasive Species Identification, Impact, and Management in New Jersey."

MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS - LUCINDA MCLAUGHLIN, CHAIR

94 members

Multicultural Affairs worked with the Conference Programs Planning Committee to coordinate topic speakers this year.

COMMITTEES

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT - CHRIS ZIMMERMAN, CHAIR

- **Mentorship Program** – Chris Zimmerman, took over the challenge of getting the program up and running again. Thanks to him and his committee the program has 19 enrolled.
- **Golf Outing** – The Golf Outing was held at the Heron Glen Golf Course in Ringoes, NJ in August 2022. There were 120 golfers, 15 sponsors and 17 foursome and hole sponsors. The event was great and NJRPA has signed a contract for the next year. This fundraiser netted \$8,150.00 for NRJPA.
- **Calendar Raffle** - 410 Tickets were sold. The fundraiser netted \$3,864.90 for NJRPA.
- The second year of that the Sponsorship Packet generated two Bronze Level Sponsors. Special thank you to **Gametime Park & Playground Equipment/MRC** and **Ben Shaffer Recreation** for their contributions.



The graphic features the NJRPA logo on the left, a central white box with the title 'CALENDAR RAFFLE WINNERS MAY 1-5', and a list of winners on the right. A pink raffle ticket icon is on the far right. Below the list, it says 'Posted every Monday morning May. Congratulations!'

MAY 1	#247 ALFONSO COSMO	\$50
MAY 2	#342 TOM HASH	\$50
MAY 3	#36 JOHN TRONTIS	\$50
MAY 4	#524 MIKE HENRY	\$50
MAY 5	#167 JOE PERELLO	\$100

CALENDAR RAFFLE



HERON GLEN GOLF OUTING

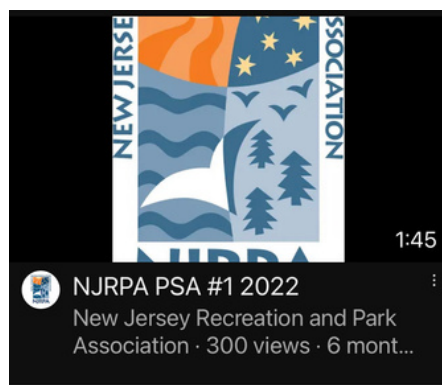


MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

COMMITTEES

LONG RANGE PLANNING - JEANNE MONTEMARANO, CHAIR

- Jeanne has worked with Committees to stay focused on initiatives.
- We have had progress on a Mayors Campaign, great success with the online professionals forum, started our first of many Career Fairs at University Campuses, and even created a PSA targeted at our elected and community officials.



2022 PSA

MEMBERSHIP AND MARKETING - PATTY TUMMINELLO AND KATIE FREY, CO-CHAIRS

- The Mayor Campaign resulted in 42 Mayors joining NJRPA for the 2022-2023 year.
- **Public Awareness Campaign Taskforce, Jill Daggon, Chair**

Initiative:

- Complete one PSA video in partnership that has been rolled out on You Tube and statewide on Social Media.
- We are also working with Summit Soundz on advertising videos on NJRPA, Conference and more.

FINANCE - CHRIS MYERS CHAIR

- Reviewed and created the yearly budget.
- Working with Finance Committee on finding a new investments institution.

COMMITTEES

AWARDS - DAVID GUIDA, JR., CHAIR

- This year the committee was able to do site visits, utilize zoom and in-person meetings to select award winners.
- The Awards Banquet was held at the Conference in Atlantic City for 26 Awardees.



CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS - DAWN THOMPSON, CHAIR

- This Committee has meet this year to discuss any draft changes for next year.

COMMITTEES

ANNUAL CONFERENCE - KATHLEEN AVITT, CHAIR

- The 48th Annual State Conference was entitled "A Lifetime of Play: It Starts in the Parks."
 - 351 attendees attended the Conference held at Harrah's Waterfront Conference Center in Atlantic City.
 - There were 83 attendees that attended three Pre-Conference Workshops.
 - The Exhibit Hall hosted 115 booths.
 - The Sponsorship Committee was able to secure \$29,900 in sponsorships.
- Special thanks to our Bronze Level and Conference Sponsors.



SCHEDULE AND REGISTRATION



KEYNOTE LUNCHEON - JEFF WOZER



SPONSORS



EDUCATION SESSION



ALL DELEGATE SOCIAL



TUESDAY AWARDS BANQUET

COMMITTEES

PUBLIC AFFAIRS - BILL FOELSCH, CO-CHAIR AND DENISE LANZA, CO-CHAIR

- We work closely with Public Consultant, Rick Wright of MBI to help us access to Legislators, Legislator's staff, the Governor's office and the various staff of State government departments impacting our agencies such as NJDEP, NJDOH and NJDOT.
- Held bi-monthly meetings to discuss proposed bills and determine tracking in-person and on Zoom.
- Still focusing to bring RA Bill S-288 to a vote.
- Work groups continue to focus on assigned issues.
- Committee reviews and tracks over 500 bills per year.
- The new Platform for 2023 is complete.

NJRPA VOLUNTEER
DISTRICTS, SECTIONS AND
COMMITTEES...

Thank you!

TECHNOLOGY



SOCIAL AND ELECTRONIC MEDIA

- NJRPA's presence on social media is essential to share valuable news on trends, research, and events.
- The NJRPA Facebook has over 1,569 followers. Our post reach is 3,221. Our post engagement is 963. Our top post for the year was our 2023 Awards Photos.
- NJRPA's Instagram has 434 followers and 325 following.
- LinkedIn has 512 followers and is gaining a professional following.
- NJRPA's TikTok was used for the 2022 July is Parks and Recreation Month and a contest at the conference. There are currently 49 followers. Our largest view was the NJ State Parks' micro trash video and a fast second with our very own Tim Roetman's President's message for Professional's Day!
- **NEW** YouTube NJRPA's first PSA was posted. Currently there are more PSAs and messages being edited for upload in 2023.

NJRPA SOFTWARE & UPGRADES

- The Office was granted a free CANVA subscription as a non-profit.
- Zoom is in it's third year of subscription as it has become a staple of communication.

PARTNERSHIPS - OUTREACH



2022 PHOENIX CONFERENCE

PARTNERSHIPS

- **NEW** Attorney Stuart Reisner joined NJRPA as its Pro-Bono Attorney.
- Pool Director School – partnership with Montclair State University. NJRPA receives portion of proceeds.
- CPO Training – partnership with Aquatics Section. NJRPA receives portion of proceeds.
- **NEW** NJRPA partners with the NJ Swim Safety Alliance in Drowning Prevention Education.
- **NEW** The National Alliance for Youth Sports has partnered to host the Certified Youth Sport Administrator Certification (CYSA).
- NJRPA partners NRPA to host two CPSI Workshops. Over 100 participants.
- **NEW** Summit Soundz has partnered to record and produce videos for PSAs and other Marketing campaigns NJRPA is strategically working on.
- **NEW** American Dream Partnered with NJRPA to host a NJRPA Professionals Day Open House. There were over 40 in attendance.
- **NEW** Marketing Promotion of July is Parks and Recreation Month with NJ State Parks and Park and Recreation Professional Day.

OUTREACH

- Exhibited at Kean University's Career Day, NJLM Conference, NJSACC and Mid-Atlantic Society of Association Executives Conference.



KEAN UNIVERSITY CAREER DAY



CYSA TRAINING WITH NAYS