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For Immediate Release

### **Waukegan Park District Employee Recognized at IAPD/IPRA Annual Conference**

La Grange IL– On January 24, 2025, the Illinois Park & Recreation Association (IPRA) honored Quincy Bejster from the Waukegan Park District with the IPRA Community Impact Award, for his commitment and excellent service to parks and recreation in Illinois. Mr. Bejster was recognized during the IPRA Awards Program at the IAPD/IPRA Soaring to New Heights Conference held at the Hyatt Regency Chicago.

The IPRA Community Impact Award is presented to a current Illinois park and recreation professional who has made a significant impact in the community they serve through their involvement with local, community, non-profit, and business organizations or government agencies. This award celebrates those professionals who are not currently executive directors, recognizing their important impact to our field.

Quincy Bejster's dedication to Waukegan and passion for parks and recreation have transformed the community. Since starting as an intern in 2005, Quincy has risen to Director of the Parks Department, leading projects like the district's first kayak launch and inclusive playgrounds, ensuring accessibility for all.

He has organized volunteer service days, beautifying parks and fostering environmental stewardship, and launched youth employment programs that provided over 100 local teens with valuable work experience. Through partnerships with local organizations, Quincy has created opportunities that benefit the entire community.

We proudly honor Quincy Bejster for his extraordinary impact on Waukegan!

'Congratulations to Quincy for being recognized by his peers with this award for his service and commitment to the community and profession,' Suzi Wirtz, IOM, IPRA Executive Director. 'It is so inspiring to see the impact one person can have, with unique and thoughtful initiatives, and IPRA is proud to have Quincy as an exemplary member, leading by example.'

A complete list of IPRA award winners is available on the IPRA website, [ilipra.org](http://ilipra.org).

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Established in 1944, the Illinois Park & Recreation Association (IPRA) serves over 3,000 park, recreation, and conservation professionals throughout the state, and is a national leader in providing premier education, networking, and resources. For more information about IPRA, its board and mission, please visit the IPRA website: [www.Ilipra.org](http://www.Ilipra.org).

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