

CPRS District 2

Fall Newsletter 2023

A Message from your President - Ashika Lal

Happy Fall, District 2! Earlier this year, I shared a few words with you that set the theme for the D2 Board and what we hope to accomplish this year. I'd like to give you a short update on how things are going, what we've accomplished thus far and what you can expect to see from us as we head towards the remaining half of the year.

Connection. *Take 2 with D2* has gotten off to a great start, to date we have had over 20 guests attend our board meetings this year, listen in, participate and connect with us. I am proud that several of my fellow board members have invited guests and continue to do so every month. Some guests have enjoyed the experience so much that they keep coming back month after month and are considering joining the D2 Board next year! If you'd like to be our guest, reach out to any D2 board member or contact me directly at alal@southgaterecandpark.net.

Communication. We want to make sure that every member is aware of the programs, events, opportunities and work being done in D2. From frequent emails to social media posts, engaging videos, traditional postcards and even this newsletter, we have a continued commitment to make sure you hear from us on a regular basis, one way or another. We even joined Threads to bring tech tips with our Technology Rep., Ian Roberts, to you every month!

Engagement. We have seen a huge increase in member engagement at District 2 events, in particular, from our D & O section members. This year's Equipment Expo and Rodeo in William Land Park broke attendance records with a whopping 430 attendees! D2's Director of Education, Miranda Ellis, organized one of our highest attended Lunch 'n Learns yet, with over 80 attendees showing up to learn about trees. Educator Section Rep., Dr. Abhijeet Shirsat, organized a student event at Sacramento State University where over 70 students showed up to talk shop with District 2 board members and guests. In addition, your District 2 board continues to show up at in-person board meetings and engage with each other while being present and having thoughtful conversations.

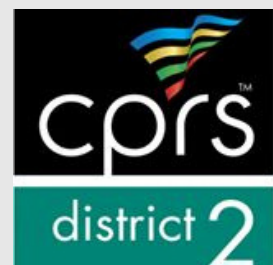
Accountability. We made a few promises, we told you we were going to join the gram and join the gram we did! If you haven't followed us yet, please do so @cprsdistrict2! The brand new Doing Good 2Gether program was launched and well received. Agencies submitted their projects and Southgate Recreation & Park District's court linings project was selected as this year's winner. On Saturday, October 21 D2 board members, professionals, students and friends in our District joined us to complete this project. Huzzah!

We've got more exciting things to look forward to as we close out the year. Past CPRS State Board President, Kristi McClure-Huckaby will be joining us as our keynote speaker at this year's General Membership meeting on December 6, at North Natomas Community Center from 3-5PM. We are also hosting an Administrator's Section meeting at the event, in hopes of reenergizing the section in our District. The anticipated second annual Park Forum is slated to take place on January 25 at Maidu Community Center in Roseville, where another past CPRS State Board President, Jim Wheeler, will take the stage as our keynote speaker.

Have I convinced you to get in the D2 van yet? We are known for #D2Doing2Much and we want YOU to come along for the ride! Elections are well underway (Page 8) and now is a great time to throw your name in for a position on the D2 Board of Directors for the 2024/25 year! Reach out to a board member and join us at an upcoming board meeting or event, sign up to volunteer or serve on a committee. Get involved today, I promise you won't regret it. I look forward to connecting with you as I finish out the remainder of the year as your District 2 President. See you soon!



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Ashika Lal'.



Equipment Expo Highlights

The 2023 Equipment Expo was one for the books and with 27 vendors and 430 people in attendance, this is our most successful event to date. We want to thank our committee members, Ashika Lal, Eric Dexter, Jeff Houser, Johnathon Long, Joey Zaokopny, Miranda Ellis, Nicole Lowery, and Traci Farris, for all their hard work in making the event such a huge success. We'd like to send a special thank you to Joey and his crew with the City of Sacramento for getting William Land Park ready, making sure tables and chairs were set up early, and securing our food vendor for the event. Congratulations to the 2023 Rodeo winners, the City of Roseville (pictured below)!

With the success we received and the money generated, we were able to generate three scholarships for Maintenance Management School.

After such a successful year, we can only imagine how much better next year's Equipment Expo will be and look forward to seeing you all there in September 2024!



Region 1 Fall Forum Highlights

The Marauders invaded Hogwarts School of Witchcraft & Wizardry (Woodland Community & Senior Center) at Region 1's Fall Forum! As we celebrated the 10th Anniversary of Fall Forum, this year's event featured 20 Educational Sessions (more than ever before!), 265 participants, 14 District 2 members presented educational sessions, including 6 District 2 Board Members, and the highest attended Fall Forum Social to date! Special thanks to the Region 1 Fall Forum Planning Committee and the Fall Forum Social Planning Committee.



A HUGE THANK YOU TO OUR MUGGLE SPONSORS!



since 1979



Doing Good 2Gether Highlights

Making a difference!

District 2 kicked off a brand new program to make a difference in the communities throughout our district. The new, Doing Good 2Gether Program, brings volunteers from across our district together to assist an agency with completing a project that they normally wouldn't be able to without volunteer power. This year, Southgate Recreation & Park District scored the highest on their project submission and on October 21, District 2 was happy to show their support and complete the Sunrise Florin Park Court Linings Project!

We'd like to thank the Park & Rec professionals, students, D2 Board Members, and friends for volunteering. This project will have a lasting impact on their community!

Be sure to look out for the 2024 application cycle and join us for the 2024 Day of Service!



Scholarships Program

District 2 is proud to offer its membership the following scholarship and grant opportunities to help offset costs and assist members in reaching their professional development goals.

2023/2024 Jane H. Adams Professional Development Grant- APPLICATIONS DUE ON DECEMBER 15, 2023

Application Requirements:

1. Applicants must be employed by a CPRS D2 agency.
2. Applicants must demonstrate a dedication to the profession through current and past professional affiliations and involvement.
3. Applicants must explain how they have contributed and or plan to contribute to CPRS D2.
4. Applicants must complete and submit the D2 Jane H. Adams Professional Development
5. Application form, and requested attachments by the posted deadline.

2023/2024 Student Scholarship Program – APPLICATIONS DUE ON DECEMBER 15, 2023

Arvid Pauly Award
Edwin L Z'berg Award
Park Maintenance & Operations Award



Application Requirements:

1. Must live, work, or attend school within District 2 boundaries.
2. Separate complete applications must be submitted for each type of scholarship for which you are applying.
3. Please complete and submit the following items through the google form application:
 - a. Application form (one per type of scholarship).
 - b. Proof of enrollment.
 - c. Copy of unofficial transcripts.
 - d. Narrative which includes why you should receive an award, a brief description of your financial need, your professional accomplishments, and your professional goals (2 pages maximum).
 - e. Headshot photo (for award presentation, if selected).

SCHOLARSHIP/GRANT APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN!

For questions or concerns, please contact:
Nina Sinor, CPRS District 2 Vice President
Cordova Recreation & Park District
nsinor@crpd.com | (916) 307-6864

**For more information on scholarships/grants and to apply,
visit cprsd2.org/scholarships-grants!**

Awards Program

The California Park & Recreation Society (CPRS) District 2 Awards Program recognizes the excellence of those agencies and individuals that publicize develop and manage programs, parks and facilities that align with the Parks Make Life Better™ brand message of:

- Building loyalty for parks and recreation services, heightening the profession's bargaining power and independence, stimulating growth, attracting talented people to the profession, involving the public and gaining greater resources and support.
- Raising awareness of the benefits of parks and recreation throughout California and raise the status of parks and recreation as an essential community service.
- Demonstrate the six main message concepts of Gathering Places, Play, Nature, Exercise, Positive Spaces, and forever, all of which are valued today and always.

PROGRAM DETAILS:

- **Eligibility:** All District 2 Parks and Recreation agencies (cities, counties & districts) and individual CPRS members are eligible to submit entries to the CPRS District 2 Awards Program. All programs and projects must have been completed in 2023.
- **Application Notification:** All applicants will receive a notification email announcing the decision of the judging in late February. Entry materials will not be returned.
- **CPRS District 2 Awards & Installation Banquet:** Recipients will receive recognition at the CPRS District 2 Awards & Installation Banquet in March 2024.
- **Multiple Entries:** Agencies may submit more than one entry per category. The award entry fee applies to each award entry; \$20 per award entry.
- **Entry Deadline:** 5:00 pm on Friday, February 2, 2024.

AWARD OPTIONS:

- **J.R. Needy Professional Award**
- **Facility Design & Parks Planning Award**
- **Agency Showcase Marketing Award, Digital & Print**
- **Recreation & Community Program Award**
- **Champion of the Community Award**



APPLICATION SUBMISSION PROCESS NOW OPEN!

For questions or concerns, please contact:
 Nina Sinor, CPRS District 2 Vice President
 Cordova Recreation & Park District
 nsinor@crpd.com | (916) 307-6864

**For more information on scholarships/grants and to apply,
 visit [cprsd2.org/awards-program!](https://cprsd2.org/awards-program/)**

Elections - 2024/2025

District 2 Wants You - Join the D2 Board of Directors!

There is still time to join our awesome Board of Directors, who are all professionals in the Park and Recreation industry! There are many positions vacant for this coming year, starting in March 2024. Each position is either appointed or elected and the length of terms vary. By joining the D2 Board of Directors, you will help lead professionals in our District and help provide education, resources (scholarships/grants), networking, professional development opportunities and learn even more about the field. If you have any questions or inquiries - please reach out to Kate Miller, President-Elect at kmiller@southgaterecandpark.net. All information, including applications to apply for vacant positions, current Board Members, D2 events, Scholarships, Grants and Awards opportunities can be found on our website: cprsd2.org.



Current Vacant Positions: Applications close Wednesday, November 30, 2023

Positions Available for Election:

- VICE - PRESIDENT, 3-year term - Presidential Series
- DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMMING, 2-year term
- DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, 2-year term
- TREASURER - 2-year term

Positions Available for Appointment:

- TECHNOLOGY REPRESENTATIVE - 1-year term
- STUDENT SECTION REPRESENTATIVE - 1-year term
- PARTNERSHIP & SPONSORSHIPS REPRESENTATIVE - 1-year term
- RECREATION SECTION REPRESENTATIVE - 2-year term
- RECREATION THERAPY SECTION REPRESENTATIVE - 2-year term
- ADVOCACY REPRESENTATIVE - 1-year term
- AQUATICS SECTION REPRESENTATIVE - 2-year term
- AGING & ACTIVITIES SECTION REPRESENTATIVE - 2-year term
- EDUCATORS SECTION REPRESENTATIVE - 2-year term

APPLY ONLINE AT CPRSD2.ORG/ELECTIONS

Education

Lunch n' Learns

CPRS D2 Board is excited to host a variety of new educational opportunities through Lunch n' Learns this year! The upcoming Lunch n' Learn focusing on Recreation Administration processes such as RecTrac will be held in January after the holiday break. For the latest details about this and other upcoming Lunch n' Learns, visit cprsd2.org/lunch-n-learns.

**Please note, lunch is not provided at Lunch n' Learns. Be sure to bring your lunch when attending.*



YTRS

Youth & Teen Recreation Services (YTRS) meets monthly to discuss youth, teen, preschool, and sports programming. YTRS also holds events, workshops, and trainings that give recreation professionals the opportunity to network with other recreation agencies to gain knowledge of what is currently trending in the recreation industry by discussing a variety of topics. For the latest details about YTRS, visit cprsd2.org/ytrs.

Upcoming YTRS Events:

November 30: Building Adaptive & Inclusive Recreation Programming
January 31: REC Cloud

Meet the YTRS Board

President: Riva Ballis, Cosumnes CSD

President-Elect: Kourtney Hobart, Sunrise RPD

Secretary: Patrick Bitcon, Cosumnes CSD

Public Relations Coordinator: Mary Stoakley, Fair Oaks RPD

Events Coordinator: Kayla Thayer, North Highlands RPD

Youth Services Rep: André Pichly

Teen Services Rep: Elle Lippold, Mission Oaks RPD

Preschool Rep: Celeste Torres, City of Sacramento

Sports Representative: Stephen Menebroker, Cosumnes CSD

District 2 Liaison: J Long, Cosumnes CSD

For more information or to learn how to get involved in leadership opportunities, contact Riva Ballis at rivaballis@cosumnescsd.gov

Northern California Aquatic Management Association Updates

What's NCAMA?

NCAMA (Northern California Aquatic Management Association) is an organization supporting Northern California aquatic professionals and advocates by promoting professional career development, current safety practices, ongoing education, and networking opportunities.

NCAMA Member Benefits: *Free Membership*

- Educational Opportunities
- Networking with Area Professionals
- Professional Development
- Part-time Staff Trainings
- New Program Ideas
- Aquatic Safety Issues
- Three Major Surveys (safety classes, salaries & program pricing)
- Ability to Ask Questions of Members
- Scholarship Opportunities

Upcoming Meetings:

Meetings are held every other month starting in September and rotate between different membership agencies in the greater Sacramento area. Anyone is welcome to host a meeting. Please reach out to the NCAMA Steering Committee Chair for information on upcoming meetings and events.

Next Meeting: January 11th, Pat O'Brien Community Center, 10 am - 12 pm

No host lunch to follow

Meet the 2023 - 2024 NCAMA Steering Committee



Chair: Will Neville, City of Roseville

Co-Chair: Kevin DeFranco, City of Patterson

District 2 Rep/Treasurer: Susie Patterson, Cosumnes CSD

Events & Trainings Chair: Cody Helmer, City of Sacramento

Events & Trainings Co-Chair: Kendra Barlly, Cosumnes CSD

Events & Trainings Co-Chair: Rachel Schramm, Cosumnes CSD

Surveys Chair: Scott Seeba, City of Folsom

Facilities Chair: Patrick Maridon, City of Sacramento

Member at Large: Madeleine Jones, City of Roseville

Member at Large: Cathryn Cunha, City of Sacramento

Member at Large: Chanise Harrison, City of Fairfield

District 2 - Member Highlight



Joey Zaokopny

Park Maintenance Superintendent

City of Sacramento

Q. What made you choose to enter the field of Parks & Recreation?

Believe it or not, working in Parks and Recreation was my very first job in high school. I started with San Bernadino County Regional Parks as a Snack Bar Cook, and then moved to aquatics as a Water Slide Attendant at Lake Gregory. I was lucky enough to work under incredible leadership, formed lasting friendships, and discovered a passion for Parks and Recreation. I went to college with the intention of becoming a law enforcement officer but ultimately realized that I liked being in the outdoors, getting my hands dirty, and the feeling of learning something new every day. Over the next decade I 'climbed the ladder' and was eventually a lead Park Ranger at one of the largest parks in the county.

Q. What was the biggest challenge you faced and overcame during your Parks & Recreation career so far?

Parks are often focal points of the areas they are in, and that comes with high public expectations. Very often there is more to a problem than meets the eye; maybe funding is needed to fix the issue, it can only be addressed in certain weather conditions, or other departments need to be involved in the resolution. I have learned to get very creative when it comes to problem-solving. In the storms that we had last winter, nearly 200 trees fell in parks across South Sacramento, blocking roads and causing unsafe conditions in many areas. We did not have the manpower or the equipment to deal with the sheer number of fallen trees. We were able to partner with West Coast Arborists to create a mobile tree processing plant to chip all the trees to create a consolidated woodchip pile. Then in the spring, we donated and delivered woodchips to a local elementary school for their campus planters and held a "Mulch Madness" event for the public to come gather as many woodchips as they wanted for personal use.

Q. What do you consider your biggest accomplishment in the field?

My biggest accomplishment this year was assisting in the planning and providing a venue for the CPRS Equipment Expo which was held at William Land Park. This was one of the highest-attended District 2 events this year, and it was an absolute success. We had over 300 attendees from dozens of Parks & Rec agencies in the greater Sacramento Region. A record number of vendors also attended, displaying over 60 pieces of equipment for attendees to demo and check out.

Q. Do you have any professional goals you are hoping to accomplish in the next year or so?

I try to challenge myself every day to learn something new in our field. Within the next year, I am looking into becoming a certified Arborist and Playground Inspector.

Q. What's your favorite aspect of working in the field of Parks & Recreation?

I enjoy being able to get outside and enjoy the fresh air while on the job. With more than 100 parks and open spaces to oversee, I often take 'field trips' to a park or two to put in maintenance tickets and look for ways to improve the public's experience.

Q. With as busy as days and weeks can get, especially on the parks side of the industry, what keeps you energized and motivated?

My colleagues and staff keep me motivated and energized. I see staff accomplish individual goals and/or team goals daily. Our team's success is what keeps me walking through the office door!

Q. Any advice for those new in the Parks field?

Always look for new opportunities to learn, to grow, and to make a difference. Don't be afraid to get your hands dirty. There are so many facets to Parks and Rec that people don't think about - Aquatics, Park Maintenance, Park Safety, Urban Forestry, Community Centers, and more - it's a great place to find your niche.

SAVE THE DATE



 **GENERAL
MEMBERSHIP
MEETING**

DECEMBER 6, 2023
NORTH NATOMAS COMMUNITY CENTER
2601 NEW MARKET DRIVE



SAVE THE DATE



**PARK
FORUM**

**20
24**

For more information and to register, visit cprsd2.org/district-2-events

Connect With Your District 2 Board

PRESIDENT: ASHIKA LAL

Southgate Recreation & Park District
alal@southgaterecandpark.net

PRESIDENT-ELECT: KATE MILLER

Southgate Recreation & Park District
kmiller@southgaterecandpark.net

VICE PRESIDENT: NINA SINOR

Cordova RPD
nsinor@crpd.com

TREASURER: NICOLE LOWERY

Cordova RPD
nlowrey@crpd.com

SECRETARY: CHELSEY ADAMS

Mission Oaks RPD
cadams@morpd.com

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC RELATIONS:

FRANKIE NELSON

City of Folsom
fnelson@folsom.ca.us

DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMMING: DAN FRIESE

City of Lincoln
Dan.Friese@lincolnca.gov

DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION: MIRANDA ELLIS

Carmichael RPD
mellis@carmichaelpark.com

AGING & ACTIVITIES SECTION REP.

YOUTH & TEEN REC SERVICES:

RIVA BALLIS

Cosumnes CSD
rivaballis@cosumnescsd.gov

AQUATIC SECTION REPRESENTATIVE:

SUSIE PATTERSON

Cosumnes CSD
susiepatterson@cosumnescsd.gov

NORTHERN CA AQUATIC MANAGEMENT (NCAMA) CHAIR:

WILL NEVILLE

City of District Roseville
wneville@roseville.ca.us

EDUCATORS SECTION REPRESENTATIVE:

DR. ABHIJEET SHIRSAT

California State University, Sacramento
shirsat@csus.edu

RECREATION SECTION REPRESENTATIVE: J LONG

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jlong@cosumnescsd.gov

RECREATION THERAPY SECTION REPRESENTATIVE:

KIMBERLY VICKERS

Cameron Park CSD
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STUDENT SECTION REPRESENTATIVE: EVAN STORK

Cordova RPD
estork@crpd.com

ADVOCACY REPRESENTATIVE: PENELOPE CROUSE-FEEHAN

City of Folsom
pcrouse-feehan@folsom.ca.us

TECHNOLOGY REPRESENTATIVE: IAN ROBERTS

Fair Oaks RPD
iroberts@forpd.org

DEVELOPMENT & OPS. SECTION REP.: JEFF HOUSER

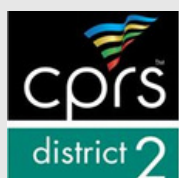
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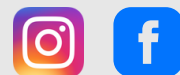
CPRS REGION 1 REPRESENTATIVE: ADAM CHOW

City of San Ramon
achow@sanramon.ca.gov



STAY CONNECTED!

CPRSD2.ORG



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#cprsD2