

# President's Message



Molly McClure, CPRP

February's OPRA Annual Conference in Columbus launched an entirely new professional experience for me that has already taken me on two out of state trips in less than 4 weeks. The NRPA Legislative Forum in Washington, D.C. is an opportunity that every park and recreation professional should experience. Walking the halls of Congress, observing the movers and shakers at our nation's Capitol, walking the Mall, seeing the Washington Monument, the Lincoln Memorial and just witnessing the activity in DC, was incredible.

Meeting with our legislators was an extremely worthwhile experience as we discussed future funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund, the Transportation Enhancement Act, the Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Program, and more! Standing in Congressman Rob Portman's office and having him make the connection between me and the Anderson Park District projects was worth the trip! Sometimes we

wonder if others recognize or even know what we are doing in our community. No need to question—as Congressman Portman asked about the status of Little Miami Scenic Trail, the Ohio to Erie Trail, the Ohio River Trail and the critical erosion repair project on the Little Miami Wild and Scenic River, where his assistance has been invaluable.

Then, in early March, I was invited to the National Alliance for Youth Sports (NAYS) headquarters in West Palm Beach Florida (tough duty) with four other state presidents and executive directors. I am a firm believer in the statement "Better sports for kids...better kids for life." I thought I knew all about the Alliance's programs, but I learned more about a number of NAYS programs that will make a tremendous impact on the Anderson Park District, as well as, the state of Ohio.

OPRA is viewed as a national leader in our efforts to improve youth sports. A number of Ohio communities are already taking positive steps with programs geared to make sports fun, positive, safe and healthy for kids. Keep up the good work. I am so proud to represent you!

In closing, I want to leave you with the thought that by getting involved with OPRA, I have personally grown and my agency has benefited greatly from what I have learned. If you want to grow professionally and advance your agency, contact me at 513-388-5080 or [mmcclure@andersonparks.com](mailto:mmcclure@andersonparks.com). Join the OPRA team to keep Ohio among our nation's best!

Thank you for the opportunity to serve.

Molly McClure, CPRP, OPRA President  
Anderson Park District, Executive Director