

***NEWS RELEASE***  
**Wisconsin Park & Recreation Association**  
**Park Section Announces**  
**2017 Park Design Award Winners**

The Park Design Awards and Outstanding Professional Award of the Year were presented at the Annual Conference in Wisconsin Dells on Thursday, November 9th

**PARK DESIGN AWARDS of Merit (Under \$250,000)**  
Village of Bellevue Parks, Recreation and Forestry  
**Laura and Peter Mossakowski Family Dog Park Phase 1**



The Mossakowski Family Dog park is a 13 acre neighborhood park which features 6 acres of large and small dog play area, a fully lit asphalt parking lot with 20 parking spaces, and acres of passive recreation opportunities. The park site was designed in the winter of 2015 with construction and completion in 2016. A volunteer group formed in 2011 to help with the initial

fundraising activity. In 2014, the volunteer group established themselves as a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt, nonprofit entity to better secure funding dollars. Since then, they have successfully raised funds in excess of \$113,000 to complete Phase 1 of the Laura and Peter Mossakowski Family Dog Park. Phase 1 includes a large and small dog park area, landscaping, paved parking lot, signage, lights and utilities. No tax dollars have been utilized to complete Phase 1 of this project. Phase 2 and 3 of the master park design include a trailhead building, doggie splash pad, canoe/kayak launch, boardwalk and connecting bridge over the East River to the neighboring municipality to the west of Bellevue. This dog park is only the 4<sup>th</sup> dog park in Brown County and the only dog park on the east side of the Fox River in Brown County.

**PARK DESIGN AWARDS of Merit (\$250,001-\$499,999)**

West Bend Parks, Recreation & Forestry – **Old Settler’s Park and Vest Pocket Park**



Old Settler’s Park and Vest Pocket Park, two urban parks in the center of downtown West Bend were completely renovated in 2016. The two parks, originally constructed in a style popular during the 1980’s with timber retaining walls, a small shelter and brick pavers had deteriorated over the years and were badly in need of updating. Both parks were reconstructed with concrete accessible walkways, railings, new retaining walls, updated electric, water, new benches, a larger entertainment shelter and new landscaping in 2016. A generous donation by the Greater Milwaukee Foundation of \$200,000 to commemorate their 100 year anniversary along with help from various donors, private contractors and city staff made the project a reality.

**PARK DESIGN AWARDS of Merit (\$500,000 – 999,999)**  
City of Oconomowoc Parks, Recreation & Forestry Department – **Veterans Memorial Park**



A quiet, unused park on Lac La Belle was transformed into Veterans Memorial Park, a living memorial which honors those who have served as well as their families. The Oconomowoc community worked together to make the nearly \$750,000 project a reality. It honors all five branches of the military, prisoners of war and missing in action. The memorial recognizes all who served, not just those who paid the ultimate price. The park has incredible symbolism in its design and is a compelling destination for those who visit. It has become a place to share, reflect, find comrades and learn in a beautiful park space.

**PARK DESIGN AWARDS of Merit (\$1,000,000+)**  
Village of Sherwood – Wanick Park



Wanick Park's design concept seeks to evoke the character of nearby High Cliff State Park, drawing inspiration from its playful topography, rock escarpments, and dense canopy to create an abstracted "green valley". In addition to creating a year-round regional destination along the eastern edge of Lake Winnebago, the park will serve community recreation, leisure and civic activities for the Village of Sherwood.

### **WPRA Park Section Professional of the Year**

**Dan Wick**, Parks & Recreation Director - City of Onalaska



Dan Wick has served as the Parks and Recreation Director for the City of Onalaska since 2002 and served as an adjunct lecturer at UW-La Crosse for 6 years. He is a Certified Parks and Recreation Professional and an Aquatic Facility Operator. Dan has been an active WPRA member serving as the Region 1 Rep for the Rec Section and WPRA in addition to being the incoming Chair Elect for the Park Section. Congratulations on a well deserved award Dan!

### **EDITOR'S NOTE**

**WPRA** is a statewide, non-profit service organization dedicated to extending the social, health, cultural and economic benefits of parks and recreation through its network of recreation/park professionals and civic leaders. There are approximately 2,500 WPRA members who include state and local experts on recreation, urban planning, aquatics, at-risk-youth, therapeutic recreation services, and parkland development and services.

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**

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