



Chris Nunes, CPRE - For the past 25 years, Chris has worked in the municipal and nonprofit parks and recreation sector and has grown from managing a one person parks and recreation department in northern Maine to his current position where he oversees multiple departments (parks and recreation, transportation, covenant administration). His current scope included managing a \$50+ million operational budget and is accountable for the oversight of 151 parks, 14 swimming pools and aquatic facilities, 220 miles of pathways, and 200 miles of streetscape

Chris speaks and provides trainings around the country (over 800+ sessions) on topics including: business plans, contracting, creative programming, marketing, external funding, communication, leadership and succession planning and co-authored “Managing Programs and Services” in “Management of Park and Recreation Agencies – 5th Edition”. Chris serves or has served on the, NRPA Director’s School, Oglebay Revenue Management School (Chair 2020), NRPA Council on Accreditation, National Certification Board (NCB- Chair 2021), Rocky Mountain Revenue Management School (Chair 2012), NRPA Admin Network (Chair 2013-2014) and founded the Gulf Coast Leadership Development Institute and the Hispanic Professionals in Parks and Recreation. He is a Certified Parks and Recreation Executive and currently, he serves on the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA), the GP RED Operating Board and as an instructor for NRPA’s Director School.

In 2012, Chris was elected as a fellow of the American Academy of Parks and Recreation Administrators and in 2015 he received the National Distinguished Professional Award from NRPA. In 2016-2017 he was the President of the American Academy of Parks and Recreation Administrators, in 2019 The Woodlands Township was recognized by AAPRA/NRPA by winning the Gold Medal Grand Plaque Award for excellence in parks and recreation management and in 2020, The Woodlands Township received NRPA’s Conservation Innovation Award. Since 2022, he has served as an advisor/mentor to the Hispanic Professionals in Parks and Recreation association and in 2023 he was recognized with the inaugural Dirk Richwine Professional Mentoring Award bestowed by the National Recreation and Parks Association. In 2025, The Woodlands Township was again recognized as a finalist for the AAPRA/NRPA Gold Medal.

Prior experience includes serving as the Director of Community Services for the City of Fort Morgan, Colorado, an Assistant Professor and Program Coordinator for the Recreation Management Program at Ashland University and Director of Parks and Recreation in Fort Kent, Maine. Chris holds a bachelor’s degree in Recreation Management and a master’s degree in Sports Management from Springfield College in Massachusetts and a Doctorate in Parks and Recreation Administration from the University of New Mexico



Janet Bartnik, CPRP is a seasoned parks and recreation director who has over 30 years in the field, with over 22 of those years of service at the helm of three small agencies in Missouri and Colorado, Janet brings a wealth of hands-on experience building agencies, developing true public service professionals, driving innovation and intentionality, and improving agency culture and community image. She has recently returned home to family where she now serves as a deputy director for a large county agency in Virginia. Guided by the philosophy that ‘together we’re better’, Janet uses unique community engagement techniques, partnerships, and teamwork to improve systems, services, and outcomes.

Formerly adjunct faculty at Northwest Missouri State, Janet taught courses for the 2+2 program on the Metropolitan Community College campus in Kansas City and has experience presenting keynote speeches and presentations.

Janet serves or has served on the NRPA Director’s School (Chair 2022 and 2023), Rocky Mountain Revenue Management School (Chair 2013), Council on Accreditation for Parks, Recreation, and Tourism Programs, NRPA Admin Network (Chair 2014-2015) and founded the Lyle Beaver Leadership Development Institute in Missouri. She is a Certified Parks and Recreation Professional and currently serves on the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA), American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration (President 2023), and the Eppley Institute National Advisory Board.

Janet co-authored the “Worksite Recreation and Health Promotion” chapter in *Introduction to Recreation and Leisure 3rd Edition* (2018). She also co-authored visionary changes to CAPRA accreditation standards in 2023. Janet currently serves as Deputy Director for the Department of Parks and Recreation in Prince William County, Virginia. Prior to her move to Virginia, Janet served as executive director for the Mountain Recreation Metropolitan Recreation District in Colorado, directed agencies in the cities of Liberty and Raymore, Missouri, and served in various recreation professional roles in Clayton, Missouri, El Dorado, Kansas, and in campus recreation. Janet holds a bachelor’s degree in Exercise Physiology and a master’s degree in Sports Management from Virginia Tech.