

# How we play

## Celebrating Parks and Recreation Month

**What do you do in your spare time if you're a parks and recreation professional?** Play, of course! To celebrate National Park and Recreation Month's theme of "Build Together, Play Together," some of our team members shared their favorite ways to play—and how recreation continues to shape their lives both personally and professionally.

”

### Lisa Wolff

I started my parks and recreation journey as a parks and rec kid in Wilmington, Delaware, from the neighborhood summer playground program to neighborhood baseball and basketball pickup games, to tennis, to participating as an adult as a ropes course facilitator, camp counselor, rec lead, softball player, and the list goes on. That drive is still there deep within my roots, and I'm still involved in parks and recreation now at various levels, from serving my second term as the chair of our local county parks and recreation advisory board to a hike, kayak trip, playing golf, or just a long day at the beach. Parks and recreation have always played a huge part in my life.

Whether it's a day at the beach playing with our three golden retrievers, watching both of my boys grow up as athletes, or really just working out in the yard and garden. The quality of my life matters, and that's why I celebrate Parks and Recreation Month with excitement and gratitude for a career path that really makes me smile pretty much every day. Hope you're able to smile every day and always celebrate parks and recreation.



”

### Nikki Ginger

When I think about the way that I play in my community, there is no doubt that I'm pretty darn active and I love to ride my bike or walk whenever I possibly can. One of my favorite hobbies is traveling... getting those stamps in my passport. So, if you're ever interested in talking travel with me, grab my ear, please, because I'd love to hear all about your exciting travels.

”

### Elsa Fischer

The theme "build together, play together" really resonates with me this year. This past April, I was elected to the Skokie Park District Board of Commissioners, so I am experiencing parks and recreation with a new perspective and from a new seat—that of an elected official. I'm thoroughly enjoying the role of approving the budget, brainstorming about new park spaces, visiting parks and facilities, and attending events, such as the July 4th parade here. I love being able to give back to my community by sharing my 40 years of parks and recreation experience.



”

### Ryan Hegreness

When it comes to playing together, I find connection and joy through Colorado's great outdoors, whether that's skiing in the winter, hiking in the summer, or paddling on a nearby lake. This morning I hiked the Manitou Incline with my wife, and we plan to hike our second fourteener with our kids later this summer. I also stay active through soccer. I've played since I was a kid, and now I play in indoor and outdoor leagues throughout the year. For nearly a decade, I've belonged to a local pickup group that spans generations. This group of men and women ranges from teenagers to seniors, and nearly every day, rain or shine, there is a pickup match to join. It's a powerful example of how sports can bring people together, not just during your childhood, but throughout your life.