

# **NEWS RELEASE**

**ROCKFORD PARK DISTRICT** MAKING MEMORIES FOR A LIFETIME

**From:** Rockford Park District  
**For Immediate Release:** Friday, January 29, 2010  
**For Additional Information Contact:**  
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## **Park District's Breane Cory Receives Illinois Therapeutic Recreation Section New Professional of the Year Award**

**ROCKFORD IL** – The Rockford Park District announced today that Therapeutic Recreation Coordinator Breane Cory received the **New Professional of the Year Award** by the Illinois Therapeutic Recreation Section (ITRS). The award was announced at ITRS's Annual Meeting held in Chicago on Thursday, January 28. One award winner is selected annually from current ITRS members.

Cory is a graduate of Southern Illinois University and has been employed with the District since 2007.

### **Nomination Criteria:**

1. Current membership in ITRS
2. Five or fewer years of documented working experience in the therapeutic recreation
3. Shows promise of leadership in the field of therapeutic recreation through professional involvement since working in the field
4. Advocates for therapeutic recreation and its service
5. Approval of ITRS Board of Directors

"As a therapeutic recreation professional, Breane's skill for assessing and designing programs and services to meet the needs of the customer's with disabilities is excellent, said Therapeutic Recreation Manager Brenda Parrish.

"Breane assumed responsibility for an existing therapeutic recreation camp and modified the curriculum and goals based on family needs, feedback, and participant interest. She introduced new therapeutic strategies and re-structured activities so that youth ages 5 – 12 with autism and medical needs were able to swim, play games, take fieldtrips, and successfully participate in a multitude of sensory activities. This is just one example of why the award is well deserved and we are so very proud of Breane's accomplishments and many contributions to our Therapeutic Recreation program and to the District," said Parrish.

(more)



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We welcome the opportunity to assist guests with disabilities to enjoy ALL our facilities, programs, and services.

For assistance and information on accessibility, contact RPD Customer Service at 815-987-8800 (TTY, 888-871-6171).



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The Park District's Therapeutic Recreation services offers a variety of recreation programs for people with disability-related needs to include; swimming, gymnastics, fitness, outdoor adventure sessions, weekend special events, sport lessons, youth and teen after school programs, skill building and sensory programs, and a variety of wheelchair sports. All ages three through adult who present a variety of disability related needs, including but not limited to individuals with autism, diabetes, Down's Syndrome, physical/mobility needs, cerebral palsy, mental illness, learning disabilities, traumatic brain injuries, vision impairments, hearing impairments, and behavioral disorders, etc. are welcome to join the Park District.

Through Inclusion Services, individuals with disability-related needs may request an accommodation when registering for any program or lesson offered through the Rockford Park District. Disability-related support managed by a Nationally Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist can include trained, additional therapeutic recreation staff assistance, adapted equipment, sign language interpreter, visual systems, and program modifications.

Anyone interested in more information or would like a free visit to any of the therapeutic recreation programs offered, please contact the Therapeutic Recreation department at 815-987-1606 or visit our web site at [www.rockfordparkdistrict.org](http://www.rockfordparkdistrict.org) for a brochure.

For more information, please contact Brenda Parrish, C.T.R.S. at 815-987-1601.

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