

Guy D. Smith, CPRP

Biography

Guy Smith began his career as a Park Ranger with Dane County Parks while attending college at the University of Wisconsin – Madison, where he graduated with a degree in Natural Resource Management. He then served as a Facility Manager with the U.S. Forest Service in both Kentucky and Tennessee. Guy joined Milwaukee County Parks in 2004 starting as Trails Coordinator. He quickly grew to into supervision and management and transitioned to several roles within the department including Deputy Regional Manager - Land Resources, and Chief of Operations. Most recently, in 2017 and 2018, Guy served for two extended periods as Parks Interim Director.

He has served on multiple boards, committees, and professional organizations during his career including: ten+ years as a Board Member of Groundwork Milwaukee; as a regular conference presenter and Board Member of the Wisconsin Park & Recreation Association (WPRA); and as an active Certified Park and Recreation Professional (CPRP) with the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA).

Guy has excelled as a leader within every organization he has supported over the years. He earned Project Management Certificates from MATC in 2011 and is a 2017 graduate of the WPRA's Leadership Academy. He has been awarded several distinguished awards in the field including: the MATC Lamp of Knowledge Award; the Public Policy Forum's Norman N. Gill Award for Individual Excellence Leader of the Future Award; and the WPRA Park Section's Young Professional of the Year Award.

Growing up in Madison, Guy had many opportunities to visit Milwaukee and experience County Parks while visiting his older brother at Marquette University. These early visits to the Lakefront, Oak Leaf Trail, and County Parks made an impression on him, and he ambitiously started in the parks and recreation industry at age 12 with his own lawn and landscape business: Guy's Greens.

Guy has lived and worked in Milwaukee County for 14 years and his commitment to the Milwaukee County Park system and community are stronger than ever. He truly is an outdoor enthusiast who has been successful in his career by working closely with friends, volunteers, partners, scouts, and beyond. While his roles have changed throughout the years, Guy's commitment and dedication to building strong relationships have stayed at the core. He believes that we are fortunate to have a vibrant park system, and is honored to steward the greenspace that visionaries from long ago had the foresight to set aside on behalf of the greater good. He is eager to continue building upon that tradition, sustaining Milwaukee County Parks for generations to come.