



City of Mishawaka

Office of the Mayor

David A. Wood, Mayor

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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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MAYOR DAVE WOOD ANNOUNCES HIRING OF NEW PARKS SUPERINTENDENT

Mayor Dave Wood has announced the hiring of Mishawaka Parks Superintendent, Phil Blasko. Previous Superintendent, Terry Zeller, left the City of Mishawaka after taking a position in Chico, California, having served as Superintendent for 4 ½ years. The call went out for a new Park Superintendent and after an extensive interview process Mayor Dave Wood gave the Park Board the recommendation to hire Blasko. In a unanimous vote on June 13th, the Board voted to hire Blasko.

The Parks Superintendent is responsible for the administration, coordination and operation of all City of Mishawaka public parks and recreational facilities. The Superintendent works under the supervision and direction of the Park Board. He will administer and coordinate the efficient and effective operation of the Parks and Recreation Department including 30 parks, two swimming pools, a golf course and a community center by supervising the personnel, overseeing projects and implementing policies established by the Park Board. He will be responsible for overseeing a 3.5 million dollar budget.

Born and raised in Mishawaka, Phil Blasko comes back to the Princess City after a career as Recreation Superintendent for the City of Valparaiso. Blasko graduated from Mishawaka High School and attended Defiance College receiving a Bachelor of Science Degree in Sports Management. He previously served as Sports Director for the Sandusky County YMCA and as Basketball Coach for Fremont Ross High School. In his experience as a Recreation Superintendent, Blasko saw the growth of youth sports by over 1,200 participants in four years, growth of summer camp by over 600 participants in four years, created partnerships with Valparaiso University, Purdue North Central, Valparaiso YMCA, Valparaiso Boys and Girls Club and saw a recreation division net profit increase of over 100 percent in the last four years. "I look forward to developing a Parks Department that will engage our community by creating opportunities to experience quality recreational activities, enrichment and park facilities that will build relationships and promote quality of life. Community outreach with local non-profits, schools, and community leaders will be a major focus. I believe this will not only open the door to partnerships and recreation outlets, but it will bring our community together and give us the insight we need to reach the next level of excellence. It's good to be home," says Blasko.

"Phil Blasko carries vigorous leadership skills that will renew our long tradition of strong customer service and experience design for the people of Mishawaka," comments Wagle. "The people of Mishawaka take pride in our parks and Phil Blasko will carry that pride forward to new levels."

Mayor Dave Wood comments, "I am proud to have Phil Blasko back serving his hometown! Phil brings an infectious enthusiasm, passion and outstanding professional experience back to the Princess City. Mishawaka is known for its great park system. I am confident that Phil will make one of the best park systems in the State even better."

Blasko's first day with the City will be on Thursday, June 30th.

Working together to build the "Best Hometown in America," By delivering exceptional services, promoting safe and clean neighborhoods, elevating the quality of life, and inspiring pride in our community.

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