

Jessica Ramos

Bio: Jessica Ramos grew up in Bolingbrook, Illinois and attended Ball State University where she earned her bachelor's degree in Aquatics. She has been the Aquatics Operations Manager for the district since 2021. Prior to that role, she was the Assistant Aquatics Manager. She currently resides in Aurora with her dog, Rosy.

How did your career in the parks & recreation industry begin?

My career in parks & recreation began when I started as a 15 year old lifeguard at my local park district. When I went away to college, I originally thought I was going to be a marine biologist, but I continued to gravitate towards lifeguarding while in college and learned about Ball State's Aquatic Major (#1 in the nation). To complete my bachelor's degree I did my Aquatics internship at a country club and after graduation found an Aquatics Supervisor position at a fitness center, but overall knew I wanted to return to my roots and return back to parks and recreation and found Fox Valley Park District!

Describe the main responsibilities of your role:

My role as the Aquatics Operations Manager included responsibility for year-round management of the Vaughan Aquatic Center and seasonal operations of Phillips Park Family Aquatic Center and Splash Country Waterpark. This includes supervising and training of lifeguards, slide attendants, indoor desk staff and headguards. I also manage the districts CPR training for staff and the community.

What do you enjoy most about working for the Fox Valley Park District?

I enjoy the team atmosphere. Whether I am volunteering for the Amazing Race or the Veteran's Luncheon, I enjoy getting together with other staff to help at these events as a team. I also enjoy team building with my part-time staff.

What traits do you feel lend well to a career in parks & recreation?

Traits that I feel lend well to a career in parks & recreation include being collaborative and innovative. On a daily basis I work with multiple departments to deliver a fun and safe experience for the community, so being collaborative and a team player really matters. Innovation is also a great trait as trends continue to grow, we want to ensure that we are ahead of the curve to continue to provide the best amenities and services to the community.