



TRAPS Names Rich DePalma as Executive Director

The Texas Recreation and Park Society Board of Directors is pleased to announce the appointment of Rich DePalma as the organization's new Executive Director.

The appointment follows a nationwide recruitment process which the Board of Directors unanimously selected DePalma to lead the organization.

"Rich brings the leadership experience, statewide relationships, strategic perspective, and commitment to the parks and recreation profession that TRAPS needs as we look toward the future," said TRAPS Board President Aaron Dobson. "The Board was impressed by his understanding of our organization, his respect for the professionals we serve, and his vision for strengthening education, advocacy, member services, and organizational capacity."

DePalma brings more than 20 years of experience in parks and recreation, public affairs, strategic consulting, community engagement, nonprofit leadership, and public-sector initiatives. Before joining TRAPS, he served as a Vice President with FGM Architects, where he worked with communities throughout Texas on public projects, including parks and recreation facilities.

He has been actively involved with TRAPS through the Legislative Committee, presentations at the TRAPS Institute, and organizational sponsorship. He is also a frequent speaker at the National Recreation and Park Association Annual Conference.

DePalma currently serves as Board President of the Barton Springs Conservancy and on the advisory board of Hispanic Professionals in Parks and Recreation. His previous civic and nonprofit leadership includes serving as Vice Chair of the City of Austin Parks and Recreation Board, President of the TreeFolks Board of Directors, a member of the Austin Parks Foundation Board of Directors, and Co-Founder of Friends of Dick Nichols Park.

I am honored to have the opportunity to serve TRAPS and the parks and recreation professionals who strengthen communities throughout Texas every day," DePalma said. "My initial focus is on listening, meeting with our members, staff, and partners to understand where TRAPS is succeeding and where we can create even greater value to members and the communities they serve. I look forward to working together to advance the profession and build a strong future for TRAPS and Texas."

Please join the TRAPS Board of Directors in welcoming Rich DePalma to the TRAPS family.