



**For Immediate Release**  
**April 11, 2011**

## **Wayne Smith, Recreation Director Retiring and Matt Mercer Selected As New Recreation Director**

### **Wayne Smith**

Wayne Smith, Director of Recreation for Bend Park & Recreation District is retiring on July 1, after 31 years with the district. Wayne has led a little bit of everything over the years including sports, aquatics, outdoor, senior and special recreation programs. Since becoming Recreation Director in 1994, the recreation programs offered by the district have tripled. His position oversees all recreation programming including Juniper Swim & Fitness Center and the Bend Senior Center.

Beyond his work at the district he has served on the state board of directors for the Oregon Special Olympics, President of CORIL, President of Oregon Recreation & Park Association (ORPA) and President of the Oregon Therapeutic Recreation Society. He has received the ORPA Professional Honor Award and the Outstanding Therapeutic Recreation Professional Award. And, of course, Wayne was always the guy in the umbrella hat at the July 4th games that led the kids in three-legged races. Throughout his career he has been admired and respected by all of the staff at the district. His leadership has made a positive difference in the development of great staff and the creation of high quality programs for the community.

**Matt Mercer**

Matt Mercer, manager of Juniper Swim & Fitness Center was selected to replace Wayne Smith on July 1 as the new Director of Recreation after an extensive search which included applicants from across the country. Matt has lived in Bend and worked for Bend Park & Recreation for 21 years. He has held virtually every position possible at Juniper Swim & Fitness Center from lifeguard to swim instructor. In the last 5 years he contributed to major district planning projects including overseeing the JSFC expansion project. Matt has a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from the University of Iowa. Before coming to Bend he performed market research and feasibility studies for proposed hotels and resorts.

“I am excited to take on this new challenge with an organization that I love that makes such a positive difference in the community,” says Matt.

For more information contact Don Horton, Executive Director, at (541)706-6101.

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