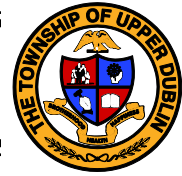

NEWS RELEASE



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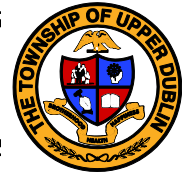
Derek Dureka Awarded Pennsylvania Recreation & Park Society's Distinguished Member Award in Honor of Robert D. Griffith

(Upper Dublin Township, PA – February 25, 2020) Derek Dureka, Upper Dublin Township Parks and Recreation Director was chosen as the recipient of the Pennsylvania Recreation & Park Society's (PRPS) Distinguished Member Award in Honor of Robert D. Griffith. This honor will be conferred at the Awards Banquet at the PRPS Annual Conference at the Seven Springs Mountain Resort on Thursday evening, March 19, 2020.

Mr. Dureka was nominated by two Upper Dublin Parks & Recreation employees: Tammy Echevarria, Recreation Superintendent, and Erin Woodruff, Recreation Coordinator. He was selected as the Distinguished Member Award recipient because of his positive impact on Upper Dublin Township with his resourcefulness, environmental stewardship, creation of strong partnerships and plans for the future. His passion for the environment, interest in quality of life advancements and leadership skills set him apart. Derek is a graduate of the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) Directors School and NRPA Revenue Development and Management School, and has earned his Penn State Municipal Leadership Certificate and the Philadelphia Horticultural Society Tree Vitalize and Tree Tenders Certificate.

Derek Dureka oversees the ongoing maintenance of 44 Upper Dublin Township sites, comprised of over 500 acres of active recreation space, passive parkland, natural areas and trails, a 50-acre community park, a 40-acre environmental education center, a new 105-acre park (Twining Valley Park), a dog park, an outdoor community pool, two turf fields, playgrounds, tennis courts and basketball courts. The Recreation department develops and delivers more than 500 programs and special events each year. Mr. Dureka also puts emphasis on the relationship between the Township and Upper Dublin School District. He is the coordinator of the UDT/UDSD Liaison Committee, which meets regularly to ensure the best use and maintenance of shared facilities and resources. The Parks & Recreation department, under the leadership of Mr. Dureka, has been instrumental in the establishment of two fundraisers, which raise money for both the Upper Dublin Education Foundation and Upper Dublin Township: The Upper Dublin Triathlon and Monte Carlo Night.

"[Derek's] passion, drive, creativity and ability to think outside the box have created an atmosphere of harmony within his department. Derek leads by example and works right alongside each of his staff from maintenance, to programming, to executing special events; getting the most out of his employees each and



every day,” said Kurt W. Baker, Whitpain Township Parks and Recreation Director and previous recipient of the PRPS Distinguished Member Award.

Mr. Dureka truly cares about the environment in which Upper Dublin Township residents live. He has researched and implemented new maintenance practices for the clearing of non-native, invasive plants. He takes the time to educate staff on the issues of these plants and experiments with different techniques to find the most beneficial practice for their removal. He has successfully reduced Township mowing efforts by ten percent (10%, approximately 1400 hours) and has reallocated those hours to other needs, including semi-annual inspections, internal work orders and open space projects.

Since 2005, Derek Dureka has served the residents and Township of Upper Dublin to the best of his ability and has contributed significantly to the continued success and growth of the Parks and Recreation Department.

For more information, contact Rebecca Lohoefer-Mahon, Communications Coordinator at (215) 643-1600 ext. 3221 or via email at rlhoefer@upperdublin.net.

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