

**WISCONSIN PARK & RECREATION ASSOCIATION  
YOUNG PROFESSIONAL AWARD – PARK SECTION**



**Jody Wilke, Director - Park, Recreation & Youth  
Cambridge Community Activities Program**

Jody has been actively involved in the WPRA conferences for the past 7 years. Since beginning management of an 18 acre, beach front park in 2009, Jody has attended summer park tours with the WPRA. She also actively attends regional meetings for PARR 3. Jody has been recognized by Dane County Human Services, Joining Forces for Families in 2005 for her work with the Youth in Cambridge. She was also recognized by Dane County in 2009, receiving a Healthy Communities Award for wellness initiatives implemented at the Cambridge Area Youth Center. In 2013, Jody, together with the entire CAP team, was the recipient of the State Superintendent's Standing up for Rural Wisconsin Schools, Libraries and Communities award. In 2009, the Cambridge CAP began management of Ripley Park, owned by the Cambridge Foundation. Jody became the Park Director and has whole heartedly embraced this role. She has given new life to the park, attracting visitors from all over Southern Wisconsin. Jody began a Holiday Lights show in the park in 2011, bringing visitors into the park during the winter – a time when the park had previously been closed. In 2012, Jody planned and installed a 9 hole disc golf course at the park, which has become an attraction for the park. Jody has also completed upgrades to the park including new roofs on the shelters and bathhouse, new signage throughout the park, and incorporation of permanent Umbrellas – an icon to Cambridge history. Jody and her seasonal staff of about 12, have worked very hard to make Ripley Park a destination and community asset! The Park Section congratulates Jody Wilke, 2013 recipient of the Young Professional Award.