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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

INVER GROVE HEIGHTS NAMES NEW PARKS & RECREATION DIRECTOR

Candidate formerly with Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board

[INVER GROVE HEIGHTS, Minn., December 2, 2021] –The City of Inver Grove Heights (IGH) announced today that Adam Lares has been hired to be the city's new Parks and Recreation director. Lares, currently the recreation manager for the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) will assume his new role on January 3, 2022.

Inver Grove Heights City Council partnered with executive search firm Baker Tilly to recruit a broad and diverse pool of applicants for the position. Lares was chosen from a group of five finalist candidates after an extensive screening and interview process. City Council officially approved the hire at a City Council meeting on November 22, 2021. Lares joins the City of Inver Grove Heights as it embarks on a multi-year plan to add new park land to its growing northwest area.

"The City Council and city staff are thrilled to welcome Adam Lares to our leadership team," said City Administrator Kris Wilson. "I'm confident that his experience, energy and focus on community engagement will help guide the next chapter of park development in Inver Grove Heights."

Lares comes to the City of Inver Grove Heights after 18 years with the nationally recognized Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board. During his tenure, Lares managed seven recreation center park complexes, 20 satellite playground park and trail sites, and over 100 employees. Starting in January, his new office will be at the Veterans Memorial Community Center (VMCC), the Inver Grove Heights complex that houses two ice arenas, a pool and water park, a fitness center and the National Guard Gymnasium. Lares will oversee over 200 full-time, part-time, and seasonal employees, 27 parks, and a number of city facilities, including the VMCC and Inver Wood Golf Course, a popular city-owned asset.

Lares added, "I am excited to join the community of Inver Grove Heights and share my commitment to championing the role that parks and recreation play in improving quality of life. I plan to take an active role in engaging with residents to understand their goals and priorities, and partner with community stakeholders to foster strong support and advocacy for parks and recreation initiatives. Equally, I am looking forward to working collaboratively with city staff to provide the best possible customer service and service delivery to the residents of Inver Grove Heights."

Lares resides in Farmington with his wife, Dawn, and their two daughters, Alexa and Lillian. He holds a bachelor's degree from Metropolitan State University in St. Paul. His favorite recreational activities include running miles through his local park trails and enjoying neighborhood park events that support community togetherness.

About IGH: Located southeast of the Twin Cities in Dakota County, Minn., a ten-minute drive from downtown St. Paul, the City of Inver Grove Heights was founded in 1965 and is now home to more than 35,000 residents. The city features an extensive parks and trails system, a busy community center, and miles of Mississippi riverbank. A mix of housing and commercial development has driven steady growth in recent years. An important regional industrial hub, Inver Grove Heights is expected to grow to a population of 50,000 by 2040. Find out more at www.ighmn.gov, and discover our parks at ighmn.gov/parks.

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