

# 2024

## PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

January 25-27, 2024 | Hyatt Regency Chicago  
151 E. Wacker Drive, Chicago, Illinois



**IAPD**  
Illinois Association of Park Districts

ILLINOIS  
**ipra**  
PARK & RECREATION ASSOCIATION

[ILparksconference.com](http://ILparksconference.com)

# WELCOME

## WELCOME AND GREETINGS!



*"If you can dodge a wrench, you can dodge a ball!"*

If you have seen the 2004 blockbuster movie, *Dodgeball: A True Underdog Story*, then you recognize this quote from character Patches O'Houlihan, played by actor Rip Torn. Patches was a dodgeball legend who volunteered to coach *Average Joe's*, a team of athletically challenged misfits who were pegged as the underdogs in an intense dodgeball tournament.

Patches had a unique training technique to get his team into shape: hurling wrenches at them to hone their dodging skills. The bizarre practice paid off, and *Average Joe's* overcame the odds to bring home the win!

Training to be the best at what you do is important, and for those of us training to be the best in our roles at Illinois park districts, forest preserves, conservation, recreation, and special recreation agencies, the Illinois Association of Park Districts and the Illinois Park & Recreation Association have a much less painful training opportunity for us to hone our skills: the *Soaring to New Heights Conference*.

This highly acclaimed conference is the largest state park and recreation conference in the nation. This is a testament to the expertise and enthusiasm of two outstanding state associations who have a long history of partnering to create an amazing power-packed educational experience. The *Soaring to New Heights Conference* brings board members, professionals, staff, legislators, and businesses together for three days of 'all things' parks, recreation, and conservation.

Our Joint Conference Committee and our dedicated volunteers and staff have been working for more than a year to create another top-notch program with an impressive content-rich educational curriculum, a diverse array of opportunities to connect with colleagues, and an engaging Exhibit Hall showcasing the latest products and services from more than 300 vendors.

We are excited to present this 2024 *Preliminary Program*, complete with details about Thursday night's social featuring *Hello Weekend*, Friday afternoon's Awards Luncheon recognizing the stars of our field, Saturday morning's Keynote Address with Charles Clark, and Saturday evening's celebratory Closing Social with an array of high-energy entertainment choices at the Hyatt Regency Chicago.

Don't forget to download our conference mobile app by visiting the Apple Store or Google Play. Once you have registered for the conference, this convenient app will enable you to personalize your schedule, explore the exhibit hall, earn and track CEUs, complete session surveys, and much more!

We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to the many exceptional conference volunteers. Your countless hours of work and steadfast dedication are instrumental to this event's continued success. To our exhibitors and speakers, thank you for your unwavering support. Lastly, to our attendees, we applaud your commitment to the pursuit of knowledge that will enable our park districts, forest preserves, conservation, recreation, and special recreation agencies to overcome any odds!

The park, recreation, and conservation family share a contagious energy and enthusiasm that is evident when we come together each year to hone our skills so that we can effectively dodge the challenges that we face. Our conference is one of the reasons that we continue to 'bring home the win' year after year in improving the quality of life for all people in Illinois through the best park districts, forest preserves, conservation, recreation, and special recreation agencies in the nation!

We look forward to seeing you January 25-27 at the Hyatt Regency Chicago.

### JEFF RIGONI

President  
Lockport Township Park District  
IAPD Conference Chair

### LACY MARINENKO

Facilities Manager  
Vernon Hills Park District  
IPRA Conference Chair

### Published by:

ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION  
OF PARK DISTRICTS (IAPD)  
211 East Monroe Street  
Springfield, IL 62701  
P: (217) 523-4554  
www.ilparks.org

### ILLINOIS PARK & RECREATION ASSOCIATION (IPRA)

536 East Avenue  
La Grange, IL 60525  
P: (708) 588-2280  
www.ilipra.org

### Designed by:

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www.gossadvertising.com



# SCHEDULE - AT-A-GLANCE

## THURSDAY, JANUARY 25

8:00 am – 5:00 pm	Conference Registration Open
10:00 am – 12:00 pm	Conference Workshops (0.2 CEUs)
10:30 am – 11:30 am	Conference Sessions (0.1 CEUs)
11:00 am – 5:00 pm	Grand Opening of the Exhibit Hall
12:30 pm – 2:30 pm	Conference Workshops (0.2 CEUs)
3:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Conference Sessions (0.1 CEUs)
4:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Exhibit Hall Dedicated Hours
5:15 pm – 7:15 pm	IPRA Section Meetings
6:00 pm – 7:00 pm	Professional Connection
9:00 pm – 11:30 pm	Welcome Social with Hello Weekend

## FRIDAY, JANUARY 26

7:00 am – 5:00 pm	Conference Registration Open
8:30 am – 9:30 am	Conference Sessions (0.1 CEUs)
8:30 am – 4:00 pm	Agency Showcase
9:00 am – 12:00 pm	Exhibit Hall Open
10:00 am – 11:00 am	Conference Sessions (0.1 CEUs)
11:00 am – 12:00 pm	Exhibit Hall Dedicated Hours
12:15 pm – 12:45 pm	Conference Speed Sessions
12:15 pm – 2:15 pm	All-Conference Awards Luncheon*
1:00 pm – 2:00 pm	Conference Sessions (0.1 CEUs)
1:00 pm – 3:30 pm	Exhibit Hall Open
2:15 pm – 3:30 pm	Dessert in the Exhibit Hall*
3:45 pm – 4:45 pm	Conference Sessions (0.1 CEUs)
5:00 pm – 6:30 pm	Commissioners' Reception**
5:00 pm – 6:30 pm	IPRA Annual Business Meeting
9:30 pm – 11:00 pm	Leadership Reception**

## SATURDAY, JANUARY 27

7:45 am – 12:00 pm	Conference Registration Open
9:00 am – 10:00 am	Keynote General Session with Charles Clark (0.1 CEUs)
10:30 am – 11:30 am	Conference Sessions (0.1 CEUs)
12:30 pm – 1:30 pm	Conference Sessions (0.1 CEUs)
2:00 pm – 3:00 pm	Conference Sessions (0.1 CEUs)
3:30 pm – 5:00 pm	IAPD Annual Business Meeting
7:00 pm – 10:00 pm	Closing Social*

\* Ticketed Event

\*\* By Invitation

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\* Ticketed Event

Event photography provided by JHyde Photography.

# GENERAL INFORMATION

## ACCESSIBILITY

**Meeting Rooms, Parking, Restaurants, Restrooms, Sleeping rooms:** All are accessible at the Hyatt Regency Chicago and the Swissôtel Chicago. If you are in need of an accessible room, please be sure to notify the respective hotel when making your reservation.

## ADA AND SERVICES FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the IAPD/IPRA Joint Conference Committee will make all reasonable efforts to accommodate persons with disabilities. Please indicate any special needs on your registration form or contact Cindy Galvan at IPRA at [Cindy@ilipra.org](mailto:Cindy@ilipra.org) **no later than January 15, 2024**. If you have special needs regarding hotel accommodations, please contact the Hyatt Regency Chicago at (312) 565-1234 or the Swissôtel Chicago at (312) 565-0565. Individuals who require TTY may call (800) 526-0844 and the Illinois Relay Center will transmit the message to IAPD or IPRA.

## ALL-CONFERENCE AWARDS LUNCHEON

Delegates who register for the conference “Full Package” will receive a ticket for this event. Additional tickets may be purchased through your registration or on-site. Please join us as we recognize and honor the leaders and volunteers of park districts, forest preserves, conservation, recreation, and special recreation agencies.

## ALL-CONFERENCE AWARDS LUNCHEON PREFERRED AGENCY SEATING (Includes Legislator Tables!)

**DEADLINE: Monday, January 15, 2024**

**Preferred Agency Seating** is available for all delegates from the same agency/organization who wish to be seated together at a table during the Friday All-Conference Awards Luncheon. An agency that opts to attend must indicate so on the registration form on page C32 or at the time of online registration. There is a \$50 nonrefundable fee (per table) to participate, which must be paid for when registering for the conference. **If you plan to invite your legislator(s) to join you at your table(s), then you should indicate/register for a Legislative Table following the same process, above.** The individual who registers/pays for the table(s) will be the designated agency contact (table host) and will receive all emails with details and instructions on the seating process. The table host will be responsible for notifying those seated at their table(s) of the table assignment(s). After **January 15, 2024**, table reservations WILL NOT be accepted, and **no on-site requests will be taken**. All tables will be set for twelve people.

Non-reserved tables for open general seating will be noted with a balloon. There is no guarantee that you and your agency will be able to sit all together in open, general seating. These seats are first-come, first-served, and will be set for twelve people.



Since 2009, Agency Showcase has shone a spotlight on the brightest ideas exhibited by parks, recreation, and conservation agencies.

This professionally judged competition recognizes Illinois agencies for their marketing and communication efforts ranging from print to multimedia.

### Division 1: Overall Agency Showcase

Your agency submits in eight of the thirteen individual categories and creates a tabletop display that showcases how your marketing efforts represent your agency as a whole. Scores from each category as well as the display are compiled to determine the overall winners. The eight categories that you select will be eligible for recognition in the Individual Category division. First, second, and third place are awarded in the Overall Showcase division.

### Division 2: Individual Category

This division allows you to select up to four categories below to enter your work for the judges to critique. There will be one outstanding submission recognized in each category.

### Categories

- Program Brochure Print
- Program Brochure Virtual
- Integrated Photography
- Large Format Marketing
- Logo Design
- Marketing Campaign
- Paid Advertisement
- Print Communication - Informational
- Print Communication - Promotional
- Social Media Campaign
- Videography Long Form
- Videography Short Form
- Website

For more information on the Agency Showcase competition, please visit [ILparksconference.com](http://ILparksconference.com).

Proudly brought to you by IPRA and IAPD.

## ANNUAL MEETINGS FOR IPRA AND IAPD

The Illinois Park & Recreation Association's (IPRA) Annual Meeting will be held on Friday, January 26 at 5:00 pm. The Illinois Association of Park Districts' (IAPD) Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, January 27 at 3:30 pm.

The associations have staggered their annual meetings to accommodate elected officials and professionals who would like to attend both meetings.

## COMMISSIONERS' RECEPTION

**Attention all IAPD members!**

Please join us on Friday, January 26 at 5:00 pm. This reception will be an excellent opportunity for commissioners to exchange ideas, network, and socialize. The IAPD board and staff will be present to answer questions and offer the perfect venue to visit with fellow commissioners.

## CEUs and CLEs Are Ticketless!

To simplify the process, CEUs and CLEs will be contactless and fully digital through the conference mobile app (no paper tickets). Attendees are required to attend entire sessions and complete session evaluation to obtain CEU credit.

Since no paper tickets will be issued, you will not need to sign up for CEUs during the registration process. You will need to ensure that you provide a valid email though so that you will be able to access the mobile app. Attendees will be able to login to the app at any time during the conference to manage, earn, and track their CEUs.

You must register and pay for CLEs. See details under CLEs.

## CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION (CLE)

The CLE credit is educational credits that attorneys elect to earn by attending educational offerings certified by the Supreme Court of Illinois.

Sessions scheduled for 60 minutes award 1.0 CLE. Please note not all sessions are eligible for CLE credits. If you would like to apply for CLE credits, you must register, provide your ARDC number and pay for the CLEs with your conference registration. See page C32.

Four different CLE packages are offered:

(3) CLE credits are \$45 plus registration

(4) CLE credits are \$60 plus registration

(7) CLE credits are \$105 plus registration

(8) CLE credits are \$120 plus registration

Attorneys will receive their CLE attendance receipt(s) within 2 weeks of the conclusion of the conference.

## CONFERENCE TRACKS AND NUMBERING SYSTEM - Website

To help attendees identify sessions and workshops relevant to their field/interests, the conference program is organized around twelve different topic tracks: Boardmanship, Diversity, Facilities, Finance/Information Technology, Forest Preserve/Conservation, Governance/Legal, HR/Risk Management, Leadership/Management, Marketing/Communications, Parks/Natural Resources, Recreation and Therapeutic Recreation.

Additionally, a numbering system is used to provide attendees another avenue for identifying sessions/workshops that may be beneficial to them. The numbering system indicates the host sponsoring the session/workshop. Attendees can use the numbering system to quickly identify any session/workshop pertaining to a specific host across the multiple tracks. The following is the numbering system legend:

0-9: IAPD & IPRA

10 – 99: IPRA

100 – 199: IAPD

200 – 299: Parks and Natural Resource Management Section (PNRMS)

300 – 399: Administration and Finance Section (A&F)

400 – 499: Recreation Section (REC)

500 – 599: Therapeutic Recreation Section (TR)

600 – 699: Facilities Management Section (FM)

900 – 999: Communications and Marketing Section (C&M)

1000 – 1099: Diversity Section (DIV)

1100 – 1199: Forest Preserve/Conservation (FP/CONSV)

## CONTINUING EDUCATION UNITS (CEUs)

Attendees will be able to earn up to 1.2 Continuing Education Units (CEUs) by attending a variation of workshops and general sessions. CEUs can be earned based on the number of sessions attended during the Soaring to New Heights Conference.

- Concurrent sessions and the Keynote General Session scheduled for 60 minutes award 0.1 CEUs.
- Conference workshops scheduled for 120 minutes award 0.2 CEUs.
- No CEUs for speed sessions.
- No additional CEU fees for Thursday, Friday, and Saturday sessions apply
- Official CEU transcripts available on-demand via the mobile app. No hard copies will be distributed.



# GENERAL INFORMATION

## EXHIBIT HALL

The exhibit hall will be open on Thursday and Friday, with [dedicated hours](#) on both days.

Come visit more than 300 commercial manufacturers, distributors, designers, and educational booths. The exhibits will showcase the newest equipment, supplies, ideas, and services available to park, recreation, forest preserve, conservation, and therapeutic recreation agencies. Plan to spend several hours in the exhibit hall viewing the displays and visiting with exhibitors.

Each registered delegate will have multiple opportunities to win great prizes. Drawings will take place throughout the day Thursday and Friday. Entry blanks will be in the registration materials that you must pick up at conference registration. You must be present to win. Rules and regulations will apply.

The IAPD/IPRA Soaring to New Heights Conference has one of the largest exhibition of any state park and recreation conference in the country. Be sure to visit!

## EXHIBIT HALL HOURS

### Thursday, January 25:

11:00 am – 5:00 pm, Grand Opening  
12:00 pm – 12:30 pm; 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm (*Dedicated Hours*)

### Friday, January 26:

9:00 am – 12:00 pm  
11:00 am – 12:00 pm (*Dedicated Hour*)  
1:00 pm – 3:30 pm  
2:15 pm – 3:30 pm (*Dessert Reception and Dedicated Hours*)



## HOUSING INFORMATION

### Hyatt Regency Chicago (Host)

151 E. Wacker Drive

Chicago, Illinois 60601

**Reservations** (877) 803-7534

**Group Code** Refer to the group name IAPD/IPRA and group code **G-APKD** when making a reservation by phone.

**Rates** \$132 Single/Double; \$142 Triple; \$152 Quad

**Note:** Surcharges apply to upgraded room types including Deluxe, Regency Club and Business Plan rooms.

### Swissôtel Chicago (Overflow)

323 E. Wacker Drive

Chicago, Illinois 60601

**Reservations** (888) 737-9477

**Group Code** Refer to the group code **IAPD0124** when making a reservation by phone.

**Rates** \$132 Single/Double; \$162 Triple; \$192 Quad

**Note:** Surcharges apply to upgraded room types including Lakeview and Corner King rooms.

For online reservations for either the Hyatt Regency Chicago or the Swissôtel Chicago, visit [ILparksconference.com](http://ILparksconference.com)

Rooms are reserved on a first-come, first-served basis.

- The cut-off date for reservations for both the Hyatt and the Swissôtel is January 3, 2024. Reservations made after this date may be assessed at a higher rate and are subject to availability.
- One (1) night's room and tax advance deposit by check or credit card must accompany each reservation. This deposit is fully refundable on or before December 20, 2023. After this date there will be no refunds for cancelled rooms. The Joint Conference Committee implemented this policy in 1999 due to the high rate of rooms cancelled at the last minute.

**Suites:** IAPD member agencies or IPRA members interested in reserving a suite must first contact Cindy Galvan at IPRA ([cindy@ilipra.org](mailto:cindy@ilipra.org)). Once IPRA has given approval, you will be put in contact with the Hyatt Regency Chicago directly.

Exhibitors interested in reserving a suite must first contact Sue Triphahn at IAPD ([striphahn@ilparks.org](mailto:striphahn@ilparks.org)). Once IAPD has given approval, you will be put in contact with the Hyatt Regency Chicago directly.

**Note:** Suites are very limited due to renovations.

# GENERAL INFORMATION

## MEETING SAFETY AND RESPONSIBILITY POLICY

IAPD/IPRA are committed to providing a safe, productive, and welcoming environment for all conference participants and staff. All participants are expected to abide by this Meeting Safety and Responsibility Policy. Please visit <https://www.ilparksconference.com> for full details.

## PARKING

**Overnight Attendees:** Attendees staying overnight at the Hyatt Regency Chicago will receive a 50% discount off the existing published parking rate for overnight valet (no self-park on-site). Attendees staying overnight at the Swissôtel will receive a 50% discount off the existing daily parking rate (not applicable to self-park).

**Daily Commuters:** Delegates not staying at the hotels can park in any of the downtown garages at regular rates. Additional parking in the area can be viewed at [www.chicagoparkingmap.com](http://www.chicagoparkingmap.com).

## POLICY ON CHILDREN

To preserve a professional business environment and ensure a quality educational atmosphere at the IAPD/IPRA Soaring to New Heights Conference, no one under the age of 18 will be allowed to participate in pre-conference workshops, conference sessions, the Welcome Social or the Exhibit Hall. An exception will be made if the person is a speaker or a registered full or part-time college or university student, and is attending the conference for the purpose of professional development and networking opportunities.

## POLICY ON MEMBERS AND NONMEMBERS

The following persons will be allowed to register at the member rate:

- Members of the Illinois Park & Recreation Association in current standing through 12/31/23. **IPRA memberships not renewed for 2024 will be assessed the difference between the member and non-member conference registration fees upon their check-in on-site at Conference Registration.**
- Commissioners/park board members, attorneys, board treasurers, and board secretaries of agencies that are members of the Illinois Association of Park Districts.
- A maximum of six **support** staff from IAPD member agencies (**"Support staff" is defined as front desk/clerical and maintenance personnel only.**) **Support Staff on-line registration promotional code is SUPPORT2024.**

Requests from other persons or agencies asking for member rates will be presented to the Joint Conference Committee for approval prior to conference.

## RECORDING/VIDEOTAPING

Recording or videotaping from attendee smartphones or other electronic devices is not permitted during any part of the educational program, including pre-conference workshops, sessions, the Career Development Symposium, or the Keynote General Session.

## REGISTRATION INFORMATION

**Early Bird Registration Deadline** Monday, December 11, 2023  
**Registration Deadline** Monday, January 15, 2024

### Registration Methods:

- Online at [ilparksconference.com](http://ilparksconference.com); online registration **must be** accompanied by credit card for payment.
- Complete the Advance Registration Form and mail it with credit card or check to 2024 IAPD/IPRA CONFERENCE, 1460 Renaissance Drive, Suite 209, Park Ridge, IL 60068

### Registration Information:

- Mailed, and online registrations will be accepted until January 15, 2024.
- **IAPD/IPRA will not invoice agencies or individuals for conference registrations.**
- After registering you will receive an email confirmation with a bar code – **please bring this with you to conference.** This confirmation and a photo ID will be required to pick up your registration materials.
- Each registered delegate will receive their name badge and event tickets, and CLE coupons (if applicable) on-site at conference.
- Once on-site there will be a \$5 charge to reprint your name badge and **EVENT TICKETS WILL NOT BE REPRINTED. You must purchase new tickets at the current on-site price in order to attend any ticketed events.**
- You will not be permitted into conference workshops, sessions, or the Exhibit Hall without the proper name badge.

### On-site Registration Hours:

- Thursday, January 25 8:00 am – 5:00 pm
- Friday, January 26 7:00 am – 5:00 pm
- Saturday, January 27 7:45 am – 12:00 pm

### Registration Questions?

Contact CTE, our conference registration company, at either [ilparks2024@cteusa.com](mailto:ilparks2024@cteusa.com) or (847) 957-4255.



# GENERAL INFORMATION



## SATISFACTION GUARANTEED

The Illinois Association of Park Districts (IAPD) and the Illinois Park & Recreation Association (IPRA) have instituted a Satisfaction Guaranteed Policy for the Thursday conference workshops. IAPD and IPRA make every effort to ensure quality programs for participants. However, if a participant is not fully satisfied with the content of the workshop, he or she may request and receive a 100% refund of the workshop fee. A participant who wishes to request a refund for a conference workshop must do so no later than the end of the workshop in question. Any CEUs offered will be forfeited when a refund is made. Refunds will only be made payable to the originator of the check or credit card for the workshop registration. Look for the Satisfaction Guaranteed symbols next to these workshops.

## SILENT AUCTION

The Illinois Park & Recreation Foundation (IPRF) provides resources to park and recreation agencies and professionals statewide.



Part of our commitment to the profession is ensuring that future and current park and recreation professionals have the tools they need to be successful. IPRF will be holding a Silent Auction at the IAPD/IPRA Soaring to New Heights Conference to provide support and funding for educational programming, research that will benefit the Illinois Park & Recreation Association and its members, and funding support for professional development for students studying parks and recreation within Illinois.

If you would like to make a donation or need more information, please contact Anne Kiwala at [akiwala@nwsra.org](mailto:akiwala@nwsra.org).

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# GENERAL INFORMATION

## SPECIAL DIETS/ACCOMMODATIONS

Attendees with allergies should indicate their needs on the conference registration form. If you have questions or need additional assistance, please contact Cindy Galvan at [Cindy@ilpra.org](mailto:Cindy@ilpra.org).

## SPOUSE/GUEST PROGRAM AND REGISTRATION

All spouses or guests must register in order to participate in the conference, visit the exhibit hall, and attend special programs.

**Spouses or guests must have no affiliation with or be employed by any park district, forest preserve, conservation, recreation or special recreation agency.** Registration will include a name badge for admission to the Exhibit Hall, Welcome Social on Thursday, all 60-minute educational breakout sessions, and the Keynote General Session on Saturday. Tickets for the All-Conference Awards Luncheon and the Saturday evening Closing Social will be available for purchase. See page C32 for registration.

## STUDENT EVENTS

**Professional Connection**  
**THURSDAY, JANUARY 25**  
**6:00 pm – 7:00 pm**

You won't want to miss this unique opportunity to network with professionals in the field. The Professional Connection provides a relaxed, social atmosphere and an informal setting for talking with and getting to know professionals currently working in your area of interest. It also provides a great opportunity to learn about current and upcoming internships. Everyone who attends will enjoy complimentary pizza and soda. To register, see page C32 of the registration form.

## Mock Interviews/Resume Review

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 26**  
**10:00 am – 11:00 am**

The Mock Interviews/Resume Review offers students the opportunity to receive critique on their resume, along with practice to improve their interviewing skills by being paired with a professional who will engage them in a simulated interview experience. At the conclusion of the interview, students will receive constructive feedback and advice to help them be more prepared and to do well in a real-life interview.

Matched student-professional pairs will be communicated with prior to the conference. Dedicated meeting space will be available on Friday, January 26 from 10:00 am – 11:00 am for the Mock Interviews/Resume Reviews to take place. However, since the goal is to help students connect and gain career advice from professionals, matched student-professional pairs are welcome to meet at a time and location that is most convenient for them.

In order to participate and be matched in the program, advance registration is required. See page C32 of the registration form.

## VOLUNTEERS... CALLING ALL COMMISSIONERS, PROFESSIONALS AND STUDENTS!

We are recruiting volunteers for Conference Registration. If you are interested and have an hour or two to spare during conference, please send an email to Alan Howard ([ahoward@ilparks.org](mailto:ahoward@ilparks.org)) with the day(s)/time(s) you are available.





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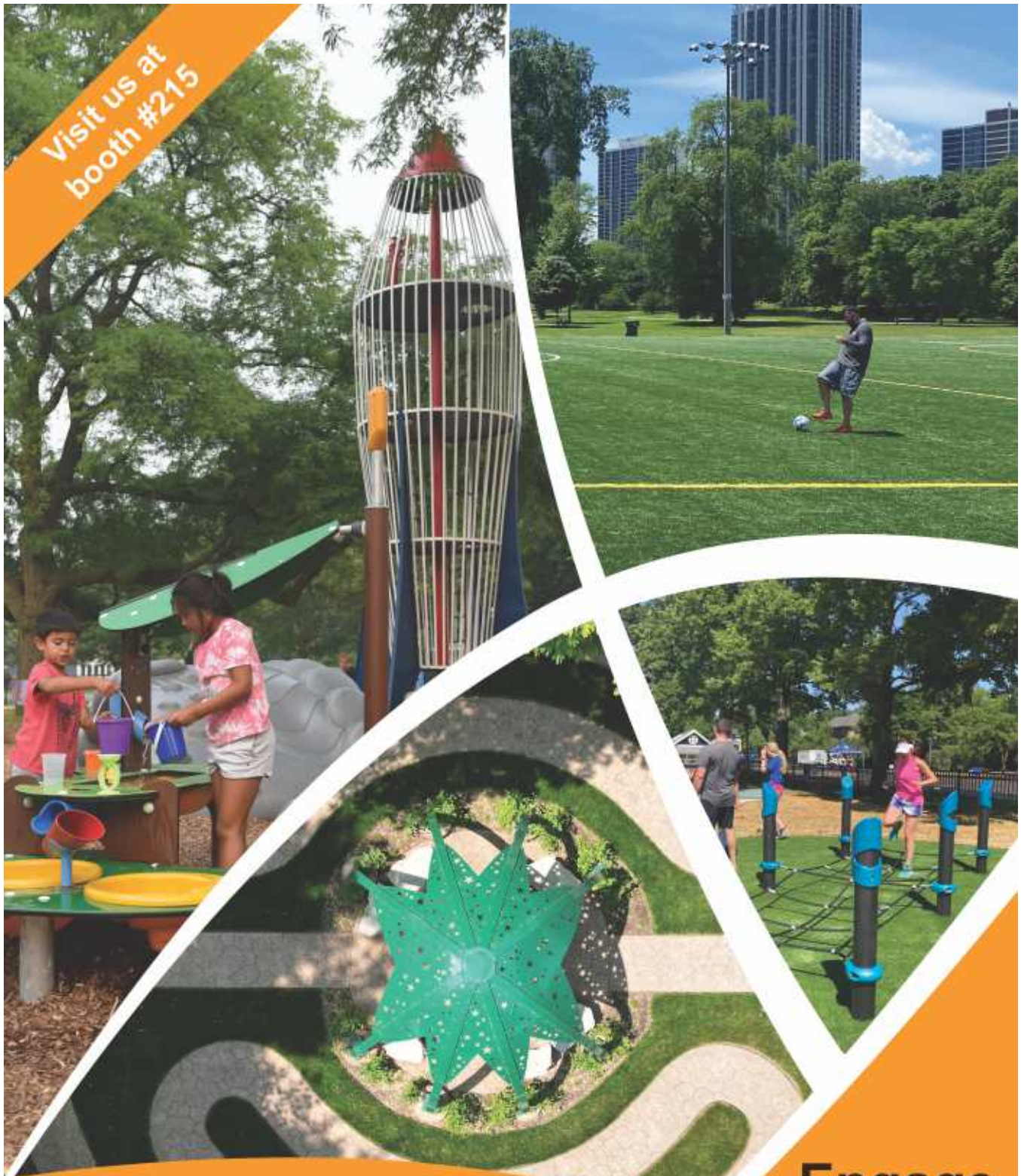
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- Interior Design & Space Planning
- Facility Condition Assessment
- Design of New Construction
- Additions & Remodeling

## BOOTH #220





## Civil Engineering | Traffic & Parking | Landscape Architecture

- Indoor/Outdoor Athletic Facilities
- Natural Grass
- Synthetic Turf
- Athletic Courts
- Playgrounds
- Splash Pads
- Aquatic Centers
- Ice Rinks
- Rec Centers
- Running Tracks
- Trails



Gillson Beach House  
Wilmette Park District

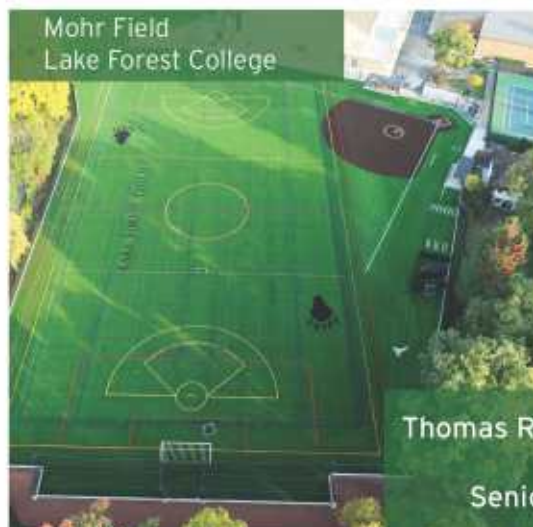


Heritage Oaks Golf Club  
Northbrook Park District



Come see us at Booth #713!

Visit our website at:  
[www.gha-engineers.com](http://www.gha-engineers.com)



Mohr Field  
Lake Forest College

Thomas Rychlik, P.E.,  
LEED AP  
Senior Engineer



Unleash the potential of  
**AQUATIC PLAY**  
 in your community!

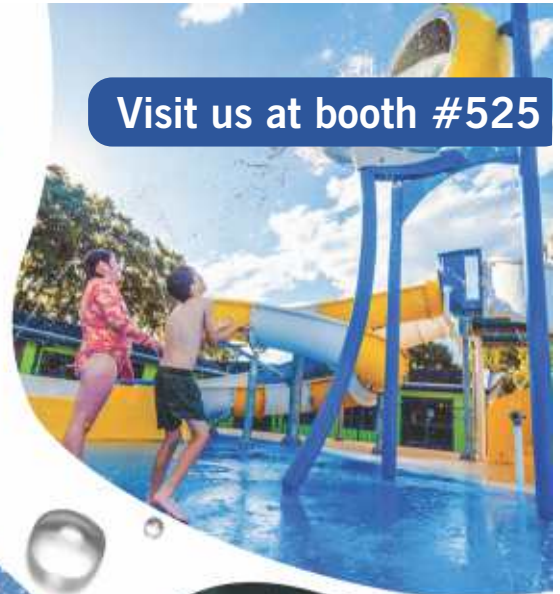
- ✓ Splash Pads
- ✓ Action-Packed Activity Towers
- ✓ Playable Fountains
- ✓ Water Management Solutions



Contact Imagine Nation  
 1.847.640.0904  
[www.imagineparks.com](http://www.imagineparks.com)



Visit us at booth #525



Visit us at booth #334  
 or at [www.jsdinc.com](http://www.jsdinc.com)



Landscape Architecture • Planning  
 Engineering • Surveying



THURSDAY, JANUARY 25, 2024

## CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS

10:00 am – 12:00 pm

All conference workshops award 0.2 CEUs. Pre-registration is required. Register online at [ILparksconference.com](http://ILparksconference.com) or see page C30.

### 01 AI in the Parks and Recreation Industry: Embracing the Future

**Speaker(s):** Neelay Bhatt, Next Practice Partners; Jason Ellisalde, Next Practice Partners; Scott Crowe, Huntley Park District  
**Track:** Leadership Management

This session will delve into the ways AI is transforming the industry, exploring specific examples and practical applications. Participants will gain valuable insights into the potential of AI technologies, ethical considerations, and strategies for successful integration. Through interactive discussions and real-world case studies, attendees will be equipped with the knowledge and tools to navigate the evolving landscape of the Parks and Recreation industry. Throughout the presentation, real-world examples and case studies will be shared to provide concrete illustrations of how AI is impacting the field. These examples will highlight the transformative power of AI in enhancing user experiences, improving operational efficiency, and driving innovation within the Parks and Recreation.

#### Learning Objectives:

Participants will be able to:

1. Understand the potential of AI technologies and their specific applications within the industry.
2. Recognize the ethical considerations and challenges associated with AI integration.
3. Gain strategies for successful AI adoption and change management, enabling them to leverage AI to enhance user experiences, optimize operations, and achieve organizational goals.

### 203 Salt Smart Certified Workshop for Park District Winter Maintenance Staff

**Speaker(s):** Hannah Miller, The Conservation Foundation; Jennifer Hammer, The Conservation Foundation; Jimmy Schmidt, Streamwood Park District  
**Track:** Park and Natural Resource Management

Salt Smart Certified helps Park Districts keep visitors safe and lessen the impacts of chlorides, like rock salt, have on our natural and built environments from winter maintenance activities. Park Districts have important roles in the quality of life in our communities. Keeping people safe is a priority and can be challenging during and after winter storms. The Salt Smart Certified Workshop and accompanying Illinois Winter Maintenance Manual was developed to provide necessary tools winter maintenance staff need to be proactive, provide safe surfaces, and reduce environmental impacts through cost effective, industry accepted best practices. The interactive Salt Smart Certified Workshop includes topics such as: preseason planning, materials and liquids, key actions to take before, during, and after the storm, and more. Participating in this workshop and completing the post-workshop evaluation will count towards meeting the requirements for your Park District to be Salt Smart Certified.

#### Learning Objectives:

Participants will be able to:

1. Understand why and how chlorides impact the natural and built environment.
2. Identify industry specific terminology and practices that support Salt Smart outcomes at your Park District.
3. Increase knowledge of resources and support available to Park Districts.



### 306 Data Manipulation in Excel

**Speaker(s):** Marie Herman, MRH Enterprises LLC  
**Track:** Finance/IT

You work with Excel every day. Have you ever wondered if there are features that you haven't explored that would save you hours of time and loads of frustration? Join us for this session as we delve into time saving ways to work with data in Excel, from combining to separating to custom sorting and so much more. Laptops are not recommended nor required; handouts will be provided.

#### Learning Objectives:

Participants will be able to:

1. Identify some of the various ways to combine data in Excel.
2. Discover advanced filter and custom sorting methods to see your data just the way you want.
3. Understand how to correct common formatting issues people experience working with Excel.

### 420 Problem Solving Change: Being Proactive vs Reactive with Transition

**Speaker(s):** Lydie Gutfeld, City of San Bernardino, CA  
**Track:** Recreation

Dealing with transition and change can be the catapult to your quit and your team's burnout. Figuring out how to focus on the transition while understanding the fear of change can create a unity amongst your team. Supervisors, managers and department heads have been faced with the difficulty of maintaining staff levels and defining new roles with constant change and transition. Developing useful communication tools to implement with teams can prove effective in creating change agents. Be confident as you lead your team through the next big transition!

#### Learning Objectives:

Participants will be able to:

1. Identify a transition and its phases to better prepare for successful outcome.
2. Develop the communication skills necessary for becoming a change agent.
3. Improve presence as a leader through transition and change.





508

## Run, Hide, Fight

**Speakers(s):** Carol Cadle, Carol Stream Police Department; Dino Heckermann, Carol Stream Police Department

**Track:** Therapeutic Recreation

It's an unfortunate reality - the threat of an active shooter or active assailant situation is very real, and no agency or individual is immune to the possibility. As we've seen on the news and here in Illinois, there's been numerous tragedies at schools, public events, and in the workplace. While we can't stop it from happening, we can certainly discuss and examine options to help mitigate the effects of these incidents at our agencies. Officers Cadle and Heckermann of the Carol Stream Police Department will help practitioners put together a real-world plan to keep everyone safe in the event of an active shooter or active assailant. Be intentional and be prepared because "seconds" count!

### Learning Objectives:

Participants will be able to:

1. Outline and develop an effective response plan.
2. Explain how to activate a plan in an active shooter or active assailant situation.
3. Identify safe options in the event of an active shooter or assailant situation.

905

## Bridging the Confidence Gap: How to Succeed at Upfront Communication

**Speaker(s):** Tiffany Olson, Workshops That Work

**Track:** Marketing/Communications

In her book *Playing Big*, author Tara Mohr describes the problem of the "confidence gap" this way: "Most women I know feel great pressure...to say what they really want to say, while also...being nice, ever flexible, ever calm." We've probably all been there — frustrated by a thousand thoughts preventing us from speaking up confidently when we need to. You can witness this with women hedging their ideas, disclaiming their opinions, or upspeaking their voices, all in an effort to curb any sense of seeming overbearing or confrontational. That's not to say there aren't confident women out there who are excelling when it comes to communication. And it's not to say there aren't men who struggle with confidence and speaking up. In this session, Tiffany will delve into, not just bridging the confidence gap between men and women, but she will also provide encouraging steps and takeaways for anyone, regardless of gender, to be a better upfront communicator and to have more confidence.

### Learning Objectives:

Participants will be able to:

1. Identify confidence gaps and their significance in your life.
2. Understand why confidence gaps exist.
3. List the necessary steps to appear more confident in communication.

## CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS

12:30 pm – 2:30 pm

All conference workshops award 0.2 CEUs. Pre-registration is required. Register online at [ILparksconference.com](http://ILparksconference.com) or see page C30.

02

## Responsible Leadership - Choosing How We Show Up for Others

**Speaker(s):** Kristin Strunk, Regent Leadership Group

**Track:** Leadership Management

Leadership isn't a position of authority. It isn't demonstrated in your job title. It isn't something you learn overnight. There are four principles for Responsible Leadership, and each of those principles needs to be practiced and demonstrated regularly to enhance team engagement, develop others through effective delegation and coaching, and create the environment that builds the next generation of leaders. Leadership impacts so much more than staff retention. Responsible Leadership can reduce burnout, ease performance conversations, simplify conflict resolution, and build confidence. Research from Harvard Business Review shows that if you are a good leader your impact on your team and your team's direct reports has positive ramifications throughout the organization. Whether you have been a leader for decades or you're just starting your journey, we have the opportunity for you to learn, reflect, and develop your action plan.

### Learning Objectives:

Participants will be able to

1. Identify the four principles of Responsible Leadership.
2. Determine where you demonstrate the principles and their impact on others (not just your team).
3. Create an action plan for enhancing leadership style or determine how to become a leader.





THURSDAY, JANUARY 25, 2024

302

### Helpful Tips for Understanding and Prioritizing OSHA Standards in Parks and Recreation

**Speaker(s):** Bill Hooker, PDMRA

**Track:** HR/Risk Management

Proactive employers look at OSHA compliance as a first step towards the implementation of safety systems and a culture of continuous improvement for the safety of all staff. Understanding and implementing OSHA standards can at times be confusing and difficult to prioritize the numerous standards that may apply to your organization. In this program we will highlight various OSHA related topics and provide common industry application of the topic. Through the use of case studies, pictures, hypothetical, checklists and group exercises, participants will identify standards applicable to their agency, discuss factors for prioritizing topics and create an implementation plan for an OSHA topic at their agency.

#### Learning Outcomes:

Participants will be able to:

1. Understand how various OSHA topics apply to their industry.
2. Better identify and prioritize OSHA topics that apply to their agency.
3. Create a goal for implementing an OSHA topic.

401

### Collaboration Equity in a Hybrid Workplace

**Speaker(s):** Michael Gregory, MG Consulting LLC

**Track:** Recreation

Come join Michael Gregory as he presents The Collaboration Effect®, which discusses the importance of hybrid equity in the workplace, defines different types and styles of hybrid workers, and shares hybrid work trends to help you and your team navigate this new work world that is here to stay. Using breakout sessions, participants will have an opportunity to discuss how to apply lessons learned sooner rather than later for their own work environment.

#### Learning Objectives:

Participants will be able to:

1. Define Collaboration Equity and one's own place in this concept.
2. Apply three ideas for hybrid equity as they relate to the workplace.
3. Define three hybrid work trends for now and the future.

509

### Having Hard Conversations: Rely on Relationships, Be Uncomfortable, and Do It Anyway

**Speaker(s):** Susan Mrazek, Consultant

**Track:** Therapeutic Recreation

This training discusses the strengths and challenges of having hard conversations. Administrators, educators, and parents are all critical adults in children's lives who need to be able to confidently address challenging topics together. Participants will learn the different components of a challenging conversation and what skills are helpful to strengthen before entering one. They will gain practice in outlining their points, using assertive voice, setting a goal, validating others, and learning to question personal thoughts and assumptions. They will walk away with tools to use when going into a challenging conversation as well as ways to handle their own emotions when involved in talks that are uncomfortable and necessary.

#### Learning Objectives:

Participants will be able to:

1. Identify and understand the different skills needed to embark on challenging conversations.
2. Practice planning a difficult conversation and having one inside a role play scenario.
3. Understand and practice several conflict prevention skills- engaged listening, active constructive responding, and assertive voice.





602

## How to Implement F&B that Drives Cost Recovery

**Speaker(s):** Mike Holtzman, Profitable Food Facilities

**Track:** Facility Management

Food & Beverage programs help drive cost recovery in parks and recreation, so it's important for them to be successful. Some questions to ask as they relate to your program's ROI: How much does your agency rely on 3rd party food vendors? What is the criteria for identifying key menu items and will they engage your customers? Does your agency have a plan in place to help measure and achieve success now and long-term? Come join Mike Holtzman of Profitable Food Facilities as he discusses developing, implementing, and maintaining a successful F&B strategic plan that increases cost recovery, raises community engagement, and enhances park user experience.

### Learning Objectives:

Participants will be able to:

1. Discover areas of improvement or development for current F&B operations.
2. Identify one or more food concepts that meet criteria for community engagement.
3. Develop, implement, and maintain an exceptional F&B strategic plan.

1000

## Equitable Productive Conflict Resolution for People Managers

**Speakers(s):** Dr. Linda Henderson-Smith, ATC Consulting LLC; Jonelle Bailey, Sycamore Park District

**Track:** Diversity

One of the skills people managers need in order to equitably supervise teams is productive conflict resolution. Fear of conflict is one of the five dysfunctions of teams. If we want functional teams, we must learn how to face and resolve conflict in productive vs. destructive ways. This training will provide definition, steps, and practice to resolving conflict in productive ways to ensure our teams are safe places for staff to belong and thrive.

### Learning Objectives:

Participants will be able to:

1. Define productive conflict and how it is connected to equitable leadership.
2. Describe why productive conflict resolution is required for teams to be functional.
3. Explain steps to resolving conflict productively.

1109

## Unleashing Synergy: A Case Study in Transformation of the Willowbrook Wildlife Center

**Speaker(s):** Danielle Appelo, Wight & Company; Anamari Dorgan, Forest Preserve District of DuPage County; Stephanie Touzalin, Forest Preserve District of DuPage County

**Track:** Forest Preserve and Conservation

Owned by the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County, Willowbrook Wildlife Center provides care, rehabilitation, and medical treatment to native wildlife; supports the district's threatened and endangered species captive-rearing program; and is an environmental education resource for the public. To address the need to update the 42-year-old facility, the District committed to the design and construction of a clinic and visitor center, outdoor animal enclosures, wildlife gardens, and interpretive trails and immersive experiences in the surrounding forest preserve. This session will highlight the collaborative process between the District and Wight & Company to design and build a facility to enhance Willowbrook as a public resource, a project that is a true transformation in our approach to best practices in animal care and public communication. The improvements will underscore the critical message that healthy ecosystems are dependent on healthy wildlife populations and responsible human actions.

### Learning Objectives:

Participants will be able to:

1. Understand the collaborative nature of design-build projects, highlighting how interdisciplinary teams work together throughout the project lifecycle.
2. Identify this project's unique challenges and how they were overcome through creative problem-solving and innovative solutions.
3. List lessons learned and best practices including successes, failures, and areas for improvement.





## WELCOME SOCIAL



**Thursday, January 25**

**9:00 pm – 11:30 pm**

**Hyatt Regency Chicago,**

**Grand Ballroom,**

**East Tower/Gold Level**

With their incomparable style and sound, Hello Weekend puts on a flawless show while performing today's biggest chart-topping hits. They will have you singing along to their covers of well-known artists such as Pitbull, Rihanna, Lady Gaga, and many more. Although they are one of Chicago's newest cover bands, they have had the opportunity to perform at some of the city's most popular venues (House of Blues, Cubby Bear, etc.). Hello Weekend is the perfect band to wow your crowd with their bold colors and great music. You're sure to have an amazing time that will leave you and your partygoers shouting, "Hello weekend" ...even if it is just a Thursday!

**This is not a ticketed event... everyone is welcome!**

**Beer, wine and soft drinks will be sold inside. Beverages brought in from outside are not allowed.**



# SINGING DANCING, & DUELING TO NEW HEIGHTS!




Join us for our spirited closing social event – an old-fashioned bar hop ... Hyatt Regency style! Boogie on into the Decades Dance Party and relive the music and moves of the 70s, 80s, and 90s!

Hustle into American Craft as our energetic DJ livens things up with dance tunes from the decades! Then, Hip-Hop on over to the Plaza Ballroom for Conference Karaoke! After you have crooned your favorite tunes, Electric Slide to the Library for dueling pianos!

This entertaining evening will be out of this world! Attendees will be Moonwalking among the various musical venues all night long while enjoying tasty dinner morsels and thirst-quenching brews/wine in each location.

Bring your appetite, favorite song requests, and dancing shoes as we sing, dance, and duel to new heights during our groovy, gnarly closing social! We promise, it will be 'Da Bomb!'

**Saturday, January 27**  
**7:00 pm – 10:00 pm**  
**American Craft, Plaza Ballroom, and**  
**The Library at the Hyatt Regency**

## THIS IS A TICKETED EVENT!

Ticket includes:

- Dinner buffet with unlimited beer, wine and soft drinks
- Disc Jockey, Karaoke, and Dueling Pianos!
- A great night of entertainment and fun!

## TICKET INFORMATION:

- Delegates who register for the Full Package or the Saturday Only Package will receive one ticket for admission.
- Additional tickets may be purchased for \$125 per ticket through the pre-registration process or on-site from Conference Registration.
- Tickets **will not be sold** on-site at the Closing Social.

# SESSIONS AT-A-GLANCE

Please visit [ilparksconference.com](http://ilparksconference.com) for session dates and times.

## BOARDSMANSHIP

- Boardmanship Essentials, Part I
- Boardmanship Essentials, Part II
- Board Member to Board Leader, Part 1
- Board Member to Board Leader, Part 2
- Frequently Asked Questions about Robert's Rules of Order at Meetings
- Government Finance for Non-Finance Park and Recreational Leaders
- Having a Healthy and Prosperous Relationship with your Executive Director
- Role of Board Members and Leadership in a Crisis
- The Importance of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion at our Agencies — Part I
- The Importance of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion at our Agencies — Part II
- The Importance of the Board Policy Manual: Why You Need One and What You Can Do with It
- Using Robert's Rules of Order in Your Meetings

## DIVERSITY, EQUALITY & INCLUSION

- Allyship: From Support to Action
- Building a Robust Commitment to DEIA and Getting Results in a Diverse Community
- Is Your Park District Gay Enough?
- Keep it 100 without Trippin', No Cap!
- Promoting Vendor Diversity at Your Agency
- The Goal of Belonging: Implementing DEI Within Your District's Summer Camps & Rec Programming
- The Look of the 'NEW' Professional
- Veteran Inclusive Programming - Yes, Women Served Too!

## FACILITY MANAGEMENT

- #banthebinder - Taking Your Operations into the Cloud
- Committing to Zero: Lessons Learned from Net Zero Energy Buildings
- Connecting with Your Gen Z Team
- Concession Stands: Pain or Profit?
- Crisis Management for Active Threat Situations
- Facility Rentals Panel: The Ins & Outs of Renting Space to the Public
- Healthy Communities, Parks and Splashpads
- Pickleball Palooza: What is the Big Dill?
- Sustainable Aquatic Design & Delivery in an Unpredictable Construction Market
- Take a New Look: Applying the Diamond of Care and Visual Literacy to Inspections and Maintenance
- To Game or Not to Game? Planning Successful eSports Programs and Spaces



## FINANCE/INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

- Advanced Video Camera Solutions to Take your Park District or Forest Preserve to the Next Level
- Attackers Versus Defenders: How They React in Real Time
- Building Security Technology
- Collaboration Transformation & The Employee Experience
- Financing the Fun: An introduction to Municipal Bonds
- Fundamentals of IT Security for Everyone
- Innovation Oasis: Embracing AI for Next-Level Recreation
- Investing Park District Dollars: Maximizing Impact & Returns — SPEED SESSION
- Legal and Economic Update - New Laws, Economic Trends & Impact Financings for Park Projects
- Personal Finance for the Parks and Recreation Professional
- Thinking About a Bond Referendum? What to do and Where to Start
- What to Look for When Evaluating a Financing Proposal

## FOREST PRESERVE & CONSERVATION

- Break Out of Your Shell: Working Across Departments for Richer Engagement
- Connect Your Public to Nature's Recipe for Restoration
- Green from the Outside In
- "It's Dangerous to Go Alone! Take This!" - Gamification Marketing Strategies
- Naperville Park District Stream Restoration Case Study — SPEED SESSION
- The Challenges of Prescribed Burning in Urban Areas of Illinois
- The Living Map
- Under Pressure - The Region's Green Vision for Restoration, Resilience and Equitable Access
- Utilizing GIS for Planning, Management, and Analysis of Prescription Burns

## GOVERNANCE/LEGAL

- Agency State Accreditation - A Blueprint for Excellence!
- Bidding and Managing a Successful Construction Project
- Concrete to Green: How a Government Partnership is Turning a Commercial Site into a Events Park
- Critical Thinking About Accessibility and Inclusion
- Is it Easy Being Green? Exploring Renewable Energy Supply Options
- Legal/Legislative Part I
- Legal/Legislative Part II
- Not In My Park! Regulating Controversial Park Activities
- Planning for a Referendum: Available Options, Key Points and Milestones
- Real Estate 101
- Social Media & the Law: Facebook? Instagram? X?
- The Necessity of Video Surveillance in Parks and Facilities
- Why do I have to Go Through Zoning Approval Processes?

# SESSIONS AT-A-GLANCE

Please visit [ilparksconference.com](http://ilparksconference.com) for session dates and times.

## HR/ RISK MANAGEMENT

- Controlling the Chaos of Your Outlook Inbox
- Evanston Lakefront: A New Chapter and Collaboration
- How to Not Only Apply for Your Dream Job - But Get It: Best Kept Secrets from a Marketer
- Parental Leave & Benefit Offerings - How to Remain Competitive in a Changing Environment
- Park & Recreation Compensation Survey: Get to Know This Valuable Resource
- Planning the Perfect Panel Interview - Enhancing the Candidate Experience – SPEED SESSION
- The Future of Parks and Rec: Winning the War for Talent in the Next Phase
- "You're Fired!" - What to do Before Uttering These Words

## LEADERSHIP/MANAGEMENT

- Affiliates: A Blessing or a Curse?
- Attributes of a Great Leader
- All Minds Matter: Integrating Wellness in the Workplace – SPEED SESSION
- Building a Culture of Innovation and Inclusion
- Conflict Unpackaged
- Cultivating a Campfire Culture
- Delegation IS Leadership
- Design, Implement and Fund a Sustainable Financial Assistance Program
- Girl Power - Are You Ready? Get Set and Lead!
- Girl Power - Get Your Questions Answered!
- iLearn: The Makings of a Sustainability Project Proposal – SPEED SESSION
- Laughter as Medicine: Using Comedy for Staff Wellbeing and Managing Burnout
- Leadership Games – SPEED SESSION
- No One Cares About Your Data
- NRPA | IAPD | IPRA Executive Directors' Roundtable
- Psychological Safety: Your Leadership Reflection
- Q&A is the Best Way to National Certification Exam Success
- Strategic Leadership While Facing a Crisis
- Succession Planning is Dead! Long Live Succession Planning!

## MARKETING & COMMUNICATION

- 10 Lessons About Marketing I Learned from It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia
- Crowdfund Your Marketing: How Enlisting the Public Can Help You Achieve More
- Designing Marketing Strategies for Young Kids and "Younger" Seniors
- How NOT to be Boring with your Marketing Outreach Booth: 25 Booth-Boosting Tips
- Improving Customer Feedback Systems
- Marketing and Communications Roundtable 1.0
- Marketing and Communications Roundtable 2.0
- Rising Above the Rest: Transforming Parks Through Smart Drone Use
- Selling Sponsorship in Style: The Do's and Don'ts
- Sponsorships: It Takes a Team
- "Survey Says...!" Best Practices for Community Surveys and Public Engagement
- Web Accessibility and the American with Disabilities Act – SPEED SESSION



## PARKS & NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

- 2024 IDNR Grant Outlook and Success Grant Submission
- Advancements in Water Feature Management
- All Charged Up: Everybody's Talking about Electrification
- Celebration and Stewardship of Your Nature Preserve
- Kids Around the World - Building a Generation of Hope
- Park Maintenance Round Table — SPEED SESSION
- Planning, Design, Construction, and Management for a Sustainable Synthetic Turf Sports Complex
- Planning for Capital Project Grants
- The Future of Urban Forestry in the Parks
- Tournaments: The Challenge and Reward of Hosting Large-Scale Athletic Tournaments at Your Parks

## RECREATION

- Bridging The Gap Between Marketing and Recreation: Episode 3
- Building a Positive Culture in your Summer Camp
- CHAMPS! Classroom/Group Management from the Classroom into Recreation!
- CHAMPS - Redesigning your Preschool and School Age Behavioral Systems
- Cures for the Common Survey
- Designing Surveys to Obtain Usable Data
- Early Childhood, Nature, and the Park District
- Fitness and Wellness Program Management
- Forward Thinking Aquatics
- Going Digital- EPACT — SPEED SESSION
- How to Make the Most Efficient Use of Event Space
- How to Plan an Event: Steps, Tips and Checklists
- Just Be in The Room
- Official Officials: Officiating in Parks and Recreation
- Our Volunteers are Out of this World!
- Reimagining Success in Youth Sports
- The Future Is Inclusion
- The Secret Sauce to Successful Programming "It's in There"
- Trend Check for Rec
- Unleashing Revenue Potential: Harnessing Data & Automation for Tennis & Pickleball Success — SPEED SESSION

## THERAPEUTIC RECREATION

- Prioritizing Mental Health: Empowering Your Organization
- Reframing Your Programs Through a Trauma Informed Lens
- Soaring to New Heights with The Alliance and Self Advocacy!
- "Squirrel!" Staying Focused with a Coworker Who has ADHD — SPEED SESSION
- SRA Budgeting 101
- The Healing Power of SOUL: Sharing of Unconditional Love and the Human-Animal Bond
- Transform Your Trainings
- What the ACC?

# KEYNOTE GENERAL SESSION

## Keynote General Session with Charles Clark

Saturday, January 27, 2024

9:00 am – 10:00 am

CEUs: 0.1



### About the Speaker

Charles Clark is a motivational speaker, creator of the Thrive Planner, and bestselling author. Before becoming an international speaker, Charles was one of the fastest men in the world. He is a 3x NCAA National Championship and USA Track and Field Championships silver medalist. Now, as a mindset expert, Charles shows athletes, entrepreneurs, and companies how to win in life. Today, Charles Clark teaches people how to use adversity to build greater strength, success, and fulfillment.

### Adversity Makes You Stronger

How To Change Your Perspective on Adversity and Use It to Become Relentless

Charles knows a thing or two about facing adversity. At a young age, he was recognized as one of the fastest men in the world. He won the NCAA Nationals and one of the fastest athletes in the world and was on the verge of signing a shoe deal. That was until he faced a career-ending injury that left him broken and feeling like he lost his life purpose.

Charles later realized that the adversity he was facing would be the very thing to propel him into his greatest purpose yet: to use his story to impact and encourage people all over the world who felt like he did.

**In this empowering and motivating session, you will learn:**

- How to shift your perception on adversity and use it to make you a better, more fulfilled person
- The one skill you need to become less impacted by setbacks
- The most important habits that amplify your confidence, happiness, and peak performance
- The power of decision-making and what choices lead to gaining momentum on your goals
- The science behind our behaviors and how to reprogram your mindset
- How to be empowered and uplifted to become your best self
- How to build a magnetic influence on those you lead and feel good about it
- Relearn the meaning of success to avoid burnout

KEYNOTE GENERAL SESSION





# 2024 Conference Registration Form

Register online at [ilparksconference.com](http://ilparksconference.com)

Faxed or mailed registration forms will be accepted until January 15, 2024.

☐ I am completing this form on behalf of the attendee and would like a copy of the receipt; email to: \_\_\_\_\_

## SECTION I. ATTENDEE INFORMATION

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ TITLE \_\_\_\_\_

NICKNAME FOR BADGE \_\_\_\_\_ AGENCY \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS, CITY, STATE, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ ATTENDEE EMAIL ADDRESS (ONE EMAIL PER REGISTRATION FOR MOBILE APP ACCESS) \_\_\_\_\_

CERTIFICATIONS: ☐ AFO ☐ CPO ☐ CPRE ☐ CPRP ☐ CPSI ☐ CTRS

MEMBER: ☐ IAPD ☐ IPRA ☐ NON-MEMBER

MEMBER RATES: All registrations are checked for membership status. Refer to the Policy on Members and Non-Members on page C7.

Is this your first time attending the IAPD/IPRA Soaring New Heights Conference? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If "No," how many years have you attended ☐ 2-5 ☐ 6-9 ☐ 10-15 ☐ 16+

Pronoun on badge: ☐ he/his ☐ she/her ☐ they/their ☐ ze/zir ☐ None

IAPD/IPRA makes available the email addresses of conference attendees to conference exhibitors who provide products and services to the park and recreation field. ☐ Please check here if you prefer your email address to NOT be provided.

**ADA COMPLIANCE / SPECIAL MEAL ACCOMMODATION:** If you have any special accessibility/meal requirement, please provide a brief description below. For requests pertaining to your hotel/lodging needs, please contact the Hyatt or Swissotel directly when booking your room. \_\_\_\_\_

**Emergency Contact (REQUIRED):** Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

## SECTION II. PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS - THURSDAY, JANUARY 25, 2024 (Enrollment is limited - REGISTER EARLY!)

ID#	TITLE	FEE
<b>10:00 am – 12:00 pm</b>		
01	AI in the Parks and Recreation Industry: Embracing the Future	<input type="checkbox"/> \$85
203	Salt Smart Certified Workshop for Park District Winter Maintenance Staff	<input type="checkbox"/> \$85
306	Data Manipulation in Excel	<input type="checkbox"/> \$85
420	Problem Solving Change: Being Proactive vs Reactive with Transition	<input type="checkbox"/> \$85
508	Run, Hide, Fight	<input type="checkbox"/> \$85
905	Bridging the Confidence Gap: How to Succeed at Upfront Communication	<input type="checkbox"/> \$85
<b>12:30 pm – 2:30 pm</b>		
02	Responsible Leadership - Choosing How We Show Up for Others	<input type="checkbox"/> \$85
302	Helpful Tips for Understanding and Prioritizing OSHA Standards in Parks and Recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> \$85
401	Collaboration Equity in a Hybrid Workplace <b>CANCELED</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> \$85
509	Having Hard Conversations: Rely on Relationships, Be Uncomfortable, and Do It Anyway	<input type="checkbox"/> \$85
602	How to Implement F&B that Drives Cost Recovery	<input type="checkbox"/> \$85
1000	Equitable Productive Conflict Resolution for People Managers	<input type="checkbox"/> \$85
1109	Unleashing Synergy: A Case Study in Transformation of the Willowbrook Wildlife Center	<input type="checkbox"/> \$85
<b>SECTION II SUBTOTAL</b>		<b>\$</b>

OVER →

SECTION III. CONFERENCE REGISTRATION						
	EARLY (BY 12/11/23)		REGULAR (12/12/23 – 01/15/24)		ON-SITE (AFTER 1/15/24)	
PACKAGE	MEMBER	NON-MEMBER	MEMBER	NON-MEMBER	MEMBER	NON-MEMBER
Full	<input type="checkbox"/> \$365	<input type="checkbox"/> \$670	<input type="checkbox"/> \$430	<input type="checkbox"/> \$800	<input type="checkbox"/> \$470	<input type="checkbox"/> \$880
No Frills	<input type="checkbox"/> \$310	<input type="checkbox"/> \$560	<input type="checkbox"/> \$365	<input type="checkbox"/> \$670	<input type="checkbox"/> \$420	<input type="checkbox"/> \$780
Thursday Only	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$260	<input type="checkbox"/> \$165	<input type="checkbox"/> \$290	<input type="checkbox"/> \$180	<input type="checkbox"/> \$315
Friday Only	<input type="checkbox"/> \$270	<input type="checkbox"/> \$485	<input type="checkbox"/> \$300	<input type="checkbox"/> \$545	<input type="checkbox"/> \$325	<input type="checkbox"/> \$595
Saturday Only	<input type="checkbox"/> \$290	<input type="checkbox"/> \$525	<input type="checkbox"/> \$320	<input type="checkbox"/> \$585	<input type="checkbox"/> \$345	<input type="checkbox"/> \$635
Student	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$250	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$250	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$250
Retiree	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175	<input type="checkbox"/> \$390	<input type="checkbox"/> \$185	<input type="checkbox"/> \$415	<input type="checkbox"/> \$215	<input type="checkbox"/> \$490
Guest/Spouse	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175	<input type="checkbox"/> \$185	<input type="checkbox"/> \$185	<input type="checkbox"/> \$215	<input type="checkbox"/> \$215
<b>A LA CARTE TICKET OPTIONS</b>					<b>QTY.</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Friday, Awards Luncheon Ticket (includes one (1) dessert ticket)</li> <li>• Friday, Dessert Ticket (dessert served in the Exhibit Hall immediately following the luncheon)</li> <li>• Friday, Awards Luncheon Preferred Agency Seating (non-refundable fee) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Specify preferred agency table OR preferred legislative table (if you will be inviting a legislator to join your agency).</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Saturday, Closing Social Ticket</li> <li>• CLE Credit Packages (3=\$45; 4=\$60; 7=\$105; 8=\$120) ARDC # _____</li> </ul>					<input type="checkbox"/> \$70 x _____ \$ _____ <input type="checkbox"/> \$20 x _____ \$ _____ <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 x _____ \$ _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Agency <input type="checkbox"/> Legislative  \$125 x _____ \$ _____ <input type="checkbox"/> \$45 <input type="checkbox"/> \$60 <input type="checkbox"/> \$105 <input type="checkbox"/> \$120	
<b>SECTION III SUBTOTAL</b>					<b>\$</b>	

SECTION IV. SPECIAL EVENT REGISTRATION (Space is limited - REGISTER EARLY!)		
<b>Professional Connection: Thursday, January 25, 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm</b> (see page C9 for details.)		
PCS	Professional Connection – <b>Student</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> N/C
PCP	Professional Connection – <b>Professional</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> N/C
<b>Mock Interviews/Resume Review:</b> (see page C9 for details.)		
MIS	Mock Interviews/Resume Review – <b>Student</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> N/C
MIP	Mock Interviews/Resume Review – <b>Professional</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> N/C

**Instructions:** Enter the subtotal from each section.  
Add Section II – IV line totals together  
to get the total amount now due.

<b>SECTION II: CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>SECTION III: CONFERENCE REGISTRATION</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>SECTION IV: SPECIAL EVENTS</b>	<b>\$ N/C</b>
<b>TOTAL AMOUNT DUE</b>	<b>\$</b>

**IF PAYING BY CHECK, MAIL REGISTRATION FORM(S) WILL BE ACCEPTED UNTIL JANUARY 15, 2024 AT:**  
**2024 IAPD/IPRA CONFERENCE**  
1460 Renaissance Drive, Suite 305, Park Ridge, IL 60068

**FOR QUESTIONS OR TO MODIFY AN EXISTING REGISTRATION, EMAIL [ILPARKS2024@CTEUSA.COM](mailto:ILPARKS2024@CTEUSA.COM)  
OR CALL (847) 957-4255**



# IMPORTANT REGISTRATION INFORMATION

REGISTRATION FOR CONFERENCE AND ANY FEE-BASED CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS MUST BE DONE AT THE SAME TIME.

	Full Package	No Frills	Thursday Only	Friday Only	Saturday Only	Student/Retiree	Spouse/Guest
All-Conference Awards Luncheon (Friday)	✓						
Closing Social (Saturday)	✓				✓		
60-Minute Sessions * (Thursday-Saturday)	✓	✓	✓**	✓***	✓****	✓	✓
Exhibit Hall Admission (Thursday & Friday)	✓	✓	✓**	✓***		✓	✓
Keynote General Session (Saturday)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Welcome Social (Thursday)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

\* 2-hour workshops not included and are available for an additional fee.

\*\* 60-minute sessions and access to Exhibit Hall on Thursday only.

\*\*\* 60-minute sessions and access to Exhibit Hall on Friday only.

\*\*\*\* 60-minute sessions on Saturday only.

**FULL** – Includes All-Conference Awards Luncheon ticket, Thursday - Saturday 60-minute sessions, Closing Social ticket, admission to the Exhibit Hall, Keynote General Session, and Welcome Social.

**NO FRILLS** – Includes Thursday - Saturday 60-minute sessions, Keynote General Session, admission to the Exhibit Hall, and Welcome Social.

**THURSDAY ONLY** – Includes Thursday 60-minute sessions, admission to the Exhibit Hall, Welcome Social, and Keynote session.

**FRIDAY ONLY** – Includes Friday 60-minute sessions, admission to the Exhibit Hall, Welcome Social, and Keynote Session.

**SATURDAY ONLY** – Includes Saturday 60-minute sessions, Welcome Social, Keynote Session, and Closing Social ticket.

**STUDENTS/RETIREES** – Includes Thursday - Saturday 60-minute sessions; admission to the Exhibit Hall; Welcome Social, and Keynote Session.

**GUEST/SPOUSE/FAMILY/FRIEND (Must not be affiliated with or employed by any park and recreation agency.)** Includes Thursday - Saturday 60-minute sessions, admission to the Exhibit Hall, Welcome Social, and Keynote Session.

## CANCELLATION POLICY:

Cancellations must be submitted in writing and received by December 22, 2023, in order to receive a refund less a processing fee of \$25. Refund requests received after this date will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

## ADDITIONAL REGISTRATION POLICIES:

- IAPD/IPRA will not invoice agencies or individuals for conference registrations.
- Please complete a separate registration form for each individual registering.
- Participants wishing to change workshops must pay the difference for a higher workshop or forfeit the difference for a lesser workshop.
- Pre-registration ends JANUARY 15, 2024. In order to receive the discounted pre-registration fee(s), registration forms must be postmarked or faxed by JANUARY 15, 2024. On-site registration begins at 7:30 am on January 25, 2024.
- The deadline for Preferred Agency Seating is JANUARY 15, 2024. No preferred seating will be taken on-site.
- ADA Compliance/Special Meal Accommodation: Attendees with special needs/meal requests should indicate their requirements on the conference registration form. If you have questions or need additional assistance, please contact Cindy Galvan at [Cindy@ilipra.org](mailto:Cindy@ilipra.org).

## POLICY ON MEMBERS AND NON-MEMBERS

The following persons will be allowed to register at the member rate:

- Members of the Illinois Park and Recreation Association in current standing through 12/31/23. **IPRA memberships not renewed for 2024 will be assessed the difference between the member and non-member conference rates. If there is an outstanding balance on an attendee's registration account at the start of the virtual conference, access to the platform will not be permitted. No refunds will be given.**
- Commissioners/park board members, attorneys, board treasurers, and board secretaries of agencies that are members of the Illinois Association of Park Districts.
- A maximum of six **support** staff from IAPD member agencies. **"Support staff" is defined as clerical/front desk and maintenance personnel only. Support staff on-line registration promotion code is SUPPORT2024.**

Requests from other persons or agencies asking for member rates will be presented to the Joint Conference Committee for approval prior to conference.

## QUESTIONS:

- Email your question to [ilparks2024@cteusa.com](mailto:ilparks2024@cteusa.com) or call (847) 957-4255. **Be sure to reference the IAPD/IPRA conference.**

## CONSENT TO CONFERENCE POLICIES

As a condition of attending the Soaring to New Heights Conference and to help protect the health and safety of yourself and others, all participants will be required to comply with protocols and conference policies that are in effect when the event takes place.

All participants will also be required to sign an acknowledgement of personal responsibility form prior to, and as a condition of, being admitted to the conference.

Any individual who refuses to adhere to health and safety protocols and conference policies or who refuses to submit a signed personal acknowledgement of personal responsibility form will not be admitted to, or be removed from, the conference without receiving a refund.

## CONSENT TO USE PHOTOS AND OTHER REPRODUCTIONS

By registering for, participating in or attending IAPD/IPRA meetings or other activities, an individual irrevocably agrees to the use and distribution by IAPD/IPRA of his or her image or voice in photographs, video recordings, audio recordings and any other electronic reproductions of such events and activities for any purpose without inspection or approval and without compensation, right to royalties or any other consideration now and in the future.







Event photography provided by JHyde Photography.



# 2024 EXHIBITORS

## COMPANY

## BOOTH#

5/3 Bank 344  
 AED Professionals 609  
 All Inclusive Rec LLC 325  
 American Ramp Company 530  
 American Red Cross Training Services 320  
 Anthony Roofing - Tecta America 114  
 Aqua Pure Enterprises, Inc. 431  
 Aquatic Design Partners 738  
 Baird Public Finance 448  
 Balanced Environments Inc. 712  
 **BCI Burke** 122  
 Bear Construction Company 223  
 Berliner Seilfabrik Play Equipment Corporation 157  
 BerryDunn 522  
 Bid Evolution 412  
 Blick Art Materials 720  
 Bluestem Ecological Services 324  
 Bounce Houses R Us 705  
 Brock USA 346  
 Bronze Memorial Company 216  
 Byrne & Jones Construction 733  
 Camosy Construction 601  
 Capri Pools & Aquatics 426  
 Central Parks 634  
 Chicago Backflow 611  
 CivicPlus 434  
 Columbia Cascade Company 147  
 ComEd Energy Efficiency Program 246  
 Commercial Recreation Specialists 304  
 CommunityPass 834  
 **Confluence, Inc.** 446  
 Cordogan Clark & Associates 143  
 Correct Digital Displays, Inc. 118  
 Counsilman-Hunsaker 323  
 **Cunningham Recreation** 804  
 Custom Bridges and Boardwalks 604  
 CXT Concrete Buildings 700  
 **DaySmart Recreation** 621  
 Design Perspectives, Inc. 708  
 Dewberry 119  
 Direct Fitness Solutions 540  
 Divine Signs 214  
 **DLA Architects, Ltd.** 220  
 Doty & Sons Concrete Products, Inc. 319  
 Drury Lane Theatre 622  
 DuraPlay, Inc. 916  
 Engineering Resource Associates, Inc. 343  
 Entertainment Concepts 917  
 **Eriksson Engineering Associates, Ltd.** 430  
 EVP Academies, LLC 201

## COMPANY

## BOOTH#

ExoFit Outdoor Fitness 613  
 Farnsworth Group, Inc. 419  
 Fehr Graham 226  
 FGM Architects Inc. 600  
 F.H. Paschen 605  
 FieldTurf 519  
 ForeverLawn Chicago 137  
 Frederick Quinn Corporation 310  
 Geese Chasers Chicago 348  
 **Gewalt Hamilton Associates** 713  
 Gold Medal Products 315  
 GovDeals 714  
 GovHR USA 450  
 GRAEF 337  
 H2I Group 233  
 Halogen Supply Company 438  
 Harbour Contractors, Inc. 202  
 Harris Local Government 614  
 Havenshine Technologies, Inc. 906  
 Henry Bros. Co. 444  
 Hey and Associates 316  
 **Hitchcock Design Group** 410  
 HR Source 205  
 IHC Construction Companies LLC 222  
 Illinois Association of Park District (IAPD) 503  
 Illinois Park & Recreation Association (IPRA) 500  
 Illinois Public Risk Fund 734  
 **Imagine Nation LLC** 525  
 IPARKS 411  
 iStrike by AnythingWeather 610  
 IZONE IMAGING 523  
 Jeff Ellis and Associates, Inc. 300  
 **JSD Professional Services** 334  
 Kahler Slater 308  
 Kankakee Nursery 527  
 Keeper Goals 339  
 Kiefer USA 606  
 KI Furniture 245  
 Kwikgoal 338  
 Lake Country Corporation 332  
 LeadingIT 529  
 Legat Architects 349  
 Leopardo Companies 427  
 Lincoln Aquatics 615  
 Local Government Health Plan 453  
 MAD BOMBER FIREWORKS 620  
 Matrix Fitness 115  
 Mesirow Financial, Inc. 436  
 Midwest Commercial Fitness 203  
 Most Dependable Fountains with Play Design Scapes 333



# 2024 EXHIBITORS



## COMPANY

## BOOTH#

Musco Sports Lighting	532
MyRec.com Recreation Software	204
Nevco Sports, LLC	920
NiceRink	340
<b>Nicholas &amp; Associates</b>	<b>311</b>
Norwalk Concrete Industries	352
NuToys Leisure Products, Inc	420
Omega II Fence Systems	336
Original Watermen - Vista, CA	833
Outdoor-Fit Exercise Systems	327
Paddock Pool Equipment	428
Parkreation Inc.	449
PDRMA	303
Perfect Turf LLC	145
Perkins&Will	638
Perry Weather	409
PFM Asset Management LLC/ IPDLAF+ Class	401
Planning Resources Inc.	424
Playcraft Systems LLC	631
Playground Guardian	806
PMA Financial Network, LLC	219
Productive Parks LLC	632
Products 4 Parks	612
Progressive Business Solutions	321
Pyrotecnico	322
Rain Drop Products	235
Ramuc/Tuff Coat Paint div of MRT	730
RCP SHELTERS, INC	120
RecDesk, LLC	240
Record--A-Hit Entertainment	404
Recreonics, Inc.	421
Reinders	407
Romtec	524
Scharm Floor Covering	230
School Health/Palos Sports	520
SCORE SPORTS	624
Sikich	539
Smart Industry Products	330
Soccer Made In America	309
Sourcewell	719
Spartan Sports Lighting	820
Spear Corporation	639
Speer Financial, Inc.	239
Splashtacular	819
Sport Court Midwest	149
Sportsfields, Inc.	237
Stageline	627
Stalker Sports Floors	706
Starfish Aquatics Institute	243

## COMPANY

## BOOTH#



Stifel Public Finance	925
Studio GC Architecture + Interiors	103
Team REIL Inc.	715
The Davey Tree Expert Company	602
The Pizzo Group	244
The Spargo Group	629
TinyMobileRobots	607
ToolWatch	345
TRIA Architecture, Inc.	521
Triple H Mulch and Firewood LLC	312
Tyler Technologies, Inc.	608
Univar Solutions MiniBulk	314
University of Wisconsin-La Crosse	640
<b>Upland Design Ltd</b>	<b>215</b>
Vermont Systems	531
Visual Image Photography	423
Vortex Aquatic Structures International	619
Water Technology, Inc. (WTI)	538
W.B. Olson Inc.	329
Wight & Company	429
Williams Architects	603
Wintrust Financial Corporation	526
Wold Architects and Engineers	356
<b>WT Group</b>	<b>400</b>
Xplor Recreation	811



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Exhibitors as of September 2022



**JANUARY 25-26, 2024**  
**HYATT REGENCY CHICAGO**  
 Riverside Center, East Tower, Purple Level



EXHIBITOR REGISTRATION

EXHIBITOR LOUNGE

