

2027

JAN
28-30

PRELIMINARY PROGRAM



IAPD/IPRA
**SOARING^{to}
NEW HEIGHTS**
CONFERENCE

IAPD
Illinois Association of Park Districts

ILLINOIS
ipra
PARK & RECREATION ASSOCIATION

WELCOME



WELCOME AND GREETINGS!

Every day, Illinois park districts, forest preserves, conservation districts, recreation agencies and special recreation associations do work that truly matters. From creating places people want to be, to developing programs people count on, and designing experiences people remember ... YOU bring communities together, improve quality of life, and make room for people of all ages and abilities to connect, learn, grow, and thrive.

That work is about meeting today's needs, but it is also about what comes next. Stronger communities. Healthier residents. Better public spaces. New ideas. Future leaders. In other words, the work may happen locally, but the impact reaches much farther.

The IAPD/IPRA Soaring to New Heights Conference brings our industry together to support all of it. Each year, the conference gives us a chance to step away from the day-to-day, look ahead, compare notes, challenge our thinking, and return to our agencies with new ideas and renewed energy. It is where experience meets innovation, where conversations turn into solutions, and where the people who understand this work best come together to make it even better.

The Joint Conference Committee, staff and volunteers have spent the past year building a strong 2027 conference experience. Attendees will find a wide-ranging educational program focused on the opportunities, pressures, and changing expectations facing parks and recreation today, along with plenty of opportunities to connect with colleagues from across Illinois. The conference will also feature an expansive—and sold-out—Exhibit Hall showcasing the latest products, services, technology, and solutions for park districts, forest preserves, conservation districts, recreation agencies and special recreation associations. Industry partners do more than fill the 330 exhibits, they help agencies improve operations, re-imagine facilities, expand programs, and serve their communities more effectively.

This Preliminary 2027 Conference Program offers a first look at the educational sessions, keynote presentations, networking opportunities and special events planned for January. Whether you are a commissioner, elected official, executive, emerging professional, seasoned practitioner or industry partner, there will be opportunities to learn something useful, share what you know and leave with more than you came with.

We are incredibly grateful to the conference volunteers whose knowledge, time and commitment make this event possible. We also thank our speakers, exhibitors, sponsors and partners for sharing their expertise and supporting the park and recreation industry. And most importantly, thank you to the professionals and leaders who attend each year. Your commitment to public service, professional growth and the communities you represent is what keeps our industry moving forward.

Please join us for the 2027 IAPD/IPRA Soaring to New Heights Conference, January 28–30, at the Hyatt Regency Chicago. We look forward to learning, connecting, exchanging a few good ideas and sending everyone home ready to put them to work.

P.S. Follow the IAPD/IPRA Soaring to New Heights Conference on Facebook and LinkedIn for program announcements, speaker information, deadlines and conference updates. You never know—you may even spot yourself in a post.

RACHEL LENZ, CTRS, CPRP
Executive Director
Urbana Park District

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Vice President
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SCHEDULE - AT - A - GLANCE

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27

3:00 pm – 5:00 pm Conference Registration Open

THURSDAY, JANUARY 28

7:00 am – 7:45 am HIIT The Ground Running
 8:00 am – 5:00 pm Conference Registration Open
 8:00 am – 5:00 pm Quiet Room
 9:45 am – 11:00 am Opening Keynote (0.1 CEUs)
 11:00 am – 5:00 pm Grand Opening of the Exhibit Hall
 11:00 am – 12:00 pm Exhibit Hall Dedicated Hour
 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm Conference Workshops* (0.15 CEUs)
 1:00 pm – 1:30 pm Speed Sessions (0.05 CEUs)
 1:45 pm – 2:45 pm General Sessions (0.1 CEUs)
 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm General Sessions (0.1 CEUs)
 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm Exhibit Hall Dedicated Hour
 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm IPRA Section Meetings
 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm Professional Connection
 6:00 pm – 7:15 pm IPRA Conference Kick-Off
 9:00 pm – 11:30 pm Welcome Social featuring The Bluewater Kings

FRIDAY, JANUARY 29

7:00 am – 8:00 am Hustle Up the Hyatt
 7:00 am – 5:00 pm Conference Registration Open
 8:00 am – 5:00 pm Quiet Room
 8:30 am – 9:30 am Conference Sessions (0.1 CEUs)
 9:30 am – 4:00 pm Agency Showcase
 9:00 am – 12:00 pm Exhibit Hall Open
 10:00 am – 11:00 am General Sessions (0.1 CEUs)
 11:00 am – 12:00 pm Exhibit Hall Dedicated Hour
 12:00 pm – 1:45 pm All-Conference Awards Luncheon*
 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm General Sessions (0.1 CEUs)
 1:15 pm – 1:45 pm Speed Sessions (0.05 CEUs)
 1:00 pm – 3:30 pm Exhibit Hall Open
 1:45 pm – 2:45 pm Dessert in the Exhibit Hall*
 1:45 pm – 3:30 pm Dedicated Exhibit Hall Time
 3:30 pm – 4:30 pm General Sessions (0.1 CEUs)
 5:00 pm – 6:30 pm IPRA Annual Business Meeting
 5:00 pm – 6:30 pm Commissioners' Reception
 9:30 pm – 11:00 pm Leadership Reception**

SATURDAY, JANUARY 30

7:00 am – 7:45 am WERQ Dance Fitness
 7:45 am – 11:00 am Conference Registration Open
 8:00 am – 3:00 pm Quiet Room
 9:00 am – 10:15 am Closing Keynote (0.1 CEUs)
 10:45 am – 11:45 am General Sessions (0.1 CEUs)
 12:30 pm – 1:30 pm General Sessions (0.1 CEUs)
 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm General Sessions (0.1 CEUs)
 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm IAPD Annual Business Meeting
 7:00 pm – 10:00 pm Closing Social at the Field Museum*

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Agency Showcase	C4
All-Conference Awards Luncheon*	C4
All-Conference Awards Luncheon Preferred Agency Seating	C4
Closing Social at the Field Museum*	C25
Commissioners' Reception	C5
Conference Exhibitors	C33 – C34
Conference Sessions	C26 – C29
Conference Workshops*	C22 – C23
Continuing Education Units	C5
Continuing Legal Education	C5
Exhibit Hall Information	C6
General Information	C4 – C10
HIIT The Ground Running	C10
Housing Information	C7
Hustle up the Hyatt	C7
IPRA Conference Kick-off Reception	C5
Keynote - Opening Keynote with Michelle Anne Johnson	C21
Keynote - Closing Keynote with Justin Osmond	C30
Meeting Safety and Responsibility	C7
Quiet Room	C10
Registration Information	C31 – C32
Student Events	C9
Welcome Social featuring Bluewater Kings	C24
WERQ Dance Fitness	C10

* Ticketed Event

Event photography provided by JHyde Photography.

* Ticketed Event ** By Invitation Only

GENERAL INFORMATION

ACCESSIBILITY

Meeting Rooms, Parking, Restaurants, Restrooms, Sleeping Rooms:

All are accessible at the Hyatt Regency Chicago and the Swissôtel Chicago. If you need 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 **no later than January 11, 2027**. 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 11, 2027

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 31 or at the time of online registration. There is a \$60 nonrefundable fee (per table) to participate, which must be paid when registering for the conference. **If you plan to invite your legislator(s) to join you at your table(s), 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 11, 2027**, table reservations WILL NOT be accepted, and **no on-site requests will be made.** All tables will be set for twelve people.

Non-reserved tables for open general seating will be noted. 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.



The Agency Showcase is a spirited competition spotlighting bright ideas exhibited by park, 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. First place will be announced at the Awards Luncheon on Friday.

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

- Brochure Series - Print
- Brochure Series - Virtual
- Integrated Photography
- Large Format Marketing
- Logo Design
- Marketing Campaign
- Print Communication - Informational
- Print Communication - Promotional
- Social Media Campaign
- Videography Long Form
- Videography Short Form
- Website
- Written Content

For more information on the Agency Showcase competition, please visit ILparksconference.com.

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Weblinx Inc. - www.weblinx.com

GENERAL INFORMATION

ANNUAL MEETINGS FOR IPRA AND IAPD

The Illinois Park & Recreation Association's (IPRA) Annual Meeting will be held on Friday, January 29 at 5:00 pm. The Illinois Association of Park Districts' (IAPD) Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, January 30 at 3:30 pm.

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

IPRA CONFERENCE KICK-OFF: Glow Mode: Amped Up!

Attention, IPRA members - it's time to switch on Glow Mode and get Amped Up!

Join us Thursday, January 28, at 6:00 p.m. for our third annual IPRA Conference Kickoff Reception. Wear your brightest neon colors and get ready to network with fellow conference attendees while enjoying complimentary bites and beverages. We'll also have fun neon giveaways to help keep the energy glowing all night! IPRA Board members and staff will be there to celebrate an amazing first day of conference with you.

COMMISSIONERS' RECEPTION

Attention all IAPD members!

Please join us on Friday, January 29 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!

CEUs and CLEs are and fully digital through the conference mobile app. Attendees are required to attend entire sessions and complete session evaluation to obtain CEU credit.

You will need to ensure that you provide a valid email 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 EDUCATION UNITS (CEUs)

Attendees will be able to earn up to 1.3 Continuing Education Units (CEUs) by attending a variety of education sessions. CEUs can be earned based on the number of sessions attended during the Soaring to New Heights Conference.

- Concurrent sessions, Opening and Closing Keynote Sessions scheduled for 60 minutes award 0.1 CEUs.
- Conference workshops scheduled for 90 minutes award 0.15 CEUs.
- Conference speed sessions scheduled for 30 minutes award 0.05 CEUs.
- No additional CEU fees for Thursday, Friday, and Saturday sessions apply.
- CEU tracking is available on-demand via the mobile app. No hard copies will be distributed. Official CEU Transcript will be sent via email post-conference.

CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION (CLE)

The CLE credit is an educational credit 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 \$60 plus registration
- (4) CLE credits are \$80 plus registration
- (7) CLE credits are \$140 plus registration
- (8) CLE credits are \$160 plus registration

Attorneys will receive their CLE attendance receipts within two weeks of the conclusion of the conference.



GENERAL INFORMATION

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 with 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 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 (PNRMS)
300 – 399: Administration and Finance (A&F)
400 – 499: Recreation (REC)
500 – 599: Therapeutic Recreation (TR)
600 – 699: Facilities Management (FM)
900 – 999: Communications and Marketing (C&M)
1000 – 1099: Diversity (DIV)
1100 – 1199: Forest Preserve/Conservation (FP/CONSV)

EXCEPTIONAL WORKPLACE AWARD 2027

The Exceptional Workplace Award was developed to help agencies identify and achieve a high level of health and wellness for their employees while recognizing their commitment to creating an exceptional workplace

To apply for the Exceptional Workplace Award, applicants must complete an online application consisting of 48 questions. The application fee is \$70, and all applications must be submitted by November 9, 2026.

Those that meet the award criteria will be recognized as an IPRA Exceptional Workplace for five years. After the five-year recognition period, recipients may re-apply to maintain their Exceptional Workplace status.

If you have questions about the Exceptional Workplace Award, please contact: Anna Olas, Northbrook Park District, aolas@nbparks.org.

EXHIBIT HALL

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

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 the largest exhibition of any state park and recreation conference in the country. Be sure to visit!

EXHIBIT HALL HOURS

Thursday, January 28:

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

Friday, January 29:

9:00 am – 12:00 pm
11:00 am – 12:00 pm (*Dedicated Hour*)
1:00 pm – 3:30 pm
1:45 pm – 2:45 pm (*Dessert Reception and Dedicated Hour*)
1:45 pm - 3:30 pm (*Dedicated Time*)



HOUSING INFORMATION

Hyatt Regency Chicago (Host)

151 E. Wacker Drive
Chicago, Illinois 60601

Reservations 312-565-1234 Select option 1 for Reservations.
Group Code Refer to the group name IAPD/IPRA and group code **G-ZIAP** when making a reservation by phone.

Rates \$135 Single/Double; \$145 Triple; \$155 Quad

Note: Upgrade surcharges may apply to guarantee a specific room type.

Swissôtel Chicago (Overflow)

323 E. Wacker Drive
Chicago, Illinois 60601

Reservations 800-637-9477
Group Code Refer to the group code **IAPD/IPRA Soaring to New Heights** when making a reservation by phone.

Rates \$135 Single/Double; \$165 Triple; \$195 Quad

Note: Upgrade surcharges may apply to guarantee a specific room type.

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

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

- The cut-off date for reservations for the Hyatt is January 4, 2027. The cut-off for the Swissotel is January 6, 2027. 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 14, 2026. After this date there will be no refunds for cancelled rooms.

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

HUSTLE UP THE HYATT

CLIMB to New Heights while you are Soaring to New Heights!

Join IAPD and IPRA for the first Hustle Up The Hyatt stair climb taking place during conference on the morning of Friday, January 29! Proceeds benefit Friends of Illinois Parks and the Illinois Park and Recreation Foundation.

Scan the QR Code for more information about this exciting event!



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.

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.

GENERAL INFORMATION

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 12/31/26. **IPRA memberships not renewed for 2027 will be charged 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.**)

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, or the Keynote General Session.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Early Bird Registration Deadline Friday, December 18, 2026

Registration Methods:

- Online at ILparksconference.com; online registration **must be** accompanied by credit card for payment.

Registration Information:

- **IAPD/IPRA will not invoice agencies or individuals for conference registrations.**
- Each registered delegate will receive their name badge and event tickets 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:

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| • Wednesday, January 27 | 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm |
| • Thursday, January 28 | 8:00 am – 5:00 pm |
| • Friday, January 29 | 7:00 am – 5:00 pm |
| • Saturday, January 30 | 7:45 am – 11:00 am |

Registration Questions?

Alan Howard at ahoward@ilparks.org.



SILENT AUCTION

The Illinois Park and 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 hold 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 Lacy Marinenko at lacym@vhparkdistrict.org.

SPECIAL DIETS/ACCOMMODATIONS

Attendees with allergies should indicate their needs when registering. If you have questions or need additional assistance, please contact Cindy Galvan at Cindy@ilipra.org by January 11, 2027.

GENERAL INFORMATION

SPOUSE/GUEST PROGRAM AND REGISTRATION

All spouses or guests must register in order to participate in the conference and visit the exhibit hall. **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, 30-minute speed sessions, and the Keynote Sessions. Tickets for the All-Conference Awards Luncheon and the Saturday evening Closing Social will be available for purchase. See page C31 for registration.

STUDENT EVENTS

Professional Connection

THURSDAY, JANUARY 28 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Don't 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 is a great opportunity to learn about current and upcoming internships. Everyone who attends is invited to the inaugural IPRA Conference Kick-Off for complimentary drinks. To register, see page 31 of the registration form.

Mock Interviews/Resume Review

FRIDAY, JANUARY 29 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 29 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. Online or see page 31 of the registration form.

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

Volunteering at conference offers numerous benefits, including the opportunity to expand your professional network by connecting with industry leaders and peers. It provides a platform to enhance your skills, gain hands on experience, and demonstrate leadership qualities. By contributing your time, not only do you become an important part of the conference team, but you also gain visibility within your industry, which can lead to future career opportunities and personal development.

We need your help! The conference team is recruiting volunteers for registration, session moderators, the awards luncheon, and the dessert reception in the Expo Hall. Upon completion of on-line registration, conference delegates will have the option to sign up for several different opportunities.

QUESTIONS?:

Registration: Alan Howard, ahoward@ilparks.org

Moderator: Kim Laper, kim@ilipra.org

Luncheon, Expo Hall:: Katie Burgess, katieb@bataviaparks.org



GENERAL INFORMATION

HIIT THE GROUND RUNNING

Thursday, January 28, 2027

Start your conference morning feeling energized and ready to go! This 45-minute HIIT class combines high-intensity intervals with short recovery periods to help you burn calories, build strength, and boost your energy for the day ahead. All fitness levels are welcome, and modifications will be provided. Please bring your own exercise mat, towel, and water. Pre-registrations and waivers are required.

Instructor: Stacey Lim, Glen Ellyn Park District

WERQ DANCE FITNESS

Thursday, January 28, 2027

WERQ Fitness is the wildly addictive cardio dance class based on today's hottest pop and hip hop music. The workout is nonstop with repetitive athletic moves and fresh dance steps, so you get the best sweat - all while challenging your inner diva! Please wear comfortable clothes, gym shoes, and get ready to WERQ!

Instructor: Marie Klaus, Downers Grove Park District

Both fitness sessions are free but pre-registration is required and you must check box for waiver.

QUIET ROOM

The Quiet Room is intended as a quiet, calm space where conference attendees can spend time away from noise, lights, and other stimuli of conference spaces. The quiet room is not available for conversations or meetings.



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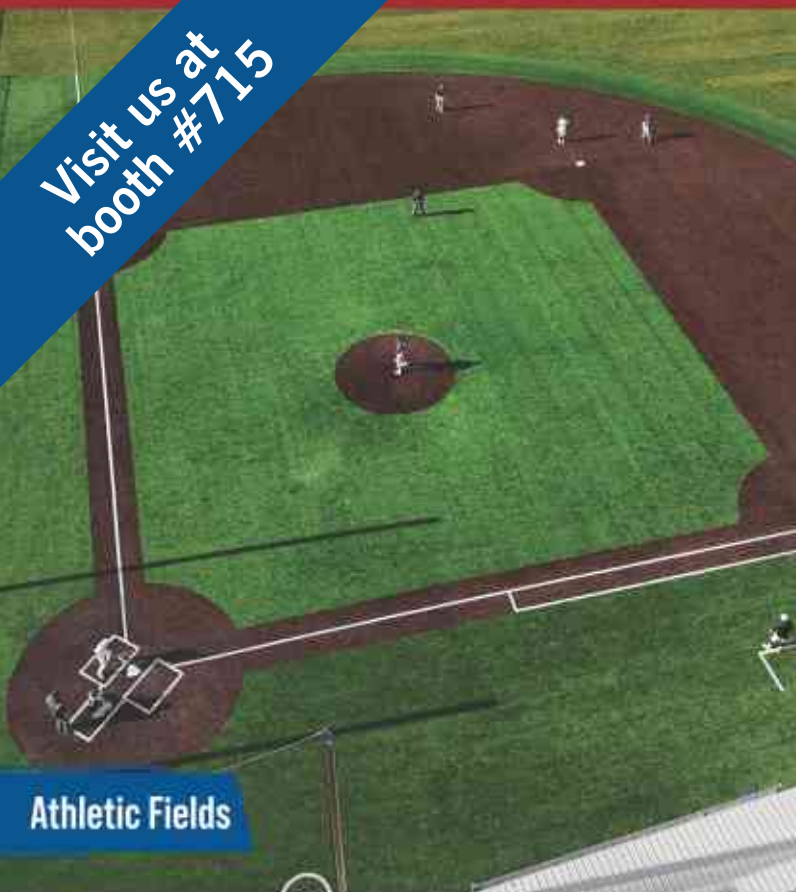
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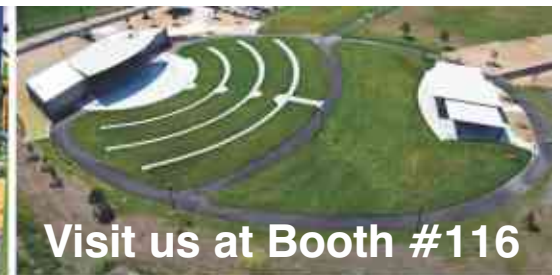
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BUILDING

COMMUNITIES

SINCE 1978

Opening Keynote with Michelle Anne Johnson

Thursday, January 28, 2027

9:45 am – 11:00 am

Grand Ballroom, East Tower, Gold/Ballroom Level

CEUs: 0.1



About the Speaker

Michelle Anne Johnson brings more than 20 years of experience as a Hollywood actress, workshop facilitator, and executive coach. Known as The Speech Queen, she has appeared on shows including Friends, Bones, CSI: Miami, Modern Family, and NCIS, and has coached leaders and teams at organizations such as Lowe's, Deloitte, AbbVie, Amex, Cisco, Genentech, and KPMG.

With a background in psychology and business, Michelle helps audiences communicate with clarity, navigate high-stakes conversations, and lead with authenticity and confidence. Attendees leave with practical tools and renewed inspiration to strengthen their voice, purpose, and impact.

The Secret to Powerful Presence is Personal Power

Professionals in parks, recreation, special recreation, and conservation are being asked to do more than ever: lead diverse teams, engage communities, navigate public expectations, and communicate clearly across departments, boards, and the public. These roles demand not just technical expertise, but influence, clarity, and presence. Whether someone is leading a recreation team, facilitating a community program, presenting to a board, or engaging with residents, their most valuable skill is influence — yet most professionals are taught to present information, not to embody presence. In this interactive and practical keynote, Michelle Anne Johnson draws on her 20-year Hollywood acting career and extensive leadership coaching experience to teach attendees how to build powerful presence through the building blocks of personal power: authenticity, confidence, and purpose. These internal skills translate directly into stronger communication, clearer leadership, and deeper community impact. Designed to uplift and energize, the session blends storytelling, humor, and real-time coaching demonstrations to create an emotional experience that inspires action long after the conference ends. Participants don't just hear new ideas — they experience a shift in how they show up, communicate, and lead.

Learning Objectives

- Strengthen communication and trust across communities and teams.
- Lead with confidence and purpose in high-pressure or high-visibility situations.
- Apply practical tools to elevate daily leadership and overcome limiting beliefs.

CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS

12:00 pm – 1:30 pm

All conference workshops award 0.15 CEUs. Pre-registration is required. Register online at ILparksconference.com or see page 32.

AI for Leaders Who Don't Speak Tech: A Practical Workshop

Most AI training for government entities is either too vague to be useful or too technical to be relevant. This fun, hands-on workshop is different. Joelle Kaufman has worked with AI for nearly 30 years — from negotiating the industry's first seven-figure AI deal in 1996 to helping leaders integrate AI into daily workflows. She understands that parks and recreation leaders don't need another lecture about “the future of work”; they need practical tools they can use on Monday.

Participants will practice using free or low-cost AI tools for real tasks such as drafting grant language, community communications, and marketing content. Joelle also shows leaders how to prompt AI to write in their own voice and agency tone, spot common failure modes like hallucinations and sycophancy, and decide which choices AI can support versus which must remain human.

The session connects technology to leadership: how to create responsible AI guidelines, bring skeptical teams along, and build trust through change. Drawing on her signature Happiness Tripwires, Joelle helps participants make AI adoption practical, ethical, and human-centered. Attendees leave with a personal AI action plan, a starter policy framework, and confidence to lead the AI conversation in their organization.

Learning Objectives:

Participants will be able to ...

1. Use AI tools to complete at least three common parks and recreation tasks— grant writing, community communications, and marketing — during the workshop session.
2. Identify and correct AI's most common failure modes — hallucinations and sycophancy — and evaluate which decisions benefit from AI assistance versus human judgment.
3. Draft the foundation of a responsible, ethical AI use policy appropriate for a public-sector parks and recreation agency.

Speaker: Joelle Kaufman, CEO & Executive Coach, GTMFlow

Beyond the Inbox: Smarter Ways to Work with Microsoft Outlook and Gmail

In this engaging, high-energy workshop, Randy Dean, MBA—known as The E-mail Sanity Expert®—shares practical strategies to help busy professionals work more efficiently using the Microsoft tools they rely on every day. Through live demonstrations, Randy addresses common productivity challenges, including managing e-mail overload, organizing multiple projects and tasks, staying focused amid constant interruptions, reducing mental and workspace clutter, tracking commitments, and making better use of calendars and contacts.

Participants will learn practical techniques for getting more out of Microsoft Outlook's core features—including E-mail, Calendar, Contacts, Tasks, and Notes—to create a more organized, productive workday. Attendees who use Google Workspace will also gain comparable strategies they can apply to Gmail and related tools.

Rather than relying on slide presentations alone, Randy demonstrates these techniques in live, working versions of the software, creating an interactive learning experience filled with real-world examples and audience questions. Participants will leave with immediately applicable tips and proven workflows that can help them work smarter, stay organized, and accomplish more with the technology they already use every day. Brief references to emerging productivity features, including AI-assisted capabilities available within common workplace software, may be incorporated where appropriate.

Learning Objectives:

Participants will be able to ...

1. Have a strategy for more effectively dealing with e-mail/input overload, start-of day routines, and unexpected interruptions to help avoid unnecessary urgency and lost focus.
2. Use popular functions in your calendar to schedule and meet commitments, while also building a smart, prioritized daily task list for focused productivity and how to quickly capture new contacts.
3. Explain and effectively utilize tips and techniques for using all five key MS Outlook and/or Google Workspace functions: E-mail, Calendar, Contacts, Tasks, and Notes.

Speaker: Randell Dean The E-mail Sanity Expert, Randall Dean Consulting & Training, LLC

Communicate to De-Escalate: Managing Conversations with a Polarized Public

It seems society is more divided than ever, and that tumult presents itself in our daily lives. As stewards of a public agency, there is often an expectation to “keep the peace”, even in the midst of dealing with difficult personalities. Sometimes, people who feel “wronged” are intent on venting their anger and they direct that towards staff. This can be challenging when one feels personally attacked for something that they may or may not have control over.

This interactive, practical workshop presented by the National Conflict Resolution Center, will leave participants feeling celebrated for the ways they already successfully work with the public, while also adding new strategies to help with challenging situations. A national education partner with NRPA, NCRC has over 5 years of partnering with Parks & Recreation departments all over the US and will pull in real-life examples to work through. Participants are encouraged to ask questions, dialogue about challenges, and bring their own experience into the room. The goal is for everyone to leave feeling more equipped to handle those difficult conversations in effective and efficient ways!

Learning Objectives:

Participants will be able to ...

1. See beyond the "complaint" to the underlying need of the other person.
2. Think about how to respectfully respond to the emotions of others to achieve better outcomes.
3. Utilize an interest-based approach for managing conflicts.

Speaker: Ashley Virtue, Director of External Relations, National Conflict Resolution Center (NCRC)

Feedback That Sticks, Without the Sting

There's an old saying that "feedback is the breakfast of champions"—and yet many people find giving and receiving feedback to be the hardest task regularly on their to-do list.

This interactive workshop transforms how you approach feedback—whether you're giving it to a direct report, a peer, a commissioner, or a community member. You'll learn to distinguish feedback from criticism and master the "find it, flip it, elevate it" process and other tools that reduce defensiveness, increase receptivity, and make starting feedback conversations easier.

We'll explore workplace "drama" cycles and learn to interrupt victim thinking and rescuing responses to create more empowered teams. These shifts help us give feedback well and also help us receive it gracefully so we can identify opportunities to learn and contribute to a culture of growth and development.

Through real-world application, park district specific examples, and interactive problem-solving, even reluctant leaders will feel equipped to offer feedback that strengthens relationships and improve outcomes.

Learning Objectives:

Participants will be able to ...

1. Distinguish between feedback and criticism and deliver feedback that reduces defensiveness and increases receptivity.
2. Identify and interrupt workplace drama cycles to move toward empowered team communication.
3. Leave with go-to feedback openers that lower the stakes of starting the conversation—so hesitation never gets in the way of an important message.

Speaker: Amber Johnson, CEO, Bright Threads Leadership

Mastering Your Memory

The human brain possesses an incredible amount of power to store and recall information. Unfortunately most people are never taught how to fully access this ability. In this fun and highly engaging training, attendees will learn unique and exciting methods to increase their memory skills to extraordinary levels.

Most importantly, this program teaches participants how to use these concepts in daily life. Instantly recalling people's names, giving presentations without notes, increased focus, and improved mental organization are just a few of the practical benefits of this intriguing program. Tyler delivers this session in an energetic fashion with no notes or PowerPoint to encourage maximum audience participation in order to impart as much value as possible to all who attend.

Learning Objectives:

Participants will be able to ...

1. Learn 3 actionable techniques to instantly recall names.
2. Discover new methods to recall lists in order.
3. Discover 4 habits to improve cognitive function and focus.

Speaker: Tyler Enslin, Professional Speaker/Facilitator, Tyler Enslin International, Inc.

What's Your Default? Designing How You Lead

Leadership often happens on instinct. Under pressure, stress, deadlines, and constant decision-making, leaders naturally default to familiar habits, reactions, communication styles, and behaviors. While defaults are not inherently bad, they can unintentionally shape team culture, communication, trust, and performance in ways leaders may not fully recognize.

Through practical reflection activities, leadership scenarios, conversation strategies, and research-backed insights from behavioral science and psychology, participants will explore how habits, assumptions, biases, and automatic responses influence workplace relationships and team dynamics. Participants will explore the power of developmental conversations, value-forward communication, and belonging-centered leadership practices that strengthen trust, accountability, and engagement. Attendees will leave with practical strategies to better align their leadership intentions with the actual experience they create for others.

Learning Objectives:

Participants will be able to ...

1. Participants will assess personal leadership defaults that may be impacting their leadership.
2. Participants will practice developmental leadership conversations using curiosity-driven questions to challenge their current default leadership style.
3. Participants will participate in value-forward communication, and reflective listening techniques to better support team growth and performance.

Speaker: Annie Frisoli, Founder & CEO, Creating Community, LLC

WELCOME SOCIAL



Bluewater Kings Band

The Bluewater Kings are live music experts and party starters! An award-winning band specializing in high-energy music. Bluewater Kings infuse every event with energy and fun and pride themselves on filling dance floors.

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Trade your conference shoes for flip-flop vibes and join us for a tropical welcome reception! Dress in your favorite hawaiian shirt and join us for island-inspired fun and laid-back networking as we kick off the conference in paradise.

Thursday, January 28

9:00 pm – 11:30 pm

**Hyatt Regency Chicago,
Grand Ballroom,
East Tower/Gold Level**



This is not a ticketed event... everyone is welcome!
Get to know your fellow conference attendees in a relaxed atmosphere!



FIELD. MUSEUM

The Field Museum of Natural History is a private–public natural history museum in Chicago, Illinois, and is one of the largest such museums in the world. The museum is popular for the size and quality of its educational and scientific programs, as well as its extensive scientific specimen and artifact collections.



Saturday, January 30
7:00 pm – 10:00 pm

The Field Museum
1400 S. Lake Shore Dr.

THIS IS A TICKETED EVENT!

Ticket includes:

- Round trip shuttle service from the Hyatt Regency Chicago.
- Admission to The Field Museum.
- Dinner buffet with unlimited beer, wine, and soft drinks.
- A great night of networking and galleries to explore.

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 \$145 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 for session dates and times.

BOARDMANSHIP

General Sessions

- Boardmanship Essentials: Basics and Best Practices
- Handling Debate on Motions at Meetings Using Robert's Rules and the Open Meeting Act
- Responding to a Majority Shift of the Park Board
- Planning for the Future: A Board Member's Role in Strategic and Master Planning
- Practical Strategies for Difficult Meetings Under the Open Meetings Act and Robert's Rules of Order
- The Ethics Scorecard: Keeping Public Trust in the Green
- The Hidden Question of Board Service: Am I Doing "Enough?"
- Understanding Your Tax-Capped Levy
- When Disruption is a Blood Sport: Governance and Leadership in Difficult Public Environments
- Parks & Reconomics©: Fiscal Stewardship, Public Value, and the Courage to Lead in an Era of Limits - Part I
- Parks & Reconomics©: Fiscal Stewardship, Public Value, and the Courage to Lead in an Era of Limits - Part II
- Parks & Reconomics©: Fiscal Stewardship, Public Value, and the Courage to Lead in an Era of Limits - Part III

DIVERSITY

General Sessions

- Advancing Equity in Parks Planning: A Case Study of Activate ATL Parks and Recreation Master Plan
- Beyond the Headlines: Fostering Inclusion and Belonging in Times of Change
- From Celebration to Connection
- Hispanic Professionals in Parks and Recreation
- Living and Working with Autism: An Insider's Crash Course to ASD
- Nothing About Us Without Us: Designing Play with Disability Voices
- The Privilege of Privilege
- The Work Beyond Us: Navigating Identity and Voice Through A Cultural Lens

Speed Sessions

- Beyond Accommodation: Building a Culture of Inclusion at Wheaton Park District
- More Than Games: Using Staff Tournaments to Build Interdepartmental Collaboration

FACILITIES

General Sessions

- ADA Jeopardy! Testing Your Access IQ!
- Applying Lessons from 100 Aquatic Risk Assessments
- Aquatics Committee Roundtable
- Designing, Operating & Maintaining a Multi-Generational Recreation Center
- Everything's for Rent
- Nature Centers: It's Not a Building. It's an Experience.
- Preventative vs. Reactive Maintenance: Optimizing Your Park Maintenance Resources
- Real Estate 101
- Tech 4 Rec
- The Construction Process for Park Projects
- The Power of Collaboration: Designing Winning Recreation Feasibility Study Teams
- The Critical Middle: Empowering PT Supervisors for Organizational Success
- Zoning 101: How to go through Zoning Approval?

Speed Sessions

- Introduction to GIS for Park Asset Management
- Your Skatepark Can Be Adaptive Inclusive

FINANCE/INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

General Sessions

- A Park District's Investing Playbook for Uncertain Rate Paths
- AI, Cybersecurity, and Technology Governance: What Park District Leaders Need to Prepare for Next
- Bonds 101: What to Know Before You Borrow
- Crunching Numbers, Growing Communities
- From Playgrounds to Prompting: Using AI to Build Better Tools and Better Culture
- Grant Writing 101
- Implementing Fiscal Sustainability at Your Park District: From Theory to Practice
- Mission vs. Margin: Rethinking Cost Recovery in Recreation
- Park District Finance - It's Not Intuitive
- Parks, People & Pennies: Navigating Economic Challenges with Confidence
- Residents and Visitors: Seeing Who Your Parks Actually Serve

Speed Sessions

- Mapping the Quantum Readiness Gap in Public Infrastructure

FOREST PRESERVE & CONSERVATION

General Sessions

- Collections, Community, and Culture: Museum Leadership Perspectives
- Engaging Seniors Through Environmental Volunteerism
- Fabulous Fox! National Water Trail
- Forest Preserve & Conservation Roundtable
- Forest Preserve Campfire
- From Rooftop Hives to Community Impact: Our Pollinator Journey
- From Summer Seasonal to Superhero!
- Growing Pains & Growing Gains of Reimagining Fan-Favorite Programs
- Nature Rx: Engaging Communities through Nature-Based Health and Wellness Activities

Speed Sessions

- Burn Prairies, Not Bridges: Building Trust Through Prescribed Fire
- Participating in Implementation of the Illinois Wildlife Action Plan

GOVERNANCE & LEGAL

General Sessions

- 2027 Employment Law Update: What You Need to Know
- Can We and Should We Have Video Surveillance in Park and Facilities?
- First Amendment Audits
- Introduction to Intellectual Property
- Kid Care Programs and What I Did in Springfield Last Spring
- Large Event, Festival and Parade Security
- Legal/Legislative - Part I
- Legal/Legislative - Part II
- Operating in the New Age of Transparency — When OMA and FOIA are Weaponized Against You
- Regulating Controversial Park Activities
- Taking Control of Teen Takeovers
- Understanding Social Media: Facebook? Instagram? Twitter?
- The Role of Parks and Recreation in Successful Planning and Economic Development

SESSIONS AT-A-GLANCE

Please visit ilparksconference.com for session dates and times.

HR/ RISK MANAGEMENT

General Sessions

- Care, Chaos, and Coffee: A Survival Guide for the Sandwich Generation
- Creating Healthy Boundaries at Home and Work
- I Need the Information, and I Need It Now!
- Navigating HR Challenges: An Interactive Roundtable
- Park & Recreation Compensation Survey: Turning Data into Action
- Partners in Prevention: Cultivating Relationships Between Park Districts and Law Enforcement
- Start Before They Retire: Right-Sized Succession Planning for Our Agencies
- The Cost of Care: Moving Beyond Renewal in Managing Rising Health Benefit Costs

- Together We Thrive: Simple Steps for Building a Better Team
- Understanding the Pathway to Violence: Your Role in Preventing Targeting Attacks
- Your Benefits Road Map — Understanding Your IMRF Benefits

Speed Sessions

- Read the Room: Recognizing When Staff Don't Feel Safe to Speak Up

LEADERSHIP/MANAGEMENT

General Sessions

- Above the Line, Below the Line: Ethical Leadership in Public Service
- Agency State Accreditation — A Blueprint to Excellence
- An A-to-Z Guide for the Incoming or Entry Level Supervisor
- Are You Working Smarter? How Illinois Park & Rec Pros Use Technology to Transform their Departments
- Focus, Alignment, Results: The Power of OKRs in Parks & Recreation
- From Part-Time to All-In: Building Fully Engaged Teams
- How to Move into Management: Developing the Next Generation of Park and Recreation Leaders
- Making Moves Through Motivation
- Mastering the Art of Persuasion — From Team Huddle to Town Hall
- Operational Excellence Meets Human-Centered Culture
- Q&A is the Best Way to National Certification Exam Success
- Supporting Employee Career Advancement Plans for Everyone's Benefit
- The Boredom Advantage: What Parks and Recreation Can Teach Us About Time, Attention and Living Well

- The Secret Superpower of Great Leaders: The P.O.W.E.R. of Listening
- What Can We Say? Legal and Communications Strategy During Public Issues
- Why Change Efforts Fail: Aligning Vision, Systems, & Communication

Speed Sessions

- Find Your Place with IPRA
- From Peer to Leader: Stepping into Your Leadership Identity
- The Leadership Exchange: Share Resources. Discover More.
- When Things Don't Go Your Way

MARKETING & COMMUNICATION

General Sessions

- Accessible by Design: How SSSRA Built a Website That Works for the People They Serve
- Beyond SEO: How AEO and GEO Are Transforming the Future of Digital Marketing
- Beyond the Hype: Practical AI Guardrails for Your District's Public Reputation
- Building Your Park District Brand Strategy from the Ground Up
- Fan-First Marketing: Lessons from the Savannah Bananas
- How to Power Events Through Strategic Sponsorships
- Influence in Action: Park District Case Studies in Creator Marketing
- Marketing and Communications Roundtable

- Roadmap to Your Agency's Anniversary
- Stop Chasing, Start Converting, Build Sponsorship That Lasts

Speed Sessions

- The Issues Management Toolbelt: What to Gather Before You Need It
- The Power of LinkedIn for Parks & Rec Professionals

PARKS & NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

General Sessions

- Contracting for Rookies
- Inspecting Playgrounds Like a Pro: Real World Wins with Documentation and AI
- Is Your Park Recreationally Accessible?
- New Playgrounds and Parks: Park Professional versus Parent Viewpoint
- Parks after Dark: Understanding the Nocturnal Life of Parks, and How to Plan and Manage for It
- Slam Dunk: Fast Breaking Capital Planning & All-Star Collaboration
- Solar and Green Energy Options
- The Triple Planetary Crisis: How Connecting our Parks Can Save the Natural World

- Why Lake Water Quality Matters for Park Districts

Speed Sessions

- A Case Study on Building a Parks Memorial Inventory from Scratch
- Park Assessment Standards: From Scores to Strategic Decisions

RECREATION

General Sessions

- Analog Camp in a Digital Age
- Beyond the Hype: Practical AI for Parks and Recreation Staff
- Connected and Committed: The Secret to Staff Buy-In That Lasts
- Cultural Arts Committee Roundtable
- DCFS: Fact, Fiction, and Things We Learned the Hard Way
- Early Childhood Roundtable
- Embracing Life One Step at a Time Through Line Dancing: Take Two
- From Bingo to Bucket Lists: The Future of Senior Programming in Parks and Recreation
- From Blank Page to a Plethora of Programs
- From Stage to Staff Meeting: Arts Professionals in Recreation
- No Nature Center? No Problem! Building Meaningful Nature Programs at Any Agency
- Not Just Programs, Prescriptions: Recreation as Community Health
- Pollinators Start with Plants: Connecting Kids to Nature Through Food

- Stronger Together: Leveraging Municipal Partnerships to Deliver Community Events and Programs
- The League Support Blueprint: Managing Coaches, Funding, and Field Allocation
- Undercover Superhero: Movement is our Superpower!
- Volunteer Coaches: Quality vs Quantity
- Why Teens Aren't Showing Up: And What Recreation Can Do About It

Speed Sessions

- Get with the Flow
- Summer Succession

THERAPEUTIC RECREATION

General Sessions

- Building Bridges: Partnering with Families for Successful Disability Inclusion
- Disability Inclusion Includes ALL Staff: Strategies for Getting Your Team On Board
- Fast Minds at Work: Thriving with ADHD Teammates
- No Gym? No Problem!
- Partners in Possibility: How Special Education and Therapeutic Recreation Transform Success
- The Future of Inclusion: A Shared Responsibility
- Using the Common Denominator Theory to Assess Behavior in Your Recreation Programs

- Why Do They Do That? Could it Be Me?

Speed Sessions

- Beyond the Paintbrush: Art Experiences for Everybody and Every Ability
- Elevating Adult Day Programs: Scheduling, Partnerships, and Practical Tips

Closing Keynote with Justin Osmond

Saturday, January 30, 2027

9:00 am – 10:15 am

Grand Ballroom, East Tower, Gold/Ballroom Level

CEUs: 0.1



About the Speaker

Born into the world-renowned Osmond musical family, Justin Osmond brings warmth, humor, and practical inspiration to every keynote. Born with severe-to-profound hearing loss and other health challenges, he shares personal stories, music, and lessons from his “High Adventure” journey to encourage perseverance and positive action.

Justin helps audiences build resilience, adapt to change, and focus on strengths rather than limitations. Attendees leave with simple strategies for overcoming everyday obstacles, strengthening determination, and creating a renewed action plan for personal and professional growth.

Don't Limit Your Challenges... Challenge Your Limits!

Justin Osmond delivers an uplifting and memorable keynote that challenges attendees to see obstacles in a new way and embrace the possibilities that come with growth and change. Drawing from his experiences growing up in the renowned Osmond family and overcoming a severe hearing loss, he shares an inspiring message of perseverance, resilience, and personal transformation. Through heartfelt stories, humor, music, and real-life lessons, Osmond encourages audiences to move beyond perceived limitations, discover their strengths, and approach life's challenges with renewed confidence and purpose.

With energy, authenticity, and a powerful message of hope, Osmond provides practical strategies for staying motivated, building healthy habits, and maintaining a positive mindset when facing adversity. Attendees will leave feeling inspired, empowered, and ready to take action in both their personal and professional lives. His keynote is a reminder that challenges do not have to define a person's future and that, with determination and the right attitude, extraordinary things are possible.

Learning Objectives

- Describe strategies to motivate individuals to focus on strengths rather than limitations.
- List strategies that will influence the individual with their individual challenges in maintaining targeted skills over time.
- Help all attendees walk away feeling rejuvenated as though they can create a new action plan to achieve their goals and advance their personal and professional lives.



REGISTRATION INFORMATION

	EARLY (BY 12/18/26)		REGULAR (12/19/26 - ON-SITE)		
PACKAGE	MEMBER	NON-MEMBER	MEMBER	NON-MEMBER	
Full	\$420	\$755	\$500	\$915	
No Frills	\$355	\$625	\$445	\$810	
Thursday Only	\$175	\$295	\$195	\$335	
Friday Only	\$315	\$545	\$350	\$625	
Saturday Only	\$335	\$590	\$370	\$665	
Student	\$170	\$275	\$170	\$275	
Retiree	\$205	\$435	\$240	\$520	
Guest/Spouse	\$205	\$210	\$235	\$240	
Workshop Tickets	\$95	\$170			
A LA CARTE TICKET OPTIONS					
• Friday, Awards Luncheon Ticket (includes one (1) dessert ticket) • Friday, Dessert Ticket (dessert served in the Exhibit Hall immediately following the luncheon) • Friday, Awards Luncheon Preferred Agency Seating (non-refundable fee) - Specify preferred agency table OR preferred legislative table (if you will be inviting a legislator to join your agency). • Saturday, Closing Social Ticket - Field Museum - Adult • Saturday, Closing Social Ticket - Field Museum - Child • CLE Credit Packages (3=\$60; 4=\$80; 7=\$140; 8=\$160) ARDC# _____ • Thursday Morning HIIT The Ground Running (7:00am - 7:45am) • Saturday Morning WERQ Dance Fitness (7:00am - 7:45am)				☐ \$90 x _____ \$ _____ ☐ \$25 x _____ \$ _____ ☐ \$60 x _____ \$ _____ ☐ Agency ☐ Legislative ☐ \$145 \$ _____ ☐ \$65 x _____ \$ _____ ☐ \$65 ☐ \$80 ☐ \$140 ☐ \$160 ☐ FREE ☐ FREE	

SPECIAL EVENT REGISTRATION (Space is limited - REGISTER EARLY!)

Professional Connection: Thursday, January 28, 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm

PCS	Professional Connection – Student	FREE
PCP	Professional Connection – Professional	FREE
Mock Interviews/Resume Review: Friday, January 29, 10:00 am		
MIS	Mock Interviews/Resume Review – Student	FREE
MIP	Mock Interviews/Resume Review – Professional	FREE



IMPORTANT REGISTRATION INFORMATION

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

* Workshops not included and are available for an additional fee.

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

*** 30 and 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 – Friday 30-minute speed sessions, Thursday – Saturday 60-minute sessions, Welcome Social, admission to the Exhibit Hall, Opening & Closing Keynotes, and Closing Social Ticket.

NO FRILLS – Includes Thursday – Friday 30-minute speed sessions, Thursday – Saturday 60-minute sessions, Opening & Closing Keynotes, admission to the Exhibit Hall, and Welcome Social.

THURSDAY ONLY – Includes Thursday 30-minute speed sessions, 60-minute sessions, admission to the Exhibit Hall, Opening Keynote, and Welcome Social.

FRIDAY ONLY – Includes Friday 30-minute speed sessions, 60-minute sessions and admission to the Exhibit Hall.

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

STUDENTS/RETIREEES – Includes Thursday – Friday 30-minute speed sessions, Thursday – Saturday 60-minute sessions, admission to the Exhibit Hall, Welcome Social, and Opening & Closing Keynotes.

GUEST/SPOUSE/FAMILY/FRIEND (Must not be affiliated with or employed by any park and recreation agency.) Includes Thursday – Friday 30-minute speed sessions, Thursday – Saturday 60-minute sessions, admission to the Exhibit Hall, Welcome Social, and Opening & Closing Keynotes.

CANCELLATION POLICY:

Cancellations must be submitted in writing to ahoward@ilparks.org and received **by December 23, 2026** in order to receive a refund less a \$25 processing fee. **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.
- All pre-registrations must be submitted electronically via the ilparksconference.com website and submitted with credit card payment (Visa/Mastercard/Discover).
- Please complete a separate registration form for each individual registering.
- **The deadline for Preferred Agency Seating is JANUARY 11, 2027.** No preferred seating will be taken on-site.

QUESTIONS:

- Email your registration questions to ahoward@ilparks.org. Be sure to reference the IAPD/IPRA conference.



IAPD
Illinois Association of Park Districts

ILLINOIS
ipra
PARK & RECREATION ASSOCIATION

2027 EXHIBITORS

Exhibitors as of September 2026

COMPANY	BOOTH#	COMPANY	BOOTH#
A&A Paving-Concrete	728	Ellis and Associates	426
Acuity Brands Ltg - Holophane, AEL, Cyclone	732	Engineering Resource Associates	215
Agents of Discovery	628	Entertainment Concepts	917
All Inclusive Rec	324	Eriksson Engineering Associates, Ltd.	429
American Ramp Company	340	EVP Academies, LLC	838
American Red Cross Training Services	316	Farnsworth Group, Inc.	619
Amilia	137	Featherstone, Inc.	607
Anthony Roofing - Tecta America	111	Fehr Graham	245
 Aqua Pure Enterprises Inc.	431	FGM Architects	600
Aqua Tile	705	FieldTurf - Tarkett Sports Indoor	407
Arndt Municipal Support Inc	710	Fifth Third Bank	149
Aurora Area Convention & Visitors Bureau	223	First Bank Chicago	631
Away With Geese	530	ForeverLawn Chicago	425
Bailey Edward Design, Inc	345	Frederick Quinn Corporation	738
BarkPass LLC	840	General Medical Devices Inc. DBA: AED	611
Baxter & Woodman, Inc.	640	Professionals	
 BCI Burke / Play Illinois	122	 Gewalt Hamilton Associates	713
BEAR Construction	605	GMIS Illinois	528
BerryDunn	813	Go Ape	211
Bid Evolution	620	Gold Medal Products	313
BLICK Art Materials	633	GovDeals	708
Bluestem Ecological Services	314	GRAEF-USA, Inc.	222
 Boller Construction	116	Great Lakes Urban Forestry	213
Bounce Houses R Us	606	Greenfields Outdoor Fitness	310
BOWNET AWARDS	234	H.E. Hodge Company	246
Brian Wismer Entertainment	938	H2I Group	221
Brock USA	224	Halogen Supply Company, Inc.	438
Bronze Memorial Company	216	Hawkins Inc.	925
Byrne & Jones Construction	103	Henry Bros. Co.	444
Camosy Construction	602	Hey and Associates	326
Capri Pools & Aquatics	532	Homer Industries, LLC	638
Chicagoland Pool Management	711	HR Source	411
CivicPlus	518	IdentiSys Inc.	702
Clowning Around Entertainment	233	IHC Construction Companies LLC	527
Columbia Cascade Company	139	Illinois Association of Park Districts (IAPD)	503
ComEd Energy Efficiency Program	436	Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund	337
CommunityPass	231	Illinois Park & Recreation Association (IPRA)	500
Confluence, Inc.	539	Illinois Public Risk Fund	634
Cooper - Ephesus Sports Lighting	300	Illuminated Brands	200
Cordogan Clark & Associates, Inc.	143	Imagine Nation LLC	322
Correct Digital Displays, Inc.	400	Innova Disc Golf	131
Counsilman-Hunsaker	719	IPARKS	519
CPS HR Consulting	525	Iron Sleek	127
 Cunningham Recreation	703	iStrike by AnythingWeather	118
Custom Bridges and Boardwalks	601	iZone Imaging	821
CXT Inc	700	Johnson Commercial Fitness	905
DEO Consulting, Inc.	919	 JSD Professional Services, Inc.	334
Design Perspectives, Inc.	626	Kankakee Nursery Company	529
Dewberry	419	Keeper Goals	220
Direct Fitness Solutions	639	KI Furniture	239
Divine Signs and Graphics	214	Kiefer USA	604
 DLA Architects Ltd.	309	KOMPAN, Inc	203
Dog Wash Systems, USA	125	KWIKGOAL	328
Doty & Sons Concrete Products, Inc.	320	L6 Technology Inc	805
DoubleSpot AI	237	Lamp Incorporated	916
DynaDome	609	Landmark Aquatic	344
Educational Environments - A Cooney	833	Larson Engineering, Inc.	412
Company		Legat Architects	349

2027 EXHIBITORS

Exhibitors as of September 2026

COMPANY

BOOTH#

Life Floor	343
Mad Bomber Fireworks	413
Matrix Fitness	115
Mesirow Financial, Inc.	244
Midwest Institute of Park Executives	806
MityLite	726
Modernfold Chicago, Inc. (SKYFOLD)	350
MOO-V-Night	629
Musco Sports Lighting	319
MyRec.com Recreation Software	622
Myrtha Pools	346
National Center for Safety Initiatives	129
NexGen/S&G Communications	133
NiceRink	430
★ Nicholas & Associates	308
Nurture Architects	209
NuToys Leisure Products, Inc.	420
Official Finders	325
Omega II Fence Systems	338
Outdoorlink Inc.	540
Paddock Pool Equipment	531
Parkreation Inc.	449
Paycom	800
PDRMA	303
Perez Planning + Design, LLC	915
Perfect Turf	614
Perkins&Will	304
Perry Weather	409
PFM Asset Management/ IPDLAF+ Class	401
Planning Resources Inc.	424
Play & Park Structures	934
Play Design Scapes, Inc.	630
Playground Guardian	707
Pleva Commercial Pools Inc.	724
Premier Polysteel	428
Productive Parks	722
Products4Parks	423
Progressive Business Solutions	739
Proxess LLC	701
PTMA	202
Public Restroom Company	330
Pyrotecnico	112
Rain Drop Products	236
Ramaker	723
Raymond James	446
◎ Rec Technologies	832
Record-A-Hit Entertainment	404
Recreonics	621
Reinders Holiday Lighting	204
RenoSys Corp	920
Rieke Interiors	104
Robert W. Baird & Co. Incorporated	201
Romtec, Inc.	612
Rubbecycle LLC	258
Russo Power Equipment	238
★ RVi Planning + Landscape Architecture	434
SaveHeart by HeartNation	235
Schmidt Custom Floors	230

COMPANY

BOOTH#

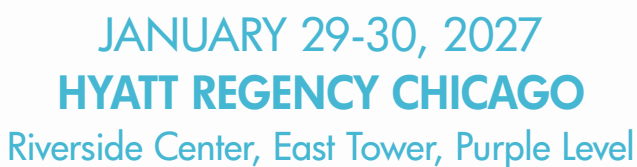
School Health	615
SFI Topsoil	151
SmartRoots by OnPointInsights	625
Soccer Made In America	329
Software Solutions, Inc.	323
SOLitude Lake Management	730
Sourcewell	820
Spartan Sports Lighting	208
SPEC Athletic	332
Speer Financial, Inc.	339
Splashtacular	721
Spohn Ranch, Inc.	526
Sport Court Midwest	145
Sportsfields, Inc.	240
Stageline	624
Starfish Aquatics Institute	243
Sternberg Lighting	740
Stifel	733
StreetBond	229
Stumm Insurance LLC	226
★ Team REIL Inc	715
TenCate	613
TERRA Engineering, Ltd	207
The Davey Tree Expert Company	627
The Forge: Lemont Quarries	232
The Mulch Center	327
The Pizzo Group	712
The Spargo Group	333
TinyMobileRobots	734
TIPS - The Interlocal Purchasing System	119
Traction Rec	623
Trane Technologies	135
TRIA Architecture, Inc.	336
Tyler Technologies	610
Univar Solutions MiniBulk	306
★ Upland Design Ltd	219
Vernon and Maz, Inc	311
Visual Image Photography	421
Vortex Aquatic Structures	801
W.B. Olson, Inc.	335
Warehouse Direct	159
Water Solutions Unlimited	923
Water Technology, Inc.	538
WhiteWater	523
Wight & Company	534
Williams Architects	603
Wintrust Financial Corporation	533
★ WT Group AEC, LLC	410
Xplor Recreation	520
Zilla Corporation	714

◆ = Conference Diamond Sponsor

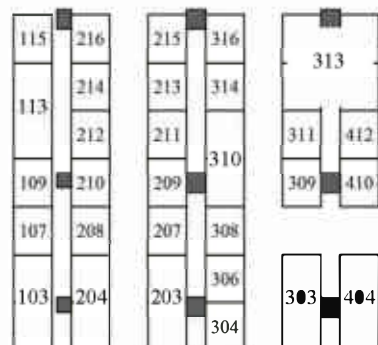
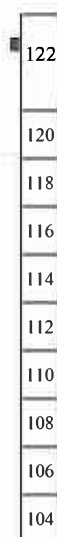
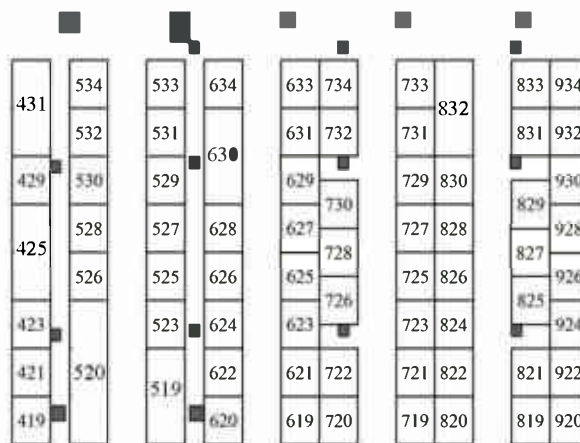
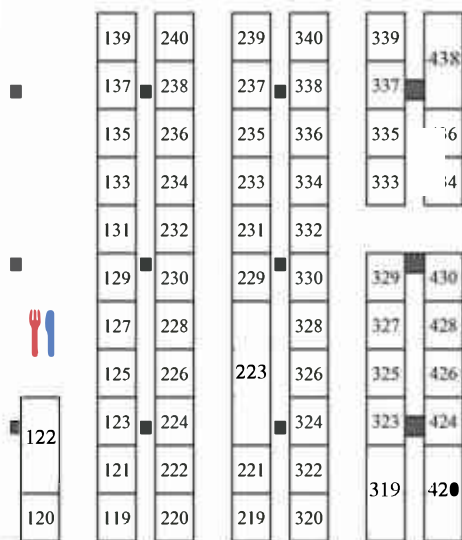
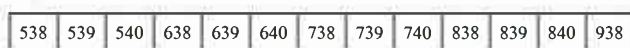
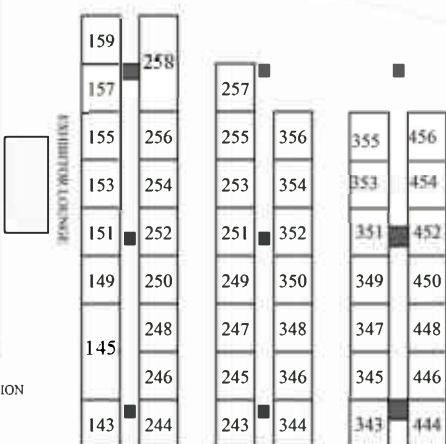
★ = Conference Gold Sponsor

◆ = Conference Silver Sponsor

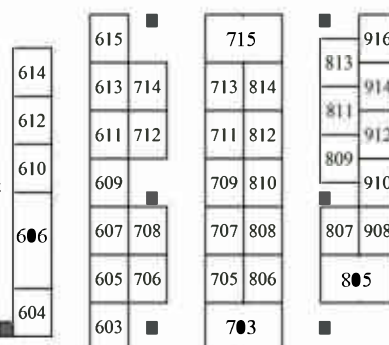
◎ = Conference A-La-Carte Sponsor



EXHIBITOR REGISTRATION



MAIN ENTRANCE



200	201	202	300
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400	401	IPRA	IAPD
		500	503

600	601	602	700	701	702	800	801
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