

2026 MPRA CONFERENCE & EXPO

Off-Site Tours

Thursday, February 26

9:00 – 11:00 AM

Behind the Scenes Tour at MizzouRec (0.2 CEUs)

Aarica Stephenson, MizzouRec Services & Facilities

Step inside one of the nation's most comprehensive recreation facilities and discover how MizzouRec continues to evolve to meet student and community needs. This guided tour will highlight both recent renovations and upcoming projects, including the transformation of the outdoor oval pool into a turf fitness space, boutique fitness studios, a climbing wall modeled after Missouri's Ozark formations, and a reimagined lobby. Participants will gain insight into balancing aesthetics with function, managing phased renovations in an active facility, and weaving unique program spaces into a cohesive member experience. A post-tour Q&A will allow for deeper discussion on design decisions, operational challenges, and lessons learned. [DEV,PNR]



Friday, February 27

10:00 – 12:00 AM

Sports Facility Tour: Columbia Sports Fieldhouse and Gans Creek Recreation Area (0.2 CEUs)

Joey Wilmes, Columbia Parks and Recreation

Josh Ebbesmeyer, Columbia Parks and Recreation

Adam Ziervogel, Columbia Convention and Visitors Bureau

Anthony Lowery, Columbia Parks & Recreation

Matthew Boehner, Columbia Parks & Recreation

Columbia Sports Fieldhouse opened in 2019 and has recently expanded from four indoor multi-sport courts to eight. Gans Creek Recreation Area is home to five outdoor multi-sport grass fields, a nationally recognized cross-country course, and a newly opened natural surface bike trail. Tour both facilities to learn about facility management, how they are programmed, and how the Columbia Parks and Recreation Department partners with the Columbia Sports Commission to bring youth and adult tournaments to Columbia.

[SPO,PRO,H&W]