

# 2026 MPRA CONFERENCE & EXPO

## Education Sessions



### Tuesday, February 24

Building a High-Trust Workplace  
Communicate with Anyone and Succeed  
Community Gardens in City Park: Precedents and Possibilities  
Courage in the Water: Developing Leadership in Young Aquatic Professionals  
Culture Shaping for Leaders  
Facility Design and Maintenance for Park Operations Professional  
Filling the Cup: Self-Care for Leaders and Frontline Staff  
Innovate to Elevate  
Intentional Engagement: Designing Public Input that Shapes Parks Planning  
Leadership/Team Building  
Leading from the Deep End: Lessons in Calm Leadership from the Pool Deck  
Reimagining Tradition: Embracing New, Curated Events in Your Event Portfolio  
Secrets to Crafting Successful Grant Proposals  
The Power of Partnerships  
USTA Tennis Court Grants for Resurfacing or Building New

### Wednesday, February 25

Afterschool Program and Design  
Building Community Through Parks: From Planning to Construction  
Building Loyalty Through Member Engagement Strategies  
Casting a Wider Net: Building Access and Inclusion Through a Community Catfishing Gear Library  
Communicate for the WIN  
Development of Play: How the Playground Supports Play Skill Acquisition  
Disability Inclusion: No Budget? No Problem! Creative, Collaborative DIY Strategies  
Diving into Your Purpose: Streamlining Aquatic Leadership with Passion and Vision  
Failing Forward

Five Linchpins of Your Aquatic Facility

Playground Safety and Maintenance Training

Port KC Urban Bouldering Project Highlights

Remember Anything and Make Employee Tasks Fun

Tapping into Community Sponsors to help Fund Park Improvements and Improve Community Health

Time Management for Mission-Driven People: How to Lead Without Burning Out

Where Recreation Has No Bounds

## **Thursday, February 26**

50 Lifeguard In-Service Trainings in 50 Minutes

A Dog, a Mouse, and Searching for Unicorns

A Leadership Road Map for Enhancing Your Inclusion Initiative

Accountability: It's Everybody's Responsibility

Behind the Scenes Tour at MizzouRec

Blame the Manager

Bridging the Generation Gap

CANNONBALL! - Aquatic In-Services with Impact

Challenging Conversations Don't Have to Weigh You Down: Inspiring Communication Success

Communicate to De-Escalate

Conversation Links: Getting to Truly Know Colleagues, Employees, and Customers

Day Camp Adventures, Oh My!

Design for Everyone: Scaling Universal and Inclusive Design in Parks and Recreation

Engaging Emerging Audiences: Lessons from Powder Valley's Moth Ball

Feedback Loops that Improve the Experience: Listening and Acting on Visitor Input

Fostering Bird-Friendly Communities in Missouri for Ecosystems and People

Harnessing the Explosive Growth of Disc Golf

How to Modernize Youth Cycling Education and Build Healthier Communities

Innovating Park Management: Modern Tools for Safer, Smarter Parks

Leading with Heart: Emotional Intelligence in Parks and Recreation

Libraries and Parks: The Partnership You Didn't Know Would Rock

Making Mental Health a Priority

More Than Just July: Making the Most of Parks and Rec Month and Summer Programming

National Goals, Local Action: Adapting the National Physical Activity Plan to Blue Springs

No More Suspensions! Supporting Children with Challenging Behaviors for Program Success

Park Accessibility Master Planning

Reel Quick: Maximizing your Social Media

Serving Up Data: How to Maximize Pickleball's Growth for Your Community.

So What? Who Cares? Build Messages That Move People to Action

Stronger Together: Leveraging Missouri Department of Conservation Support for Parks and Recreation Success

Swimming for All: Inclusive Strategies for Accommodating Children with Disabilities in Group Swimming Lessons

The Exchange

The Shortage of Sports Officials: A National Crisis

Train & Retain: Building a Cohesive Aquatic Team

Understanding Adolescent Brain Development: It's All about Relationships

Utilizing Story-Telling to Invoke Emotion and Generate Change

Workshopping Conflict: How to Engage with Conflict and Clarity

## **Friday, February 27**

Sports Facility Tour: Columbia Sports Fieldhouse and Gans Creek Recreation Area

*\*this schedule is subject to change*