

MPRA Conference & Expo

March 5-8, 2024

St. Charles Convention Center



Tuesday, March 5, 2024

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Tour of Faust Park [TOUR]

Jesse Francis, St. Louis County Parks & Recreation

Explore Faust Park, home to two dozen historic buildings - including the home of Missouri's second governor! Learn how the staff at St. Louis County Parks have relocated and restored historic buildings into an entire village. Register for a tram tour of the village and see an excellent example of how preservation can work within a public park system. [0.2 CEUs]

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Something Greater is Always Possible [KEY]

Devin Henderson, Henderson Entertainment, LLC

Seasoned speaker Devin Henderson brings an unforgettable experience of impact and inspiration that helps people and organizations take a break from the worries of the day while breaking free from perceived limits. You will discover practices for maintaining mental strength and resilience to realize your greatness like never before. [0.1 CEU]

2:30 PM - 3:30 PM

Inclusify Your First Aid [AQU]

Kate Connell, Counsilman-Hunsaker

Navigating needs of the "patient" and tailoring emergency responses on an individual basis with inclusion in mind is becoming more commonplace in the broader health care community, but what about in our recreation specific first-responder spaces and trainings? Through data sharing, dynamic lecture, and take-and-tweak practice modules, participants will uncover categories of diversity that impact first aid response and how to recognize and care for individuals within these categories. Topics to be examined will include differences among genders, bodies, abilities, ethnicity and race, neurodifferences, and mental health. Participants will leave with practice techniques, basic understanding, and trauma informed skills to provide more inclusive [0.1 CEU]

You are a Genius -- REALLY! You have two Geniuses! [DEV]

Michael Biedenstein, NRPA

Nate Williams, Excelsior Springs Parks, Recreation, & Community Center

Explore the concept of The Working Genius and other personality, productivity, and communication tools that help us understand ourselves better as well as how our teams work (or don't work) well together. For The Working Genius, we'll explore the concept that everyone has two geniuses, two competencies, and two frustrations. [0.1 CEU]

Conference 101 [DEV]

Katelyn Haniford, Ferguson Parks & Recreation

Kayla Moon, St. Peters Parks & Recreation

New to conference? Then you don't want to miss this! Students, new professionals, or distinguished professionals can all learn from this crash course in MPRA's Annual Conference, including events, networking opportunities, and where to find resources. [No CEU]

Discovering How Contracted Services Can Elevate Your Community Experience [H&W]

Angie Nichols, Elevation Health

Tim Cluny, Advanced Exercise

Lisa Miceli, Advanced Exercise

Do you have big ideas for expanding your services and programs? In this session, you will learn how outsourced managed services available to municipal community parks and recreation can improve your programming and engagement of members while reducing costs and liability. [0.1 CEU]

Looking at Your Customers in a New Light [M&C]

Bobbi Nance, Recreation Results, LLC

Customer insights based on past behavior, purchases, and preferences will almost always produce better results than using basic demographics like age and gender. We'll walk through seven different questions to better understand your customers and use real life examples to inspire you to see them in a new light. With the potential to positively impact everything from equity to income, don't miss this chance to create new definitions of target markets and better engage and serve your community. [0.1 CEU]

Grow More Leaders [M&L]

Jed Buck, Roz and Jed Training & Consulting

Roz Buck, Roz and Jed Training & Consulting

We all know that no leader can do everything without assistance from a strong team. One of our most important roles as leaders is to shape and empower the next generation of leaders. This interactive session focuses on experiential and participant-centered activities that will give us tools to use in training young, emerging leaders within our organizations, as well as strengthening our personal leadership skills. [0.1 CEU]

Maintenance Management Planning for Success with and without GIS! [PNR]

Kevin Corwin, AMPM Consulting

Susan Jankowski, Great Rivers Greenway

AJ Brown, St. Louis County Parks & Recreation

Does your organization have a maintenance management plan? In this session, you will learn to create and utilize a maintenance management plan to help with budgeting, scheduling, and planning for your facility. You will discover resources to get you there and discuss how GIS is a method of organizing your plan. [0.1 CEU]

Women in the Wild Program: How to Build a Beginner Outdoor Program [PRO]

Jaime Davis, St. Louis County Parks & Recreation

MaryClare Coffey, St. Louis County Parks & Recreation

Chelsea McDaniel, St. Louis County Parks & Recreation

The Women in the Wild program is a budget-friendly, non-judgemental way for women to explore nature for the first time. We will discuss how to cater a program to those intimidated by traditional outdoor recreation, gauging the audience's skill level and working with multiple collaborators. [0.1 CEU]

Mountain Bike Educational Programs and Opportunities [SPO]

Cody Jones, Wheels Up

Mountain biking is a growing activity among youth and adult participants. Professional educator and mountain bike instructor Cody Jones, with 21 years of experience of working in the cycling industry, will speak on how to better collaborate and promote cycling opportunities in your parks systems. [0.1 CEU]

2:30 PM - 4:30 PM

Soccer Complex Evolution and Arboreal Exploration: Creve Coeur's Story [TOUR]

Billy Haag, Forest ReLeaf of Missouri

Mike Hayes, St. Louis County Parks & Recreation

Witness Creve Coeur Park Soccer Complex's evolution into 13 synthetic turf soccer fields and a natural grass super pitch, catering to youth clubs and bolstering St. Louis County as a soccer destination. Delve into surface upkeep, programming, and economic contributions. Tour Forest ReLeaf's Nursery and Arboretum to explore the newest and upcoming additions to our grounds and how you can take advantage of our free tree programs. [0.2 CEUs]

3:45 PM - 4:45 PM

Aquatic Manuals and Emergency Action Plans [AQU]

Brian Hill, Water's Edge Aquatic Design

Quality manuals and emergency action plans are the backbone of a healthy aquatic program. Learn what information is important to include, how to create effective emergency action plans, and best ways of communicating these to your staff. [0.1 CEU]

Cool as a Cucumber: De-Escalation Training for Park Professionals [DEV]

Christina Braswell, St. Charles Parks & Recreation

Dr. Tom Leasor, Eastern MO Police Academy

We have all encountered disgruntled park patrons and dealing with them can be particularly challenging. This training is designed to equip individuals with the knowledge, skills, and techniques necessary to manage and defuse high-stress and potentially volatile situations. This course focuses on developing the abilities needed to reduce tension, promote communication, and maintain a safe environment in various professional and personal settings. [0.1 CEU]

Outdoor Rock Climbing: Not just Something for the West - Bringing this Outdoor Activity to Missouri State Parks [H&W]

Taylor Ratcliff, Missouri State Parks

Rebecca Young, Missouri State Parks

From concept to reality, how we brought a FREE rock climbing program to Missouri. This three-year project encompassed utilizing grant funds, partnerships, and navigating the world of risk management. Discover what we learned about expanding and sustaining high adventure programming in Missouri State Parks. [0.1 CEU]

Present to Impress [M&C]

Amy Lemire CSP DTM, AIM Training and Consulting International

Join our transformative training session, "Present to Impress," and unlock the secrets to becoming a captivating presenter. Discover the art of both formal and informal presentations, master the top 10 tips from world-class presenters, learn to avoid common pitfalls, and gain valuable skills in giving and receiving feedback. Plus, acquire

the expertise to handle challenging participants with confidence. Elevate your presentation game and leave a lasting impression. Don't miss out! [0.1 CEU]

Creating Culturally Responsible Parks and Recreation Agencies [M&L]

Kate Connell, Counsilman-Hunsaker

What is a culturally responsive agency and what does that look like within parks and recreation? Together we'll discuss the evolving definition of cultural responsiveness and explore the philosophy, policies, and practices that build on the foundation of cultural self-awareness and competency. We'll explore tangible measures for creating cultural competency and share strategies for furthering implementation specific to parks and recreation agencies. [0.1 CEU]

Tower Grove Park Ranger Program [PNR]

Steven Laughlin, Tower Grove Park

William Rein, Tower Grove Park

This presentation will use examples from Tower Grove Park to describe core functions of a security program, explain the difference between police officers and rangers, and share stories about the (sometimes funny, sometimes not) challenges park rangers face day in and day out. [0.1 CEU]

Will Your New Program Be a Fit, Fad, or Flop? [PRO]

Bobbi Nance, Recreation Results, LLC

When it's time to add new programs to your offerings each season, how confident are you that they'll be successful? Instead of waiting to see what sticks, pick up a set of exercises and techniques you can use to brainstorm, test, and evaluate new program ideas before you even start writing that brochure description. Take a more thoughtful approach to expanding your offerings - all with the goal of increasing your new program's potential for success. [0.1 CEU]

Mud Runs for Cities of All Sizes [SPO]

Luke Callaghan, Kirksville Parks & Recreation

Cavelle Cole-Neal, Columbia Parks & Recreation

Mud runs have gained tremendous popularity over the years, offering a unique blend of fitness, adventure, and community engagement. While these events have traditionally been associated with larger cities, they have the potential to be a fantastic addition to cities of all sizes. Join our presenters as they dig deeper into "mud runs" and how the fundamentals can apply to help improve your special events! [0.1 CEU]

Wednesday, March 6, 2024

8:30 AM - 10:30 AM

Wentzville WREC: Lessons Learned from our Community Center Journey! [TOUR]

Mike Lueck, CPRE, Wentzville Parks & Recreation

Jen Kissinger, LEED BD+C, Navigate Building Solutions, LLC

Capital Improvement projects inherently offer unique challenges to project teams. The COVID pandemic and supply chain issues presented a new dimension of challenges to building projects that may become the new normal. Wentzville's 94,000+ sq. ft. WREC Center navigated these challenges during construction, offering a glimpse into future industry projects. Attendees will gain insights into this six-year journey, from the initial feasibility study to the grand opening, and the valuable lessons learned, ultimately leading to the successful completion of a complex and highly distinctive project. [0.2 CEUs]

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

Republic Parks Aquatic Center: Your Destination Water Park [AQU]

Kristi Beattie, AIA, NCARB, Sapp Design Architects

Jennafer Mayfield, Republic Parks & Recreation

Scott Runde, SWT Design

With a vision and drive to be innovative, the Republic parks department is working to enhance their aquatics center into a beach vacation resort-like atmosphere that provides a customer experience many families might not have access to otherwise. Join the design team to see how they're pushing the limits. [0.1 CEU]

Choosing YOU: Building Resiliency through Self-Care [DEV]

Tina Edholm, University of Missouri Extension

Brianna Anderson, University of Missouri Extension

This interactive session equips participants with actionable tools to combat stress and enhance mental well-being. Blending small group discussions and self-reflection, attendees will create personalized stress management plans for themselves and their work environment. Join us in nurturing resilience and prioritizing your mental health. [0.1 CEU]

Designing for Outdoor Play and Fitness: Attracting All Ages and Abilities to Promote Health Equity and Sustainability [H&W]

Suzanne Quinn, KOMPAN Play Institute

Play and fitness are essential for people of all ages and abilities. This session will cover research on the benefits of outdoor play and fitness and how to design outdoor spaces to increase health for all ages and abilities. We will help you to apply these principles so you can create well-designed outdoor play and fitness spaces that help strengthen communities and promote health equity and sustainability for our shared ecosystems. [0.1 CEU]

Sponsorship Basics: From A to Z [M&C]

Stacey Fontechia, Naperville, IL Park District

This session will go through the importance of your department's sponsorship program. Things that will be discussed include: creating a media kit and its importance to potential partners, evaluating your current sponsorship opportunities, how to create new and creative opportunities based on demand, and staying relevant within your community. [0.1 CEU]

From Orientation to Onboarding [M&L]

Michele Newman, Jackson County Parks & Recreation

Marcy Caldwell, Jackson County Parks & Recreation

The cost of losing an employee in the first year is 3x their salary. While orientation is a one-time event, onboarding is a long-term strategic process focusing on the individual, their role in your department, and becoming part of the company culture, resulting in employees who are ready to CONTRIBUTE and be part of your team. [0.1 CEU]

Destination Park Design: Defining a Community's Ethos [PNR]

Ted Spaid, FASLA, SWT Design

Ryan Graham, St. Charles County Parks

Eric Gruenenfelder, Brentwood Parks & Recreation

Destination parks are much more than picking out exciting playground structures. Learn about creating a destination environment that speaks to your communities' values and how parks serve as an economic catalyst,

while defining the character of the community. Design active and passive recreation spaces that are inviting, inclusive, and intentional. [0.1 CEU]

Creating Your Day Camp Culture [PRO]

Jed Buck, Roz and Jed Training & Consulting

Roz Buck, Roz and Jed Training & Consulting

Every company has a culture, and according to Warren Buffett, “you cannot pay too much attention to company culture.” With the fast pace of camp life, we often ignore our culture as we focus on our strategy and execution. This hands-on, highly interactive session will explore the importance of your day camp’s culture and how you can grow your culture (if you like it) or change and develop it (if you don’t like it). [0.1 CEU]

BINGO! Youth Sports is More than a Game! [SPO]

Brittany Johnston, Liberty Parks & Recreation

Youth sports is more than a game – this session is more than a fun table! Recreation professionals are challenged by a variety of topics that affect the implementation of local programs. This interactive session uses BINGO to explore topics to arm administrators with practical information to ensure positive sports experiences. [0.1 CEU]

10:15 AM - 11:15 AM

Outdated Aquatic Center? Considerations for Renovation, Addition, or Replacement [AQU]

Brian Garvey AIA, SFS Architecture Inc.

Kyle McCawley, Waters Edge Aquatic Design

Pools should be fun, inclusive, and safe! If your pool is starting to age it may need to be refreshed or modified to respond to the current trends and standards in aquatic and architectural design, improve operational and environmental sustainability, and provide a highly valuable amenity for the community. [0.1 CEU]

Professional Communication [DEV]

Kevin Cowling, Richland County, SC Recreation Commission

It's not necessarily what you say but how you say, email, and text it! This session will focus on professional and civil communication in the workplace, and how it is delivered and received by others. [0.1 CEU]

Maximizing Profitability: Strategies for Boosting Personal Training Revenue [H&W]

Brandon Collins, O'Fallon Parks & Recreation

Stevie Weeks, O'Fallon Parks & Recreation

Unlock the strategies to financial success in personal training. Join our session to discover proven strategies that elevate your revenue, from client retention tactics to innovative marketing approaches. Learn how to increase sales while empowering your clients to achieve their fitness goals. [0.1 CEU]

Sharing Information: Go from Blah to Brilliant in 10 Minutes [M&C]

Bobbi Nance, Recreation Results, LLC

As our work becomes more complex, so does the challenge of sharing information and telling our story. More often, the importance of our messages is lost in the way we (and our software programs) default to sharing them. Discover why pretty (or cute, clean, modern, etc.) isn’t the same as “effective” when it comes to communicating information. Get inspired as we make over charts, reports, presentation slides, and infographics, and without any special software or skills, transform them from blah to brilliant in just ten minutes. See firsthand

how a few thoughtful tweaks to the way you present information not only increases your audience's understanding and retention, but also your own credibility, influence, and appeal. [0.1 CEU]

Building Advocacy within your Community, Park Board, and Board of Alderman [M&L]

Bill Reininger, Tower Grove Park

Chad Shoemaker, Mexico Parks & Recreation

Gerald Brown, Sunset Hills Parks & Recreation

The successful execution of department objectives often is dependent on having strong advocates to help garner support. These supporters may be park board members, Alderpersons, community members, or businesses. Members of the panel will share their experiences, methods, and suggestions on building advocacy for your department. [0.1 CEU]

If this Stream Could Talk [PNR]

Katie Aholt, Navigate Building Solutions

Neil Eisenberger, Lamar Johnson Collaborative

In this session, we will explore the nexus of resilient infrastructure and public open space. The Tower Grove Park East Stream Restoration brings sustainable stormwater management, history, ecology, education, and play to the landscape of a victorian park on the list of the National Historic Landmarks. [0.1 CEU]

Train Your Summer Camp Staff to Greatness Using Impactful Teachable Moments [PRO]

Jed Buck, Roz and Jed Training & Consulting

Roz Buck, Roz and Jed Training & Consulting

How do you create teachable moments that empower your summer camp staff to act as positive role models and mentors for your campers? Experiential learning, combined with meaningful reflection and debriefs, provides the tools you need to effectively communicate your key training messages that are consistent with your camp's culture. We will introduce, play, and effectively debrief a variety of activities that will add intentionality to your staff training and bring out the greatness in your staff. You will leave this session with a collection of exciting and interactive ideas that you can easily incorporate into your upcoming summer's staff orientation. [0.1 CEU]

Strengthen the Delivery of Tennis in Your Community with USTA Tennis Venue Services [SPO]

John Terpkosh, USTA Missouri Valley

Discover how the United States Tennis Association can help make your tennis facility a best-in-class destination, through advocacy support, technical services, business services, facility management, and parks support. Using a data-driven park agency tennis assessment you will learn the importance of making your process personalized, objective, growth-oriented and future-oriented to strengthen the delivery of tennis in your community. [0.1 CEU]

Thursday, March 7, 2024

8:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Nee Kee Nee: Reframing a Victorian Park through Inclusive and Sustainable Design [TOUR]

Bill Reininger, Tower Grove Park

Steve Hogenmiller, Tower Grove Park

Tara Morton, Tower Grove Park

The Nee Kee Nee project began as a stream daylighting project, but as the design process unfolded, it became much more. Learn about the journey that Tower Grove Park took to form a new partnership with the Osage

Nation and discover a new interpretation of its history as they wove cultural and historic elements into their overall project design, through plants, animal depictions, village representation, and more. [0.3 CEUs]

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

12 Ideas to Enhance Your Lifeguard In-Services [AQU]

Heather Brands, Counsilman-Hunsaker

Is your lifeguarding staff receiving the best ongoing training during your in-service training sessions? This session discusses the best practices for creating a comprehensive in-service training plan and industry-standard documentation. We also discuss essential training topics, equipment and supplies needed for training, benefits of working with your local EMS, and gathering feedback from your staff. Join us to learn more about creating effective in-services with fun and creative drills. [0.1 CEU]

Change Your Perspective, Change Your Life! [DEV]

Kevin Cowling, Richland County, SC Recreation Commission

Over time our perspective changes on both a personal and professional level. Stressful times, significant life events, and the toll of the day-to-day grind can wear you down. Learn how I dealt with change and three significant life events to come away with a new perspective and attitude. [0.1 CEU]

Positive Intelligence®: Strengthening Your Core Mental Fitness Muscles [H&W]

Tracy Bianco, Tracy Bianco Coaching & Consulting

Mental fitness is for the brain what physical fitness is for the body. Visualize the results you could achieve if thoughts filled with doubt, frustration, anger, and stress were replaced with curiosity, creativity, confidence, and satisfaction. It's possible for us all and begins with an understanding of the saboteurs that hold us back and sage practices that move us forward in a positive way. [0.1 CEU]

Get Social with Social Media [M&C]

Elizabeth Eisle, St. Louis County Parks & Recreation

Anne Radford, St. Louis County Parks & Recreation

Join us for an engaging and insightful session focused on leveraging social media to enhance engagement, foster community connections, and elevate the visibility of your parks and recreation offerings. Whether you're a social media novice or a seasoned pro, you'll gain valuable insights tailored to the unique challenges and opportunities faced by parks and recreation organizations. [0.1 CEU]

Grow Your Park and Rec Business – Can You Afford NOT TO? [M&L]

John Prue, Morale, Welfare & Recreation - Navy Region Mid-Atlantic

This session will challenge participants to take a hard look at their park and recreation operation from the mindset of a business owner to invest in the growth of the business regardless of whether operating a revenue-producing facility or non-profit organization. One change, one improvement, or one daily goal achieved can make a big difference over the course of a year and have a positive impact on the entire operation. This session focuses on four core areas: Know Your Customer, Competitive Advantage, Facility Readiness, and Customer-Ready Staff. [0.1 CEU]

Prescribed Fire in an Urban Environment [PNR]

Jason Pratte, St. Louis County Parks & Recreation

We will discuss the challenges and successes of developing, implementing, and maintaining a prescribed fire operation within an urban setting. Learn how to obtain grants and cost-share programs from the federal, state,

and local levels and how to obtain proper training to abide by the laws and liability within the state of Missouri. [0.1 CEU]

Summer Camp: Planning for Fun with a Purpose at Your Site [PRO]

Angel Lee Ray, St. Charles County Parks

William Ray, St. Charles County Parks

Summer campers are our future! Learn how to turn your camp into purposeful play that makes lasting connections between your campers and your site through sustainability and stewardship. Discover the importance of evaluating your site and project needs, connecting campers to your parks and programs, and celebrating victories. [0.1 CEU]

Fields, Courts, and Users Part 1: How Many is Enough? [SPO]

*Darin Barr, Ballard*King & Associates*

*Scott Caron, Ballard*King & Associates*

In today's ever changing parks and recreation landscape, professionals are being pushed to address both the needs of the day-to-day user and other special interest groups. In this session we will talk about the challenges associated with working within budgets, expanding facilities, and seeking a positive economic impact, to help understand "how many is enough?" [0.1 CEU]

10:15 AM - 11:15 AM

Measuring Success: Evaluating Swim Lesson Program Effectiveness [AQU]

Jenn Foreman, Buffalo Grove Park District

Join us to explore strategies for assessing the impact of our swim lesson program. Discover innovative evaluation methods and best practices to ensure that every swimmer makes progress toward their goals. [0.1 CEU]

A.I. All the Way: Turning Average Employees into AI-mazing Superstars! [DEV]

Dr. Jennifer Wentz, University of Missouri Columbia

Jason Young, University of Missouri Columbia

Have you ever:

- ... asked other municipalities to share their ideas?
- ... felt like I just don't have time to do something?
- ... felt I don't know where to start with this project?
- ... had trouble crafting a new policy?

In this session, we will show you how A.I. can help you become more creative, brainstorm ideas on any topic, create a starting point for a new policy or program, to write letters of recommendation, proofread your work, and provide revisions. [0.1 CEU]

Is Your Ankle Bone Connected to Your Head Bone? [H&W]

Karen Haseley, CTRS, Ageless Grace, LLC

Marghi McClearn, Ageless Grace, LLC

Did you know your ankle bone is connected to your head bone through neurological connections? These connections assist our body's ability to remain mobile, stable, and balanced. This brain-activating and body-energizing interactive session will have you laughing and moving (in your chair) in new ways to spark your creativity, imagination, and adventurous spirit. [0.1 CEU]

Marketing for the Service Industry: Creating Fans for Parks and Recreation [M&C]

Jason Mangum, Missouri City, TX

What's the difference between traditional marketing and marketing for the service industry? Expand on the traditional marketing principles and explore strategies for service marketing. Develop skills and techniques that result in customer loyalty and strategies for developing a customer base that transforms satisfied customers into your biggest fans. [0.1 CEU]

1st Amendment Auditors [M&L]

Patrick Bonnot, MIRMA

Municipalities are the target of visits by individuals toting a camera and a will to disrupt the proceedings of the day-to-day work provided by city employees. We will look at past, current, and future trends of how these social media "stars" operate. [0.1 CEU]

Design and Construction of a 200-acre Park in 166 Days - What Could Go Right? [PNR]

Ryan Graham, St. Charles County Parks

April Giesmann, Horner & Shifrin

Andy Franke, Planning Design Studio

This presentation will highlight the process used to plan, engineer, and construct St. Charles County's Oglesby Park in only 166 days. After being selected to lead the project in February 2022, the design team faced a tall order from the county: design the facilities with adequate time for bidding and construction, with completion by July. Learn how the previously undeveloped site came to be a new showcase park with a comprehensive offering of amenities, including roads, five parking areas, a destination playground, three pavilions, three composting restroom facilities, a relocated historic one-room schoolhouse, an eight-acre lake and outfall, and 3.25 miles of walking trails within approximately 100 acres. [0.1 CEU]

The Rainbow Connection: Creating a Safe Environment for LGBTQ+ Campers and Staff [PRO]

Tracey Whitaker, Crestwood Parks & Recreation

Stephanie Perry, Richmond Heights Parks & Recreation

This session will address how recreation professionals can create an inclusive and LGBTQ+ friendly environment for your summer camps through compassion, understanding, and navigating difficult conversations surrounding the LGBTQ+ community. [0.1 CEU]

Fields, Courts, and Users Part 2: Revenue Generation & Economic Impact [SPO]

*Darin Barr, Ballard*King & Associates*

*Scott Caron, Ballard*King & Associates*

[Part 1 is not required to benefit from this session] The facilities to accommodate youth and adult sports is the modern day arms race. Each organization wants to build the newest, biggest, best facility to attract participants, tournaments, and money. With a multitude of facilities in the feasibility, planning, and operational phases, how much market is available, how much money can we generate, and will there be an economic impact? [0.1 CEU]

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Claims and Litigation Environment from a Risk Pool's Perspective [M&L]

Glenn A. Price, Jr., MIRMA

What seems like a reasonable idea, decision, or solution in one era, might not be considered viable later on. We will take a look at the current claims and legal situations/resolutions that arise from past decisions within a municipality or park board. [0.1 CEU]

Training Day: Guidelines from Pre-Service to In-Service [AQU]

Kirsten Barnes, HydroApps

Did you know the Model Aquatic Health Code (MAHC) includes guidelines on what in-service and even addresses topics you should cover? From pre-service to annual training plans, we'll dig into how to track topics and document attendance to meet the recommendations of your certifying agency, health codes, and the MAHC. [0.1 CEU]

The Disappointment of Regret is Greater than the Pain of Discipline [DEV]

Shawnacy Johnson, Greener Pastures Consulting, LLC

In a world that increasingly demands excellence and resilience, understanding the weight of regret and the power of discipline is crucial. This session promises not only insight but also actionable strategies that can transform the professional trajectory of attendees. [0.1 CEU]

Prediabetes and Diabetes in Missouri: What Role does the Community Center Serve? [H&W]

Carolyn Skelton, Wellness 4 Prevention, LLC

Prediabetes and diabetes are prevalent in over 30% of the Missouri population and 30% of adolescents below the age of 18 have prediabetes. Type 2 diabetes is preventable and the community center is a key location to providing prevention programs for a healthier Missouri. [0.1 CEU]

Rebranding on a Budget [M&C]

Kevin Cowling, Richland County, SC Recreation Commission

It doesn't have to cost thousands in consultant fees to rebrand your department. It can be done economically while creating staff and community buy-in at the same time. [0.1 CEU]

Alternative Turfgrass for Parks [PNR]

Clint Meyer, Tower Grove Park

This session will explore alternative ground covers in parks with a focus on Tower Grove Park's multi-year trials. Located in the heart of St. Louis, Tower Grove Park has had success planting 4+ acres of a low-growing mix of fine fescues and will share what they've learned over the years. [0.1 CEU]

Strategic Alliances: Crafting Successful Special Events through Smart Partnerships [PRO]

Beth Norviel, City of Saint Charles

In this session, we will explore special event planning and how partnerships can elevate the event. We will walk through the planning process, explore examples of events that have been successful through partnerships, and how to go about establishing them. [0.1 CEU]

The Mental Side of Sports Officiating - Recruitment, Retention, and Development [SPO]

Karen Swanner, The Officials Mind

Jamie Swanner, CORE Soccer Training

This session looks at building confidence, motivation, communication, goal setting, and stress management as it relates to the development of players, coaches, and officials. Building a solid foundation for both mental and physical performance, including diversity considerations, attendees will learn how mental fitness is a key component to recruitment, retention, development, and success. The duo will tag team issues including respectful communication, professionalism, and sportsmanship from the perspective of coaches, players, and officials and how they can better work together to provide a nurturing environment for players. In addition, several key mental performance tools will be introduced. [0.1 CEU]

1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Mastering Park Diversity: Strategies for Managing, Programming, and Sustaining Expansive Recreational Landscapes [TOUR]

Jeff Bonney, St. Louis County Parks & Recreation

Dennis Hogan, St. Louis County Parks & Recreation

Guinn Hinman, St. Louis County Parks & Recreation

Embark on a guided tour of the expansive 2,100-acre Creve Coeur Lake Memorial Park – a fusion of three parks in one. With a focus on leisure, recreation, and nature appreciation, participants will have the opportunity to delve into 24.5 miles of trails, 36 disc golf holes, zip lining, sports facilities, water activities, fishing, dining, and a calendar of year-round events. Join us for an enriching experience! [0.2 CEUs]

2:15 PM - 3:15 PM

Is Your Facility As Prepared as It Could Be? [AQU]

SJ Idel, StarGuard ELITE

Within the aquatic industry, there are many operational policies or procedures that are often overlooked, poorly managed, or there is not a strong consensus about what is the “standard.” In this session, we will discuss many of these areas and provide key considerations facility operators should be thinking about when defining their own policies and procedures. The primary topics covered will include minimum age of entry, management of summer camps using aquatic facilities, hosting special events, and when should a lifeguard be on duty. The session will also address other common areas that impact almost all aquatic facility operators. [0.1 CEU]

Successful Strategies for Working with Gen Z [DEV]

Brandon Strotz, Midwest Pool Management

Chad Beasley, Midwest Pool Management

Every generation believes the next generation is difficult to work with. What if we told you that working with Gen Z is not as difficult as you think? This session will cover strategies that MPM-KC has employed to grow its seasonal workforce and retain those young people whom millennials, Gen X, and beyond struggled to relate to. We will discuss how Gen Z likes to be managed and how a few adjustments make it relatively simple to relate to these young people. [0.1 CEU]

Refresh and Reflect with Life Lessons from a Little Golden Book [H&W]

Karen Haseley, CTRS, Ageless Grace, LLC

Marghi McClearn, Ageless Grace, LLC

Many of us grew up with Little Golden Books that were full of adventures, challenges, and life lessons. They “reminded us that we’ve had the potential to be wise and content all along.” We invite you to join us as we explore some of these timeless gems through reflection, creativity, and movement. This interactive session may lead to new ways to connect with your participants. [0.1 CEU]

Strategic Social Media: Elevating Staff Engagement for Enhanced Recruitment and Retention [M&C]

Jennifer Schmidt, Gateway Arch & Riverboats

Sam Masterson, Gateway Arch & Riverboats

Discover how to harness the power of social media to foster stronger staff engagement, ultimately boosting retention and recruitment efforts. This workshop explores the connection between a strong online presence and staff satisfaction, offers practical strategies for leveraging platforms effectively to create compelling content, and builds a cohesive online presence that resonates with both current and potential team members. [0.1 CEU]

Organizational Culture: Is it Rowing or Sinking Your Boat? [M&L]

Jason Mangum, Missouri City, Texas

The key to a successful organization is to have a culture based on a strongly held and widely shared set of beliefs supported by strategy and structure. An organization's culture is pervasive and inescapable and can either propel your organization to reach its vision or kill your department from the inside out. In this session, we will identify what shapes an organization's culture, define the roles of leadership, and discover best practices. [0.1 CEU]

Spaces for All: Designing for the Neurodiverse [PNR]

Terry Berkbuegler, Confluence, Inc.

PJ Novick, Confluence, Inc.

Are your parks and playgrounds truly welcoming and inclusive for all? Discuss design strategies used to develop play spaces and gathering areas that support the unique needs of people with Autism Spectrum conditions and create truly inclusive parks. [0.1 CEU]

Have No Fear! The Homeschoolers are Here! [PRO]

Angel Ray, St. Charles County Parks

Harness the unique opportunity for homeschool visitation during the day at your park throughout the school year. Learn how to design educational programming that fits a variety of age ranges and abilities. Both small scale and large scale programs will be addressed, along with requirements for groups to abide by. [0.1 CEU]

Sports and Socialization Programming for Special Populations - How to Grow and Enhance your Programs through Design and Partnerships [SPO]

Tina Spallo, Jackson County Parks & Recreation

Terri Jones-McMillan, Jackson County Parks & Recreation

Starting a new program for athletes with developmental disabilities, or looking to enhance your current offerings? Learn how to design your program to meet the needs of this special population and how to work with groups like Missouri Senate Boards and National Governing Bodies for Disabled Sports to enhance the programs you offer. [0.1 CEU]

3:30 PM - 4:30 PM

Recruiting and Retaining Aquatic Staff [AQU]

Brian Hill, Water's Edge Aquatic Design

Recruiting and retaining aquatic staff is becoming more of a challenge. Learn more about the applicant pool you are reaching out to and how to get them to join your team. Once you have them on board, how do you keep them invested in your system and keep them coming back. [0.1 CEU]

Implicit Bias - Defining to Discovery [DEV]

Dwayne T. James, P.E., Ed.D., MU Extension

The implicit bias discussion is an interactive workshop focusing on defining and understanding implicit/unconscious bias. Participants gain an understanding of how biases affect our lives. The workshop provides tips and steps individuals can take to increase awareness to override biased attitudes and behaviors from interfering with workplace decisions and interactions. [0.1 CEU]

Nature Therapy: What? How? Where? [H&W]

Kim Hedgpeth, Renew Nature and Forest Therapy

Nature therapy and forest bathing are the practice of immersing yourself in nature in a mindful way, using your senses to derive a whole range of benefits for your physical, mental, emotional, and social health. It is also known as Shinrin-yoku. This session will share what nature therapy is, how it is done, where you can do it, and the benefits it can have on health and well being. [0.1 CEU]

Emergency Services Supporting the Parks and Recreation Mission [M&C]

Tara O'Shea, Fulton Parks & Recreation

Garett Poole, Police Department

Todd Gray, Fulton Fire Department

Join us as the City of Fulton walks through how we discovered our staff training needs and worked with our city resources to accomplish those goals. Learn how to successfully plan an emergency drill, strategies for better partnerships, and how to create a positive training environment between departments. [0.1 CEU]

City of Olivette: Creating Community Through People, Parks, and Partnerships [M&L]

Katie Aholt, Navigate Building Solutions

Beverly Tucker Knight, Olivette Parks & Recreation

Angelica Guitierrez, Great Rivers Greenway

The City of Olivette's Warson Park improvements represent a year-long effort to implement their vision of Prop C: Creating Community. Attendees will learn key steps to project planning, how public agencies can partner for greater impact, and how operational planning can influence a project from design through activation. [0.1 CEU]

Strategic Tree Planting for the Parks of the Future [PNR]

Mark Halpin, Davey Resource Group

Trees make parks cooler, healthier places - and better trees make better parks. In many cases however, planting decisions are not guided by clear objectives and as a result our parks don't reach their full potential. Utilizing scientifically informed planting strategies can make for better parks, now and in the future. [0.1 CEU]

Parks and Libraries in Partnership [PRO]

John "Trey" Bugh, St. Charles County Parks

Maggie Melson, St. Charles City-County Library

Parks and libraries are natural partners, both represent "the commons." They are our public space, we hold them together, and they're our collective responsibility. We will discuss the mutual benefits and difficulties of developing a park/library partnership and how you can promote partnerships in your community. [0.1 CEU]