

2025 OPRA CONFERENCE & TRADE

Sandusky, Ohio • February 2-5, 2025



Presented by



2025 OPRA CONFERENCE WELCOME

Welcome to the 2025 OPRA Annual Conference & Trade Show!

Welcome to Conference!

I'm excited! And I hope you are, too!

This is my 15th OPRA Annual Conference & Trade Show. This week always energizes me for the year ahead and provides a reminder of all the things I love about OPRA and the parks and recreation profession. I have heard that from many of you over the years, as well. And hearing that lets me know that we remain on the right track.

A lot has changed over the past 15 years! Many of the biggest changes are reflected in our Conference metrics.

With paid attendance of nearly 900, and more than 1,600 people on site, we have again broken OPRA Conference attendance records. These numbers are more than double some of our past Conference attendance marks.

- With 237 total exhibit spaces sold, we have far exceeded our Trade Show record.
- With over \$215,000 in support from our Corporate Partners, we have broken another record—and achieved support, which is more than twice as much as many previous OPRA Conferences.

By virtually any measure, you are attending one of the largest gatherings of parks and recreation professionals in the United States!

If you've been here before, I want to let you know about three other changes that we are excited about:

- Because of the support from our Corporate Partners, our Trade Show has expanded across the hall into the Zambezi room. We hope you'll take time to visit with all our exhibitors who help to make this event possible.
- Our issue-specific roundtables have moved out of the education session schedule and into our lunch and exhibit hall times. This gives us more time for education sessions and helps to improve traffic flow in the exhibit halls.
- Our friends at Ohio Liquor are presenting a signature mocktail for each night at Conference. Those mocktails will be available at each evening networking event.

You'll notice other, more subtle, changes as well. We trust that what has not changed are the quality of our education sessions, the depth of our conversations, and the energy and enthusiasm that is pervasive every time we gather.

Mindy, Amanda, and I are here to serve you. Please let us know if there is anything we can do to make this week better. We are grateful to our Board of Directors and to our Conference planning team for their work in helping us get to this point. And we are excited about what this Conference will bring!

Have a wonderful Conference!



Woody Woodward
OPRA Executive Director



Sandusky Recreation



Hilliard Recreation & Parks

2025 OPRA CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

OPRA Board & Staff

Addie Weaver, Board Liason Washington Township RecPlex
Woody Woodward Ohio Parks and Recreation Association
Mindy McInturf Ohio Parks and Recreation Association
Amanda Perry Ohio Parks and Recreation Association

Awards

Darcy Baxter Hilliard Recreation and Parks
Kevin Swanson Miami County Park District

Communications

Julie Sergent, Chair Worthington Parks and Recreation
Adria Bergeron Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District
Liz Christian Columbus and Franklin County Metro Parks
Kim Farrell Anderson Park District

Education

Erin Duffee, Co-Chair Hilliard Recreation and Parks
Matt Leber, Co-Chair Upper Arlington Parks and Recreation
Ken Stray, Co-Chair Medina County Park District
Donna Bauman Reynoldsburg Parks & Recreation
Tom Boren Ohio Concrete
Dave Bruce Great Parks of Hamilton County
Jennifer Button Worthington Parks and Recreation
Tony Carpenter MetroParks of Butler County
Cara Chatfield Rohrbaugh Columbus and Franklin County Metro Parks
Ginger Clark Miami Conservancy District
Jeremy Dean Worthington Parks and Recreation
Katie Girts Whitehall Parks and Recreation
Chelsea Heppert Gahanna Parks & Recreation
Krista Johnston Gahanna Parks & Recreation
Matthew Kaderly Columbus and Franklin County Metro Parks
Lisa King Summit Metro Parks
Danielle Marino The 577 Foundation
Melissa Price Erie MetroParks
Bryana Ross Columbus Recreation and Parks
Stephanie Sercu Miamisburg Parks and Recreation
Jessica Simons Tallmadge Parks and Recreation
Andy Wildman Granville Recreation District

Exhibit Hall

Sue Daniel, Co-Chair Erie MetroParks
Penny Bomba, Co-Chair Akron Recreation and Parks
Robb Clifford Darke County Park District
Mark Hesse Evendale Recreation
Michael Osborne Five Rivers MetroParks
Paul Hollon Prairie Township



Networking

Kara Musser, Chair Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District
Marissa Angellatta Columbus Recreation and Parks
Nichole Butler Gahanna Parks & Recreation
Andy Collins Great Parks of Hamilton County
Kristy Dickey Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District
Molly Gross Fairborn Parks & Recreation
Nancy Haynes Worthington Parks and Recreation
Michael Lentz Hilliard Recreation and Parks
Mark Malone Erie MetroParks
Shane McAviney Mayfield Village Parks & Recreation
Adam Miller Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District
Doug Perry Retired
Cassie Pruyn Marysville Parks & Recreation
Morgan Simonski New Albany Plain Local Joint Parks District
Mindy Weaver Miami County Park District
Ai Vang Akron Recreation and Parks

Partnership

Celia Thornton, Chair Worthington Parks and Recreation
Zac Guthrie Gahanna Parks & Recreation
Amanda Morris Hilliard Recreation and Parks
Kris Myers Bellefontaine Joint Recreation District
Cory Ollie Whitehall Parks and Recreation
Jeremy Peppard Cleveland Metroparks
Michael Pollack Prairie Township
Craig Sanders O.O. McIntyre Park District
Brian Smith New Albany Plain Local Joint Parks District
Shelby Watkins Columbus and Franklin County Metro Parks
Addie Weaver Washington Township RecPlex

Student Conference

Eliese Kendrick, Chair Upper Arlington Parks and Recreation
Darcy Baxter Upper Arlington Parks and Recreation
Allison Bush Five Rivers MetroParks
Kerri Doddroe Obetz Parks & Recreation
Shunnye Dunlap Gahanna Parks & Recreation
Amanda Gehres Reynoldsburg Parks & Recreation
Tim Hales Hilliard Recreation and Parks
Kody Rubright Gahanna Parks & Recreation
Kevin Smith Bexley Recreation and Parks
Theo Spychalski New Albany Plain Local Joint Parks District
Oliver Wuensch Kent Parks and Recreation
Christian Williams Prairie Township



2025 OPRA CONFERENCE FAQs

A La Carte Breakfast Concessions

(Only available Tuesday and Wednesday if Monday daily minimum is met.)

7:30am-8:30am in front of Marrakesh | Items \$10-\$16 each

Yogurt Cup

Fruit Cups

Bagels

Muffins

Breakfast Sandwich - English muffin, fried egg, Canadian bacon, cheese

Sausage Egg and Cheese Biscuit

Coffee/Hot Tea

Selection of Starbucks Specialty Beverages

Soda/Energy Drinks/Bottled Water

CEUs

Continuing Education Units are offered for all sessions. Each 75-minute training session earns 0.1 CEU. If you require proof of attendance, see your room host for validation and signature.

Hotel Check-Out & Receipt

As long as there is an email address on file, guests will be emailed an itemized receipt. Guests will not need to do remote check-out to get an itemized receipt as long as an email is on file.

Coffee & Tea Station

Free coffee and tea are available in the Convention Center compliments of **Stantec and MSA Sport, a division of MSA Design.**

Communication

Daily updates will be available in the following locations:

- Welcome Desk
- Facebook, Instagram and Twitter: @OPRAOhio, #OPRA2025
- Download the OPRA 2025 App. Go to your app store and download the Eventsential App. Once you have downloaded the App search for OPRA2025.

Exhibit Hall

Monday, February 3 from 11:30am – 2:30pm (includes lunch)

Tuesday, February 4 from 9:45am – 12:45pm (includes lunch)

OPRA Fitness Camps

Monday Fitness | 6:30am – 7:15am | Ironwood Hut | Bryana Ross,
Columbus Recreation and Parks

A variety of bodyweight moves that will focus on strength and cardio. Bring water, a co-worker, and the energy to get after it!

Tuesday Boxing/Circuit Dynamic Training | 6:30am – 7:30am

Ironwood Hut | Clemate Franklin, Youngstown Parks and Recreation
Bring water, your energy, and boxing gloves if you have them! (Otherwise they will be provided.)

OPRA Foundation Raffle

The OPRA Foundation will be holding their annual raffles during Exhibit Hall hours - be sure to get your raffle tickets to help the Foundation continue to change lives across Ohio and win some great items!

Keep your eye on the raffles within the OPRA Event app or visit the OPRA Foundation booth in Zambezi to purchase your raffle tickets. All bidding will close at 12:00 p.m. sharp on Tuesday. Items may be picked up once winners have been chosen.

Wear your Badge!

Your Conference Badge serves as your admission to all Conference functions. If you lose your badge, please obtain a replacement at the Welcome Desk. Only properly identified attendees will be permitted access to events and sessions. Tickets to the Awards Celebration will be included inside the name badge holder.

Welcome Desk

Sunday	February 2	4:30pm – 7:00pm
Monday and Tuesday	February 3 & 4	7:30am – 4:00pm
Wednesday	February 5	7:30am – 11:00am

Special Thanks To

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Welcome Bags

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Name Badges

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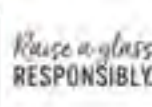


2025 OPRA CONFERENCE PARTNERS

PRESENTING



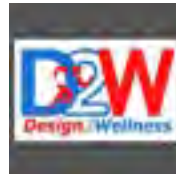
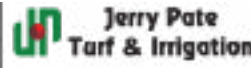
DIAMOND



PLATINUM



GOLD



SILVER



BRONZE



2025 OPRA CONFERENCE SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

Sunday, February 2

- 4:30pm - 7:00pm Registration Open
- 5:00pm - 6:30pm Student Attendee Meeting
- 6:00pm - 10:00pm Networking Event

Monday, February 3

- 6:30am - 7:15am OPRA Fitness Class
- 7:30am - 4:00pm Registration Open
- 8:30am - 9:45am Education Sessions
- 10:00am - 11:30am Keynote Speaker, Marc Mero
- 11:30am - 2:30pm Exhibit Hall, Roundtables, Lunch
- 1:00pm - 2:15pm Student Attendee Meeting
- 2:30pm - 3:45pm Education Sessions
- 4:00pm - 5:15pm Education Sessions
- 5:30pm - 8:00pm Dinner on your Own
- 6:00pm - 7:00pm Alumni Hour
- 8:00pm - 12:00am Hut Hop Networking Event

Tuesday, February 4

- 6:30am - 7:30am OPRA Fitness Class
- 7:30am - 4:00pm Registration Open
- 8:30am - 9:45am Education Sessions
- 9:00am - 9:30am Exhibitor Roundtable
- 9:45am - 12:45pm Exhibit Hall, Roundtables, Lunch
- 11:45am - 12:45pm Student Attendee Meeting
- 1:00pm - 2:30pm Leadership Series
- 2:45pm - 4:15pm Leadership Series
- 4:30pm - 6:00pm Professional Headshots
- 5:30pm - 6:30pm Informal Networking
- 6:30pm - 8:30pm Awards Celebration Dinner
- 8:30pm - 12:00am After Awards Networking

Wednesday, February 5

- 7:30am - 11:00am Registration Open
- 8:30am - 9:45am Education Sessions
- 9:45am - 10:15am Break for Hotel Check-Out
- 10:15am - 11:30am Education Sessions
- 11:30am - 1:00pm Lunch and Keynote Speaker, Michael Hingson





- Playgrounds
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- Fitness Equipment
- Splash Pads
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- Bleachers
- Drinking Fountains
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2025 OPRA CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Monday	Administration	Aquatics	Events	Facilities/Operations	Fiscal Administration	Human Resources
LOCATION	ALOESWOOD	LEOPARDWOOD	INDIGO BAY	ORANGE	GUAVA	PORTIA
8:30am-9:45am	Building Community Resilience -Kristen Riggins -Brandi Sanders	Making Aquatics Fun Again: Turning a Minion into a Mini Me! -Jim Clark	Ethical & Environmentally Conscious Events: An Imperfect Journey to Limiting Waste -Julia Haumschild -Julia Neal -Mark Smalley	Building for the Future -Jason Chadock	Empower Yourself: Measure Your Economic Impact -Ryan Davis -Bill Tschirhart	Launch Your Team: Success through Onboarding -Marisa Hoff
10:00am-11:30am			Keynote: Champion of Change			
2:30pm-3:45pm	Exceeding Expectations with Effective Community Engagement -Ryan Hegreness	The Making of a Community-Based Aquatics Center -Ted Haug -Chris Trotta -Sean Ward -Matt Freeby	Building Strong Community-Driven Events -Jeri Lewis	Effective Field Rotation: Bridging Programmers and Grounds Crews -Ryan DeMay -Jake Diefenthaler	Alternative Revenue - How to Generate It and Get More! -Bill Tschirhart -Andy Collins	OPRA Retirement Academy -Alex Solove
4:00pm-5:15pm	Connecting Community Needs with Strategic Master Planning -Matthew Earman -Leon Younger	Aquatic Programming for Success: The Ebbs and Flows -Autumn Hammer -Jackie Carroll	Taking the Stress Out of the Fest: A Case Study (or Two) to Help You Make Lasting Memories -Amanda Morris -Melissa Hindman	Developing an IPM Turf Management Program for Parks -Brian McGuire	How to Plan and Manage Your Capital Projects -James Russell -Dave Wharton -Ashley Senn	Building a Positive Parks Culture Through Turmoil and Growth -Jason Chaddock
Tuesday	Leadership					
LOCATION	CYPRESS	ORANGE	INDIGO BAY	PORTIA		
8:30am-9:45am	Building a Positive Parks Culture Through Turmoil and Growth -Zac Guthrie -Kody Rubright -Shunnye Dunlap	Building a Strategic Board -Annie Frisoli	Earn the Dawn - Effective Strategies to Enhance Your Life -Tom Speaks	Lifelong Lessons in Leadership -Chris Stevenson	Parade Unleashed & Recreation -Kristen	
LOCATION	CYPRESS		GUAVA		INDIGO BAY	
1:00pm-2:30pm	Lasso: Hidden Broccoli -Addie Weaver -Bill Tschirhart		Moving from Diversity to Inclusion: Accessibility and Inclusion for All -Michael Hingson		My Life is a Sitcom -Melissa Hindman -Amanda Gehres	
2:45pm-4:15pm	Lasso: Hidden Broccoli -Addie Weaver -Bill Tschirhart		Moving from Diversity to Inclusion: Accessibility and Inclusion for All -Michael Hingson		My Life is a Sitcom -Melissa Hindman -Amanda Gehres	
Wednesday	Administration	Fundamentals	Inclusion/DEI	Management	Parks	
LOCATION	ALOESWOOD	CYPRESS	GUAVA	MANGROVE	PORTIA	
8:30am-9:45am	Partnering for Success -Nathan Eppink	A Tool Box Approach to Your Career -Shane McAviney	How to Bring Pride to the Parks -Kelsey Rogers	Interdepartmental Relationships - Can't We All Just Get Along? -Cara Prell	Going Beyond Compliance: Indigenous Engagement, Site Stewardship -Megan Shaeffer -LaDonna BlueEye	
10:15am-11:30am	Listen Up - Your Community is Talking -Jacob Hensel	Who's Taking Care of YOU? -Jen Brandt	Everyone is Invited: Inclusion and the Modification Process -Addie Weaver -Anna Breidenbach	Middle Management & Mid-Career: Staying Relevant and Loving Life -Cara Prell	What...This Old Thing: Restoring, Reusing, and Repurposing Urban Landscapes -Michael Johnson	
11:30am-1:00pm			Keynote: Living a Better Life through Understanding the Power of Trust & Teamwork			

Schedule is subject to change. For the most updated information, go to opraonline.org.

Resources	Inclusion/DEI	Management	Marketing	Natural Resources	Parks	Trends
PORTIA	ROSEWOOD	CYPRESS	CROWN PALM HUT	ZEBRAWOOD	MANGROVE	SAGEWOOD
Opening Team to through ding	Breaking Down Barriers: A Practical Approach to Park Accessibility -John Patrick Picard -Sarah Buell -Billy Meismer -Jason Yost	Building a Better Workplace: Culture Enhancement and Expectation Management -Kaye Borchers -Janet Jackson	A Guide to Unlocking Creativity -Stephanie Sercu	Utilizing Natural Area Parks to Promote & Perform Conservation Research -Robert Curtis -Charlotte Gintert -Sarah Culliton	The Journey of Connecting Marginalized Communities to Nature through Outreach -Angelec Hillsman	Enhancing Sustainable Trail Development: Pre-Construction Vegetation Assessments -Grace Dietsch -Megan Rude

Choices – Marc Mero KALAHARI BALLROOM

Management my	“Words Matter”: Getting on the Same Page with Disability Inclusion -Lisa Drennan	Manage Conflict Like a Boss! -Julie Jones	Grow Awareness. Grow Engagement. Grow Stronger. -David Woodward -Mary-Charles Woodward	Wetlands Building Community -Jenny Adkins -Melissa Hindman	Park District Meeting and Advocacy Update -Woody Woodward	Urban Gardening: Embracing Nature from Concrete to Canopy -Reyna Askew -Dave Daly
Team	Disability Inclusion Includes ALL Staff: Getting Your Team on Board -Lisa Drennan	Coaching or Criticism: Using Feedback to Move Forward -Julie Jones	It's Not Just Us: How Can Programming and Marketing Work Together? -Stephanie Sercu -Ryan Davis -Jen Brandt	Carbon Capture and Storage: The Key to Mitigating Climate Change -Grace Dietsch	Creating a Sustainability Movement in Ohio's State Parks -Heather Bokman	All in Parks and Recreation: Productivity and Pitfalls -Bill Tschirhart -Ryan Hegreiness

GUAVA	SAGEWOOD	ALOESWOOD
Podical Leadership: Your Inner Parks ation Mastermind	Thriving as an Introvert in an Extroverted Industry -Ryan Hegreiness	Trust: The Ultimate Currency of Success -Ryan Davis

PORTIA	ORANGE
The Power of Authentic Leadership oni Murphy	The Value of a Value -Annie Frisoli
The Power of Authentic Leadership oni Murphy	The Value of a Value -Annie Frisoli

Programming	Urban Recreation	Volunteers
ORANGE	INDIGO BAY	SAGEWOOD
Who, What, When, Where, and Why? Creating the Programs Your Community Wants -Erin Harris -Katy Lucas -Alison Pifer	Challenges Unique to the Urban Core - Let's Talk About It! -Lisa King -Victoria Putnam -Josh Hamblen	Volunteers at the Heart: Engagement Strategies -Mary Beth Sills
Engaging Urban Youth in Nature Through STEAM -Nicole Hindman	Roadmap for Success -Manney Clarke -Antonio Combs	Does One Size Fit All in Volunteer Management? -Parker Spencer -Saundra McBrearty -Lisa Meranti

Book - Michael Hingson KALAHARI BALLROOM

Roundtables		
Monday	11:30am-12:15pm	55+ Programming, CROWN PALM HUT -Uriah Anderson, Tyler Barlage
	12:15pm-1:00pm	Summer Camp, BANYAN HUT -Cory Ollie, Gina Kolp
	1:00pm-1:45pm	Facilities/Operations, CROWN PALM HUT -Tony Carpenter
Tuesday	1:45pm-2:30pm	Events, BANYAN HUT -Julia Neal, Taylor Tobias
	9:45am-10:30am	Programming, CROWN PALM HUT -Kara Musser
	10:45am-11:30am	Sports, BANYAN HUT -Andy Wildman, Aaron Iplady
	11:45am-12:30pm	Marketing, CROWN PALM HUT -Stephanie Sercu, Emily Reichert





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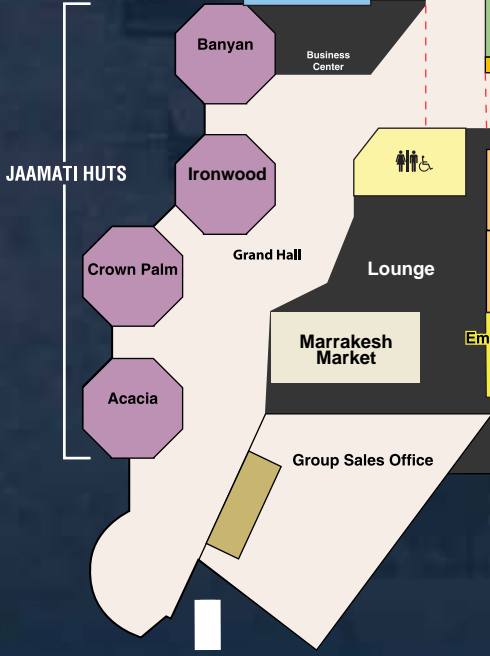
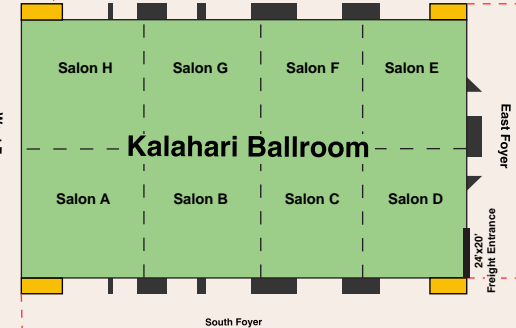
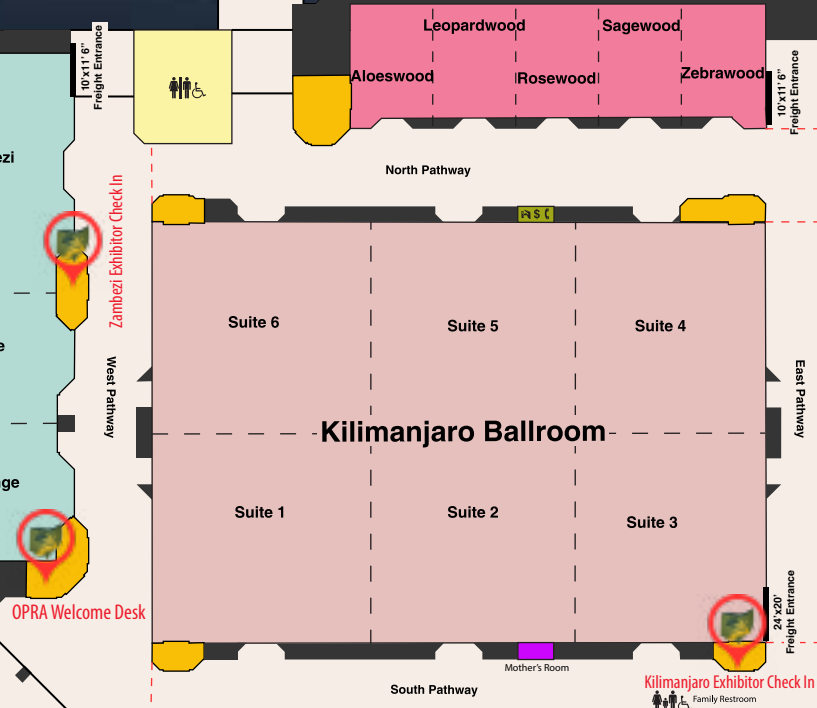


ENTRANCE B

WOOD ROOMS
6,985 total sq. ft.

RIVER ROOMS
11,823 total sq. ft.

ENTRANCE A



TO ROOM, SUITES & RESORT AMENITIES



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Equitable Financial is now the statewide provider of the OPRA 457 Deferred Compensation plan. Park districts can opt into this plan and offer it to employees as another retirement savings option. Through this plan we hope to close the retirement funding gap for OPRA members.

- ✓ **Retirees:** Help implement strategies to continue current lifestyle and help minimize taxes, RMDs
- ✓ **Individuals 5-10 Years from Retirement:** Create goal-oriented plan to protect nest egg
- ✓ **Social Security:** Know when to start collecting
- ✓ **Job Changes:** Understand options for old 401(k) & help understand benefits offered by new employer
- ✓ **Newly Married:** Planning for financial goals together and protecting household
- ✓ **Growing Family:** Life insurance and college planning needs
- ✓ **Pension Planning:** Understand how to maximize the benefits you are eligible to receive
- ✓ **Young Professionals:** Help enroll in work benefits



Alex Solove
Vice President, CRES
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Equitable Advisors
1001 Lakeside Ave., Suite 1650
Cleveland, OH 44114
equitable.com

Student Session: Welcome & Networking 5:00pm - 6:30pm | Orange

The OPRA Conference Student Committee will be welcoming students and introducing themselves. Students will also have the opportunity to enjoy speed networking in small groups. Additional Cconference information is shared to help orient students to Conference and set them up for success. Any and all students are welcome!



OPRA Superhero Networking Event 6:00pm-10:00pm | Kalahari Ballroom

Presented by Playground Equipment Services and Games Sponsored by SuperGames.

Also sponsored by Ares Sportswear, Baker Vehicle Systems, Brandstetter Carroll, Inc., Diamond Waterfronts, ms consultants, Ohio Liquor, The Photo Tower, Schorr Architects, Inc., and Vortex Aquatics Structures International.

Join us Sunday evening in the Kalahari Ballroom to catch up with colleagues as you enjoy some delicious appetizers. This event's non-alcoholic drink option is the Distinguished Guest Mocktail by Ohio Liquor. There will be plenty of games and activities as well!



CITY FESTIVALS



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Ohio Parks and Recreation Changing Lives



Ashland County Park District



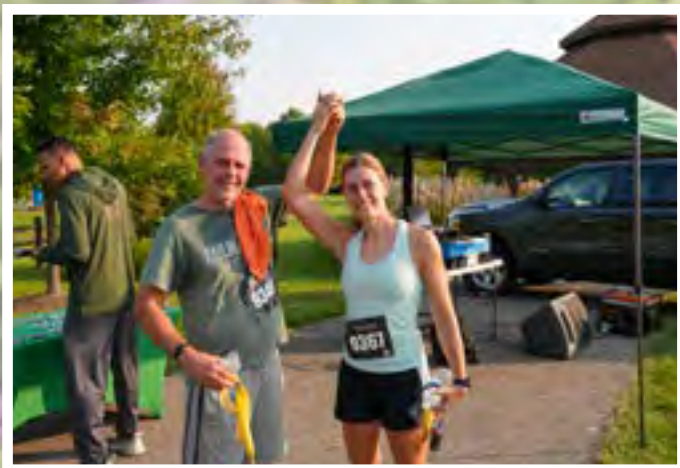
Metroparks Toledo



Ohio State Parks and Watercraft



Ashland County Park District



Westlake Parks & Recreation



Green Parks & Recreation

8:30am-9:45pm | Education Sessions

Sponsored by Equitable Advisors

Breaking Down Barriers: A Practical Approach to Park Accessibility

Room: **Rosewood** | Track: **Inclusion/DEI**

Everyone strives to provide accessible and welcoming spaces for patrons and to ensure every visitor has access to the benefits of our parks and trails. Faced with tight budgets and the challenges of changing regulations, the task can feel daunting. This session will provide an update on the recent changes to accessibility regulations and a template for creating programs to assess, identify, and prioritize solutions for accessibility in your parks.

John Patrick Picard John Patrick Picard Architect, Inc

Sarah Buell Stark Parks

Billy Meismer Stark Parks

Jason Yost Stark Parks

Building a Better Workplace: Culture Enhancement and Expectation Management

Room: **Cypress** | Track: **Management**

Imagine how fulfilling careers and lives could be if expectations were better managed to cultivate positive workplace culture. By defining realistic outcomes and fostering a supportive environment, expectations can be aligned for ourselves and others, including boards, elected officials, coworkers, and volunteers. In this interactive session, explore strategies to enhance organizational culture with a focus on managing expectations making work life more fulfilling and efficient.

Kaye Borchers Choice One Engineering

Janet Jackson Organization Solutions, LLC

Building Community Resilience

Room: **Aloeswood** | Track: **Administration**
Many communities are experiencing acts of violence and crises that have had detrimental effects. Oftentimes, recreation centers serve as safe spaces and a place of refuge. Explore strategies to build community resilience including those for both staff and community members. Participants will have a clear understanding of the necessity to cultivate organizational policies, procedures, and practices that foster a culture of service and empowerment, and promote safety, healing, and self-care.

Kristen Riggins Cincinnati Recreation Commission

Brandi Sanders Cincinnati Recreation Commission

Building for the Future

Room: **Orange** | Track: **Facilities/Operations**
As Parks and Recreation professionals, understanding daily operations and facility usage is key to serving the community. Adjusting operations and preventative maintenance are also imperative. Even bigger, perhaps, is seeing the future and meeting the new needs of your community. We do this through intentionally focusing on the future while building capital and strategic plans and incorporating master plans. In this session, Jason will educate attendees on the methods of building forward.

Jason Chadock Macedonia Parks and Recreation

Empower Yourself: Measure Your Economic Impact

Room: **Guava** | Track: **Fiscal Administration**

Discover the power of measuring your economic impact in this session designed to demystify Economic Impact Studies. Gain practical skills and insights through theory, examples, and interactive discussions. Discover how to quantify economic impact and leverage this knowledge. Join Bill and Ryan as they provide the tools to share stories of impact and have a little fun along the way.

Ryan Davis Miamisburg Parks and Recreation

Bill Tschirhart Kettering Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts

Enhancing Sustainable Trail Development: Pre-Construction Vegetation Assessments

Room: **Sagewood** | Track: **Trends**

With the growing demand for trails putting added stress on the biological integrity of natural areas, Five Rivers MetroParks developed a straightforward survey approach to better assess the impacts trails have on plants and biodiversity. This methodology identifies plant species within trail impact zones, integrating unbiased protocols rooted in science and adaptive management strategies. This adaptable method empowers teams without advanced plant identification skills to effectively mitigate environmental impacts.

Grace Dietsch Five Rivers MetroParks

Megan Rude Five Rivers MetroParks

Ethical & Environmentally Conscious Events: An Imperfect Journey to Limiting Waste

Room: **Indigo Bay** | Track: **Events**

Is your organization driven by a desire to reduce event waste? Join Summit Metro Parks staff to learn about their imperfect journey toward enhanced event sustainability. Hear from the cross-departmental team whose passion fueled their efforts, even when the challenges seemed overwhelming. Discover how needs were identified, goals established, and obstacles were overcome, while understanding that progress matters more than perfection. Gain valuable insights and motivation to kick-start or enhance your waste reduction initiatives.

Julia Haumschild Summit Metro Parks Foundation

Julia Neal Summit Metro Parks

Mark Smalley Summit Metro Parks

A Guide to Unlocking Creativity

Room: **Crown Palm Hut** | Track: **Marketing**
Brainstorms and ice breakers don't have to be cringy. This session will teach you how to lead thought-provoking brainstorming sessions that are actually fun and result in inspired staff and unexpected teambuilding.

Stephanie Sercu Miamisburg Parks and Recreation

The Journey of Connecting Marginalized Communities to Nature through Outreach

Room: **Mangrove** | Track: **Parks**

For almost 50 years, Cleveland Metroparks Mobile Outreach Unit has connected marginalized communities to nature. This journey of breaking down barriers to engage these communities in innovative ways has been critical to their success in making connections. This session will cover the establishment, programming, partnerships, and the future of the Mobile Outreach Unit.

Angelec Hillsman Cleveland Metroparks

Launching Your Team to Success through Onboarding

Room: **Portia** | Track: **Human Resources**

Craft a winning onboarding program! Learn proven methods to integrate new hires (seasonal and full-time) for a smooth transition, boost engagement, and empower the team for success.

Marisa Hoff The Empower Group

Making Aquatics Fun Again: Turning a Minion into a Mini Me!

Room: **Leopardwood** | Track: **Aquatics**

In the "Good Old Days", there were no rescue tubes. High dives, long breath-holding, and more than a few chicken fights were in every pool. Now, the battle is with the lifeguard shortage and cranky patrons while juggling the hundreds of duties of an Aquatics Director. Wouldn't it be nice to not face all these challenges alone? Pick yourself up, dust yourself off, and start making a Mini Me workforce.

Jim Clark Macedonia Parks and Recreation

Utilizing Natural Area Parks to Promote & Perform Conservation

Research | Room: **ZebraWood** | Track: **Natural Resources**

Natural area parks can provide important opportunities to foster conservation research. Summit Metro Parks will discuss three ways they fulfill this role by entertaining numerous research opportunities annually through special use permits, by utilizing seasonal and internship help to provide research experiences, and by leveraging partnerships to provide targeted research. Examples and results of research from both the students' and park agency's perspective will be offered.

Robert Curtis Summit Metro Parks

Charlotte Gintert Summit Metro Parks

Sarah Culliton Summit Metro Parks & Hiram College

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10:00am-11:30am | Opening Keynote | Kalahari Ballroom



Presented by DWA Recreation and GameTime

Marc Mero | Champion of Choices

Marc Mero, former WCW and WWE Wrestling Champion and 4-time New York State Golden Gloves Boxing Champion, reached the pinnacle of sports-entertainment success and then lost it all. But in the process, discovered what's most important in life; everyone faces adversity. "It's not how many times you get knocked down. It's how many times you get back up. You can do anything you set your mind to."

He shares his captivating journey with audiences worldwide and inspires people to examine their life choices. Listeners feel a greater sense of appreciation towards their relationships and are empowered to make a difference in their life, career, and community. As the founder of the nonprofit organization, Champion of Choices, Marc dedicates his life to helping others be the "Champion" they're destined to be!

11:30am-2:30pm | Roundtables | Crown Palm Hut & Banyan Hut

11:30am-12:15pm	55+ Programming	Crown Palm Hut	Uriah Anderson Washinton Township RecPlex Tyler Barlage Piqua Enviromental & Recreation Services
12:15pm-1:00pm	Summer Camp	Banyan Hut	Cory Ollie Whitehall Parks and Recreation Gina Kolp City of Powell
1:00pm-1:45pm	Facilities/Operations	Crown Palm Hut	Tony Carpenter MetroParks of Butler County
1:45pm-2:30pm	Events	Banyan Hut	Julia Neal Summit Metro Parks Taylor Tobias Grandview Heights Parks and Recreation

2025 OPRA CONFERENCE MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3

11:30am-2:30pm | Exhibit Hall | Kilimanjaro & Zambezi

The Exhibit Hall is back, bigger and better than ever! Check out all of our exhibitors for the latest and greatest in the parks and recreation world!

Don't forget to check out the OPRA Foundation Raffles!

Buffet lunch will be served at 11:30am with seating around the outside of Kilimanjaro.

1:00pm-2:15pm | Student Session: Job Mixer with Employers | Orange

The Student Session starts with a check-in and then gives students the opportunity to mingle with employers in small groups separated by regional location in the state. Interested employers will share full-time, part-time, and seasonal job opportunities.

2:30pm-3:45pm | Education Sessions

Sponsored by Equitable Advisors

Alternative Revenue - How to Generate It and Get More!

Room: **Guava** | Track: **Fiscal Administration**

With shrinking budgets and organizations being asked to do more, how do you fund these priorities? There are items considered "low hanging fruit," but what about the others? Investigate the deeper opportunities for alternative revenue with two finance professionals and get the inside story!

Bill Tschirhart Kettering Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts

Andy Collins Great Parks of Hamilton County

Building Strong Community-Driven Events | Room: **Indigo Bay** | Track: **Events**

Events have the power to create lasting memories and help sustain strong communities. To accomplish that, the concept of combining strong event planning with community building will be explored in this session. Participants will be guided through a step-by-step strategy for creating events that resonate with their specific community. Stories will be shared as examples to illustrate how community relationships can inspire event ideas and bring them to life. The culminating section will cover key elements every successful event should have.

Jeri Lewis City of Middletown

Effective Field Rotation: Bridging Programmers and Grounds Crews

Room: **Orange** | Track: **Facilities/Operations**

Discover how to effectively coordinate programmers and grounds crews to maximize field usage and maintain top condition of your fields. Learn best practices for scheduling, balancing usage demands, and implementing maintenance strategies. This session will provide insights on fostering teamwork and communication to ensure fields remain playable and safe. Explore techniques to optimize field rotation and ensure long-term sustainability and performance of your athletic fields.

Ryan DeMay FieldSource

Jake Diefenthaler FieldSource

Exceeding Expectations with Effective Community Engagement

Room: **Aloeswood** | Track: **Administration**

Do you struggle to get community participation in planning processes? Are you effectively reaching the diverse communities you serve? Do you wish you could respond more promptly to resident inquiries and improve satisfaction? From day-to-day operations and program satisfaction surveys to master planning and ballot initiatives, this session provides research, inspiration, examples, and tools to engage your community more effectively.

Ryan Hegreness BerryDunn

Grow Awareness. Grow Engagement. Grow Stronger.

Room: **Crown Palm Hut** | Track: **Marketing**

Every parks and recreation organization has its own special something: an indescribable feeling of community or a commitment to people and nature that's worth celebrating. Without the right branding, your system's messaging can easily go unheard making your goals fall short. A dynamic brand strategy increases community engagement, results in more funding, and helps you grow. Learn from experts who've helped districts across the country, including Metroparks Toledo, build sustainable brands and drive engagement through effective communications.

David Woodward Everwild

Mary-Charles Woodward Everwild

The Making of a Community-Based Aquatics Center

Room: **Leopardwood** | Track: **Aquatics**

The process of developing a community-based aquatics center should result in a design that uniquely reflects the needs and goals of the community. Through a precedent study, this session will explore the steps taken from the inception of an idea through the design and construction phases of the project.

Ted Haug Legat Architects

Chris Trotta levelHEADS Architects

Sean Ward Mayfield Heights Parks & Recreation

Matt Freeby Water Technology Inc.

Manage Conflict Like a Boss | Room: **Cypress** | Track: **Management**

Manage conflict like a boss, even if you're not! Build the UAEs of a winning culture.

Use them to celebrate success and manage conflict within your team. Gain an understanding of how communicating a clear picture of expectations and unacceptable, acceptable, and exceptional behaviors can help you turn conflict into collaboration no matter your position on the team. Learn to use the Rule of 3 and non-negotiables to get through the unavoidable tough stuff of teams.

Julie Jones SSB Performance, LLC

OPRA Retirement Academy | Room: **Portia** | Track: **Human Resources**

This presentation will educate members on all aspects of their retirement. OPERS benefits and elections at retirement, tools available to supplement pensions while working, and other considerations like social security, severance payout plans, plus more will be covered. This session is made for individual members, as well as, those in leadership looking for ways to educate their employees.

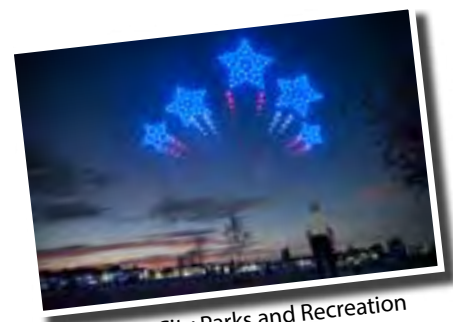
Alex Solove Equitable Advisors

Park District Meeting and Advocacy Update

Room: **Mangrove** | Track: **Parks**

Networking and discussion on issues of interest for Ohio park districts. Explore solutions to challenges that park districts face as it relates to actions taken by state legislators.

Woody Woodward Ohio Parks and Recreation Association



Grove City Parks and Recreation

2025 OPRA CONFERENCE MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3

Urban Gardening: Embracing Nature from Concrete to Canopy

Room: **Sagewood** | Track: **Trends**

Discover how Summit Metro Parks and Let's Grow Akron have created an immersive garden classroom at Summit Lake Nature Center that supports healthy lifestyles for all people from all walks of life. Our nature center community garden provides an inclusive space for everyone to learn how to start their own garden in a bed, their backyard, or a bucket on their balcony. Learn the first steps toward introducing inclusive gardening into your parks

Reyna Askew Summit Metro Parks

Dave Daly Summit Metro Parks

Wetlands Building Community

Room: **ZebraWood** | Track: **Natural Resources**

Wetlands are among the most diverse habitats in the world. We invite you to celebrate and even add these natural resources in your community and in your programming. MAD Scientist Associates and parks and rec staff from the City of Powell team up to share how a four-acre wetland at a city park has become a cornerstone of community and curiosity.

Jenny Adkins MAD Scientist Associates

Melissa Hindman City of Powell

"Words Matter" Getting on the Same Page with Disability Inclusion

Room: **Rosewood** | Track: **Inclusion/DEI**

Join this session with a focus on practicing inclusive language and understanding the different types of program design that helps to foster a disability-inclusive culture. Let's start by analyzing the term "Inclusion," using person first language, and replacing "words to lose" with "words to live by," producing language that is more empowering and positive focused. Next, we'll break down the different models on how your programs can be offered: Specialized, Adaptive, Integrated, or Authentic Inclusion. What are the core elements, benefits, and challenges to each model? Wrap it up with a discussion on the word "Special" and its impact on how people with disabilities are supported to be valued members of our community.

Lisa Drennan MERGE Diverse Abilities Inclusion Consulting

4:00pm-5:15pm | Education Sessions

Sponsored by Equitable Advisors

AI in Parks and Recreation: Productivity and Pitfalls

Room: **Sagewood** | Track: **Trends**

In this session, dive into the real-world applications of artificial intelligence within parks and recreation. From enhancing operational efficiency to sparking creative marketing strategies, discover how AI can revolutionize your department and boost productivity. Explore case studies showcasing successful AI integrations, share practical and affordable tools you can implement immediately, provide tips for talking to your IT team about using AI, and discuss the legal and ethical considerations to ensure responsible AI usage. Join Bill and Ryan to transform your operations with the power of AI while staying ahead of potential pitfalls.

Bill Tschirhart Kettering Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts

Ryan Hegreiness BerryDunn

Aquatic Programming for Success: The Ebbs and Flows

Room: **Leopardwood** | Track: **Aquatics**

This seminar will teach you to utilize your most expensive piece of fitness equipment - your pool! Learn to maximize the return on investment and take programming that is all wet and have it gleam with excellence. Take your dying aquatics program and resuscitate it with alternative programming, instructor training, leadership, and motivational tools to create a profitable aquatic exercise program. Leave with great strategic marketing tools and programming protocols to turn your pool into a profit center!

Autumn Hammer SCW Fitness Education

Jackie Carroll SCW Fitness Education

Building a Team | Room: **Portia** | Track: **Human Resources**

Today, more than ever, having a strong team is critical to excelling in service. Building an environment is important, however, getting the right people on that team is the key. That's achieved by having a strong hiring process and not taking shortcuts. Maintaining a staff and providing training and proper resources is imperative. This training will cover how to hire, train, and motivate staff for continued success and create a positive culture.

Jason Chadock Macedonia Parks and Recreation



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Carbon Capture and Storage: The Key to Mitigating Climate Change

Room: **ZebraWood** | Track: **Natural Resources**

In 2023, Five Rivers MetroParks conducted a comprehensive study on soil carbon sequestration across diverse ecosystems, including prairies, forests, and wetlands. This research aimed to assess their capacity to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and enhance long-term carbon storage. The findings from this study are pivotal for prioritizing restoration efforts, shaping land conservation strategies, and fostering public understanding and engagement in conservation practices.

Grace Dietsch Five Rivers MetroParks

Coaching or Criticism: Using Feedback to Move Forward

Room: **Cypress** | Track: **Management**

Am I being coached or criticized? Is it feed-back or feed-forward? No matter how it is delivered, success depends on learning to share critical information and the ability to use information shared to improve performance. Get a picture of how feedback is typically managed and learn to adjust the approach to make every situation work for the individual and the organization.

Julie Jones SSB Performance, LLC

Connecting Community Needs with Strategic Master Planning

Room: **Aloeswood** | Track: **Administration**

Is your Parks and Recreation Master Plan fulfilling the needs of your community? Strategies for developing and implementing a resilient master plan will be discussed in this session. A case study of how the City of Dublin approached its recent plan update, the processes through which the plan was developed, and how the strategies are being implemented will be offered to help support your next master planning efforts.

Matthew Earman City of Dublin

Leon Younger PROS Consulting, Inc.

Creating a Sustainability Movement in Ohio's State Parks

Room: **Mangrove** | Track: **Parks**

Improving sustainability in Ohio's state parks is crucial because of the large environmental footprint that recreational use can leave upon the land. Because ODNR takes the responsibility of protecting natural resources seriously, the agency is preparing for the future with the ConServe Ohio sustainability initiative. This session shares Ohio State Parks' story of implementing a sustainability plan across 76 state parks, facilitating organizational change, and expanding efforts as technology and resources become available.

Heather Bokman ODNR Division of Parks & Watercraft

Developing an IPM Turf Management Program for Parks

Room: **Orange** | Track: **Facilities/Operations**

IPM is a responsible approach to Turfgrass Management using best practices, scouting, monitoring, and record keeping. For those looking to increase the playability and safety of their sports fields, soil stability, or just looking to start at the ground level, this session will provide you with the steps needed to develop a turf management program for your agency.

Brian McGuire Reynoldsburg Parks and Recreation

Disability Inclusion Includes ALL Staff: Getting Your Team on Board

Room: **Rosewood** | Track: **Inclusion/DEI**

Struggling to get your staff on board with inclusion? Inclusion takes organizational commitment. Learn strategies to build a culture where every position ensures all belong. Common hurdles and best practices to engage your entire team in disability inclusion will be discussed. Discover how to effectively support CTRs or Inclusion Specialists, promote independence and confidence among front-line staff, and enhance your program's capacity for success.

Lisa Drennan MERGE Diverse Abilities Inclusion Consulting

How to Plan and Manage Your Capital Projects

Room: **Guava** | Track: **Fiscal Administration**

Balancing the day-to-day requirements of operating and managing a department while taking on larger, more costly, and often complex capital projects, create challenges that can impact cost schedules. Attendees will learn how to organize, plan, and advance capital projects, and review various management options. This session will include a review of the design process, construction delivery options, and strategies to approach managing a new project without disrupting current activities.

James Russell Pizzuti Solutions LLC

Dave Wharton New Albany Plain Local Joint Parks District

Ashley Senn Pizzuti Solutions LLC

2025 OPRA CONFERENCE MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3

It's Not Just Us: How Can Programming and Marketing Work Together? | Room: Crown Palm Hut | Track: Marketing

No one came! It's marketing's fault! It's recreation's fault! ::insert meme of 3 Spiderman's pointing at each other here:: Maybe it's no one's fault? This session will talk through real situations between marketing and recreation and how they helped shift planning strategies to turn a hand off to a high five. Are we experts? No way! Have we learned through this process and want to share our experiences with you? Absolutely.

Stephanie Sercu Miamisburg Parks and Recreation
Ryan Davis Miamisburg Parks and Recreation
Jen Brandt Miamisburg Parks and Recreation

Taking the Stress Out of the Fest: A Case Study (or Two) to Help You Make Lasting Memories | Room: Indigo Bay | Track: Events

Amanda and Melissa will guide you through a rollercoaster journey of learning from their top hits and epic fails in the world of event planning. Dive into the thrilling case studies of the City of Marysville's Friday Nights Uptown and the City of Powell's Powell Festival. They'll spill the tea on event logistics, sponsorships, liquor permits, and the drama behind entertainment contracts and volunteer management. Let's make events epic again!

Amanda Morris Hilliard Recreation & Parks
Melissa Hindman City of Powell

Alumni Hour Networking Event 6:00pm - 7:00pm | Grand Hall

Presented by The Ohio State University
Environmental Resources Alumni Society (ENRAS)

Attention all OSU ENRAS Alumni! Join your peers for an Alumni Hour.



Networking Event 8:00pm - 12:00am Jaamati Huts, Indigo Bay, & Marrakesh

Enjoy a relaxing evening with colleagues visiting Marrakesh, Indigo Bay, and Kalahari's Jaamati Huts where OPRA partners will offer food, drinks, games, and other surprises! This event's non-alcoholic drink option is the Bahama Mamaw by Ohio Liquor.



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8:30am-9:45pm | Education Sessions

Sponsored by Coaching Skills Academy

Building a Positive Parks Culture Through Turmoil and Growth

Room: **Cypress** | Track: **Leadership**

Gahanna has faced many challenges in the past decade: failed levies, leadership turnover, budget cuts, and COVID. During these times, the culture within the Parks Division suffered. Building and maintaining a positive culture in a Parks environment is difficult. Find out how a culture of growth, accountability, and teamwork was achieved by showcasing how they went from nearly being absorbed into the Service Department to now flourishing with triple the full-time workforce and millions of dollars in projects.

Zac Guthrie City of Gahanna

Kody Rubright City of Gahanna

Shunnye Dunlap City of Gahanna

Building a Strategic Board | Room: **Orange** | Track: **Leadership**

Does your Board have clarity in their purpose to best serve your department? Do your Board members leave meetings and know exactly how they can be an asset to you and your department before returning to the next scheduled Board meeting? This engaging presentation will share lessons learned, along with practical tools to encourage action of your Board members through the design of clear and detailed Board strategic plan.

Annie Frisoli Creating Community, LLC

Earn the Dawn - Effective Strategies to Enhance Your Life

Room: **Indigo Bay** | Track: **Leadership**

Have you ever felt like you're stuck in your comfort zone, unable to push yourself to fully embrace the vibrant life you desire? The invisible barriers that keep you from breaking through and achieving your fullest potential can be daunting. This session is designed to help face these fears head-on and equip you with practical strategies to enhance your life.

Tom Speaks The Impact Group

Lifelong Lessons in Leadership | Room: **Portia** | Track: **Leadership**

Forget force, ignite potential! This session unveils the secrets to inspiring your team to achieve greatness. Learn key leadership strategies and gain practical tools to empower them. Walk away energized and equipped to become the leader you were meant to be.

Chris Stevenson The Empower Group

Paradoxical Leadership: Unleash Your Inner Parks & Recreation Mastermind

Room: **Guava** | Track: **Leadership**

Unleash your inner paradox master! In this session, you will discover the key strengths and weaknesses of your strategic style. We'll ditch the "either/or" and embrace "both/and" thinking to keep your teams thriving, all while balancing organizational tradition and staying relevant to your stakeholders. Learn how to navigate challenges using five specific examples from the Centerville-Washington Park District. Get ready for an insightful dive into the paradox mindset.

Kristen Marks Centerville-Washington Park District

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Thriving as an Introvert in an Extroverted Industry

Room: **Sagewood** | Track: **Leadership**

Public meetings, politicians, presentations, community engagement, conferences, meetings, and social activities—let's face it, there's a lot to overcome for an introvert in municipal parks and recreation! Our profession needs the perceptive, sensitive, analytical, and introspective characteristics of the introvert. In fact, research demonstrates that introverts can be better decision-makers and more effective leaders. How does the introvert thrive in a field filled with outgoing personalities and the responsibilities of countless events, meetings, and presentations? We will discuss strategies for quiet leaders to navigate these waters and find their voice.

Ryan Hegreess BerryDunn

Trust: The Ultimate Currency of Success

Room: **Aloeswood** | Track: **Leadership**

Unlock the power of trust in this dynamic session. Discover what makes great teams excel and how trust fuels career, relationship, and community impact. Engage in interactive exercises and real-world case studies to master trust-building strategies. Whether a seasoned pro or an aspiring leader, this session will ignite your passion and equip you with actionable tools for success. Don't miss out on this transformative journey in trust!

Ryan Davis Miamisburg Parks and Recreation

2025 OPRA CONFERENCE TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4

Exhibitor Roundtable | 9:00am-9:30am | Kilimanjaro Exhibitor Check In

Exhibitors meet to discuss suggestions, comments, concerns, and how we can improve the Exhibit Hall experience.

Roundtables | 9:45am-12:30pm | Crown Palm Hut & Banyan Hut

9:45am-10:30am	Programming	Crown Palm Hut	Kara Musser Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District
10:45am-11:30am	Sports	Banyan Hut	Andy Wildman Granville Recreation District Aaron Tiplady Sharonville Parks and Recreation
11:45am-12:30pm	Marketing	Crown Palm Hut	Stephanie Sercu Miamisburg Parks and Recreation Emily Reichert Miamisburg Parks and Recreation

OPRA Foundation Raffles | 9:45am-12:30pm | Zambezi

The OPRA Foundation will be holding their annual raffles during Exhibit Hall hours - be sure to place your bids and get your raffle tickets. Help the Foundation continue to change lives across Ohio and win some great items!

Exhibit Hall & Lunch | Kilimanjaro & Zambezi

Stop by the Exhibit Hall one last time to say thank you to your favorite exhibitors and enjoy a delicious lunch. Lunch will be served at 11:00am.

Student Session: Industry Topics Discussion | 11:45am-12:45pm | Orange

There will be an open discussion of industry topics in which student interaction is highly encouraged. Students will also have the opportunity to provide feedback and ask any questions before the end of the Student Conference experience.

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2025 OPRA CONFERENCE TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4

1:00pm-2:30pm & 2:45pm-4:15pm | Leadership Series

The Leadership Series offers each session twice, so you will be able to hear two of five fantastic speakers!

Addie Weaver & Bill Tschirhart | Lasso: Hidden Broccoli | Cypress

Really, who likes broccoli anyway? You know it's good for you but sometimes, you need to hide broccoli with cheese to eat it – and then you love it! The show *Ted Lasso* has so many leadership lessons that are like cheese-covered broccoli that you may have missed them while you were laughing (or crying)! You don't have to be a *Ted Lasso* fan to BELIEVE! In this session, you will learn curious leadership skills, how relationships build high-performers, and why leaders must be comfortable with being uncomfortable. The philosophies from the book *Trust and Inspire* pairs perfectly with the Lasso way. This session will leave you knowing what you can change about yourself and your organization to BELIEVE in the possibility of what's next.



Addie Weaver is an enthusiastic parks and recreation professional with a servant heart that helps agencies connect to their communities. Her strong background in programming, while being called in as an agent of change, allows her to connect the dots to the big administrative picture. Her passion for parks and recreation with a purpose is contagious. Addie has worked for 20 years in the field and continues to enjoy learning something new every day. Addie has presented at numerous state and national conferences, schools, and institutes on topics such as staff appreciation, grit in the workplace, change management, marketing, programs, events, and mental health. Addie is the Senior Recreation Supervisor for Washington Township RecPlex near Dayton, Ohio.

Bill Tschirhart combines a business approach with public sector service helping organizations achieve their financial goals. Bill has worked in both the municipal and park district setting, a career spanning more than 27 years. Bill has presented at numerous state and national conferences, schools, and institutes on topics such as cost recovery, pricing, financial management, marketing, and alternative revenue. Bill is the Director of Kettering Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts.

Michael Hingson | Moving from Diversity to Inclusion: Accessibility and Inclusion for All | Guava

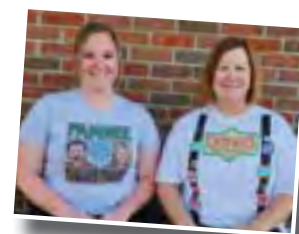


In his presentation, Michael Hingson, who is blind and a survivor of the September 11th World Trade Center attack, will demonstrate that Diversity is not enough and why it's time for real Inclusion on the job and in our lives. Mike uses stories and lessons from his own life growing up as a blind person, successfully working in professional sales, management, and leadership positions, living as an entrepreneur, and surviving the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001, to teach his audiences how a few simple attitude adjustments can open our minds and hearts as well as including persons with disabilities when filling jobs. Attendees will take away ideas about how to gain loyal and hard-working employees as well as how to make the existing workforce more welcoming to those who are different than they are. Mike reminds us that we are all walking down the same road of life and that if we work together, we can create a smoother path for everyone.

Michael Hingson has had a 30-year career in management for tech companies, but his life changed dramatically on September 11, 2001, when he and his guide dog, Roselle, escaped from the 78th floor of Tower One of the World Trade Center moments before it collapsed. He is the author of the #1 New York Times Best Seller, *Thunder Dog: The True Story of a Blind Man, His Guide Dog & the Triumph of Trust* selling over 2.5 million copies worldwide, and in 2014, published his 2nd book, *Running with Roselle*. Mike has served as The National Public Affairs Director for Guide Dogs for the Blind, the vice president of the National Association of Guide Dog Users, the National Ambassador for the Braille Literacy Campaign of the National Federation of the Blind, the founder of the Roselle's Dream Foundation, and holds board seats on the Fort Worth Lighthouse for the Blind, the Earle Baum Center for the Blind, and the Colorado Center for the Blind. Until 2019, he worked as the CEO of the Do More Foundation, and in January 2021, Mike joined AccessiBe as its Chief Vision Officer.

Melissa Hindman & Amanda Gehres | My Life is a Sitcom | Indigo Bay

"I have no idea what I'm doing, but I know I'm doing it well!" Join us once again for an engaging session that explores the parallels between the workplace and your favorite sitcoms. From *The Office* to *Parks and Recreation*, you'll find valuable lessons about teamwork, leadership, communication, and navigating office politics. And remembering what public service is all about: making people's lives a tiny bit better.



Melissa Hindman is the Chief Memory Maker and Facilitator of Fun for the City of Powell. A graduate of The Ohio State University, she began her career with the World Football League. Throughout her 30 years in Parks and Recreation, she has worked with Columbus Recreation and Parks, Worthington Parks and Recreation, and Powell Parks and Recreation. Her duties have included programming, sport leagues, summer camps, marketing, community outreach, sponsorships, special events, and administration.

Amanda Gehres is the Recreation Superintendent for Reynoldsburg Parks and Recreation. Starting her official career over 12 years ago working with various cities, she set up her path in recreation through volunteering as a young teenager before realizing this field could be a career. Passionate about the field, she continues to learn and tries to find ways to be a little bit more like Leslie Knope every day.

2025 OPRA CONFERENCE TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4

1:00pm-2:30pm & 2:45pm-4:15pm | Leadership Series

The Leadership Series offers each session twice, so you will be able to hear two of five fantastic speakers!

Toni Murphy | **The Power of Authentic Leadership** | Portia



Join Toni in a thought-provoking conversation where attendees will explore the challenges of authentic leadership and its impact on building meaningful connections within teams. Many leaders avoid sharing their personal viewpoints and experiences, opting to hide their authentic selves. This session aims to delve into the essential elements of authentic leadership, including the power of personal storytelling, contextualizing leadership viewpoints through personal experiences, and fostering genuine relationships by encouraging others to share their stories. Learn how authenticity can positively influence relationships and empower individuals to bring their authentic selves to every interaction.

Toni Murphy is the newly appointed EVP and Chief Operating Officer for Astound Broadband with over 20 years of experience in the cable and telecommunications industry. Before her current role, Toni held various leadership positions at Comcast, including CMO and SVP, as well as Sales and Marketing. She has a Bachelor of Arts in French and Economics from Princeton University and is actively involved in non-profit work. Besides her professional achievements, Toni is known for her talents as a jazz singer, poet, and passionate traveler.

Annie Frisoli | **The Value of a Value** | Orange

Ever wondered if your organization's values are more than just words on a breakroom poster? In this lively session, we'll dive into the real worth of organizational values and yes, they are more than just free coffee and casual Fridays. Join in on this session to discover the profound impact that a value-driven approach can have on your organization's performance, reputation, and team members.

Annie Frisoli, Founder & CEO of Creating Community LLC has led numerous discussions on topics related to leadership, culture, and communication. Annie is a former university faculty member of nearly 20 years within parks and recreation management and now finds great passion in hosting staff development workshops and consulting with organizations on how to design and develop thriving work cultures. However, some of Annie's most prized titles include wife, daughter, sibling, best friend, hiker, biker, and author of *Leadership by Design: 24 Intentional Actions to Inspire Great Leadership*.



Professional Headshots | 4:30pm-6:00pm | Executive Center

Stop in the Executive Center for a free professional headshot. Images will be emailed to you after Conference.

Awards Informal Networking Reception | 5:30pm-6:30pm | South Foyer

Presented by Ohio Liquor

Celebrate the award winners with old and new colleagues.

Awards Celebration Dinner | 6:30pm-8:30pm | Kalahari Ballroom

Presented by DWA Recreation and GameTime

Celebrate the life-changing work of Ohio Parks and Recreation professionals with a showcase of Award-winning programs, events, projects, and the people behind them all in the Kalahari Ballroom.

After Awards Networking | 8:30pm-12:00am | Kilimanjaro & Nile

Presented by A&S Party Rental

After dinner, let the networking continue in the Kilimanjaro Rec Room with DJ, dance floor, and plenty of games or hang out in the low-key Nile Club Room with cards and cornhole. This event's non-alcoholic drink option is the Apple Cider Mule Mocktail by Ohio Liquor.

8:30am-9:45am | Education Sessions

Challenges Unique to the Urban Core - Let's Talk About It!

Room: **Indigo Bay** | Track: **Urban Recreation**

Parks are for all! But are we all equipped to deal with the challenges of an urban park? Learn about challenges and solutions for providing a welcoming, safe, and green environment.

Lisa King Summit Metro Parks

Victoria Putnam Summit Metro Parks

Josh Hamblen Summit Metro Parks

Going Beyond Compliance: Indigenous Engagement, Site Stewardship

Room: **Portia** | Track: **Parks**

Indigenous cultural sites often fall within the boundaries of park systems. Many parks do not have the staff, time, or resources to put toward site stewardship or engagement with Indigenous communities. Summit Metro Parks' efforts to highlight Indigenous culture and heritage and to build relationships with Indigenous communities will be discussed in this session. The overall goal is to conserve these important sites and create authentic, meaningful, and educational opportunities relating to Ohio's Indigenous legacy.

Megan Shaeffer Summit Metro Parks

LaDonna BlueEye Summit Metro Parks

How to Bring Pride to the Parks | Room: **Guava** | Track: **Inclusion/DEI**

Learn how to successfully and safely bring pride programming to your parks while hearing all about Cleveland Metroparks recent LGBTQ+ programming. With over 50 programs to draw from, we will understand the foundation of building a robust pride series and how to adjust for each unique park system.

Kelsey Rogers Cleveland Metroparks

Interdepartmental Relationships - Can't We All Just Get Along?

Room: **Mangrove** | Track: **Management**

Unlike the private sector, government agencies have SO many departments working together for the greater good. We will examine ways to build relationships among VERY different personalities. Police, Fire, Public Works, Communications, Finance, and even *gasp* City/County/State officials. We will also work on streamlining cumbersome communication and tasks for a better approach to events, programs, and more!

Cara Prell City of Johns Creek

Partnering for Success | Room: **Aloeswood** | Track: **Administration**

There is strength in numbers. Learn how Medina County Park District is leveraging relationships and local dollars to expand its reach and secure additional funding. From libraries and sports leagues to historical societies and strategic non-profits, examples will be provided that will have attendees leaving with ideas and the inspiration to reach beyond their organizations to build better communities.

Nathan Eppink Medina County Park District



Gahanna Parks and Recreation

A Tool Box Approach to Your Career

Room: **Cypress** | Track: **Fundamentals**

Embrace a versatile career tool box by valuing experiences, understanding people, and adapting to change. Continuously learn and grow, leveraging each experience to enhance skills and resilience. Embrace collaboration, effective communication, and seize opportunities for innovation. Make a meaningful impact, enrich lives, and contribute to communities. With an open mind, commitment to learning, and dedication to making a difference, navigate challenges confidently. Thrive in today's professional landscape, positioning yourself as a valuable asset to any organization.

Shane McAviney Mayfield Village Parks and Recreation

Volunteers at the Heart: Engagement Strategies

Room: **Sagewood** | Track: **Volunteers**

This program emphasizes the role volunteers play in achieving organizational goals and aims to provide practical strategies for enhancing volunteer satisfaction and impact. By providing tips and suggestions, this session will equip organizations with the knowledge and tools necessary to foster a vibrant and committed volunteer community. Participants will learn to place volunteers at the heart of their mission ensuring sustained success and meaningful impact.

Mary Beth Sills The Wilds

Who, What, When, Where, and Why? Creating the Programs Your Community Wants | Room: **Orange** | Track: **Programming**

We'll take you through the basics of developing a recreation program from start to finish. Starting with determining what it is your community wants (and needs) you to do. Erin, Katy, and Alison will walk you through identifying resources and strategies to deliver the program and how to evaluate your outcomes. Participants will practice creating a variety of program plans based on their position and their own agency's goals. This session will include time to brainstorm and workshop new ideas with each other, as well as learn about current program trends.

Erin Harris City of Beavercreek

Katy Lucas Centerville-Washington Park District

Alison Pifer Little Miami Watershed Network

10:15am-11:30am | Education Sessions

Does One Size Fit All in Volunteer Management?

Room: **Sagewood** | Track: **Volunteers**

Volunteer managers will put their heads together to share what works to recruit, retain, and recognize volunteers through the demographic lens of youth volunteers, working volunteers, and retirees. Three seasoned volunteer managers from various park districts around Ohio with more than 40 years of combined experience will facilitate this interactive discussion. Utilizing polls, small group breakout sessions, and group discussions, this is an opportunity to network, elevate your volunteer program, share your success strategies, and pick up new ideas.

Parker Spencer Stark Parks

Saundra McBrearty Preservation Parks of Delaware County

Lisa Meranti Summit Metro Parks

Engaging Urban Youth in Nature Through STEAM

Room: **Orange** | Track: **Programming**

Join Cleveland Metroparks Naturalist, Nicole Hindman, to learn strategies to recruit and engage urban families in camps and after-school nature education programs. The Euclid Beach STEM Adventure Camp project includes three years of community engagement through nature-based STEAM activities including kayaking, fishing, upcycled crafts, creek walking, robotic bug building, and s'more making. The goal is to continue momentum in this grassroots-style programming and actively increase attendance and engagement in urban and underserved communities.

Nicole Hindman Cleveland Metroparks

Everyone is Invited: Inclusion and the Modification Process

Room: **Guava** | Track: **Inclusion/DEI**

Public recreation departments are required to serve everyone. Learn how to start and implement a modification process with ADA requirement do's and don'ts. Share what the challenges of serving people with disabilities looks like and hear the successes of why it's all worth it. You'll leave feeling more confident in serving your whole community while feeling more educated on how to make it happen. Tools and resources will be shared so you can start NOW!

Addie Weaver Washington Township RecPlex

Anna Breidenbach City of Kettering

Listen Up - Your Community is Talking

Room: **Aloeswood** | Track: **Administration**

Surveys are not the only way to hear what a community has to say. In this session, take a deep dive into learning ways to listen to the community and let them know they are being heard. Whether it's focus groups, community meet-ups, social media, interactive voting on an issue, or just going to community events, there are endless ways to understand what a community wants. And don't forget the second part. Once you act on a need, let them know about it.

Jacob Hensel Centerville-Washington Park District

Middle Management & Mid-Career: Staying Relevant and Loving Life

Room: **Mangrove** | Track: **Management**

Let's face it, finding and keeping our "why" can be challenging in light of ever-changing politics, staff, and personal life changes. Work on staying relevant and adding value, as well as, managing change and expectations all while maintaining work/life balance!

Cara Prell City of Johns Creek



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2025 OPRA CONFERENCE WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5

Roadmap for Success | Room: Indigo Bay | Track: Urban Recreation

Every agency has their own definition of what success means to them. Well, at least we all should by the very fact that no two recreational agencies are created 100% alike. Our road map to success should be fitting to the communities in which we serve. Join this interactive session that will provide valuable insight in building their roadmap to success and how to position an agency when creativity and opportunity meet. The session will provide practical strategies on how to promote innovative recreational opportunities in urban communities, provide holistic and inclusive programming for those who fall by the wayside, and connect resources to communities in need.

Manney Clarke Columbus Recreation and Parks

Antonio Combs Columbus Recreation and Parks

What...This Old Thing? Restoring, Reusing, and Repurposing Urban Landscapes | Room: Portia | Track: Parks

Summit Metro Parks has been restoring impacted and urbanized landscapes for over 100 years. Farms have been restored to prairies, golf courses changed back into forests, and ditches turned back into streams. This presentation will provide an overview of projects from simple hand-and-shovel to multimillion dollar grant funded restorations. Lessons learned from past projects and highlights of new projects in the pipeline will also be discussed.

Michael Johnson Summit Metro Parks

Who's Taking Care of YOU? | Room: Cypress | Track: Fundamentals

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11:30am - 1:00pm | **Closing Keynote** | Kalahari Ballroom

Presented by Penchura and Landscape Structures, Inc.

Michael Hingson | Living a Better Life Through Understanding the Power of Trust & Teamwork

Michael Hingson uses his personal experiences of over 40 years in high technology sales and management, 59 years with guide dog partners, and his survival of the twin towers terrorist attacks on 9/11, to address the issue of building a team based on trust. He captivates his audiences with stories and lessons about how he has created successful and high functioning teams wherever he goes. "The power of trust and teamwork is all around us if we but learn how to harness it and use its strengths wisely," Mike says.

Mike's audiences discover first-hand how he lived through the terrorist attacks by forming teams to keep everyone around him focused and to successfully work toward the common goal of escape from Tower One.

Mike's thoughtful insights inspire audiences to change the way they think about the way they live, work, and relate to each other. Listeners learn about skills and methods Mike uses daily to create teams and how Trust and Teamwork enriches his life as well as the lives of those around him.



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Environmental Design Group is a civil engineering, planning, and design firm. Supporting five offices in Ohio, our portfolio of more than 250 park projects is one of the largest in the Midwest.

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Ohio Center of Excellence for Behavioral Health Prevention & Promotion | Location: T-3

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sales@scoresports.com | www.scoresports.com
Sports apparel, uniforms, and sports equipment

SCW Fitness Education | Location: 905
Sara Kooperman, CEO
PO Box 866, Prospect Heights, IL 60070
(847) 274-6308
sjkooperman@gmail.com | www.scwfit.com
SCW Fitness offers in-person and online education for all realms of fitness specializing in pre-choreographed aquatic (WATERinMOTION®) and active aging (S.E.A.T. Fitness) programming.

Service Supply LTD., Inc. | Location: 932
Alan Kletecka, Sales Manager
1610 Lancaster Ave., Reynoldsburg, OH 43068
(614) 861-3681
alankletecka@aol.com | www.servicesupplyltd.com
Playcraft Playground Equipment--DuMor Site Furniture--RCP Shelters--American Aluminum Bleachers--Freenotes Harmony Park--Spectra poured in place safety surfacing

Snider Recreation | Partner | Location: 110 & 211
James Snider, President
10138 Royalton Road #K, North Royalton, OH 44137
(440) 877-9151
info@cvsnyder.com | www.cvsnyder.com
Snider Recreation is a provider and installer of playgrounds and park amenities, including outdoor exercise equipment, splash pads, and shelters.

2025 OPRA CONFERENCE EXHIBITOR DIRECTORY

SoL Harris/Day Architecture | Location: 942

Melinda Scaffaro, Partner

6677 Frank Ave NW, North Canton, OH 44720

(330) 493-3722

mcaffaro@solharrisday.com | www.solharrisday.com

We are a 30 person architecture and design firm specializing in recreational design and planning with a focus on sustainability.

SOLitude Lake Management | Location: 701

Jay Bagley, Business Development Consultant

6300 Commerce Center Drive, Suite D, Groveport, OH 43125

(888) 480-5253

info@solitudelake.com | <https://www.solitudelakemanagement.com>

SOLitude is a nationwide environmental firm with local offices throughout the country and partners with commercial, residential, and municipal clients.

Sourcewell | Location: 602

Jake Denning, Principal Account Executive

202 12th Street NE, Staples, MN 56479

(218) 296-0612

jake.denning@sourcewell-mn.gov | www.sourcewell-mn.gov

Buy equipment you want using Sourcewell cooperative purchasing. Join 50,000 agencies saving time/money using 600+ contracts through local dealers to ease procurement and support communities.

Spear a Landmark Aquatic Company | Location: 601

Sam Blake, VP of Business Development

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(765) 522-1126

sblake@spearcorp.com | www.spearcorp.com

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SportMaster | Location: 817

Jeff Gearheart, Director

PO Box 2218, Sandusky, OH 44871

(419) 626-4375

jeff@sportmaster.net | www.sportmaster.net

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Sportsman Software | Location: 904

Corin Robinson, Sales Director

45 W. 9000 S., Ste 2, Sandy, UT 84070

(801) 572-3570 x314

sales@peakinfo.com | www.sportsmandcloud.com

Sportsman is an all-in-one activity and facility management software, built for parks and recreation departments and serving municipalities since 1993.

Stageline Mobile Stage Inc. | Location: 322

Tony Beresford, Senior Account Executive

700 Marsolais Street, L'Assomption, QC J5W 2G9 Canada

(450) 589-1063

tony.beresford@stageline.com | www.stageline.com

The world's leading designer and manufacturer of hydraulic mobile stages for your community events.

Stantec | Partner | Location: 308

Joel Thrash, Principal/Practice Lead

10200 Alliance Road, Suite 300, Blue Ash, OH 45242

(513) 233-7037

joel.thrash@stantec.com | www.stantec.com

Full-service ecological consulting, wetland and stream restoration services, water resource management, cultural resource management, and award winning native plant nursery.

Stream + Wetlands Foundation | Location: T-5

Kellie Griffin, Director of Marketing and Administration

123 South Broad St., Suite 238, Lancaster, OH 43130

(740) 654-4016

kgriffin@streamandwetlands.org | www.streamandwetlands.org

A non-profit and provider of compensatory mitigation for aquatic resources authorized through state and federal regulatory programs.

StreetBond | Location: 936

Rick Carlson, Sr. Account Executive

1 Campus Drive, Parsippany, NJ 07054

(464) 300-7851

rick.carlson@gaf.com | www.streetbond.com

StreetBond specializes in high-performance pavement coating and marketing technology ideal for sport courts, splash pads, streetscapes, and anything in between.

SuperGames | Partner | Location: 514 & 615

Zach Wells, Director of Sales & Marketing

6580 Huntley Rd., Columbus, OH 43229

(614) 846-8946

zwells@supergames.org | www.supergames.org

We bring people together to share fun, positive experiences. With a focus on special events, SuperGames offers the best activities, staffing, and service in the industry! Our skilled event planning team will ensure your event goes smoothly.

Technique Roofing Systems LLC | Location: 940

Mark Gottron, Sales

290 Main Street, Helena, OH 43435

(419) 986-6211

mark@techniquerooting.com | www.techniquerooting.com

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Terrabilt, Inc. | Partner | Location: 402

Chris O'Hara, Design Director

532 N State Rd., Briarcliff Manor, NY 10510

(914) 341-1500

info@terrabit.com | www.terrabit.com

Terrabilt builds high-quality, long-lasting signs and kiosk products for parks, trails, and preserves—with sustainable materials and green manufacturing. We design signage, maps, and exhibits.

TerraTread | Location: 806

Bryan Martin, Business Development

2121 Tracy Road, Northwood, OH 43619

(419) 662-9000

bmartin@terratread.com | www.terratread.com

TerraTread Boardwalk System is an innovative product saving your client both time and money. TerraTread has numerous benefits over wooden alternatives, including reducing maintenance, improving safety, and increasing lifespan.

TinyMobileRobots | Partner | Location: 510

Nick Graham, Territory Manager

1634 Cobb International Blvd NW, Kennesaw, GA 30152

(380) 800-9826

ng@tinymobilerobots.com | www.tinymobilerobots.com

TinyMobileRobots athletic field painting robots are fully autonomous and will provide perfectly straight and accurately painted lines while reducing time and paint expense.

Triad Architects/Triad Facility Solutions | Location: 922

Brent Foley, Partner

172 E State St., Suite 600, Columbus, OH 43215

(614) 314-8463

bfoley@wearetriad.com | www.wearetriad.com

Architecture/interior design/facility management/construction

Trust for Public Land | Location: T-14

Laura Hnat, Director of Philanthropy

1250 Old River Road, #200, Cleveland, Ohio 44113

(216) 928-7518

laura.hnat@tpl.org | www.tpl.org/ohio

We create parks and protect public land where they're needed most so that everyone will have access to the benefits and joys of the outdoors for generations to come. Our four initiatives are parks, schoolyards, trails, and land protection.

United Rentals | Location: 504, 506, 508, 605, 607, & 609

Jessica Berns, District Sales Manager

997 Wenslo Road, Bedford, OH 44146

(330) 958-0301

jberns@ur.com | www.unitedrentals.com

Portable sanitation, temporary fencing, storage and office solutions, and equipment rentals

Urban Air Adventure Park | Location: 915

Lisa Tirpak-Chyliik, Group Sales

183 American Way, Westlake, OH 44145

(330) 419-9489

lisa@urbanair0149.com | www.urbanair.com

Urban Air is the nation's fastest growing indoor adventure park, featuring a wide range of attractions where kids of all ages learn, play, and grow.

U.S. Bridge | Location: 927

Dennis Gonano, Ohio Technical Sales

201 Wheeling Avenue; PO Box 757, Cambridge, OH 43725

(740) 421-9373

dgonano@usbridge.com | www.usbridge.com

The design, fabrication, and installation of steel bridges.

2025 OPRA CONFERENCE EXHIBITOR DIRECTORY

USTA/Midwest Section | Location: T-6

Greg Boyd, Director of Community Tennis

1310 E. 96th Street, Indianapolis, IN 46240

greg@midwest.usta.com | www.midwest.usta.com

The USTA/Midwest Section mission is to promote, develop, and service the game of tennis, focusing on competitive and recreational programs for individuals of all ages and skill levels.

Vermont Systems | Location: 604

Dave Wirtz, Director of Sales

12 Market Place, Essex Junction, VT 05452

sales@vermontsystems.com | www.vermontsystems.com

Vermont Systems is the leading provider of recreation management software and services.

Vie Ability Office Supplies | Location: T-4

Kelley Young, Major Account Manager

1022 Kenner Street, Cincinnati, OH 45214

(513) 295-6086

kelley.young@cincyblind.org | <https://www.vie-ability.org>

State contract CRP's - office supplies, custom signage, door hardware; safety and egress products

Vortex Aquatic Structures | Partner | Location: 801

Ryan Eccles, Sales Executive

3500 S Dupont Hwy, Suite EP-101, Dover, DE 19901

(312) 405-0139

recdes@vortex-intl.com | www.vortex-intl.com

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Water Technology, Inc. | Location: 208

Matt Freeby, Architect

100 Park Ave., Beaver Dam, WI 53916

(920) 887-7375

events@watertechnologyinc.com | www.watertechnologyinc.com

Aquatic planning, design, and engineering

Wickcraft Boardwalks | Location: 303

Patrick Walters, CEO

2317 Daniels Street, Madison, WI 53718

(608) 244-9177

patrick@wickcraft.com | www.wickcraft.com

Wickcraft is a manufacturer of prefabricated modular boardwalk solutions. It's what's underneath that matters!

The Wilds | Location: T-7

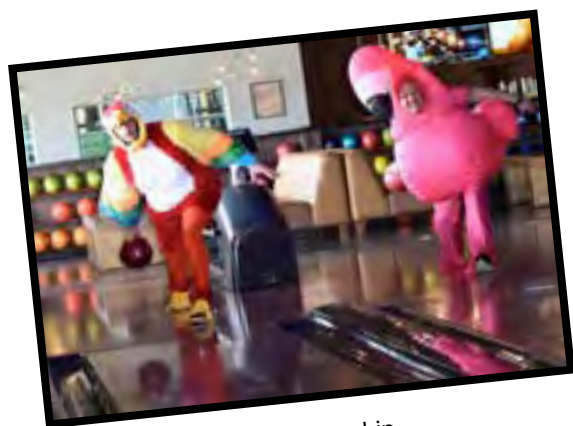
Mary Beth Sills, Community Outreach/Volunteer Coordinator

14000 International Rd, Cumberland, OH 43732

(740) 638-5030

msills@thewilds.org | www.thewilds.org

For the past three decades, The Wilds has become a global force in the conservation of threatened and endangered animal species as well as protecting local ecology.



Miami Township

In only the last five years, the OPRA Foundation invested nearly
\$127,000

in the form of scholarships, grants, and continuing education to INSPIRE students and professionals, IMPACT communities by creating recreation opportunities for everyone, and INFLUENCE member agencies, partnerships, and citizen advocates.

HOW DO WE DO IT?

The OPRA Foundation hosts an annual golf outing and an annual raffle in conjunction with the OPRA Conference & Trade Show. The money we raise will fund academic and continuing education scholarships and grants.

Visit <https://oprafoundation.org> for more information.

The OPRA Foundation is a philanthropic partner of OPRA. You can make a difference any time in the lives of people we serve.



Scan the QR to make a donation or visit <https://tinyurl.com/2p8yyvsv>.

Your transaction is secure through the Columbus Foundation portal.



Ohio Parks & Recreation Association
FOUNDATION
+ Changing Lives +

Williams Architects | Location: 301

Karen Lellios, Director of Marketing

1335 Dublin Road, Columbus, OH 43215

(614) 705-1531

ktlellios@williams-architects.com | www.williams-architects.com

Architects/planners specializing in the design of recreational and aquatic facilities.

Willoughby Stainless Fountains - WSF | Location: 706

Joe Wede, Sales Representative

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jwede@wsf-usa.com | www.wsf-usa.com

World-wide manufacturer of stainless steel outdoor drinking fountains, bottle fillers, and showers. In addition to stainless steel toilets and urinals for the park and play industry.

Wilson Bohannon Lock Company | Location: 819

Aaron Russell, Marketing Director

621 Buckeye St., Marion, OH 43302

(800) 382-3639

wbc@padlocks.com | www.padlocks.com

Wilson Bohannon Lock Company has been providing security products around the world for 164 years.

Woolpert | Location: 304

Andrew Pack, Program Director

4454 Idea Center Blvd., Dayton, OH 45430

(704) 526-3102

andrew.pack@woolpert.com | www.woolpert.com

Woolpert designs one-of-a-kind recreational bridges as well as active and passive outdoor spaces with balanced designs, accessible amenities, and inviting spaces.

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We are a one-stop, turnkey (in-house) company offering commercial playground and field turf: Design, Site Development, Installation, Maintenance, and Site Amenities.

SAVE THE DATE

2026 OPRA Conference & Trade Show

Kalahari Convention Center, Sandusky, Ohio

February 1 - 4, 2026

with Opening Keynote Juan Bendana



Juan Bendana is a highly sought-after speaker, entrepreneur, and coach to top CEOs, Olympians, Actors, and Fortune 500 Leaders. He started his first leadership development company over a decade ago, where Juan and his team constructed bespoke programming for category-leading companies such as Disney, American Express, US Bank, Fidelity, and Zillow.

Juan is the author of *Confident By Choice* (Penguin Random House, 2025). Based on his research of over 250,000 leaders at institutions such as Oxford, Penn State, and the University of Toronto, his science-backed framework equips leaders with the confidence mindset to lead boldly, thrive through change, and ignite extraordinary growth.

Want to be part of the 2026 OPRA Conference Committee?

Join us on **Friday, March 7, 2025** from 1:00pm - 3:00pm at Dublin Recreation Center for an information session regarding different areas to serve on Committee.

Email Amanda Perry by **Friday, March 14, 2025** if you would like to serve on the 2026 Conference Committee, but are unable to attend the meeting at amanda@opraonline.org.

Ohio Parks and Recreation Association

1069-A West Main Street • Westerville, Ohio • 43081

For more information call (614) 895-2222 or visit: opraonline.org