

2025 OPRA CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

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

Monday	Administration	Aquatics	Events	Facilities/Operations	Fiscal Administration	Human Resources	Inclusion/DEI	Management	Marketing	Natural Resources	Parks	Trends
LOCATION	ALOESWOOD	LEOPARDWOOD	INDIGO BAY	ORANGE	GUAVA	PORTIA	ROSEWOOD	CYPRESS	CROWN PALM HUT	ZEBRAWOOD	MANGROVE	SAGEWOOD
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	Launching Your Team to Success through Onboarding -Marisa Hoff	Breaking Down Barriers: A Practical Approach to Park Accessibility -John Patrick Picard -Sarah Buell -Billy Meisner -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
10:00am-11:30am Keynote: Champion of Choices – Marc Mero KALAHARI BALLROOM												
2:30pm-3:45pm	Exceeding Expectations with Effective Community Engagement -Ryan Hegreiness	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	"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
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 Team -Jason Chadock	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 -Jem Brandt	Carbon Capture and Storage: The Key to Mitigating Climate Change -Grace Dietsch	Creating a Sustainability Movement in Ohio's State Parks -Heather Bokman	AI in Parks and Recreation: Productivity and Pitfalls -Bill Tschirhart -Ryan Hegreiness
Tuesday Leadership												
LOCATION	CYPRESS	ORANGE	INDIGO BAY	PORTIA	GUAVA	SAGEWOOD	ALOESWOOD					
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	Paradoxical Leadership: Unleash Your Inner Parks & Recreation Mastermind -Kristen Marks	Thriving as an Introvert in an Extroverted Industry -Ryan Hegreiness	Trust: The Ultimate Currency of Success -Ryan Davis					
LOCATION	CYPRESS	GUAVA	INDIGO BAY	PORTIA	ORANGE							
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	The Power of Authentic Leadership -Toni Murphy	The Value of a Value -Annie Frisoli							
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	The Power of Authentic Leadership -Toni Murphy	The Value of a Value -Annie Frisoli							
Wednesday Administration Fundamentals Inclusion/DEI Management Parks Programming Urban Recreation Volunteers												
LOCATION	ALOESWOOD	CYPRESS	GUAVA	MANGROVE	PORTIA	ORANGE	INDIGO BAY	SAGEWOOD				
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	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 Perdok	Volunteers at the Heart: Engagement Strategies -Mary Beth Sills				
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	Engaging Urban Youth in Nature Through STEAM -Nicole Hindmand	Roadmap for Success -Manney Clarke -Antonio Combs	Does One Size Fit All in Volunteer Management? -Parker Spencer -Saundra McBrearty -Lisa Meranti				
11:30am-1:00pm Keynote: Living a Better Life through Understanding the Power of Trust & Teamwork -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
	1:45pm-2:30pm	Events, BANYAN HUT -Julia Neal, Taylor Tobias
Tuesday	9:45am-10:30am	Programming, CROWN PALM HUT -Kara Musser
	10:45am-11:30am	Sports, BANYAN HUT -Andy Wildman, Aaron Tiplady
	11:45am-12:30pm	Marketing, CROWN PALM HUT -Stephanie Sercu, Emily Reichert

