

Monday, February 3, 2019 8:30am – 9:45am

Children's Rx for Nature – Partnership for Health

The increase in obesity and chronic disease among children is at the forefront of many discussions regarding the future of health care. Follow a case study that takes you through the process of establishing a Prescription for Parks program. Learn ways to use research and local data to establish partnerships with the medical community in order to increase awareness of the vital role that parks and recreation plays in improving health and wellness of children.

Amanda Smith, Miami County Park District; Dr. James Burkhardt, Miami County Public Health

Room: ALOESWOOD

Track: HEALTH & WELLNESS

Collaborating for Seasonal Recruitment Success

We will highlight our campaign which won an award for Marketing Innovation through OPRA, so other recreation managers and marketing professionals can collaborate for seasonal hiring success. Through a Lean/Six Sigma process involving multiple departments, we were able to determine our specific needs for hiring and recruiting seasonal employees. We were then able to create and plan a marketing campaign built off of these findings. Through partnerships, we were able to execute the plan successfully.

Beth McCollam, Preservation Parks of Delaware County; Brian Gill-Huston, City of Gahanna

Room: SAGEWOOD

Track: MANAGEMENT

Games, Games, Games! Exploring Nature through Play

Spending time in nature is being increasingly recognized as an important way to connect, recreate and relax. Nature games are a great gateway to taking participants safely outside to foster that connection. Games are fun, easily adaptable and can be incorporated into almost any aspect of an educational or recreational theme. This session provides tools and tricks to embrace nature-based outdoor play; whether you have a giant nature preserve or a parking lot.

Gia Giammarinaro, Cincinnati Parks; Lara Wardlow, Cincinnati Parks

Room: ZAMBEZI

Track: PROGRAMMING

Government Budgeting 101

Government budgeting can be a little different than your standard budgeting process. Learn how to create a solid budget for programs and a division. During this session you will begin to understand the power that comes from understanding how a governmental budget gets created and how that knowledge can help position yourself for professional advancement and help further your departmental goals.

James Gant, Hilliard Recreation and Parks

Room: CYPRESS

Track: FUNDAMENTALS

Growing Your Foundation - Critical Steps for Success

In 2017, Metroparks Toledo relaunched the Metroparks Toledo Foundation to help grow their private support. Since then, they have grown membership program revenue by over 50%, completed a \$1.5M campaign for the Cannaley Treehouse Village and are now planning a significant capital campaign for Metroparks Toledo Glass City Metropark.

Together Jenny and Ally will share this story and help address:

- The value of private philanthropy in a park system.
- If a foundation or development is a good fit for your park system?
- How to develop a short and long-term plan for success?
- What partners do you involve and how?
- Common speed bumps and key opportunities.

Allison Effler, Metroparks Toledo; Jenny Goldberg, Aly Sterling Philanthropy

Room: INDIGO BAY

Track: FISCAL ADMINISTRATION

I Spy Customer Service: Customer Service Codebook

"This is your mission, if you choose to accept it..." Is providing great service Mission Impossible? We think not...MISSION POSSIBLE! Crack codes to mishaps through application of recovery strategies. Access skills and innovative techniques which create customer loyalty. Gain a spy's eye view of recreation and establish reconnaissance. Leave with a codebook that allows you to best meet the needs of a diverse customer base. This message self-destructs in five seconds. Good luck!

Annie Olson, Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board; Iris Pahlberg Peterson, Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board

Room: ZEBRAWOOD

Track: CUSTOMER SERVICE

Inclusive Summer Camps: Is Your Staff Ready?

How prepared is your summer day camp staff to include children with disabilities? This session will present best practices in training summer camp staff for inclusion. Based on research conducted in the summer of 2019 with funds obtained through an OPRA Foundation grant, presenters will discuss the effectiveness of a training curriculum, materials and exercises to prepare counselors to include children with disabilities in camps. Findings from this study also offer generalizations for preparing all staff to include people with disabilities in recreation services.

Mary Ann Devine, Kent State University; Lynette Klejka, Summit County Board of Developmental Disabilities

Room: ORANGE

Track: DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

Less is More - Strategic Parks Planning Light

Having a plan for your parks, or park system, is essential to effectively plan for the current and future success of your agency. However, this can seem like a costly and overburdening task. This session will illustrate how a parks master plan for a jurisdiction can be a quick and cost-effective exercise with a BIG return to how the park and park system is managed, maintained and planned for in the future.

Aaron Domini, OHM Advisors; Matt Hils, OHM Advisors

Room: ROSEWOOD

Track: PLANNING

Meaningful In-Service Training for Lifeguards

Lifeguards (particularly those ages 16-22) need more than just lifeguard and first aid training! We will discuss holding in-service trainings that include life skills (time management, eye contact, how to dress), job skills (hand shake, professionalism, being on time, being reliable) and communication skills (how to send an appropriate email and text, grammar, speaking to people) which will aid them in future jobs or college.

Cara Prell, City of Alpharetta

Room: BANYAN

Track: AQUATICS

Migration Matters

The annual migration of amphibians to vernal pools is a phenomenal event to witness. In Cleveland Metroparks, the place to be is Brecksville Reservation. A section of road is closed to vehicle traffic to protect these vulnerable amphibians, but there is another obstacle—park visitors. Even visitors with good intentions add extra pressure to the amphibians' journey. This session will discuss the importance of vernal pools, animals that use them and effective ways to help protect the migrating frogs and salamanders.

Kelly McGinnis, Cleveland Metroparks

Room: NILE

Track: PARKS

OPRA Statewide Initiative: Turning Research into Practice

Parks are a valid solution for healthier, happier societies across generations. Be inspired by the leadership stories of OPRA's Statewide Initiative awardees that deployed research to create high-quality outdoor play and recreation destinations. Learn how communities thoughtfully aligned with best practices to promote physical activity, inclusion and engagement with nature. Leadership case examples and initial outcomes demonstrate that investing in parks and recreation positively enhances the quality of life for our children, families and citizens.

Jennie Sumrell, PlayCore

Room: MANGROVE

Track: OPRA

Social Influencers - How Your Agency can Benefit from Working with Them

What is a Social Influencer and how can parks and recreation departments benefit from working with them? Influencer marketing can foster goodwill and many times seem more credible. But more than that, social media influencers have the power to improve awareness, engagement and traffic. We will discuss ways your agency can identify and work with social influencers to grow awareness.

Rocky Merz, Cincinnati Parks; Brian Hoyt, Columbus Recreation and Parks

Room: IRONWOOD

Track: TRENDS

Sustainability By Design

As splashpads continue to hold the #1 spot for most commonly planned park additions, it is essential to approach their design, maintenance and lifecycle through the lens of sustainability. Successful splashpads must account for not just environmental, but also social and economic implications. Gain powerful insight into new design trends, demographic needs, play-value optimization, innovative energy and resource management and emerging technologies that are helping facilities maximize lifecycle, minimize maintenance and plan for the future.

Mike McGilbra, Vortex Aquatic Structures

Room: LEOPARDWOOD

Track: FACILITIES & OPERATIONS

Monday, February 3, 2019 2:30pm – 3:45pm

Activating Your Strategic Plan

Almost every organization invests the time and resources to develop a long-term strategic plan. The critical (and most difficult) next step is taking action to achieve the strategy. In this session, we'll discuss:

1. The process Metroparks Toledo undertook to develop a long-term vision and corresponding three-year strategy that positions the agency as the fastest-growing park system in the country.
2. Steps taken to align people and processes to achieve significant and diverse short and long-term growth, including restructuring of departments and creation of new key positions.
3. The metrics established to define, track and celebrate success.
4. The impact on the community.

Carrie Alexander, Metroparks Toledo

Room: ROSEWOOD

Track: PLANNING

Break Out Your Wonder Woman

Building on the conversations of 2019 OPRA Women in Leadership event, we'll discuss issues [as a group] faced by women in the profession - including work-life balance, building confidence and finding a mentor.

Jackie O'Connell

Room: MANGROVE

Track: OPRA

CYSA Led Roundtable: Focus on Quality Youth Sports

This roundtable session will be led by Certified Youth Sports Administrators (CYSA) who will dig into the benchmark standards that quality programs should meet to ensure safe, fun and positive sports experiences for every participant. The session will focus on five critical areas including written policies, volunteer screening, coach training, parent education and accountability. Plus, this interactive session will provide a chance for every attendee to ask questions and share success stories.

Miste Adams, National Trail Parks and Recreation District; Eric Fletcher, Bowling Green Parks and Recreation; Andy Wildman, Granville Recreation District

Room: ZAMBEZI

Track: PROGRAMMING

Great Customer Service is Not Enough

In a world where customized, on-demand, Instagrammable services are quickly becoming the norm, how are park and recreation organization supposed to compete? We'll have you stepping into your customers' shoes in order to re-evaluate the way you think about your programs, facilities and services and show you the moments that really matter in order to increase customer loyalty. Leave with a new perspective and a to-do list to take back to your agency and turn it into action.

Bobbi Nance, Recreation Results LLC

Room: ZEBRAWOOD

Track: CUSTOMER SERVICE

Improving Communities: A Case Study of the Baileys Trail System

Situated in southeast Ohio, the Baileys Mountain Bike Trail System is a planned 88-mile destination-level trail system that connects directly to local communities. In just three years, collaborative community partnerships have led to a developed trail master plan, completed environmental analysis of the trail system, financial feasibility study and been selected for a new financing mechanism, Pay for Success, that could provide upfront capital for trail construction.

Danny Twilley, Ohio University

Room: IRONWOOD

Track: TRENDS

An Invasive Species Update

It seems as though more and more time is needed to address and manage invasive species across Ohio. Some old, some new and some are on the horizon. Plant, insect and disease species will be addressed during the session. Educational messaging to raise awareness with park visitors and management information for implementation of practices for the parks will be covered as part of this session.

Amy Stone, Ohio State University; Kathy Smith, OSU School of Environment and Natural Resources

Room: LEOPARDWOOD

Track: FACILITIES & OPERATIONS

Learning Resiliency through Outdoor Recreation

Resiliency is a trait not often learned through traditional education methods, but is something every child should have the opportunity to learn. Involving an outdoor education program with traditional schooling can give kids the opportunity to grow their resiliency while also growing academically. This case study with The Bridge Avenue School shows how an outdoor recreation program can positively impact the long-term growth of the student.

Jen Giles, Cleveland Metroparks; Dale Versteegen, Medina County Career Center's Challenge Course

Room: NILE

Track: PARKS

LGBTQ+ Diversity & Inclusion

With the growing awareness of LGBTQ+ participants and employees in our parks and recreation departments, we hope to provide attendees with a basic understanding of the importance of diversity and inclusion training. Through in-session activities, we will review common practices, discuss various real-life scenarios and present inclusive and appropriate responses for those situations. We also hope to provide a variety of resources throughout the state for individuals to access when needed.

Brian Gill-Huston, City of Gahanna; Amy Van Huffel, Groveport Recreation Department

Room: ORANGE

Track: DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

Pricing for Programs & Services

Pricing programs and services correctly the first time is important – but how do you know if the price is right? This session will examine pricing philosophies, the psychology of pricing and basic cost accounting to determine price. Participants will learn concepts and strategies to create their own pricing policy and cost recovery guidelines.

Bill Tschirhart, Five Rivers MetroParks

Room: INDIGO BAY

Track: FISCAL ADMINISTRATION

Programming 101

Overview of the program design process, including understanding needs and interests, designing and executing programs and program assessment. Specific attention will be given to developing program purpose, goals and objectives, planning logistics, theming and outcomes assessment.

Mary Parr, Kent State University

Room: CYPRESS

Track: FUNDAMENTALS

Promoting Physical Activity in Multigenerational Park Destinations

Motivate people of all ages to get outdoors and move at their local park destinations! By thoughtfully creating outdoor environments with fitness in mind, communities can dramatically impact their efforts in promoting less sedentary lifestyles and fight obesity across generations. Discover innovative solutions, leadership examples, programming and evidence-based design strategies that will help advocate, fund and maximize the value and potential of outdoor play and recreation environments designed to address physical activity throughout their lifespan.

Jennie Sumrell, PlayCore

Room: ALOESWOOD

Track: HEALTH & WELLNESS

Recruiting and Retaining Seasonal Staff

Recruiting staff is a difficult task. Recruiting seasonal staff year after year is even more difficult. The key to recruitment is retention; the more returning employees you have, the less recruiting you need to do. This session will explore some fundamentals and provide your team with tips, strategies and resources for your recruiting efforts. We will also discuss how to optimize your retention program and learn how to calculate the true cost of retaining employees. Want to peek behind the curtain of what this session will contain? The number one recruiting tool is word of mouth: the degree to which your existing employees will recruit for you is directly tied to their experience with your organization, which reflects itself in their returning to work with you year after year.

Ryan Davis, Kettering Parks, Recreation & Cultural Arts

Room: SAGEWOOD

Track: MANAGEMENT

Strategies for Improving Lifeguard Performance: Real Life Lessons from Real Life Events

Join us for video case studies and discussions to learn from real life events related to aquatic safety. This session is geared towards all levels of operators from new leadership to executives. Understand the impact of decision making at a deeper level, learn keys to emergency response, learn pro-active tools operators and executives can apply and discuss takeaways from current legal cases.

Natalie Livingston, Oostman Aquatic Safety Consulting

Room: BANYAN

Track: AQUATICS

Monday, February 3, 2019 4:00pm – 5:15pm

60 Seconds Can Change a Youth's Life

"So, tell me about yourself? That's a common question young people hear when interviewing for a job or college. The answer can have a big impact on their lives. The answer is their personal pitch. You will walk away from this session understanding how teaching about entrepreneurship and hosting pitch contests can help students deliver this critical life skill and can help your program connect with parents and the wider community.

Liz Nusken, Ohio Afterschool Network; Nichelle Shaskus, Ohio Afterschool Network

Room: ZAMBEZI

Track: PROGRAMMING

Breaking Silos

Are you familiar with the "Us" and "Them" paradigm? Then you'll recognize the signs of silos: internally focused, staff-level decision-making and a single minded, ego driven, that's-the-way-we've-always-done-it mentality. If you're working within any one of these philosophies, we will talk you off the ledge. Join Summit Metro Parks senior management for a frank discussion about how we re-focused, re-tooled and created the culture we all wanted—breaking down the silos as a result.

Lisa King, Summit Metro Parks; Aaron Hockman, Summit Metro Parks; Mike Johnson, Summit Metro Parks; Demetrius Lambert-Falconer, Summit Metro Parks; Doug Sheperd, Summit Metro Parks; Stephanie Walton, Summit Metro Parks

Room: SAGEWOOD

Track: MANAGEMENT

Guiding Principles for Effective Comprehensive Master Planning

This panel will discuss the process, components and lessons learned in creating Great Parks of Hamilton County's first Comprehensive Master Plan—a plan that engaged more than 2,200 participants and sets bold objectives for Great Parks' future. Attendees will learn the types of analysis conducted, the community engagement process and the coordination across consultants and staff that resulted in an actionable, guiding document for Great Parks to meet conservation, program, capital investment and financial goals.

Todd Palmeter, Great Parks of Hamilton County; Arin Blair, MKSK; Andrew Overbeck, MKSK; Tim Zelek, Great Parks of Hamilton County

Room: ROSEWOOD

Track: PLANNING

Human Resources 101

Given that Human Resources are the critical factor in purposefully serving community needs, a solid foundation is essential in this area. Success comes when we demonstrate competence in assessing others' knowledge, skills and motivations then act to create the best outcomes for the organization given these factors. The session will address: job postings and qualifications, key interview factors, the importance of orientations and trainings, reviews and coaching, disciplinary actions and record keeping and employee engagement and investment in professional development.

Shannon Sorrell, Whitehall Parks and Recreation

Room: CYPRESS

Track: FUNDAMENTALS

iPREFAIL: An Immersive Case Study

iPREFAIL is an immersive case study walking participants step by step through an event from receiving the call to putting the pieces together to figure out what happened and walking through the pieces of a post-event response.

Natalie Livingston, Oostman Aquatic Safety Consulting

Room: BANYAN

Track: AQUATICS

Maintaining Safe Play Environments

Nearly 200,000 injuries that require emergency room treatment occur annually on public playgrounds. These injuries can be prevented with the proper playground design and a standardized inspection and maintenance program. This session will highlight the primary causes of playground injuries and discuss the responsibilities owners, as well as, manufacturers have for providing and maintaining safe playgrounds.

John McConkey, Landscape Structures; Tony Shadwick, Penchura

Room: LEOPARDWOOD

Track: FACILITIES & OPERATIONS

Managing through Racial and Cultural Differences

We in the public parks and recreation field serve everyone in our community. In each community are people with different cultural and racial make-ups. This session will assist you to understand how we can understand our differences in order to be better parks and recreation professionals.

Tom O'Rourke, Clemson University/Brandstetter Carroll; Malik Willoughby, Columbus Recreation and Parks

Room: ORANGE

Track: DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

Park Design using Design Thinking Panel

Learn about the design thinking process used by Centerville-Washington Park District to engage neighbors to create innovative solutions for their parks. CWPD's beautiful neighborhood parks were often devoid of people. So, the challenge was how to entice more people into the parks more frequently. Rather than assume the answer was in newer amenities, CWPD set out to learn how people view the parks and what would attract them to parks. The collaboration with Domokur Architects and Environmental Design Group produced the model for the newly adopted process. We will share the steps employed, what worked well and what not so well and some unique methods to draw out the thinking and ideas of neighbors.

Kristen Marks, Centerville-Washington Park District; Arnie Biondo, Centerville-Washington Park District; Ginger Clark, Centerville-Washington Park District; Stefanie Smith, Domokur Architects

Room: NILE

Track: PARKS

Soccer Field Use Roundtable

Join us as we discuss opportunities to maximize effectiveness for each community's soccer field use.

Matt Earman, City of Dublin

Room: MANGROVE

Track: OPRA

Team Development by Design

This highly enjoyed session from 2019 is returning with MORE Design Thinking strategies for you to utilize at your organization. This interactive, power punched session will assist you in re-energizing your work teams. This session provides participants with new Design Thinking strategies to assist them in team development, partner collaboration, efficiency in decision making, inclusive practices around system design and creative thinking strategies. Come join in on the fun and creative design processes!

Annie Frisoli, Creating Community

Room: IRONWOOD

Track: TRENDS

Understanding the Economic Value of Your Organization

Tim Moloney, Director of the Columbus and Franklin County Metro Parks and James Gant, Deputy Director from the Hilliard Recreation and Parks, will walk through several models of how you can create a tangible economic value for your organization.

James Gant, Hilliard Recreation and Parks; Tim Moloney, Columbus and Franklin County Metro Parks

Room: INDIGO BAY

Track: FISCAL ADMINISTRATION

What Customers Want, But Won't Tell You

Asking your customers what types of programs and services that they're looking for is a great first step, but misses a huge piece of the puzzle. It's not just "what" we offer that matters, but "how." Understand the outside influences and driving forces impacting consumer behavior today so that you can incorporate them into your programs and services and provide a huge boost to your participation, revenue and customer satisfaction.

Bobbi Nance, Recreation Results LLC

Room: ZEBRAWOOD

Track: CUSTOMER SERVICE

You Are Not Alone: Suicide Prevention in Parks

Lorain County Metro Parks partners with the local Board of Mental Health to incorporate mental health resources into our parks. Honored by OPRA in 2018 with a 1st Place Award in Law Enforcement, we would like to share this initiative with our industry colleagues. As part of the session, our local mental health professionals will conduct a QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) training and provide contact information for mental health resources across the state.

Jennifer Bracken, Lorain County Metro Parks; Clare Rosser, Lorain County Board of Mental Health

Room: ALOESWOOD

Track: HEALTH & WELLNESS

Tuesday, February 4, 2019 8:30am – 9:45am

Build a Team with This?

Successful organizations have strong successful and credible leaders. Still, an organization only goes as far as the TEAM goes...as far as the leader leads...and as far as followers follow! Organizations aren't easy. Teamwork isn't natural, particularly when generational differences exist. What really makes a team work? By sharing stories of two distinctly different seasons, I will shed light on what separates functioning and non-functioning teams, including sharing insight on leading the next generation effectively.

Julie Jones, Future Plans

Room: NILE

Track: MANAGEMENT & LEADERSHIP

Creating Community for Communities

Community can be defined as the experience of connection and membership between individuals within a group. Park and recreation professionals, more than most other professions, create community EVERY DAY. By participants engaging in this session, they will have the opportunity to gain knowledge on the founding principles of community, increase their knowledge on core research concepts related to community, discuss barriers to creating community, discuss inclusive practices and ultimately develop their own strategies to build community.

Annie Frisoli, Creating Community

Room: ALOESWOOD/LEOPARDWOOD

Track: MANAGEMENT & LEADERSHIP

Data: How to Dive in Without Drowning

Curious about what insights your data holds, but unsure where to start? This interactive session will have you strategizing about three key areas where you can dip your toe into the water when it comes to using your data without getting overwhelmed, no matter what your job entails. Using stories, relatable examples and hands-on exercises, see the connection between your mission and your data, whether you're someone that likes to get nerdy with numbers or consider yourself a die-hard "people person."

Bobbi Nance, Recreation Results LLC

Room: SAGEWOOD/ZEBRAWOOD

Track: MANAGEMENT & LEADERSHIP

Having it All: Truths about Assertive Leaders

Stop being a tyrant or a door mat. Assertive leadership works. Assertive leaders are not only more confident, they're less stressed, more highly regarded by colleagues and peers, more competent dealing with difficult situations and people and more likely to get the job done. In this session:

- Assess your assertive potential.
- Discover factors that prohibit direct, confident communication.
- Identify the behaviors, attitudes and language of assertive communicators.
- Recognize the power of assertive communication to transform your workplace into a success.

Andrew Peck

Room: MANGROVE

Track: MANAGEMENT & LEADERSHIP

Inspired Accountability for Peak Performance

Do you spend your time wisely at work? Are you fully engaged? Can your team count on you? Have you earned the trust and loyalty of colleagues through your words and actions? This interactive training provides you with tools and strategies to become a more accountable, reliable and responsible person. By taking complete responsibility (Response + Ability) for what you think, feel, do and say, you have the power to positively impact the productivity, profitability and morale of your organization.

Susanne Gaddis, The Communications Doctor

Room: ZAMBEZI

Track: MANAGEMENT & LEADERSHIP

The Languages of Staff Appreciation

Everyone performs better when they feel appreciated. Everyone feels appreciation differently. How can we know what to do to help those we work with feel appreciated? Based on the book by Gary Chapman, "The Five Languages of Staff Appreciation", we will discuss how these languages reflect in the workplace and learn ways to give appreciation to others so that we can fill their 'tanks'. This session will leave you empowered to help others grow and improve your workplace culture!

Ryan Davis, Kettering Parks, Recreation & Cultural Arts; Addie Weaver, Kettering Parks, Recreation & Cultural Arts

Room: INDIGO BAY

Track: MANAGEMENT & LEADERSHIP

Leading with a Servant's Heart

Working in the park world takes heart. This is no surprise. But the 'special sauce' that makes any leadership role work is the servant attitude that comes from the heart. When a leader can make a connection, "grow" other leaders and get comfortable with being uncomfortable, you've got the perfect recipe for leading with a servant's heart. Join Kemp to learn the 3 C's of connectivity, capacity and confidence that create servant leadership with heart.

Kemp Boyd, Love Akron

Room: CYPRESS

Track: MANAGEMENT & LEADERSHIP

Successfully Working within Political Environments

The political systems that we work within can make us or break us. Often times, how we manage the personalities of those that govern us is the key to having a successful, politically supported park system. The instructors of this class have experience with every political environment that there is today. They will be able to give you a charted course to take your political relationships to a higher level.

Tom O'Rourke, Clemson University/Brandstetter Carroll; Tim Moloney, Columbus and Franklin County Metro Parks; Wade Walcutt, Cincinnati Parks

Room: ORANGE

Track: MANAGEMENT & LEADERSHIP

Tuesday, February 4, 2019 1:00pm – 2:30pm | 2:45pm – 4:15pm

Coaching and Mentoring to Achieve Peak Performance

Are you ready to bring out the best in people? Do you have the skills you need to be an effective coach and mentor? This interactive workshop is packed full of practical and immediately applicable strategies to help you excel as a coach or mentor. Learn how to become a “career catalyst” and to establish extraordinary partnerships to benefit you, the individual you inspire and your organization.

Susanne Gaddis, The Communications Doctor

Room: ZAMBEZI

Track: LEADERSHIP SERIES

It Only Takes One

Making a difference in the world can feel so overwhelming. How can I possibly affect change when there's war, poverty, disease, famine and so much more? How can one person possibly hope to make a difference? In this talk, Kyle cuts through the doom and gloom to show that not only can one person make a difference, but massive movements boil down to individual people working together. Using personal stories, Kyle points to individual people who made a huge difference in his own life and shows how each of us can make a difference in the lives of those around us. With a perfect balance of humor and inspiration, Kyle shows that it only takes one person to change the world—and each of us can be that person.

Kyle Scheele

Room: ORANGE

Track: LEADERSHIP SERIES

Qualities of an Optimistic Leader

Many people believe that optimists make better leaders or that all leaders need some optimism to be effective. Learn about the qualities that make an optimistic leader so that you can be more effective in your leadership. Scott will also share some strategies that you can use to become more optimistic in your professional and personal life.

J. Scott Myers, Miami County Park District

Room: INDIGO BAY

Track: LEADERSHIP SERIES

Radical Resilience: Helping Individuals & Teams Thrive

In this upbeat, fun and highly practical session, Dr. Davis unpacks the cutting-edge research and practice-tested strategies that help individuals thrive and teams and organizations create results that matter. Radical Resilience helps spark more success with less stress (and more satisfaction!) in work and life. Learn proven practices to maximize energy and focus, revolutionize how you use your time and build habits that create a positive “domino effect” for health, happiness and success.

Deanna Davis, Applied Insight, LLC

Room: NILE

Track: LEADERSHIP SERIES

Wednesday, February 5, 2019 8:30am – 9:45am

Active Adults: Dealing with Difficult Patrons and Situations

In the active adult world, staff face many unique situations from dealing with families of participants to bullying of bridge players. Two veterans in the field will discuss various situations and how to best handle day-to-day challenges. There will be an opportunity to share your questions about issues within your programs.

Mary Stallings, Dundee Township Park District; Teresa Grodsky, Addison Park District

Room: LEOPARDWOOD

Track: SENIOR PROGRAMMING

Collaboration with Established Organizations to Expand Community Engagement

By partnering with Girls on the Run of Central Ohio, Columbus Recreation and Parks can positively impact girls' social, emotional and physical health through established evidence-based programming. Such a partnership can also allow for broader community engagement and involvement; various volunteer opportunities give community members the chance to advocate for girls' well-being and develop leadership skills through facilitating programming. Previous parks and recreation partnerships provide a framework to help develop this collaboration.

Jess Sparks, Girls on the Run of Central Ohio; Elika Whitney, Girls on the Run of Central Ohio

Room: ZAMBEZI

Track: PROGRAMMING

Economic Development and Parks Working Together

Community/Economic Development (CED), more than anything, is a sales job where professionals pitch communities to site selectors and potential residents. Parks are a key component in selling a community because of their positive impact on quality of life. Additionally, parks offer a plethora of amenities when combined with office, retail and residential developments. Utilizing parks to create partnerships with businesses can be a great way to provide programming and events to create vibrant communities.

Jim Flick, Deerfield Township

Room: INDIGO BAY

Track: FISCAL ADMINISTRATION

Hiring by the Value System

Would you like to move your organization's culture to be more cohesive? Would you like to have your organization strive for the same goals, with less push back? It all begins with HIRING. Hiring by the 'value system' may be a valuable tool for your organization. This session will be about how one park district uses predetermined personal values and mathematical systems for hiring.

Amy Bowman Moore, Erie MetroParks

Room: SAGEWOOD

Track: MANAGEMENT

The “How To” Develop an eSport Program

This session will be the continuation of the 2019 eSport session. The purpose of this will be to inform participants on how to operationalize an eSport program. We will review the elements needed, distinguish between equipment types and games and provide other information related to how Cleveland was able to partner with the CAVS Legion and structure a program. CAVS Legion staff will also be in attendance.

Jessica Fox-Gift, City of Cleveland; Jill Lemmerman, City of Cleveland; Aaron Johnson, City of Cleveland; Rosa Casiano, City of Cleveland

Room: ALOESWOOD

Track: TRENDS

Leadership 101

There's no playbook for a new director or department head. Often, new leaders face challenges early on, and sometimes it's from within. During this session, Nate will describe his unlikely rise from “marketing guy” to park director, what he's done to set the tone of the organization and share some of the challenges he's faced in the hot seat. Attendees will examine leadership styles, answer scenario-based questions and consider ways to improve as a leader.

Nathan Eppink, Medina County Park District

Room: CYPRESS

Track: FUNDAMENTALS

Park Development Process Involving Community Partners

Partnering with community groups can acquire necessary resources for park development projects. While this can allow for new projects or adding elements to planned projects, partnerships can also bring challenges especially in balancing partner desires and public opinions in scope and design. This session will review lessons learned and provide an established process that includes design, technical review, public input and approval steps; and discuss in-kind gifts of park improvements through right-of-entry agreements.

Debbie McLaughlin, City of Upper Arlington; Jeff Anderson, City of Upper Arlington

Room: ROSEWOOD

Track: PLANNING

Summer Camp Roundtable

Engage in discussions regarding trends and current issues faced in summer camp programs. We will break into smaller groups to discuss topics like programming ideas, behavior management methods, staff motivation and training techniques. Small groups will then share with the large group details of their subject. Come prepared to actively participate with ideas and questions for the group.

Amanda Gehres, Grove City Parks and Recreation; Addie Weaver, Kettering Parks, Recreation & Cultural Arts

Room: MANGROVE

Track: OPRA

Sustainable Trails 101: Design Them to Last 100 Years

We plant trees for our grandchildren to enjoy. Why should we expect any less of the trails we build? Trails are generally an agency's largest infrastructure and one that is most valued by the public. The challenges of balancing ecological protection, physical management and social demands on natural surface hiking, equestrian, mountain biking and multi-use trails can be overwhelming. However, it IS possible to meet these challenges by creating sustainable trails that are designed to last into the next century. We'll cover the critical components and processes necessary to create the base in your agency for truly sustainable trail design and construction, along with engaging all your agency's departments, stakeholders, user groups and volunteers.

Michael Osborne, Five Rivers MetroParks

Room: NILE

Track: PARKS

You're Doing Diversity Wrong

Diversity is more than race and sex, however most agency metrics focus on only those two data points. When we begin thinking about diversity as more than two-dimensional, and when we are intentionally inclusive, our teams grow and our agencies thrive. Together we will explore diversity and inclusion efforts and discuss methods to achieve both when you return home.

Jackie O'Connell

Room: ORANGE

Track: DIVERSITY & INCLUSION



Wednesday, February 5, 2019 10:15am – 11:30am

Adaptive Natural Resource Management: Tools for Implementation

Adaptive natural resource management is a structured, iterative process that allows for robust decision-making in the face of uncertainty by learning from previous management outcomes. We will present an overview of our conceptual adaptive management model and provide real-world examples of its implementation using our GIS-based system that integrates field-collected environmental data, inputs of staffing and materials and quantified management outcomes to drive implementation of our annual and long-range resource management plans.

Tim Schetter, Metroparks Toledo; Tim Gallaher, Metroparks Toledo; Josh Brenneman, Metroparks Toledo

Room: NILE

Track: PARKS

The Basics of Natural Resource Management

This talk will give an introduction to managing natural areas and natural resources. Topics discussed will include: important concepts and guidelines, topics of management concern, how to prioritize work, working with other internal park departments and developing important regional cooperative partnerships. All topics will be highlighted with specific projects and examples from NE Ohio.

Paul Pira, Geauga Park District

Room: CYPRESS

Track: FUNDAMENTALS

Creating, Developing and Implementing Inclusive Adaptive Programs

From start to finish, we'll discuss how to start, enhance and develop adaptive programming for individuals with disabilities. The Independence Community Adaptive Network (ICAN) is a network of parents, residents and City Of Independence employees working together to provide adaptive, recreational and social activities to individuals 10 years or older with physical, sensory or developmental disabilities. Objectives include how to start adaptive recreation programming with resources on how to include school districts, outside agencies and achieve active community involvement.

Jim Wotowiec, City of Independence

Room: ORANGE

Track: DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

Cuyahoga Greenways: Innovations in Greenway Planning

Cuyahoga Greenways identifies a set of active transportation projects developed with multi-community and multi-agency collaboration, focused on changing transportation behaviors in Cleveland and throughout Northeast Ohio. The methodology for identifying and prioritizing the corridors was based on a "data-driven, community-led" process utilizing GIS evaluation strategies and focused community engagement. The Plan resulted in an overall vision with implementable greenway projects that will help achieve the goal of enhanced active transportation in the region.

Neal Billetdeaux, SmithGroup; Michael Mears, Cuyahoga Valley Planning Commission

Room: ROSEWOOD

Track: PLANNING

Infusing Art in Creative Programming

Infusing art into your programming supplies a creative venue to connect people to nature, as well as a unique experience in which they can actively participate. Whether a one-time painting workshop or a continual journaling series, there is an audience in want and in need of a creative and rewarding experience they can take with them or share with others. Share in some successful programming ideas you can utilize for your audience.

Stefanie Verish, Cleveland Metroparks

Room: ZAMBEZI

Track: PROGRAMMING

Managing and Measuring Parks for Stronger Communities

Nearly every trend line shows the U.S. is in the grips of increased segregation, social isolation and economic inequality. Trust is in a free fall. There is an urgent need to reverse these trends and cities across the country are demonstrating that reimagining parks, community centers and public spaces to reconnect people is the best way to start. Learn how Akron, Detroit and Memphis are changing the way they manage and measure parks to support stronger communities.

Demetrius Lambert-Falconer, Summit Metro Parks; Alexa Bush, City of Detroit; George Abbott, Memphis River Parks Partnership; Bridget Marquis, Civic Commons Learning Network, Reimagining the Civic Commons | U3 Advisors

Room: ALOESWOOD

Track: TRENDS

Park District Section Meeting & Advocacy Update

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

Room: MANGROVE

Track: OPRA

Philanthropy and Parks: Place Matters

Discover philanthropic support for your park district. Understand the relationship between Summit Metro Parks and its supporting nonprofit foundation and the donor stewardship and cultivation strategies that have worked. We will discuss the nuances of fundraising for park districts as tax-supported organizations, as well as, the value of parks to donors as places that are personally meaningful to them.

Jen Harvey, Summit Metro Parks Foundation

Room: INDIGO BAY

Track: FISCAL ADMINISTRATION

The Whole Wide World of Active Adults: 50 Plus

Whether you are new to the field of leisure and aging or are looking for a boost for your current active adult world, this session will give ideas and suggestions starting from the ground up. This session will show you how to reach out to the 50-plus age group by developing programs, partnerships, networking events, party ideas, day trips and more.

Mary Stallings, Dundee Township Park District; Teresa Grodsky, Addison Park District

Room: LEOPARDWOOD

Track: SENIOR PROGRAMMING

Yes. No. Maybe? Medical Marijuana & Your Drug-Free Workplace Program

Ohio House Bill 523 legalized marijuana as medicine in Ohio and the system is up and running. Businesses need to decide how they will respond to an employee's recommendation for and use of medical marijuana. Wondering what to consider when making this decision? To give insight into this important decision, we're offering a presentation to:

- Raise awareness of business and operational issues from legalization under Ohio H.B. 523.
- Increase understanding of the related drug-free workplace program issues for employers and employees.
- Review key decisions that need to be made—particularly relating to policy, operations and employee/supervisor awareness.

The content of the presentation is meant for informational purposes only and not for the purpose of providing legal advice. As such, it should not be used as a substitute for consultation with a legal professional or other competent advisors. Please contact a licensed attorney to obtain advice with respect to any legal issue discussed in this presentation or regarding a situation specific to your organization.

Katie Lemke, Working Partners®

Room: SAGEWOOD

Track: MANAGEMENT

