



2024 CONFERENCE SCHEDULE



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KRPA CONFERENCE CHAIR INVITATION

EXPLORE MORE IN 2024!

If you have yet to catch wind of the latest Conference news, I'm here to fill you in. I've been honored to work the last year with an amazing group of KRPA members to put together an awesome line-up for the 2024 KRPA Conference. It brings me immense joy to extend a heartfelt invitation to you for the upcoming KRPA Conference and Trade Show.

Our theme for this year is "Explore More," and we're not just paying lip service to it - we're living it! This conference promises a journey of exploration, filled with incredible opportunities, invaluable insights, and an abundance of fun!

Here's a glimpse of what awaits you at the KRPA Conference and Trade Show:

- Highly Interactive and Fun Trade Show: Come dressed in your "play" clothes because this Trade Show is designed to delight your senses and spark your creativity. Get ready to discover a world of innovation and excitement.

- Y'acht to Come Social (January 29, 2024): Ahoy, matey! Sail over to the Wichita Boathouse with us for an evening of reconnecting with your fellow KRPA friends and vendors.

- Annual Amazing KRPA Race (January 30, 2024): Get your game face on for our annual Amazing KRPA Race. It's a thrilling challenge that will test your teamwork and determination. Who will emerge as the champions this year?

- Home Run Derby Social (January 31, 2024): Dust off your Derby hats and prepare for a grand slam of a time at our Home Run Derby Social. It's an event you won't want to miss, filled with laughter, camaraderie, and good old-fashioned fun.

- And that's just the beginning. Our lineup of speakers is nothing short of astonishing, promising a wealth of knowledge and inspiration.

This conference isn't just an opportunity to grow professionally; it's a chance to have a blast while doing it. So, mark your calendars, register early, and get ready for an adventure.

Should you have any questions or require additional information, please don't hesitate to reach out to our dedicated team at jamie@krpa. A heartfelt THANK YOU goes out to the many exceptional conference volunteers that make this conference possible.

Warm regards,

Candi Fox, 2024 Conference and Trade Show Chair



CONFERENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Candi Fox, Chair

Branch Education Chairs

Amy Conkling- Admin, Jennifer Wegener- Aquatics, Casey Smithson- Park and Natural Resources, Conner O'Flanagan- Park Law, Jenny Smith- Recreation, Jeff Stos- Sports, Frank Cortez- Wellness

Host Agency

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Fundraiser Co-Chairs

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Lisa Klaassen and Jennea Noel

Tours Chair

Warren McCoskey

Transportation

Joe Martin

Silent Auction Liason

Mark Lowry



CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

EXPLORE MORE IN 2024

MONDAY, JANUARY 29th

7:00pm-9:00pm

Y'ACHT TO COME SOCIAL

Location: Wichita Boathouse

Sail over to the Wichita Boathouse, 515 S. Wichita Street. Come enjoy both indoor and outdoor spaces for an casual networking event for conference attendees and vendors.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 30th

8:00am-3:00pm

STUDENT SUMMIT

Location: Redbud B&C

9:30am-11:00am

OPENING KEYNOTE: THINKING INSIDE THE BOX

Location: Eagle Ballroom

Speaker: Kyle Scheele

We've all said it: "If only I had _____, then I could do _____." We're convinced that the only thing standing between us and our best work is more money, more time, more resources, more buy-in, a better team, a better boss, a better piece of software... the list goes on. But the truth is, real creative work thrives within constraints. True creative work exists in the gap between what you have and what you think you need. After all, if you had everything you needed, you wouldn't need creativity at all. True creativity showed up when the Apollo 13 astronauts had to make square filters fit round tubes. It showed up when a global pandemic made in-person work a liability. And it'll show up for you too, once you let go of your misguided beliefs about what true creativity requires.

11:00am-3:00pm

TRADE SHOW

Location: Exhibition/Convention Hall at Century II

Come dressed in your "play" clothes because this Trade Show is designed to delight your senses and spark your creativity. Get ready to discover a world of innovation and excitement.

3:15pm-4:15pm

LET'S TALK SPECIAL ED!

Location: Trails

Speaker: Michelle Seidner, Kansas City Public School District

This engaging session will get your wheels turning about the abilities of ALL students! Come learn how to include ALL students in your recreation classes! Every child comes to our classes and programs with many different abilities, and some may have IEP's. Let's take a dive into how children with Individual Education Plans can be supported so they can enjoy all the fun extracurricular activities you offer.

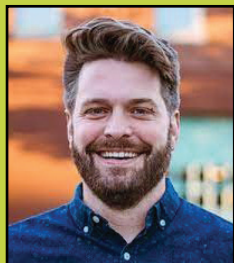
3:15pm-4:15pm

WEATHERING THE STORM, CRISIS LEADERSHIP

Location: Birch

Speaker: Donald Forgione, Tailgate - Talks

A crisis can occur in a second, like an accident, or in slow-motion, like river flooding. Some crises end quickly, while others last for a long time, leaving collateral issues for years. Leading your team through a crisis involves vision, communication skills, and more. This session will look at the dynamics of leading through a crisis to be more able to weather the storm.



KYLE SCHEELE OPENING KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Kyle Scheele has been called "the patron saint of crazy ideas". Whether he's having a Viking funeral for the regrets of 21,000 people, hosting the world's first fake marathon, or gaining a million TikTok followers in just 25 hours, Kyle is always on the lookout for crazy ideas that produce wildly outsized outcomes. Over the last decade, his projects have been featured in outlets like Fast Company, WIRED, The Washington Post, Yahoo!, BuzzFeed, Upworthy, Goalcast, and more. His videos have been viewed over 250 million times, and he has spoken to hundreds of thousands of audience members across the United States. More than anything, Kyle hopes that his story can inspire others to chase their own crazy ideas and become the people they were meant to be.

2024 CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

3:15pm-4:15pm

CREATING DESTINATIONS: HOW PARKS BECOME KEY ASSETS TO A COMMUNITY

Location: Redbud A

Speaker: Carisa McMullen, Landworks Studio

As many rural communities are seeing a decline in population and as the interest and value of outdoor spaces is at an all-time high, this session offers motivation and inspiration to explore the creation of destinations within your park system. Existing tools and available resources will also be shared. Step outside the box, hear the benefits and learn ways you can attract outside visitors while also offering value to your existing patrons.

3:15pm-4:15pm

SOLVING THE LIFEGUARD SHORTAGE

Location: Cypress A

Speaker: Renee Reis & Vickie Tillery, Fairway Parks and Recreation

Ways that we can solve the lifeguard shortage by starting at the school districts. Working with PE teachers to create a swimming and water safety curriculum. As aquatics professionals, we need to start solving the lack of swimming instruction and knowledge in our communities.

3:15pm-4:15pm

PEDESTRIAN COUNTERS IN PARKS: A TOOL FOR MEASURING JCPRD PARK USE

Location: Oak

Speaker: Devin Wetzel, Johnson County Park and Recreation District

For many years JCPRD was utilizing tube counters in various parking lots to collect visitation data that was presented to the public through Board meetings on a monthly basis. Maintenance of the tube counters was intensive and the product lacked real data that JCPRD was striving after. In 2020, staff began working with TRAFx to develop a more intense pedestrian counter program that provides JCPRD with an extensive amount of user information. This presentation will give an overview of the program which consists of over 100 counters and discuss the benefits of collected data along with lessons learned from the direct users of the program.

3:15pm-4:15pm

GRIND.WIN.REPEAT.

Location: Cedar

Speaker: Latoya Randle, Pound the Rock Project

In this session, Randle will take you on her life journey of tragedy to triumph. She will speak candidly about her life-altering dilemmas and what set her on the path of success today. She will discuss what it was like to be a starter on the All-Boys Team at Robinson and what ultimately inspired her to do the work she does today.

3:15pm-4:15pm

CHATGPT AI - YOUR DIGITAL ASSISTANT DEMYSTIFIED

Location: Cypress B

Speaker: Troy Tabor, Wichita State University

Learn what this ChatGPT craze is all about. How it works, how to use it, and why it's such a great assistant! Plus, hear about policies and procedures for how you and your employees can use it wisely and securely.

3:15pm-4:15pm

DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF LAKE OLATHE

Location: Maple

Speakers: PJ Novick & Hank Moyers, Confluence

The presentation will outline the design and construction of the \$20.4 million Lake Olathe Park following the culmination of a 4-year design and construction effort to transform this underutilized golf course into a signature recreation destination for the City of Olathe. The 170-acre lake is surrounded by 258-acres of park land, site features include an inclusive playground, spray-ground and water features, the Great Lawn, swim beach and marina, Eagles Landing special event space, trails, and boardwalks. The plan incorporates numerous sustainability improvements designed to preserve, protect, and improve the water quality of the lake for years to come.

3:15pm-4:15pm

CAPRA, THE MYSTRA

Location: Osage

Speakers: Troy Houtman, City of Wichita; Matt Enoch, USAG Ft Riley

An overview of CAPRA, tools to get started and resources to get an agency accredited.

4:30pm-5:30pm

OUTREACH PROGRAMMING

Location: Trails

Speaker: Vanessa Buehne, Derby Recreation Commission

We'll look at social media, email marketing, website tactics, Google Business, Nextdoor, and mobile app opportunities.

4:30pm-5:30pm

CHATGPT AI - THE ASSISTANT THAT FREES HALF YOUR DAY

Location: Cypress B

Speaker: Troy Tabor, Wichita State University

A focused, interactive workshop where you get hands-on experience and ideas of how this tool will help you capture your time back. Your free, general-purpose expert assistant!

4:30pm-5:30pm

PRACTICALITY, USABILITY, & ACCESSIBILITY

Location: Oak

Speaker: KJ Khah, Kaizen Labs

Parks and Recreation departments across the country have varying operational challenges but can find common ground in one issue: how to increase participation, engagement, and use of facilities. Being able to identify barriers to accessing the services that parks and recreation departments provide is the first step to addressing this issue. In this session, you will learn about some services and processes that parks and recreation departments have overhauled to make them more accessible to everyone in the community.

4:30pm-5:30pm

DESIGNING & IMPLEMENTING COMMUNITY EVENTS FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

Location: Osage

Speakers: Laura Covert Miller, Janice Jewett, Zoey Harvey of Pittsburg State University

In this session, considerations for planning and implementing community events for individuals with disabilities will be discussed. Successful activities for all ages and ability levels will be shared along with examples from Pittsburg State's Therapeutic Recreation TR-Iffic community event.

4:30pm-5:30pm

INNOVATION IS INVITATION: WHAT'S NEXT IN INCLUSIVE PLAY

Location: Birch

Speaker: Jill Moore, Landscape Structures Inc.

The conversation around inclusive play and design has grown tremendously since its ADA beginnings, and communities around the country are innovating their spaces to invite more and more diagnoses. This session will explore current language and thought around disability, and how this impacts not only our communities, but how we design for disabled community members. We will discuss designing more intentionally for mobility devices and complex diagnoses, as well as creating comfortable trails and play spaces for blind/low vision users. This session explores intentional design for growing diagnoses such as ADHD and dyslexia, Autism, sensory disabilities, and other motor coordination diagnoses. Lastly, we will discuss DeafScape principles and how they impact a spaces usability. While the solutions may be disability specific, they all add up to create usable and well-designed park and play spaces. Innovation is driven by who is invited to a space- and inclusion means everyone belongs.

4:30pm-5:30pm

SMALL VS BIG COMMUNITIES - SPORTS POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Location: Maple

Speakers: Wesley Joy, Paola Recreation Commission; Trent Buchman, Blue Valley Recreation Commission

Speakers will discuss the different policies and procedures they use in operating their youth and adult sports programs. We'll dive into the similarities and differences of running youth and adult sports in big and small communities.

4:30pm-5:30pm
ESTABLISHING FOUNDATION BOARDS AND FRIENDS GROUPS

Location: Cedar

Amy Conkling, Hutchinson Recreation Commission; Tony Finlay, Hutchinson Recreation Commission; Jeremy Myers, Overland Park Parks + Recreation

Learn the ins and outs of establishing Foundation boards and Friends groups for your parks and recreation agencies. We'll discuss how to build and establish these important groups as well as share ways of empowering them with skills necessary to advocate and fundraise on behalf of your agencies.

4:30pm-5:30pm
THE ART OF PLACEMAKING

Location: Redbud A

Colt McDermott, RDG Planning & Design; Molly Hanson, RDG Planning & Design

Placemaking can be done in parks and open spaces in a variety of scales and to varying degrees. No matter the project constraints, a thoughtful process and implementation strategies can make a tremendous impact in the environments we enjoy. By leaning into regional ecosystems, plans can improve biodiversity while passively educating the public about native plants and animals and beyond. The presentation will showcase a variety of projects at a multitude of scales.

7:00pm-9:00pm
AMAZING KRPA RACE SOCIAL

Location: Wichita Old Town

Get ready to paint the town red as we gear up for an unforgettable Pub Crawl Social in the heart of downtown Wichita! Teams of 4-6 will race to various locations in Old Town to compete in a photo scavenger hunt. Prizes for the winning team will be awarded at the Wednesday night social. Check in at Emerson Biggins (808 E. Douglas) at 7:00pm. Race starts at 7:30pm. Transportation begins at 5:45pm from the hotel lobby to Old Town. Dinner on your own. Explore the vibrant nightlife of Wichita in style.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31ST

8:30am-11:30am
VICTIM SERVICES

Location: Osage

Guest Speaker from Kansas Attorney General's Office

This training will be geared to provide resources for victims for law enforcement officers to use to assist victims after a crime has been committed.

9:00am-10:00am
EFFECTS OF YOGA ON OLDER ADULTS RESIDING IN ASSISTED LIVING FACILITIES

Location: Oak

Speaker: Anita Walters & Luke Kriley, Fort Hays State University

This session will discuss the results of a 6-week standing/supported yoga-type exercise intervention for the older adult population that was designed to improve strength and balance, with the ultimate outcome being a reduction in fall risk. Suggestions for implementation of this program at the community level will also be addressed.

9:00am-10:00am
PATHWAYS FOR PLAY

Location: Maple

Speaker: Bill Patterson, Cunningham Recreation

The purpose of Pathways for Play is to intentionally integrate play into walkable, bikeable, shared-use community pathway networks to provide opportunities for playing along the way and encourage use by children and families. PlayCore has partnered with the Natural Learning Initiative, College of Design, NC State University to offer an educational resource designed to help professional community activists promote playful pathway across the nation.

9:00am-10:00am
LET THEM LEAD: DISCOVER THE FUTURE OF PARK & REC NOW-GROWING LEADER, BUILDING FUTURES

Location: Cedar

Speaker: Elisa Accardi-Harrison, Wichita Park and Recreation

Finding staff has been a struggle that many organizations and agencies have been faced with over the past few years. What if there was a way to get involvement from high school and early college students that opened their eyes to the potential of a career in Park and Recreation? Youth Leadership programs and Youth Internship programs are a unique opportunity to engage young folks in the community into the public service arena. Whether it be a leadership program to gain confidence or a volunteer internship program to build professional skills, these programs allow opportunities for young community members to interact with city staff and open the door to the possibility of future job prospects. This session will discuss how to initiate and implement programs for young community members that open the door to potential future staff.

9:00am-10:00am
TREE INVENTORIES

Location: Trails

Speaker: Skip Kincaid, International Society of Arboriculture

Managing a population of trees includes the obvious work of planting, pruning, treating, and removing. Planning for this work becomes more effective and efficient if a tree inventory captures data about the tree population. Rapidly developing technology now makes tree inventory faster and more useful. Skip will discuss why inventories are a critical component when managing trees and will include information about emerging technologies.

9:00am-10:00am
RECRUITING, MENTORING AND RETAINING SPORTS OFFICIALS

Location: Birch

Speaker: Scott Goodheart, KSHSAA

This session will talk about ways to help recruit, train, mentor, and retain sports officials. This session will be open to talking about challenges faced from across our landscape of Kansas to all sports levels. How do we better the brand of officiating? How do we bench bad behavior? How do we get individuals to say yes to officiating? This session will discuss a new teaching curriculum to team up with schools called RefReps.

9:00am-10:00am
100 CUPS OF COFFEE- LEADERSHIP LESSONS FROM COFFEE

Location: Cypress A

Speaker: Chris Nunes, The Woodlands Township

100 Cups of Coffee is a way to understand the complexity of an issue/ community and build relationships with key people and organizations in your community and hopefully discover opportunities for synergy. Only through drinking good AND bad coffee will we be able to understand a community. From this programs, services and facilities can be developed which are based on key stakeholder input.

9:00am-10:00am
EMPOWERING KRPA MEMBERS: UNVEILING THE ECONOMIC IMPACT CALCULATOR

Location: Cypress B

Speaker: Suzy Fisher, Sports Facilities Companies

Join us for an illuminating session as we introduce KRPA's Economic Impact Calculator, a tool that has revolutionized the way KRPA members can quantify the value of their services and programs. This innovative calculator has the ability to provide evidence-based data, equipping you with the information needed to showcase the return on investment of tax dollars and user fees within your community.

10:15am-11:15am
REJUVENATING YOUR PARKS - BUILT BRAND!

Location: Cedar

Speaker: Mike Burton, City of Overland Park; Steve Rhoades, Vireo

These progressive steps will not only increase your revenue but will create repeat customers and grow awareness about your agency's brand.

2024 CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

10:15am-11:15am

ASSESSING TREE RISK AND LIABILITY ASSOCIATED WITH TREES IN PUBLIC SPACES

Location: Trails

Speaker: Skip Kincaid, International Society of Arboriculture

Skip will provide awareness about the importance of assessing tree risk and understanding the liability associated with trees in public spaces. Trees provide a myriad of benefits and are vital components in our public spaces. They improve our health, provide ecological benefits, and simply look great when healthy! But managers also need to understand the "dark side" of the liability associated with trees. Accurate assessments are a must to identify issues that can be deferred and tolerated vs issues that may require action. Failure to accurately assess and understand risk can have negative results. Remove a tree too soon and you lose the benefits that it provides.

10:15am-11:15am

MACROECONOMICS AND PARKS AND RECREATIONS

Location: Cypress A

Speaker: Chris Nunes, The Woodlands Township

Economic issues at the national and state level can impact your ability to deliver programs and services. Whether it is how the state funds schools to inflation to unemployment levels, these factors are important so to understand so the professional can plan and identify ways to manage their effects. Come review several key economic factors and get a better understanding on their impact. Review various economic factors and indicators related to the provision of parks and recreation services. Discuss methods in which to mitigate the impact of changes in various economic factors. Identify techniques to enhance the financial resilience and sustainability of the agency.

10:15am-11:15am

APPLIED LEARNING AND ASSISTED LIVING: A COLLABORATION BUILT FOR GROWTH AND PERSONAL CONNECTIONS

Location: Oak

Speakers: Regan Dodd, Baker University; Afton Haayer, Student - Baker University; Shanaye McBride, Vintage Parks Assisted Living
Do you find it overwhelming to meet all the wellness (i.e., physical, mental, emotional, social, etc.) needs of your residents? Are you finding it more challenging to develop physical activity and recreation programming that also meet the social and emotional needs of your participants? Would you like new programming ideas to implement with almost any age group upon return from the conference? This session will focus on the positive physical and social outcomes of a partnership between Vintage Parks Assisted Living in Baldwin City, Kansas and Baker University students enrolled in an Adapted Physical Education and Recreation for Special Populations course. The Vintage Parks Recreation Program Director and Baker faculty and students will provide tips and strategies for anyone interested in trying similar programming at their facility and will demonstrate examples of successful activities that were implemented. Connection with others is truly at the forefront of wellness and one we need to continue to promote between different demographic groups within the Recreation Field.

10:15am-11:15am

IT'S A MYSTERY TO ME

Location: Cypress B

Speakers: Jenny Smith, Mission Parks + Recreation; Kari Baesel, Johnson County Park and Recreation District

First-ever mystery session at KRPA conference! Details are limited; fun is to be had! There's not much to say except we guarantee you'll not leave mad! Walk away with ideas you can implement into your program. Participants will learn a new special event that can be used for staff team building, public events or camps. KRPA members will get the opportunity to network with each other. Participants will learn special event skills: how to break groups into teams and facilitate an event with a lot of moving parts. Participants will have tons of fun!

10:15am-11:15am

HOW TO PROMOTE YOUR SPORTS LEAGUE

Location: Maple

Speaker: Shana Appelhanz, Wichita Park and Recreation

In this session learn best practices to promote your sports league that will increase your participation and grow awareness throughout your community about your league.

10:15am-11:15am

AQUATIC MANAGERS NEED TRAINING TOO

Location: Cypress B

Speakers: Joe Marten, City of Wichita; Donita Grinde-Houtman, Derby Recreation Commission

Managers are our supervisors out on our pool deck or in our recreation centers. How are we setting them up for success and teaching them to excel in their job duties for our day-to-day operations? In this session, we will discuss the training sessions that the Derby Recreation Commission and the City of Wichita supply to some of their seasonal leaders.

11:30am- 1:00pm

AWARDS LUNCH

Location: Eagle Ballroom

1:15pm-4:15pm

PARK TOUR

1:15pm - 4:15pm

NEW DRUG TRENDS

Location: Trails

Speaker: A. Sean Hankins, Kansas Highway Patrol

This session covers new drug trends being seen by law enforcement and the impairment associated with them. The session will cover methods being used to conceal drug use and also how drugs are being consumed. This session breaks down the seven drug categories of impairment and what signs and symptoms of impairment are seen regarding each of these categories.

1:15pm - 3:30pm

THERE'S A BETTER WAY TO DO THIS: STRATEGIES FOR ADA COMPLIANCE IN PARKS AND RECREATION

Location: Birch

Speaker: John McGovern, The W-T Group, LLC

The Americans with Disabilities Act became effective January 26, 1992, and since then, Kansas parks and recreation agencies have accomplished much. Transition plans have been created, people with disabilities have been included in recreation programs alongside people without disabilities, and public-facing policies have made recreation participation easy, as they should. That said, many agencies across the country have made mistakes. Playground access, park access, parking, restrooms, locker rooms, pools, and fitness are common infrastructure problems. On the program side, registration processes, making reasonable modifications, service animal policies, adaptive recreation programs, staff training, and staff ratios are the cause of frequent disputes. The session will use court decisions, federal regulations, design standards, and settlement agreements to show a better way to do this!

1:15pm - 2:15pm

CALL OF THE WILD- SPECIAL EVENTS

Location: Oak

Speaker: Jimmy Kegin, Eudora Parks and Recreation

This COTW will focus on special events and programs. 3-4 events and programs to be shared by Parks and Recreation professionals from various agencies around Kansas. Come learn about Hutchinson's "Amazing Race", Winfield's "Adult Easter Egg Hunt", Dynamic Discs' "Trilogy Challenge" disc golf tournament and more!

1:15pm - 2:15pm

WORK/LIFE BALANCE-HOW TO APPEAR LIKE YOU HAVE IT!

Location: Osage

Speaker: Renee Reis, Fairway Parks and Recreation

What are your priorities at work to make the work/life balance work? This presentation will discuss some tricks and tips to allow you to get your time away from the workplace and be able to enjoy it. Why can't you take time away from work? You don't have the staff?? What does your retention program look like? How are you building relationships with the other departments to help you? Who can you team up with outside of your organization to solve some of the issues you have finding staff? What are your boundaries once you are at home?

1:15pm - 2:15pm
SPORTS ROUNDTABLE

Location: Cypress B

Speakers: Sports Branch Members

1:15pm - 2:15pm
INCORPORATING DIGITAL RESOURCES TO SUPPORT YOUR RECRUITING AND ONBOARDING EFFORTS

Location: Cedar

Speakers: Curtis Baxter and Derek Smith, Derby Recreation Commission

Are you tired of drowning in a sea of paper forms and endless administrative tasks while tackling your employee recruiting and onboarding processes? This session will equip you with the knowledge and tools needed to incorporate digital resources into your HR processes...at a speed your organization is comfortable with. Join us to take the first step toward reducing administrative burdens, saving time and resources, and improving the overall onboarding experience for your new hires.

1:15pm - 2:15pm
99 PROBLEMS...AND PICKLEBALL ISN'T ONE OF THEM

Location: Cypress A

Speaker: Chris Nunes, The Woodlands Township

Parks and recreation professionals are challenged on an almost hourly basis to solve problems for the benefit of the community. These problems may range from how to provide services to an underserved community (without any additional resources) to developing a plan for implementing a new park design. All of these "problems" present challenges to the professional. Using problem-solving techniques and creativity will allow the professional to develop solutions on behalf of their community. This session will detail problem-solving techniques and how to implement this process in their daily workflow.

1:15pm - 2:15pm
HISTORY, IMPACT, AND CONTROL OF CALLERY PEAR AND OTHER WOODY INVASIVE PLANTS IN KS

Location: Maple

Speaker: Ryan Rastok, Kansas Forrest Service

In this presentation, we will discuss the history, impact, and management of callery pear and other woody invasive plants in Kansas.

1:15pm - 2:15pm
THE POWER OF FREE PLAY

Location: Redbud A

Speaker: Richard Renner, City Play Corps

Through lecture and hands on demonstrations, participants will be introduced to the concept of free play and the powerful effects it can have on child development. Everyone will be given the chance to experience it themselves as they make their own playgrounds with the simple loose items provided. Be prepared to be silly, be engrossed and be creative with the spirit of true play.

2:30pm-3:30pm
FROM VISION TO REALITY: CREATING A COMPREHENSIVE PARK SYSTEM

Location: Maple

Speakers: Nick Staib, PEC; Steve White, City of Derby

If you've been putting off creating a park system, you're missing out on the benefits that come with a community park system plan. In this session, you'll see how PEC and the City of Derby were able to utilize sales tax to pay for the parks, boost the community's quality of life, add to population growth, increase new homes construction and raise existing homes values. As this will be a case study to learn from, we will also share lessons learned that will be of great benefit to you and your pursuit of a parks system plan.

2:30pm-3:30pm
AQUATICS-EXPLORE MORE WAYS TO ADVANCE

Location: Osage

Troy Houtman, Wichita Park and Recreation; Vicky Tillery, Fairway Park and Recreation

This will be a panel session with former Aquatics Supervisors and Directors who have moved on up or out of Aquatics and forward in their careers. They will discuss why Aquatics makes us uniquely qualified for a multitude of roles within our organizations and others.

2:30pm-3:30pm
MOVING FROM A MUNICIPAL TO AN ENTERPRISE MINDSET

Location: Cypress A

Speaker: Chris Nunes, The Woodlands Township

An enterprise mindset starts with developing staff to have the ability to think and believe in the financial aspects of their agency or department. Having an enterprise approach requires that the professional have sound business principles with the intention of creating profits, which can be revenue and/or social benefit. This session will detail the creation of staff and an agency that understands and embraces the financial aspects of their agency.

2:30pm-3:30pm
ON YOUR MARK! GET SET! GO!!

Location: Cedar

Speakers: Katy Renner and Chad Tower, Johnson County Park and Recreation District

Everything you want to know about putting on events like tailgate parties, 5k, half marathon, triathlon, adventure races and every other sporting event you can think of. Get valuable information on how to run successful events from staff members at JCPRD's Corporate and Community Wellness Department and the Kansas City Corporate Challenge Department.

2:30pm-3:30pm
BUILDING YOUR OWN E-SPORTS FACILITY

Location: Oak

Speakers: Jake Moore, Spring Hill Recreation Commission; Josh Garr, Level Up Arena

This session will talk about the ins and outs of how to start your own video game center. From the spacing, equipment, staffing, and programming.

2:30pm-3:30pm
POW: PROGRAMMING OUR WORLD

Location: Cypress B

Speaker: Audrey Gann, Maize Recreation Commission

Come hear from fellow parks and rec pros! Hear about some innovative programs and spark some ideas for your community. A few programs we'll hear about are Youth Fit Camp, Instructor Open House and a new martial arts program.

3:45pm-4:45pm
**FEATURED KEYNOTE SESSION:
UNLOCKING THE POWER OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Location: Eagle Ballroom

Speaker: David Millay, EngageMint

In this keynote, we'll delve into the heart of community engagement, shifting our focus from facilitating transactions to building meaningful relationships with the people we serve. We'll discuss the long-term impacts of personalizing experiences, cultivating lasting connections, and identifying and creating moments that genuinely impact our communities. Join us as we explore a more profound, purposeful approach to community involvement, setting the stage for the future of recreation and parks. Together, we'll uncover strategies to enhance our community ties and ensure lasting, positive change.

6:00pm-9:30pm
HOME RUN DERBY SOCIAL

Location: Riverfront Stadium

Win! Place! Show! Wichita Riverfront Stadium (275 S. McLean Blvd) will host the Home Run Derby horse races! Place your bets and watch to see if you picked the winner! Prize for best "Derby" hat. Event includes KRPA Branch Awards, heavy appetizers, cocktails, photo booth, and the evening will end with a BANG! Sponsored by ATHCO/Landscape Structures.



2024 CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2nd

8:30am-11:30am

INVESTIGATIVE STRATEGIES FOR HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN PARK SETTINGS

Location: Osage

Speaker: Joe Witham, Kansas Highway Patrol

This session will be a three-hour course on current Human Trafficking trends in Kansas and investigative strategies for these types of offenses.

8:30am-10:45am

INTEGRATING OUTDOOR AND ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AT YOUR SITE

Location: Trails

Speakers: Laura Downey and Ashlyn Kite-Hartwich, Kansas Association for Conservation and Environmental Education

(Please review registration and mark if you would like to attend this special educational session. An extra fee of \$35 will be applied to participants to cover take-home supplies and materials.) In this workshop, participants will gain the knowledge, skills and resources to successfully implement outdoor and environmental education at their sites. In this session, participants will explore: What makes for engaging learning in the outdoors, Activities that require little or no materials appropriate for school-aged students and families, Ideas for Hosting Environmental/Outdoor Education Events at your site, How to find other environmental educators in your community to support larger events focused on outdoor learning activities. Participants will receive ready-to-use lesson plans around a variety of topics related to the outdoors including wildlife, habitat, ecosystems, water, air, energy, waste, climate change, invasive species, community planning, and more.

8:30am-9:30am

40 YEAR PATH THROUGH PROFESSIONAL BASEBALL

Location: Cypress A

Speaker: Jay Miller, Wichita Wind Surge

With 40 years of experience in all levels of baseball, Jay will share his experiences as a Front Office Executive, his path to becoming the President of the Triple-A Wichita Wind Surge and what it takes to run a successful operation. Attendees can also expect to learn about skills objectives for player development from T-ball all the way up to high school baseball. Come prepared with questions as there will be audience participation throughout this session.

8:30am-9:30am

URBAN DEER MANAGEMENT IN JOHNSON COUNTY PARKS

Location: Birch

Speaker: Matt Dear and Matt Garrett, Johnson County Park and Recreation District

White-tailed deer play a pivotal role in the natural and cultural environment across Kansas. However, the large numbers of deer in urban areas have caused increasing problems. Common issues include vehicular accidents, household landscape damage, forest ecosystem damage, and disease outbreaks. The Johnson County Park and Recreation District collaborated with KDWP on an urban deer management program with multiple benefits for the community. The agencies worked together to build a successful archery program that reaches the goals of the Shawnee Mission Park Deer Management Plan, while providing an outdoor recreation opportunity previously unavailable in Johnson County. Selected hunters provide food for their families and balance the park ecosystem allowing threatened native plants to thrive. Learn about the first two years of the program and how the program can be replicated across KS. An update on the spread of Chronic Wasting Disease and its impact on Deer in KS will be provided.

8:30am-9:30am

SMALL COMMUNITY STRATEGY

Location: Maple

Speaker: Brian Peel, Spring Hill Recreation Commission

A detailed review of best practices in small communities. Many times, education sessions focus on strategy and information that is directed to medium and large-size communities and departments. This session will focus on strategies specific to small organizations and how large community strategies can be adjusted and applied in a small community.

8:30am-9:30am

OPERATING AN AQUATIC FACILITY WITHOUT AN OEM

Location: Cedar

Speakers: Kyle McCawley and Brian Hill, Waters Edge Aquatic Design

How do you operate a facility without an Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) document? When repairs are needed, where do you begin? Often facility supervisors inherit a facility that no longer have the original manuals or the manuals no longer apply because there have been so many changes and updates. This session will provide guidance on researching and gathering the necessary information to allow you to make good long-term repairs and maintenance decisions. Additionally, the session will provide guidance on creating future maintenance and service plan and direction on utilizing web-based platforms to manage operational needs, asset management and capital improvement programs.

8:30am-9:30am

EVENT ACTION PLANS - WHY THEY ARE ESSENTIAL TO GOOD EVENT MANAGEMENT.

Location: Cypress B

Speaker: Julie Bilyea, City of Overland Park

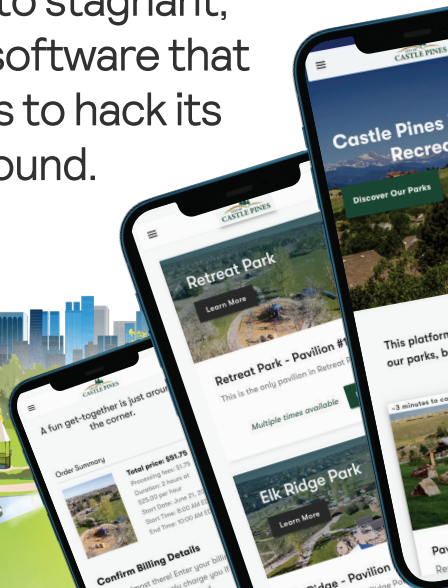
A presentation designed to demonstrate how to create an event action plan that can guide multi-agency or department interactions in the development of a successful event. >Why they matter >What they must contain >Who needs to be included in distribution >How to use at the event



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8:30am-9:30am

THE HYPERTENSION AWARENESS & PREVENTION PROGRAM**Location: Oak****Speaker: Sara Sawyer, K-State Research and Extension Sedgwick County**

Hypertension is commonly referred to as the “silent killer” as there are usually no warning signs and is a leading risk factor for cardiovascular diseases, such as heart attack and stroke. According to Kansas Health Matters, 32.8% of adult Kansans have been diagnosed with hypertension. The nation’s Healthy People 2030 plan sets an objective that less than 27.7% of adults in the US have hypertension. Kansas has much work to do. For these reasons, K-State Research and Extension (KSRE) developed the Hypertension Awareness and Prevention Program (HAPP) to improve the health and well-being of all Kansans through coaching and lifestyle education so participants can gain knowledge, skill, and confidence in their ability to reduce and/or prevent high blood pressure.

9:45am-10:45am

GROWING GARDENS**Location: Oak****Speaker: Alison Smith and Cory Wiersen, Johnson County Park and Recreation District**

Community gardens are growing in popularity. Join us for this session as we get into the weeds about getting a garden program growing at your worksite for staff, or by the plot for your neighborhood patrons. Topics covered include: plant restrictions, participant agreements/contracts, fees associated, deadlines, dirt, community connectedness, health benefits and more.

9:45am-10:45am

MIRACLE LEAGUE OF WICHITA- ADAPTIVE SPORTS LEAGUES**Location: Cedar****Speakers: Shana Appelhanz and Troy Houtman, Wichita Park and Recreation**

In this session learn about the existing adaptive sports league hosted in Wichita, KS, Miracle League of Wichita. Learn about the evolution of the baseball program for individuals with special needs ages 5-21 and how it grew into a year around league offering baseball, bowling, kickball, and swim team. We will discuss how to partner with agencies in your community, what makes the sports league adaptive, and how to get individuals interested in registering.

9:45am-10:45am

FILLING THE HOTELS AND COMPLETING THE CODE: INTEGRATING OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE INTO THE DESIGN PROCESS**Location: Birch****Speakers: Jay Wohlschlaeger and Lance Klein, SWT Design**

Whether you are in the long-range planning stage, early funding discussions, or final stages of construction; Now is the right time to start thinking about operations and maintenance! The session explores operations & maintenance strategies as part of the pre-design, design, and post-construction process to ensure a vision is properly calibrated to the realities of short/long-term costs and the space, skill, and equipment needed to care for the amenity. Using case studies, we will explore how operations & maintenance considerations are integrated into each step of the design process. This understanding will help to ensure you have the tools necessary to better plan for future projects, changes to your system, and establish the cost and resources needed to implement them.

9:45am-10:45am

GENERATION ROUNDTABLE- ADMINISTRATIVE BRANCH**Location: Maple****Speakers: Amy Conkling, Hutchinson Recreation Commission; Jennifer Kraus, Emporia Recreation Commission**

In this session, Admin Branch is hosting a roundtable where we’re asking our young professionals to talk to us! Agency leaders are constantly researching how to reach our young professionals, and how to connect with them in a way that is meaningful and beneficial to everyone. We will discuss current topics in recreation and get perspectives and viewpoints from all ages! The goal is to learn from one another in a setting where everyone’s opinion is valued. If you are a KRPA Young Professional or a seasoned Recreation/Park veteran, this is the session for you!

9:45am-10:45am

AQUATICS ROUNDTABLE**Location: Cypress A****Speaker: Jennifer Wegener, Emporia Recreation Commission**

We will be discussing the latest hot topics in the aquatics industry.

9:45am-10:45am

50 IN 50: MARKETING**Location: Cypress B****Speakers: Kate Kincaid, Shawnee Parks and Recreation; Brice Soeken, Fairway Parks and Recreation**

Take a look around the nation at different marketing techniques and see what can work for you and your agency. Speakers will showcase multiple platforms including social media, print and other forms of digital media. Come ready to walk away with 50 ideas in your pocket.

11:00am-12:00pm

I AM ENOUGH**Location: Birch****Speaker: Josh Wolf, Jwolfcoachingllc**

The biggest limitation in life and one that we all share; and something we tend to feel that we are alone in is “enoughness.” We feel like we don’t have it: we feel like we are not good enough. Not strong enough. Not smart, capable, powerful enough... In this life-changing session the audience will be filled with courage and strength to destroy their personal “walls of enoughness”, learning how to apply the magic of KNOWING they are enough-- and have enough to not only achieve but ENJOY anything they want in life. Through remarkably vulnerable and relatable real-life examples, the audience will examine, rethink and reclaim enoughness in their own lives, and walk away with immediately applicable, tangible and helpful tools to reshape and reclaim their life! Prepare to be left inspired and ready to believe they are enough, no matter who (often ourselves) tries to tell us otherwise.

11:00am-12:00pm

WHAT’S RECREATION GOT TO DO WITH IT? DE&I IN RECREATION**Location: Cypress A****Speaker: Dr. Marche Fleming-Randle, Wichita State University**

Recreation is not all about fun and games anymore. When it comes to DE&I, it is not a game. DE&I is not achieved by a single eye-popping or heart-opening moment. DE&I is a long process of nurturing understanding, awareness, and action toward recreation. This session will provide the foundation of a healthy recreation department and programs.

11:00am-12:00pm

CREATING UNBEATABLE TEAMS, WITH UNBREAKABLE CULTURE**Location: Redbud B****Speakers: Kevin Chase, One Degree Compass; Brandon Clark, One Degree Compass; One Degree Compass; Chris Drum, Derby Recreation Commission**

Coach Brandon Clark and Kevin Chase both feel that meeting each other 20 years ago was meant to happen. Brandon has entered his 18th year as the head football coach for the Derby High School Panthers. He has led the program to (6) high school 6A state titles and amassed an impressive record along the way. Kevin, now a retired banker and rancher, has been the culture coach for the Derby football program over the past eight years. His banking career spans more than thirty-five years, leading his family-owned bank to top ratings for twenty-five consecutive years. Together, as Coach and the Cowboy, they have developed the One Degree Compass. It’s a culture program that provides a framework comprised of accountability, character, energy, and service. This culture initiative started with the Derby football team, but has now spread throughout their City, School District, Rec Commission, and other corporations. If you are looking for change agents who know how to harness good vibes, drive transformation and develop culture champions, you found them. Get ready for a fun and informative presentation! The One Degree Compass is simple, but not easy!

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CONFLUENCE



REGISTRATION INFORMATION

HOW TO REGISTER: Online at www.krpa.org/conference

Full Package	By January 2, 2024		After January 2, 2024	
	<u>Member</u>	<u>/ Non Member</u>	<u>Member</u>	<u>/ Non Member</u>
Professional	\$375	\$400	\$405	\$480
Citizen Board Member (CBM)	\$300	\$375	\$330	\$405
Daily Packages	By January 2, 2024		After January 2, 2024	
	<u>Member</u>	<u>/ Non Member</u>	<u>Member</u>	<u>/ Non Member</u>
Professional- Tuesday, Jan 30th	\$270	\$295	\$280	\$325
CBM- Tuesday, Jan 30th	\$255	\$280	\$285	\$310
Professional- Wednesday, Jan 31st	\$270	\$295	\$300	\$325
CBM- Wednesday, Jan 31st	\$255	\$280	\$285	\$310
Professional- Thursday, Feb 1st	\$195	\$205	\$325	\$235
CBM- Thursday, Feb 1st	\$180	\$190	\$210	\$230
Package Add-ons				
CEU Form	\$10			
Conference: Integrating Outdoor Education at your Site	\$35			
Park Tour- January 31st	\$20			

Extra Tickets	
Monday Social	\$20
Tuesday Social.....	\$20
Wednesday Awards Lunch...	\$45
Wednesday Social.....	\$20

Cancellation, Terms and Policy are found online at www.krpa.org/conference/terms-conditions.