

THE POWER OF PARKS & PLAY



MRPA ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2022

OCTOBER 11 - 14, 2022

CRAGUN'S RESORT AND CONFERENCE CENTER

MINNESOTA
Recreation and Park Association

CONFERENCE WELCOME



THE POWER OF PARKS & PLAY

MRPA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The conference committee has been hard at work to bring MRPA back to Brainerd for the 85th annual Minnesota Recreation and Park Association Annual Conference.

This dynamic committee is pulling out all the stops to provide the best in-person experience at everyone's favorite northern escape, Cragun's Resort and Conference Center. The year 2020 proved to be a challenging year that kept us from connecting with each other, redeeming ourselves in the Adventure Race and engaging in the top education opportunities MRPA has to offer.

The Power of Parks and Play. This year's theme directly impacts how we professionals operate. We are pleased to be offering educational sessions that are related to current issues, and relevant to the everyday challenges and struggles we face. Make sure you enter your organization into our infamous "Adventure Race," it will not be as grueling as 2017's marathon.

Our annual conference success is based on your participation and excitement! We are all united by the park and recreation profession and our ability to live, learn and pass this knowledge along. We also couldn't be successful without our many supportive sponsors and partners.

In 2020 we focused on connecting with each other in an extraordinary moment in our careers; 2021 we fought to rebuild, to rethink our profession and how we each fit into that new mold. Now, 2022 is the time to put into practice the power that playing, working, and living in today's new world can bring to the lives of our MRPA members and each of our unique communities.

Don't forget to pack your flannel for the Plaid Ball!

Chelsea Swenhaugen, City of Inver Grove Heights & Nick Jacobs, City of Otsego
2022 Annual Conference Co-Chairs

MINNESOTA RECREATION AND PARKS ASSOCIATION

OUR MISSION

TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN MINNESOTA BY ENHANCING THE PROFESSION OF PARKS, OPEN SPACE, RECREATION AND LEISURE SERVICES.

CORE VALUES

LEADERSHIP

Providing professional development, networking, best practices and informational support for our customers

STEWARDSHIP

Proactively advocating for preserving our parks, conserving our natural resources and advancing the values of recreation and leisure services

WELLNESS

Impacting health and active living through educational and social opportunities

ENGAGEMENT

Building relationships and seeking collaborative partnerships with community members and organizations

INTEGRITY

Serving fairly and professionally while building trust through our interactions

INCLUSION

Respecting our differences and supporting opportunities for everyone

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

The Annual Conference would not be possible without the dedication and commitment of these individuals:

CONFERENCE
CO-CHAIRS

Nick Jacobs
Chelsea Swenhaugen

PROGRAMMING

Gina Brady
Rachel Mikel
Ross Demant

EXHIBIT HALL

Mike Bauer
Zac Dockter

LOGISTICS

Adam Farrell

MARKETING

Nikki Greenwell

NETWORKING

Ann Mosack
Roxann Maxey

SPONSORSHIPS

Sam Werle

VOLUNTEERS

Sara Witte
Lynn Neumann

MRPA CONTACT INFORMATION

200 Charles Street NE
Fridley, MN 55432

T: 763-571-1305, ext. 100

F: 763-571-5204



CONFERENCE SPONSORS*

THANK YOU TO THE 2022 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SPONSORS FOR MAKING THIS EVENT POSSIBLE.



*SPONSORS AS OF PRESS TIME.

CONFERENCE AT A GLANCE

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11

MRPF GOLF TOURNAMENT 11:00 am
 PRE-CONFERENCE INSTITUTE..... 4:00 - 6:30 pm

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12

WELCOME 9:00 - 9:30 am
 OPENING KEYNOTE - ERIC HARKINS ... 9:30 - 10:30 am
 SESSION BLOCK 1 10:45 - 11:45 am
 LUNCH 11:45 am - 12:45 pm
 SESSION BLOCK 2 1:00 - 2:00 pm
 SESSION BLOCK 3 2:15 - 3:15 pm
 ADVENTURE RACE 4:00 - 5:30 pm

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13

NETWORK SESSIONS 8:30 - 9:15 am
 SESSION BLOCK 1 9:30 - 10:30 am
 SESSION BLOCK 2 10:45 - 11:45 am
 LUNCH 12:00 - 1:00 pm
 SESSION BLOCK 3 1:15 - 2:15 pm
 EXHIBIT HALL 2:30 - 5:30 pm
 PLAID BALL Following the Exhibit Hall

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14

SESSION BLOCK 1 9:00 - 10:00 am
 CLOSING KEYNOTE - GAYLYNN LEA ... 10:15 - 11:30 am

BEAR TRAP WELCOME



Welcome Meet and Greet at the Bear Trap Lounge - main lodge lobby, conveniently located by conference check-in.

Tuesday, October 11 at 6:30 pm

Get settled in and head down to the Bear Trap Lounge to network with fellow professionals. Grab a bite to eat, catch some sports on the TVs, or listen to some music. Dress in your college alumni (or your favorite sports/recreation theme) gear to mingle with your fellow collegiate professionals.

MRPF GOLF OUTING



MRPF Golf Outing - It's Back!

The Minnesota Recreation and Parks Foundation Golf Tournament is returning for a visit to Cragun's! You may have played the Legacy courses before, but this is your chance to play the course after \$10 million in renovations!

Tuesday, October 11 - 11:00 am Start
 Finish in time to attend the pre-conference at 4 pm!
 Registration information coming soon! Start organizing your foursomes! More information at www.mnrpf.org

Not a golfer, but would like to help plan this fun event?
 Contact Kelly Distad at Kelly.distad@newbrightonmn.gov

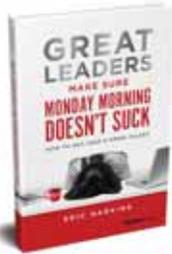
KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



ERIC HARKINS

Eric Harkins is the president and founder of GKG Search & Consulting, a Minneapolis-based consulting firm that helps organizations Get talent, Keep talent & Grow talent.

His goal is simple: Help every company he works with make sure Monday morning doesn't suck for their employees. Eric is a motivational speaker, consultant, executive-coach, and an expert in helping companies create a culture of high performers that employees want to be a part of.



During his 25-year career in corporate America, Eric held leadership roles ranging from manager to chief human resources and chief administrative officer.

Sponsored By:



GAELYNN LEA

The ABCs of Disability: Raising Awareness, Eliminating Barriers & Shaping Culture: Gaelynn Lea will share her personal experience of living, loving, and learning with a disability. She will discuss the barriers that still face people with disabilities and highlight everyday activism to help further the goal of equality for all. Gaelynn will discuss why accessibility and inclusion for recreational and art activities are so important. She'll then explain her true passion - teaching others how the concept of Disability as Diversity can help transform our culture for the better. Gaelynn will end her talk by sharing how disability can change the narrative about what constitutes a successful or meaningful life - shifting the focus from progress to enrichment. CART captioning provided.

Sponsored By:



TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11

11:00 AM ☹

MINNESOTA RECREATION AND PARK FOUNDATION GOLF TOURNAMENT

3:00 – 6:00 PM ☹

REGISTRATION AND CHECK-IN

4:00 – 6:30 PM ☹

TRUE COLORS: YOUR KEY TO PERSONAL SUCCESS

Kori Shingles, Senior Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Specialist, JE Dunn Construction
Each of us has our own style, preferences and ways of operating. So how can we all work together? This interactive workshop helps participants explore their own distinctive personality strengths and stressors, learn to respect and appreciate differences and lays the foundation for relationship building, effective communication and team building.

Sponsored By:





7:30 AM ⏰

AM HIKE OR BIKE

 Explore Cragun's campus and the surrounding area. Wake up and move before a day of learning. Meet outside the main lodge for a stroll around the resort and surrounding trails.

8:00 – 9:00 AM ⏰

REGISTRATION AND CHECK-IN

9:00 – 10:30 AM ⏰

WELCOME AND OPENING KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Eric Harkins

Sponsored By:



10:45 – 11:45 AM ⏰

THE PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE OF ROBINSON PARK: A CHANGING LANDSCAPE

Heidi Bringman, Senior Landscape Architect, LHB Inc.

Robinson Park is a 65-acre site located along the wild and scenic Kettle River in Sandstone, Minnesota. Learn how the landscape has evolved over the past 130 years from a historic stone quarry to an outdoor recreational hub for rock climbing, ice climbing, rafting, kayaking, camping and picnicking.

WHERE YOU WORK MATTERS: THE ROLE OF WORKPLACE CULTURE IN PARKS AND RECREATION AGENCIES

Marissa Moravec, Recreation Supervisor, Mundelein Parks and Recreation District

In some situations, it may be the workplace culture that is getting in the way of your happiness and success at an agency. In this session, we'll explore two different types of workplace cultures and how to identify which one is the best fit for you.

AQUATIC AMENITIES INCLUDING NINJACROSS

Tom Schmitz, Park & Recreation Director, New Ulm

This session includes information on aquatic amenities, some less common, including the 2nd indoor NinjaCross in America. Climbing walls, Zip'N, Keylog Roll, Splashpads, children's play features and more will be discussed, along with innovative programming ideas.

ARE YOU A MONDAY MORNING LEADER?

Eric Harkins, President and Founder of GKG Search & Consulting

Do you have the energy, mindset, motivation, and expertise to get the job done? With his free assessment, ex-C-suite renegade Eric Harkins uses the principles behind his leadership philosophy to identify strengths, weaknesses, and gaps in your readiness to become a Monday Morning Leader. Make sure you bring the energy and enthusiasm to make sure Mondays never suck. Get Your Monday Morning Leadership score from Eric Harkins.

R.I.P. RECREATION IMPROVEMENT PLAN. DON'T LET DATA BE THE DEATH OF YOU

Jared Flewellen, Assistant Director and Tonya Mzingo, Recreation Manager, Eagan

Many cities plan for facilities and parks through capital improvement plans but don't do the same things for their recreation activities. Learn what Eagan worked through with the help from Recreation Results to analyze their software database to see where they are now and where they will go.

321 NETWORK

Welcome to speed networking - a whirlwind session offering students and new professionals the opportunity to connect with recreation professionals from a variety of backgrounds. Be prepared to discuss your career interests quickly and efficiently, show-off portfolios, get feedback on your resume/cover letter, and ask questions.

10:45 AM – 2:00 PM ⏻

OFF-SITE INSTITUTE - CUYUNA LAKES MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAIL SYSTEM

Sponsored By:

We will meet up at the Cykel Bike Shop in Ironton, which is a few minutes ride from Cuyuna. From there participants will jump on their bike, which is provided by the bike shop, and ride on a guided bike tour of the Cuyuna Mountain Bike Trails.

We will need all participants to provide their name and height approximately a week before the event in order to properly fit their bike correctly. Participants are also welcome to bring their own bike.



Transportation will be provided. All OSIs will depart from and return to Cragun's main lobby.

1:00 – 2:00 PM ⏻

PROMOTING THE PROFESSION

Jonathan Hicks, Associate Professor of Recreation, Parks and Leisure Services & Michelle Margo, Assistant Professor of Recreation, Parks and Leisure Services, Minnesota State University, Mankato
To work in the recreation field means to do critically important work while navigating a world of budget cuts and diminishing resources. This highly interactive session/panel explores strategies for communicating the value of the profession, community impact, and enhanced quality of life to stakeholders and decision makers.

CREATE A STRONG AND MEANINGFUL CAMP CULTURE

Roz and Jed Training & Consulting
Whether it is intentionally created or grows randomly, every camp has a culture. Each camp's culture lays the foundation for its personality and helps differentiate the program. This interactive session will explore the importance of your camp's culture and provide a plan for growing or changing and developing it!

TACKLING ADA BARRIERS

Brad Phenow, Communications Coordinator, Faribault Parks and Recreation
The City of Faribault found itself behind the eight-ball during a website redesign when it was discovered all of its meeting documents were non-compliant for ADA standards. With no money budgeted, staff were able to start breaking down those barriers, and soon found out ADA goes much deeper than documents.

INDOOR FACILITY VIRTUAL TOUR VIDEOS

Tom Schmitz, Parks and Recreation Director, New Ulm & Derek Tonn, Founder and CEO, Mapformation LLC
Presenting how the City of New Ulm, and many other organizations, have had their facilities Matterport filmed; and then via the internet, anyone can take a virtual self-guided tour of facilities.

P & R: PROGRESSION AND REFLECTION

Jessica Christensen Buck, Recreation Supervisor, Corcoran & Matt Colwell, Recreation Coordinator, Mendota Heights (YPSN)
Join the Young Professional and Student Network as we ask a panel of seasoned professionals the paths they've taken to get to where they are. These experienced individuals will give tips and tricks of working in various areas of the field and help you determine your next steps!

DO YOUR PARKS NEED A PARTNER?

Steve Madson, Owner, SRO Productions Inc.
Creating events takes time - something you and your staff don't always have, especially these days. So how do you maximize your event calendar without breaking the budget? Partnerships. Join the discussion about cultivating effective relationships with organizations to create new opportunities.

CONFERENCE APP ⏻



The **WHOVA APP** is back for the 2022 conference. This app allows you to schedule your day, converse with our speakers, and connect with fellow colleagues.

FOLLOW THE CONFERENCE FACEBOOK EVENT. »»»»



2:15 - 3:15 PM 🔔

CREATE RAVING FANS: PRACTICAL TIPS TO DELIVER A WORLD-CLASS CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE

Roz and Jed Training & Consulting

Creating raving fans can propel our departments and agencies to new heights. This session will review the importance of super-serving all our customers and focus on providing a series of practical actions that every staff member can easily use to consistently deliver world-class customer service.

RECRUIT, REACH, RETAIN, AND THE REWARDS – ALL THINGS SEASONAL AND PART-TIME STAFF AND THE IMPACTS ON YOUR ORGANIZATION

Joey Schugel, Director of Recreation and Leisure Services, Saint Peter

Are you scrambling to staff programs and facilities? Does it seem like your applicant pool is getting smaller? Join this interactive discussion on the importance of seasonal and part-time staff, while learning and sharing successful strategies for recruiting, connecting, and retaining quality staff, while setting up your organization for success.

HOW DID WE GET HERE AND WHERE DO WE GO? THE EVOLUTION OF RACE, RACISM AND WHITENESS

Ryan Virden, Founder, LIR Cultural Coaching

The country is still grappling with race. This dynamic presentation offers a framework for understanding the origin, history, and evolution of race and racism that allows for meaningful conversations and actions towards a world free from racism.

SPURRING INNOVATION IN PROGRAM DESIGN

Elizabeth Owens, Recreation Program Specialist, Woodbury

Innovation...we've heard it, we know what it means, and we know it's important; but how do we actually achieve it? Engage with this presentation and learn four ways to spur innovative thinking in program design and answer the question, "How do we create innovative and trend-setting programs for our agencies?"

COMMUNICATING THE VISION

Michelle Margo, Assistant Professor of Recreation, Parks and Leisure Services & Jonathan Hicks, Associate Professor of Recreation, Parks and Leisure Services, Minnesota State University, Mankato

A follow-up to MNSU Topics I, this session emphasizes strategies for building professional relationships with Generation Z. Anchored by research and a panel of current students, we will document our communication shortcomings with an emphasis in utilizing human infrastructure to ensure the indefinite success of programs, facilities, staff, and leadership.

STOP HOLDING YOURSELF BACK: WOMEN IN PARKS AND RECREATION

Marissa Moravec, Recreation Supervisor, Mundelein Parks and Recreation District

Many of us can agree that there are challenges to being a female in the workplace. Women are often misunderstood or labeled based on their management style because they are female. It is time to own our strengths and stop holding ourselves back.

4:00 - 5:30 PM 🔔

ADVENTURE RACE

JOIN US FOR ANOTHER ADVENTURE RACE AT CRAGUN'S

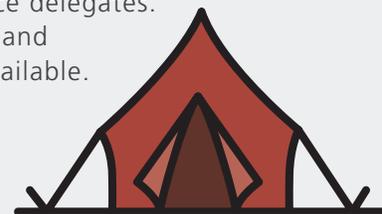
Challenge your mind and move your body, while making lasting memories and connections. We promise there is no training or running required for this year's event. Sign-up as a team of two. Each person receives a race t-shirt. Involvement in this race will provide ideas on how to replicate this program in your community and potentially generate revenue for your department. There are limited participant slots, so register early! Registration deadline is Friday, September 9.

\$15 PER PARTICIPANT INCLUDES RACE T-SHIRT.

BIRCH, BREWS, AND BANTER - 6:00 - 9:00 PM

MRPA Annual Conference Networking Experience at the Northland Loop around Gull Lake Resort Area.

Sponsored By:



ADVENTURE RACE CHEER CREW

Support the racers, cheer them on, and network with one another. Wear your agency gear to help connect with fellow conference delegates. Cash bar and snacks available.



8:00 – 8:30 AM 🔌

REGISTRATION AND CHECK-IN

FOLLOW THE PARK MAINTENANCE TRACK TODAY. Look for sessions with this symbol. 

8:30 – 9:15 AM 🔌

NETWORK SESSIONS

- Programming and Aquatics
- Athletic Management
- Park Maintenance and Operations
- Facilities
- Leadership and Development
- Young Professional and Student Network



SELFIE STOPS

As you are stepping your way through Cragun’s this week, stop and enjoy the sites and sounds. Capture the memories at our selfie stops and post them on the conference app or social media to preserve the opportunity and reflect on your professional journey.

9:30 – 10:30 AM 🔌

ACTIVITIES IN A PINCH

Roz and Jed Training & Consulting
It starts to rain, a staff member is absent, an event ends early, what do you do? Come learn some fun, easy, no-prop games that you can share with your out-of-school time staff and pull out of your back pocket to fill time with engaging activities when you are in a pinch.



BEING A GOOD NEIGHBOR AND STEWARD WITH PARK AND TRAIL RESOURCES

Ken Grieshaber, SRF Consulting Group;
John Elholm, Recreation Director, Crystal;
Kelly O’Dea, Recreation Director, Minnetonka
With some types of recreational programming facing public criticism for not being compatible with surrounding land resources, adding amenities like off leash dog areas or mountain bike trail systems can be challenging to implement for cities. Learn how proactive community engagement, planning, and design can contribute towards successful project outcomes.

FEEL WHAT YOU CAN DO

Tammy Ebert, CEO & Visionary, Feel The Water dba SwimPossible & Rachel Koch, Director of Operations, Feel The Water dba SwimPossible
SwimPossible provides safe, calming, and fun lessons that are customized for students who need a 1:1 personalized approach adapted to their needs for learning how to swim. We do not focus on diagnoses or labels. Swimming is taught to students of all ages who are not served by traditional swim lessons.

MRPF NEW INITIATIVE GRANT - POWER OF INNOVATION

Lisa Abernathy, Board of Trustee, Contact Information & Grant Recipients
Use your power of innovation to bring play to your parks and communities through a New Initiative Grant! Get inspired by recent grant recipients and ignite innovative ideas to bring to your community. Come learn about this great opportunity it offers to Foundation members.

9:30 – 10:30 AM CONTINUED 🔌

THE 7 LAWS OF SELF-LEADERSHIP

Jason Hunt, Owner, Eye Squared Leadership

We often tend to put the needs of others first, leaving our personal growth and development up to chance. This message encourages you to leave your comfort zone, imagine what is possible, and become intentional in your daily habits, helping you master your thinking, routines, and growth.

EVOLUTION OF PROGRAMMING

Sue Bohnsack, Recreation Supervisor, Eden Prairie & Lesley Young, Recreation Supervisor, Prior Lake

Over the last few years, programming has evolved dramatically. Hear instances of what has changed, what has stayed the same, and where the profession is heading next.

9:30 – 11:45 AM 🔌



DIRECTORS' FORUM

Gather with fellow directors of parks and recreation departments from across the state to discuss topics impacting your work as agency leaders. Directors will come together to network, share ideas, and discuss the latest trends.

Sponsored By:



10:45 – 11:45 AM 🔌

INCLUSIVE PARK DESIGN FOR KIDS WITH AUTISM & OTHER PHYSICAL CHALLENGES

Chuck Evens, Sr Landscape Architect, Damon Farber Landscape Architects

How can park design accommodate parents that are raising kids on the autism spectrum or kids with physical challenges? Can good park design accommodate everyone of all ages and abilities without compromise? Trane Park's grassroots parent-led effort strives to be truly inclusive.

LEAD FROM WHERE YOU STAND: HOW TO INFLUENCE AS A MIDDLE-LEVEL LEADER

Jason Hunt, Owner, Eye Squared Leadership

Being a leader in the middle is tough. While trying to please your boss and make your direct reports happy. It's no wonder middle-level leaders are stressed out. In this session, learn how to succeed as a middle-level leader.



ASSET MANAGEMENT: A LOOK INTO THE USE AND BENEFITS CARTEGRAPH CAN OFFER PARK MAINTENANCE OPERATIONS

Sonya Rippe, Project Coordinator, Plymouth & Robert Heitke, Parks Maintenance Supervisor, Maple Grove

Managing a parks department is no small feat: handling facilities, tracking trees, work orders, and budget reports. How can leveraging data and technology make your day to day operations more efficient? Discover how the City of Plymouth Parks & Forestry team along with the City of Maple Grove Parks & Recreation team streamlined the management of their assets, work and requests.

SEEING THE FOREST FOR THE TREES AT MISSISSIPPI GATEWAY REGIONAL PARK

Jason Amberg, WSB Principal / Director of Landscape Architecture, Jeff Feulner, WSB Associate / Sr. Landscape Architect, Jordan Gedrose, WSB Landscape Architect

Laser scanning technology to create a virtual 3d forest with exact locations of all limbs/branches. This detailed 3d data allowed our team to design a treetop trail integrated within the limbs/branches of the forested canopy. This wouldn't be possible with traditional group topographic survey methods. We will also share other design elements of this project being designed for Three Rivers Park District and the City of Brooklyn Park.

KEEPING YOURSELF SAFE IN ALL WORK SETTINGS

Sue Bohnsack, Recreation Supervisor, Eden Prairie & Nicole Gorman, Recreation Supervisor, Edina

Work environments are ever changing. Everyone needs to be more aware of where they are and what potential harm could come to you at work. In this session, you will be given insights of what to watch out for, situational awareness and tactics to keep you safe.

FINE-TUNING THE FACILITATION OF TEAM BUILDING

Phileshia "Phil" Dombroski, Assistant Professor, Winona State University

From staff trainings to childhood clubs, the overuse of lame name games and bonding activities has brought us to a time when the words "teambuilding" and "icebreakers" often result in eye rolls and groans. To turn this tide, fine-tune your facilitation skills with Dr. Phil in this lively session.

RESOLVING CONFLICT AND DE-ESCALATING INTENSE CUSTOMER SCENARIOS

Annie Olson, Director of Customer Service & Iris Pahlberg Peterson, Customer Service Supervisor, Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board

Conflict is inevitable, now more than ever. Conflict resolution does not require a winner. This training will explore and define this while identifying strategies to apply on-the-job to de-escalate customer interactions. Participants will feel empowered to establish expectations and apply preventative steps to avoid unexpected surprises.

ALL KIDS DESERVE TO BE INCLUDED

Emily Orr, Director of Adaptive Recreation & Inclusion, Reach for Resources INC.

Parks programming should be open to individuals of all abilities. We will review ADA law including what types of accommodations are considered reasonable. Discuss the basics of providing inclusion support, and go over some specific examples of accommodations/adaptations that are easy to implement but can make programs successful for all.

KNOWLEDGE ON TAP IN THE BEAR TRAP LOUNGE

MRPA Leadership Network, Moderator: Jason T West
Participate in an interactive discussion with some of the most seasoned veterans in our industry. Topics include influential mentors, professional accomplishments, and parks and recreation as an area of human service.



EMERALD ASH BORER HAS BEEN CONFIRMED, NOW WHAT?

Tom Pawelk, Parks Superintendent, Monticello

Emerald ash borer populations have been spreading across the state and may soon make it to homes in your community. How can you be better prepared to handle this pest once it reaches you? Learn how the City of Monticello has written and adopted a City ordinance that allows the parks department to take measures to help slow down the spread of emerald ash borer, and keep the damage to a minimum in their community.

GEN Z: READY, SET, CHANGE!

Kristen Twitchell, Aquatic Operations Supervisor, Eagan/Cascade Bay Waterpark

Most new employees are part of Gen Z (born 1997-2012). Research shows Gen Z has the potential to be fantastic employees IF employers are ready for them. Learn more about Gen Z workplace values and how applying Positive Youth Development theory can impact hiring and retaining Gen Z employees.

HOW TO WRITE A WINNING AWARD SUBMISSION

MRPA Awards Committee Members

The MRPA Awards Committee will provide helpful tools to professionals so they can feel better prepared when submitting an Award of Excellence, Professional Award or Grant Proposal. (Working title and description)

EXHIBIT HALL & THE NEW INITIATIVE SPOTLIGHT

There is something for every professional waiting for you in the exhibit hall! This is a great opportunity to connect with suppliers who support our profession, and make this event possible.

- Visit with nearly 70 exhibitors
- Gain new ideas related to the newest technology, products, services, equipment, and program
- Hors d'oeuvres, refreshments, and prizes
- Please take time to visit the exhibit hall partners as their contributions are integral to the conference's success.
- The New Initiative Spotlight (Or Best In Show?) will highlight award winning projects from different Sponsored By: agencies throughout the state. Visit these spotlights on the upper track at the exhibit hall. Food and beverages served.



PLAID BALL - 6:00 PM 🔌

Following the exhibit hall, join us at the beach for further networking opportunities with delegates and vendors. Come dressed in buffalo plaid or your most comfortable cabin wear.

Bonfires, cash bar, food service, live music and northwoods influenced competitions included.





8:00 – 9:00 AM ⏰

REGISTRATION AND CHECK-IN

9:00 - 10:00 AM ⏰

ARDEN PARK AND MINNEHAHA CREEK RESTORATION: CREATING AN URBAN RECREATIONAL RESOURCE

Chris Meehan, Senior Principal, Water Resources Engineer, Stantec

The Arden Park project is part of a larger effort along Minnehaha Creek that is returning the stream into a healthy resource that connects and enhances communities. Construction was completed in 2020 and created of an urban recreational resource with immersive nature-based learning, kayaking, tubing, fishing, walking, and ice-skating.

ONLINE SCHEDULING SYSTEMS BEST PRACTICES

David Benson, Recreation Supervisor, Bloomington

Are you still using outdated, cumbersome spreadsheets to complete your staff schedules and shift trades? The time is now to switch to an online scheduling system to help your managers and staff be more efficient and save time. Participants will learn best practices related to online staff and facility scheduling.

RE-IMAGINING AN ICON: THE BIG POOL'S TRANSFORMATION & DELIVERY OF SOCIAL EQUITY

Terry Berkbuegler, Senior Principal, Confluence

The original Big Pool was developed almost 100 years ago and was touted as the largest free admission hand-dug community pool in the world. The story of the replacement focuses on public engagement, history, dreaming for the future and providing localized social equity options for the community.

INNOVATION IS INVITATION: DEFINING WHAT'S NEXT IN INCLUSIVE PLAY

Jill Moore, Inclusive Play Specialist, Landscape Structures

The conversation surrounding inclusive play is progressing beyond the basics towards what's next. Looking at communities creating innovative spaces, this session articulates how design choices are defined by who's coming to play. Integration of intentional ramp play, DeafScape Principles, wayfinding and more - we understand that innovation starts with invitation.

CREATING SHELTER IN OUR PARKS: INCORPORATING ICC 500 STORM SHELTERS IN PARK BUILDINGS

Stacey Demmer, Principal & Nikki Schlepp, Senior Landscape Architect, LHB

Is your community considering how park buildings contribute to resilience? Should they provide shelter in severe weather? This session will present two projects built in the City of Brooklyn Park that incorporated ICC 500 design standards for storm shelters, focusing on the lessons learned from a design and cost perspective.



COME DRESSED TO PLAY

Down time at Cragun's can be spent playing disc golf, pickleball, boating, or golf. Take advantage of your Par 3 round included in your stay. This fall retreat is packed with professional and personal growth experiences. Embrace the True North!

10:15 - 11:30AM ⏰

CLOSING KEYNOTE PRESENTATION

Gaylynn Lea

MRPA ANNUAL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

EARLY BIRD DEADLINE: AUGUST 26, 2022 • REGISTER ONLINE AT MNRPA.ORG



First Name _____ Last Name _____

Title _____ Organization _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

Email _____ Website _____

Special Accommodations (ADA, Vegetarian, Gluten-Free) _____ This is my first MRPA Conference

Payment Method Check Enclosed Check Requested Paid Online
MRPA Preferred Method

DELEGATES	MRPA MEMBER		NON-MEMBER		TOTAL
	Until Aug. 26	After Aug. 26	Until Aug. 26	After Aug. 26	
Pre-Conference Institute (Tue) only	\$45	\$45	\$45	\$45	
Full Conference Package (Tue - Fri)	\$395	\$445	\$545	\$595	
Conference Package (Wed - Fri)	\$375	\$425	\$525	\$575	
Daily - Wednesday only	\$205	\$255	\$255	\$305	
Daily - Thursday only	\$205	\$255	\$255	\$305	
Daily - Friday only	\$99	\$149	\$149	\$199	
Continuing Education Units (CEU)	\$10	\$10	\$20	\$20	
RETIREES & STUDENTS	WITH MEAL		WITHOUT MEAL		TOTAL
Volunteer Package (Wed - Fri)	\$145	\$170	FREE	FREE	
Non-Volunteer Package (Wed - Fri)	\$245	\$270	\$40	\$60	
Non-Volunteer Daily Rate <input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday <input type="checkbox"/> Thursday <input type="checkbox"/> Friday	\$75	\$85	\$25	\$30	
TOTAL ENCLOSED					
OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES					
Off-Site Institute - Wednesday, October 12, Cuyuna Lakes Mountain Bike Trail System <input type="checkbox"/>				Height - _____	
Adventure Race - Wednesday, October 12, \$15 <input type="checkbox"/>		Teammate's Name - _____		Unisex T-Shirt Size - _____	

CONFERENCE FOOD AND BEVERAGE

Please note any food allergies. We have tried to incorporate healthy eating throughout the menu selections.

Meals included for each day:

- Wednesday - lunch, dinner
- Thursday - lunch, exhibit hall hors d'oeuvres
- Friday - continental breakfast

CANCELLATION POLICY

Cancellations accepted through September 15, minus a \$50 handling fee. No refunds will be given after this date. Alternate attendees are permitted. Registration fees are used toward educational sessions and meals.

HOTEL ACCOMODATIONS

Cragun's Resort and Conference Center
 11000 Cragun's Drive
 Brainerd, MN 55401

Room rate: \$134.22/night plus tax

For reservations: MRPA has a reserved room block available. Call 866-988-0562 by September 10, 2022 to make your hotel reservation - ask for the MRPA rate.

PLEASE SUBMIT PAYMENT TO

MRPA, 200 Charles Street NE, Fridley, MN 55432