

2025 OPRA CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

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

Monday	Administration	Aquatics	Events	Facilities/ Operations	Fiscal Administration	Human Resources	Inclusion/DEI	Management	Marketing	Natural Resources	Parks	Trends
LOCATION	ALOESWOOD	LEOPARDWOOD	INDIGO BAY	ORANGE	GUAVA	PORTIA	ROSEWOOD	CYPRESS	CROWN PALM HUT	ZEBRAWOOD	MANGROVE	SAGEWOOD
8:30am-9:45am	Building Community Resilience	Making Aquatics Fun Again: Turning a Minion into a Mini Me!	Ethical & Environmentally Conscious Events: An Imperfect Journey to Limiting Waste	Building for the Future	Empower Yourself: Measure Your Economic Impact	Launching Your Team to Success through Onboarding	Breaking Down Barriers: A Practical Approach to Park Accessibility	Building a Better Workplace: Culture Enhancement and Expectation Management	A Guide to Unlocking Creativity	Utilizing Natural Area Parks to Promote & Perform Conservation Research	The Journey of Connecting Marginalized Communities to Nature through Outreach	Enhancing Sustainable Trail Development: Pre-Construction Vegetation Assessments
	-Kristen Riggins -Brandi Sanders	-Jim Clark	-Julia Haumschild -Julia Neal -Mark Smalley	-Jason Chadock	-Ryan Davis -Bill Tschirhart	-Marisa Hoff	-John Patrick Picard -Sarah Buell -Billy Meismer -Jason Yost	-Kaye Borchers -Janet Jackson	-Stephanie Sercu	-Robert Curtis -Charlotte Gintert -Sarah Culliton	-Angelec Hillsman	-Grace Dietsch -Megan Rude
10:00am-11:30amKeynote: Champion of Choices – Marc Mero KALAHARI BALLROOM												
2:30pm-3:45pm	Exceeding Expectations with Effective Community Engagement	The Making of a Community-Based Aquatics Center	Building Strong Community-Driven Events	Effective Field Rotation: Bridging Programmers and Grounds Crews	Alternative Revenue - How to Generate It and Get More!	OPRA Retirement Academy	“Words Matter”: Getting on the Same Page with Disability Inclusion	Manage Conflict Like a Boss!	Grow Awareness, Grow Engagement, Grow Stronger.	Wetlands Building Community	Park District Meeting and Advocacy Update	Urban Gardening: Embracing Nature from Concrete to Canopy
	-Ryan Hegreiness	-Ted Haug -Chris Trotta -Sean Ward -Matt Freeby	-Jeri Lewis	-Ryan DeMay -Jake Diefenthaler	-Bill Tschirhart -Andy Collins	-Alex Solove	-Lisa Drennan	-Julie Jones	-David Woodward -Mary Charles Woodward	-Jenny Adkins -Melissa Hindman	-Woody Woodward	-Reyna Askew -Dave Daly
4:00pm-5:15pm	Connecting Community Needs with Strategic Master Planning	Aquatic Programming for Success: The Ebbs and Flows	Taking the Stress Out of the Fest: A Case Study (or Two) to Help You Make Lasting Memories	Developing an IPM Turf Management Program for Parks	How to Plan and Manage Your Capital Projects	Building a Team	Disability Inclusion Includes ALL Staff: Getting Your Team on Board	Coaching or Criticism: Using Feedback to Move Forward	It's Not Just Us: How Can Programming and Marketing Work Together?	Carbon Capture and Storage: The Key to Mitigating Climate Change	Creating a Sustainability Movement in Ohio's State Parks	AI in Parks and Recreation: Productivity and Pitfalls
	-Matthew Earman -Leon Younger	-Autumn Hammer -Jackie Carroll	-Amanda Morris -Melissa Hindman	-Brian McGuire	-James Russell -Brian Smith -Ashley Senn	-Jason Chadock	-Lisa Drennan	-Julie Jones	-Stephanie Sercu -Ryan Davis -Jen Brandt	-Grace Dietsch	-Heather Bokman	-Bill Tschirhart -Ryan Hegreiness
Tuesday	Leadership											
LOCATION	CYPRESS	ORANGE	INDIGO BAY	PORTIA	GUAVA	SAGEWOOD	ALOESWOOD					
8:30am-9:45am	Building a Positive Parks Culture Through Turmoil and Growth	Building a Strategic Board	Earn the Dawn - Effective Strategies to Enhance Your Life	Lifelong Lessons in Leadership	Paradoxical Leadership: Unleash Your Inner Parks & Recreation Mastermind	Thriving as an Introvert in an Extroverted Industry	Trust: The Ultimate Currency of Success					
	-Zac Guthrie -Kody Rubright -Shunnye Dunlap	-Annie Frisoli	-Tom Speaks	-Chris Stevenson	-Kristen Marks	-Ryan Hegreiness	-Ryan Davis					
LOCATION	CYPRESS	GUAVA	INDIGO BAY	PORTIA	ORANGE							
1:00pm-2:30pm	Lasso: Hidden Broccoli	Moving from Diversity to Inclusion: Accessibility and Inclusion for All	My Life is a Sitcom	The Power of Authentic Leadership	The Value of a Value							
	-Addie Weaver -Bill Tschirhart	-Michael Hingson	-Melissa Hindman -Amanda Gehres	-Toni Murphy	-Annie Frisoli							
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Wednesday	Administration	Fundamentals	Inclusion/DEI	Management	Parks	Programming	Urban Recreation	Volunteers				
LOCATION	ALOESWOOD	CYPRESS	GUAVA	MANGROVE	PORTIA	ORANGE	INDIGO BAY	SAGEWOOD				
8:30am-9:45am	Partnering for Success	A Tool Box Approach to Your Career	How to Bring Pride to the Parks	Interdepartmental Relationships - Can't We All Just Get Along?	Going Beyond Compliance: Indigenous Engagement, Site Stewardship	Who, What, When, Where, and Why? Creating the Programs Your Community Wants	Challenges Unique to the Urban Core - Let's Talk About It!	Volunteers at the Heart: Engagement Strategies				
	-Nathan Eppink	-Shane McAvineu	-Kelsey Rogers	-Cara Prell	-Megan Shaeffer -LaDonna BlueEye	-Erin Harris -Katy Lucas -Alison Pifer	-Lisa King -Victoria Putnam -Josh Hamblen	-Mary Beth Sills				
10:15am-11:30am	Listen Up - Your Community is Talking	Who's Taking Care of YOU?	Everyone is Invited: Inclusion and the Modification Process	Middle Management & Mid-Career: Staying Relevant and Loving Life	What...This Old Thing? Restoring, Reusing, and Repurposing Urban Landscapes	Engaging Urban Youth in Nature Through STEAM	Roadmap for Success	Does One Size Fit All in Volunteer Management?				
	-Jacob Hensel	-Jen Brandt	-Addie Weaver -Anna Breidenbach	-Cara Prell	-Michael Johnson	-Nicole Hindman	-Manney Clarke -Antonio Combs	-Parker Spencer -Saundra McBrearty -Lisa Meranti				
11:30am-1:00pmKeynote: Living a Better Life through Understanding the Power of Trust & Teamwork -Michael Hingson KALAHARI BALLROOM												

Roundtables

Monday

11:30am-12:15pm

55+ Programming, CROWN PALM HUT
-Uriah Anderson, Tyler Barlage

12:15pm-1:00pm

Summer Camp, BANYAN HUT
-Cory Ollie, Gina Kolp

1:00pm-1:45pm

Facilities/Operations, CROWN PALM HUT
-Tony Carpenter

1:45pm-2:30pm

Events, BANYAN HUT
-Julia Neal, Taylor Tobias

Tuesday

9:45am-10:30am


Programming, CROWN PALM HUT
-Kara Musser

10:45am-11:30am

Sports, BANYAN HUT
-Andy Wildman, Aaron Iplady

11:45am-12:30pm

Marketing, CROWN PALM HUT
-Stephanie Sercu, Emily Reichert



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