

2026 OPRA CONFERENCE EDUCATION SESSIONS

MONDAY	Administration	Aquatics	Events	Facilities/ Operations	Fiscal Administration	Fundamentals	Human Resources	Inclusion/DEI	Management	Natural Resources	Projects & Planning	Seniors	Urban Rec		
LOCATION	Mangrove	Crown Palm Hut	Cypress	Portia/Wisteria	Guava/Tamarind	Rosewood	Aloeswood	Leopardwood	Indigo Bay	Sagewood	Zebrawood	Banyan Hut	Ironwood Hut		
8:30am-9:45am	No One Cares About Your Data	Building Vigilance, Reducing Risk, and Documenting Success	Crafting Connection: Planning Meaningful Cultural Events for Community Impact	The Future is Now - GIS Tools for Park Operations	Turn Your Playground Dreams into Reality: A Guide to Fundraising & Grants	Be a Partnership Superhero!	Mentorship: A Two-Way Journey of Growth	Practical Steps to Improve Accessibility for Autistic and Sensory-Sensitive Individuals	Do You Want to Win or Be Right? The Art of Negotiation and Persuasion	Turn Stormwater Infrastructure into Recreation Destinations	Finding the Parks in Your City	Unlikely Community Collaborations	Teens Vote with Their Feet...and It's Always Election Season!		
	-Bobbi Nance	-Kate Connell	-Abbey Brooks -Kayla Hesselbein -Alonna Skinner	-Taylor Glynn -Courtney Grumman	-Jenny Cash	-Shannon Pennington -Lauren Asquith	-Jen Brandt -Gina Kolp	-Meredith Tekin	-Jai Cole -Chris Matthews	-Hank Thomas	-Jeff Anderson	-Danielle Brogley	-Jacqueline Johnson		
10:00am-11:30am OPENING KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Juan Bendana Kalahari Ballroom															
2:30pm-3:45pm	Advocacy Update	Aquatic Facility Assessments - What to Expect	1,000 Themes for Programs and Special Events	Rust, Rot, and Revival: Winning the War on Deferred Maintenance	The Money Trail: Proving and Quantifying Your Parks' Economic Impacts	The Struggle Is Real!	Finding or Being the Right Candidate: The Art of the Interview from Both Sides of the Table	Beyond Accessibility: Spaces for Every Body to Play and Recreate	Microaggressions – A Nudge, a Conversation, and a Learning Opportunity	Ex-Tiles: The Truth Is Under There!	Strategic Planning: Rooted in Community, Driven by Purpose	Evidence-Based Programming Can Be Fun While Promoting Healthy Aging!	Emergency Management: Preparedness, Operations, Activations, and Mitigations in Parks and Recreation		
	-Woody Woodward	-Matthew Freeby -Scott Caron	-Melissa Hindman -Gina Kolp	-Tony Carpenter -Ken Carter -Chris Pion	-Michelle Johnson -Dan Marsalek	-Ashlee Schmitt -Robin Gregory -Heather Beals	-Jai Cole -Chris Matthews	-Natalie Mackay -Shannon Columb	-Lori Hoffner	-Mark Dille -Jenny Adkins	-Paul Khacherian	-Stephanie FallCreek -Jodi Warnecke	-Jon Jainga		
4:00pm-5:15pm	Levy Planning and Campaign Guidance	Being Prepared!	More than a Medal: The Power of Community Races	Bikepath Maintenance: Maintaining the Quality that Keeps Users Coming Back	Maximizing Cost Recovery: Sustainable Pricing Strategies for Recreation Programs	Partnerships in Acquisitions	The Playbook for Seasonal Staff Success	Inclusive Play Matters: Evidence-Based Design Best Practices for Play and Recreation Destinations	Challenging Conversations Don't Have to Weigh You Down: Inspiring Communication Success	Conservation in Unconventional Spaces	Master Planning on a Shoestring: Big Results, Small Budget	What's New and Old with Senior Centers	Racial Equity: From Redlining to Hostile Parkitecture		
	-Rebecca Princehorn -Catherine Swartz	-Jim Clark -Chuck Kunsman -Annemarie Finch	-Natalie Mullin -Taylor Tobias	-Luke Meyer	-Andrew Wildman -Shane McAviney	-Derek Schafer -Joe Leslie	-Jacob Hensel	-Ron Blake	-Lori Hoffner	-Brett Macht -Kari Horn -Joe Johnson -Nikki Goldstein	-Matt McGrath -Tom James -Kyle Lukes	-William Plessinger -Shannon Guy -Jill Collins -Annette Baxter	-Jai Cole -Chris Matthews		
TUESDAY	Leadership							<div></div> <div><div>Schedule is subject to change. Please go to opraonline.org for the most current information.</div></div>							
LOCATION	Indigo Bay	Guava/Tamarind	Salon A	Mangrove	Salon H	Portia/Wisteria	Cypress								
8:30am-9:45am	Data, Drama, and Clear Decisions	Lead Like a Marine	Leadership Toolkit: Transforming a Department	Leading Beyond the Plan: What to Do When the Unexpected Hits	Navigating Change with Community Organizations	Supporting the Front Line: Leadership Practices for Stronger Teams	Values in Action								
	-Amanda Morris -Amanda Rossbach	-Kenneth Stray	-Alexandria Nichols	-Daniel Betts	-Debbie McLaughlin -Kayla Sensenbaugh	-Sam Jenkins	-Colleen Light -Ryan Cooper								
LOCATION	Salon A		Indigo Bay		Salon H		Cypress								
1:00pm-2:30pm	The Edge of Creativity		Embracing the Leadership Challenge		Embracing Your Authentic, Awkward, Awesome Self		Empowered Roles for Great Leadership								
	-Kassi Kincaid		-Nathan Eppink		-Bobbi Nance -Bill Tschirhart		-Tiffany Wood -Erin Duffee								
2:45pm-4:15pm	The Edge of Creativity		Embracing the Leadership Challenge		Embracing Your Authentic, Awkward, Awesome Self		Empowered Roles for Great Leadership								
	-Kassi Kincaid		-Nathan Eppink		-Bobbi Nance -Bill Tschirhart		-Tiffany Wood -Erin Duffee								
WEDNESDAY	Administration	Facilities/ Operations	Fundamentals	Human Resources	Inclusion/DEI	Management	Parks	Programming	Youth Sports						
LOCATION	Mangrove	Portia/Wisteria	Guava/Tamarind	Aloeswood	Leopardwood	Indigo Bay	Sagewood	Cypress	Rosewood						
8:30am-9:45am	Communication Is Key! How to Communicate Effectively in Meetings and Presentations	Involving Your Whole Community to Build a Community Center	Practical Applications of AI for Parks and Recreation Professionals	Epic Fails! Top HR Errors that Every Supervisor Should Avoid	A Beginner's Guide to Adaptive & Inclusive Programming	The Generational Grove: Growing Stronger as One Team	Using ArcGIS FieldMaps for High-Quality Natural Area Monitoring & Invasive Plant Management	Keeping Young Adults Involved After Aging Out of Youth Programs	The Art of Dealing with Difficult People in Youth Sports						
	-Bill Tschirhart	-Debbie McLaughlin -Ed Merritt -Dave Wharton	-Sam Lunt -Jason Peters	-Brad Bennett	-Shane Thompson	-Kenneth Stray -Isaac Smith -John Kleshinski -Roberta Gifford	-Kari Horn -Daniel Kovar -Jessica Spencer	-Annie Brown	-Chris Stevenson						
10:15am-11:30am	A Year-In-Review: Parks & Recreation Legislative and Case Law Update	Building THE Parks Maintenance Dream Team	Community Engagement through Social Media	Staff Mentorship in Motion: From Vision to Reality	Parks for All: Serving Neurodiverse Populations in Parks	Start with Why & End with Growth: Feedback for Real Change	Green Ribbon Initiative - Oak Openings Region	Achieving Success with Programs You Know Nothing About	Strategies for Recruiting and Retaining Quality Coaches in Youth Sports						
	-Ben Yoder -Sarah Sparks	-Kenneth Stray	-Kaitlin Duncan -LeAnna Lutz	-Monica Resnik -Amanda Schilling	-Meghan Doran -Allison King	-Addie Weaver	-Matty Watkins	-Colton Patak	-Annie Brown -Mackenzie Arens						
11:30am-1:00pm CLOSING KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Mitch Savoie Hill Kalahari Ballroom															
ROUNDTABLES															
MONDAY												LOCATION			
11:30am-12:15pm	Aquatics											Cypress			
	-Michele Horst														
	Law Enforcement Section											Indigo Bay			
12:30pm-1:15pm	-Dan Weaver -Bill Altenbach														
	Events											Indigo Bay			
1:30pm-2:15pm	-Taylor Tobias														
	Seniors											Cypress			
	-Uriah Anderson														
1:30pm-2:15pm	Park District Section Meeting											Indigo Bay			
	-Woody Woodward														
TUESDAY												LOCATION			
9:45am-10:30am	Marketing											Cypress			
	-Adria Bergeron														
	Urban Rec											Indigo Bay			
10:45am-11:30am	-Bryana Ross														
	Facilities/Operations											Cypress			
	-Tony Carpenter														
10:45am-11:30am	Summer Camp											Indigo Bay			
	-Cory Ollie -Gina Kolp														
11:45am-12:30pm	Sports											Indigo Bay			
	-Andy Wildman -Aaron Iplady														