

## WPRA 2026 ANNUAL CONFERENCE & TRADE SHOW

## February 3-6, 2026

## WILOCK YOUR POTENTIAL Kalahari Resort & Convention Center • Wisconsin Dells, WI

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#WPR	RA26		SCHEDI	JLE AT	A GLAN	CE (sub	ject to d	change)		
MONDAY, FEBRUARY	2 - PRE-CONFERENC	CE WORKSHOP								
	AQUATICS	AQUATICS	EXECUTIVE	EXECUTIVE	PARKS	PARKS	RECREATION	RECREATION	DEI/Emerging Professionals	
8:30am - 4:30 pm	AFO Certifica Carrico Aquat								Trotessionals	
TUESDAY, FEBRUAR	Y 3 - PRE-CONFEREN	ICE WORKSHOPS		<u> </u>				<u> </u>		
8:30am - 4:00 pm										
1:00 - 4:00 pm	AFO Certification Course Carrico Aquatic Resources						Hands-On Al Lab for Parks & Rec: Build and Promote a Program in One Afternoon Jason Peters & Sam Lunt		Beyond Basics: Leading Successful Disability Inclusion in Recreation Settings Lisa Drennan	
8:00 pm – 12:00 am			Camp \	VPRA Social: JustAGame	e Fieldhouse (200 La Cros	sse St, Wisconsin Dells, W	(1 53965)			
WEDNESDAY, FEBRU	IARY 4									
WEBNEODAI, I EBNO	AKT 4		1			1	1		Intro to WPRA	
8:30 am - 9:30 am	Behind the Scenes Tour of Kalahari Waterpark Kalahari Staff		How to Make Your Community Fall in Love with You Lyn Hulgan		Trends in Play Space Design Melinda Pearson	GIS Mapping/ Inventorying Kiley Scherer	Delivering Superhero Level Service: Building a Culture to Wow Patrons! Hank Ebeling		and First Time Conference Attendees EP/Conference Committee	
9:45 am - 10:45 am			Keynote Opening S	ession: Moving from Be	est Practices to Next Pr	actices with the Power of	of One - Neelay Bhatt			
11:00 am - 12:00 pm	Aquatics Section Meeting		Perfectly Polished Professional Lyn Hulgan	WPRA's Legislative Agenda and its Impact on YOU(R) Community Caty McDermott	The Business of Movement: Economic Impacts of Bike and Pedestrian Projects Kim Biedermann	From Bids to Builds: Mastering Wisconsin's Public Bidding Requirements Emma Wenman	Nature-Based Solutions for Your Recreation Programming Robert Yonkee	Build Your Dream Team! Attract, Develop and Retain A+ Talent Hank Ebeling	Difficult Conversations Neelay Bhatt	
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm	Lunch & WPRA Annual Meeting									
1:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Trade Show									
4:00 - 5:00 pm 8:00 pm - 12:00 am	EPC Speed Networking Event  "All in for WPRA" Social: The Grateful Shed (1470 Wisconsin Dells Pkw, Wisconsin Dells, WI 53965)									
6:00 pm - 12:00 am			All III for W	PRA SOCIAI: THE GRALEN	ui Sileu (1470 Wisconsiii	Delis Pkwy, Wisconsin Del	iis, vvi 55965)			
THURSDAY, FEBRUA	RY 5									
8:30 am - 9:30 am	Hands on Water Session: Practical Swim Lesson Strategies for a Lifetime Courtney Kline & Cory MacKline	Right Fit, Right Facility: Tailoring Aquatic Spaces to your Community Adam Janesz & Carter Arndt	I Lead My Organization, But Why Do I feel Alone? Confronting Imposter Syndrome Chase Ellis	Generating and Leveraging, Buy-in, (Literally) for your Parks Guy Smith & Becky Stoner	What is CPTED Phil Johnson	Preserving Urban Forests: Strategic Management in the Face of Environmental Challenges Rachel Morris	Activating Your Goals: An Odyssey to Unstoppable Professional Progress Scott Mason	Silver Star Awards	Keeping Your Fire Lit Without Burning Out Bobbi Nance	
9:45 am – 10:45 am	How to Create a Championship Team in 22 Seconds Wes King	Grants: A Guide to Free Money Trace Hoekstra	Connection Is Key: Why Building Meaningful Connections is a Need in Our Profession Chase Ellis	Beer Gardens in Parks: Public and Private Partnerships Joe Mrozinksi	From Theory to Practice: Just What the Heck IS a Reasonable Modification? John McGovern	Rooted in Carbon: Dane County's Climate Action on the Ground and in the Grid Joleen Stinson & Michelle Probst	WWYD - 25 Years of Craziness in the Parks & Rec World Brett Ketterman		Career Development Bootcamp: How to Stand Out Jay Tryon & Shane Mize	
11:00 am – 12:00 pm	Encouraging Team Creativity for Aquatics Gabriel Castillo	Swim Lesson Strategies for a Lifetime of Water Competency & Confidence Courtney Kline & Cory MacKline	Winning Over Your Elected Officials: Building Relationships for Parks and Recreation Success Tom Venniro	Backing Your Passion with Proof Bobbi Nance	to Implement a Joint Agency and Loc	Manage, & Grow from A-Z		Sponsorship Basics from A-Z Stacey Fontechia	I Play Too Michael Clark & Jason Bookheimer	
12:00 pm – 1:15 pm		Y	Y		Networking Lunch	1	Y	ı	·	
1:15 pm - 2:15 pm	Learning to Lead with Language Wes King	Dealing with Media Criticism Gabriel Castillo	Am I an Effective Park and Rec Professional? Tom Venniro	Diving Into Your Data Without Drowning Bobbi Nance		Rethinking Lawns Lauren Umek	Leading with Empathy: Building a Culture of Trust, Safety, and Purpose Michael Clark & Jason Bookheimer	Marketing (Taylor's Version) Deanna Angelini Johann, Cassidy Reinhard & Skylar Greenberg	Those Darn Kids Nowadays: Surviving Generational Diversity Todd Kuckkahn	
2:30 pm - 3:30 pm	The Secret Ingredient: How to Develop Staff Ownership Elaena Noffsinger	Automation Controls and The Future Jessie Krueger	Live from the Dells: Recless in Session Tom Venniro, Jay Tryon & Shane Mize		Parks Design Awards	Driving Success Through Volunteer Collaboration Tori Staab	Small Staff, Big Strategy Dustin Kleefisch	Teens: Too Old for Camp, Too Young for Staff Joe Lilly, Abby Meachum & Abby Sacks	Beyond Awareness:     Mitigating     Implicit Bias     and Confronting     Microaggressions     in Parks and     Recreation     Zach Zuchowicz	
4:30 pm - 6:00 pm	WPRA Foundation Basket Raffle & Social Hour									
6:00 PM	Awards Banquet									
To follow	Post Awards Banquet Social: Brew Pub (at the Kalahari Resort)									
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY	DIDAY EEDDIADY C									
9:30 am – 10:30 am	Aquatic Code Discussion Mary Ellen Bruesch		Connecting and Leading an Engaged Team Deb Kneser		Creating Pawsitive Spaces - Planning, Designing, Building, and Maintaining Successful Dog Parks Kevin Wiesmann, Lael Pascuel & Nick Spence		Experience by Design Annie Frisoli		Unlock Equity: Engaging Your Community Through Meaningful Activities Sarah Zahn	
10:45 am – 11:45 am	Endnote: The Leadership Adventure: Blazing Trails, Building Legacies - Annie Frisoli									