

IOWA

PARKS AND RECREATION ASSOCIATION

... Fall Into What's Next

2026 IPRA FALL WORKSHOP

CEDAR RAPIDS

SEPTEMBER 14-16, 2026



Hotel Information

Hilton Garden Inn

4640 North River Blvd NE, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, 52411

Reservations:

Room Rate: \$134 plus per night

Room Block Ends: August 24, 2026

[Click Here](#) to Reserve

Rooms are limited and not guaranteed



Contact Us

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Vice President
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641-990-3887

Registration

Registration Deadline: September 4 at Noon

<u>IPRA Member Rate</u>	<u>Non-Member Rate</u>
Full Package: \$175	\$275
Student: \$20	\$20

Late Registration: Sept. 4 at 12:01 PM - Sept. 9

<u>IPRA Member Rate</u>	<u>Non-Member Rate</u>
Full Package: \$225	\$325
Student: \$20	\$20

Additional Fall Workshop Information and Registration can be found [here](#).



2026 Workshop Planning Committee

City of Cedar Rapids
Brian Ruffles, Jerry Kirk, Brittany Hamer

City of Marion
Seth Staashelm, Brinkley Braden

MONDAY September 14

Golf Outing

Twin Pines Golf Course

3800 42nd St NE

Cedar Rapids, IA 52402

Shotgun start at 11 AM

Best Shot

\$60 per golfer

 Presented by:
Boland Recreation



Golf outing registration is a separate registration than fall workshop.

Golf Registration click [here](#)

****Please have your golf team identified prior to registration so you can indicate who you will be golfing with on the registration form.**

Save time the morning of the outing—pay online during registration!



Monday Evening Social

5:00 PM

Hilton Garden Inn Parking Lot

4640 North River Blvd NE

Cedar Rapids, IA 52411

Presented by: Bolton & Menk



BOLTON & MENK

 **Real People. Real Solutions.**

Join us for an evening of food, drinks, games, and football!

Enjoy complimentary food and beverages, challenge your colleagues in yard games and a bags tournament, and enter for a chance to win a custom bags board set courtesy of MUSCO Lighting. Then settle in to watch the Denver Broncos and Kansas City Chiefs face off on the MuscoMAX™ mobile video board and after dark, MUSCO will put on a light show! Bring a lawn chair, connect with fellow professionals, and get ready for a fun night under the lights!



TUESDAY September 15

7:30 AM - Registration Opens

Presented by:

SynLawn



SYNLAWN®

Plant-Based Artificial Grass

8:30-9:30 AM Educational Sessions

Session #1 - Social Media that Connects Community

Alexis Hauge - City of Mason City

Location: Cedar C CEU 0.1

Session #2 - Balancing Access & Sustainability in Water Recreation

Paul Marston & Paul Nelson - ISG

Location: Cedar DE CEU 0.1

Session #3 - Engaging Adults 55+: Programs that make a Difference

Danya Thoms & Katie Poirier - City of Urbandale

Location: Cedar AB CEU 0.1

9:30-9:45 AM - Break

Presented by:

MSA Professional Services



MSA

9:45-10:45 AM Educational Sessions

Session #4 - If We Save It, Then What? -Planning and managing Historic Sites and Assets for Parks and Recreation

Ann Cejka - City of Cedar Rapids

Location: Cedar C CEU 0.1

Session #5 - Prairies/Native Plants: Where and Why

Zac Hall - Kirkwood Community College

Location: Cedar DE CEU 0.1

Session #6 - Bang for Your Buck: Creating Community Experiences through Aquatics & Recreation

Jordan Allsup & Jack Eckstaine - City of Grinnell

Location: Cedar AB CEU 0.1

10:45-11:00 AM - Break

Presented by:

MUSCO Sports Lighting



11:00-12:00 PM Educational Sessions

Session #7 - Park System Master Planning that Connects Facilities, Programs and Equity

Jay Lotthammer & Claire Roth - ISG

Location: Cedar C CEU 0.1

Session #8 - Try Lacrosse

Jeff Kueter, Iowa Lacrosse Association

Location: Cedar DE CEU 0.1

Session #9 - Operational Insights: Lessons Learned, Challenges Faced, and What's Next (ELN Roundtable)

Mallory Iverson - IPRA

Location: Cedar AB CEU 0.1

Off-Site Tour #1 - Old McDonalds Farm, creative programming Max of 15 participants. Pre-register at Registration Table

Lunch

12:00-1:30 PM

Location:

Brief presentation of new board member installation and annual report, then enjoy your break with an executive boxed lunch and recharge for the afternoon!

Presented by:
ACCO Unlimited



1:30-2:30 PM Educational Sessions

Session #10 - Preserving the Past, Building the Future: Historic Park Assets & Capital Improvements

Daniel Calvert, Lee Wheelock, Stacey Hanley - City of Des Moines

Location: Cedar C CEU 0.1

Session #11 - Recruiting & Retaining Volunteers

Taylor Kruse & Ian Cawley - Houses into Homes

Location: Cedar DE CEU 0.1

Session #12 - High Impact, Low Cost Parks Activation Strategies

Shawn O'Shea - MSA Professional Services

Location: Cedar AB CEU 0.1

2:30-2:45 PM - Break

Presented by:

Pilot Rock



2:45-3:45 PM Educational Sessions

Session #13 - Conflict to Conversations: Responding to Escalated Patrons

Malory Smysor - City of Iowa City

Location: Cedar C CEU 0.1

Session #14 - RECreating the Floodplain/Floodway: The Right Use, in the Right Place

Casey Byers & Reid Stamer - Bolton & Menk

Location: Cedar DE CEU 0.1

Session #15 - After the disaster: Lessons Learned from the Derecho of 2020

Todd Fagan - City of Cedar Rapids

Location: Cedar AB CEU 0.1

Off-Site Tour #2 - Marion Uptown Plaza Max of 15 participants. Pre-register at Registration Table

3:45-4:00 PM - Break

Presented by:

Bolton & Menk



BOLTON & MENK

Real People. Real Solutions.

4:00-5:00 PM Educational Sessions

Session #16 - Managing Up: Working Smarter With Your Supervisor

Rachelle Stewart - City of Cedar Rapids

Location: Cedar C CEU 0.1

Session #17 - Safe Play for All - Playground Assessment

Jerry Kirk & Todd Odeen - City of Cedar Rapids

Location: Cedar DE CEU 0.1

Session #18 - Golf Course Grounds Management

Jason Koester - Grinnell College

Location: Cedar AB CEU 0.1

Tuesday Evening Social

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Pickle Palace

101 1st Ave SW, Cedar Rapids

Presented by:

Carrico Aquatic Resources

View full brochure for more details



WEDNESDAY September 16

7:30 AM - Registration Opens

Presented by:

JEO Consulting Group



JEO CONSULTING GROUP

8:30-9:30 AM Educational Sessions

Session #19 - Re-imagining Swimming Lesson

Registration... A Simpler Way to Do It!

Brian Ruffles & Sidney Carstensen - City of Cedar Rapids

Location: Cedar C CEU 0.1

Session #20 - Leading with Alignment: Anchoring

Parks & Recreation Excellence in Values

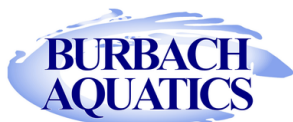
Kim Downs - City of Marion

Location: Cedar DE CEU 0.1

9:30-9:45 AM - Break

Presented by:

Burbach Aquatics



9:45-10:45 AM Educational Sessions

Session #21 - Keep Them Coming Back: Strategies for
Seasonal Staff Retention Roundtable

Katie McGrane & Colby Vlieger - City of Ankeny

Location: Cedar C CEU 0.1

Session #22 - There's No Place Like Home: Benches,
Beds, and Unsheltered Homelessness

Erin Sullivan - Shelter House Iowa

Location: Cedar DE CEU 0.1

MAINTENANCE RODEO

SEPTEMBER 16, 2026 LOWE PARK, MARION

4501 Irish Drive, Marion

9-10 AM

MEET & GREET W/ EXHIBITORS

10 AM - 12:30 PM

COMPETITION / EXHIBITOR BOOTHS

12:30 - 1:15 PM

LUNCH, SPONSORED BY CUNNINGHAM RECREATION

1:15 - 1:30 PM

AWARDS

EVENTS

PLANT IDENTIFICATION

NAIL DRIVING

SKID STEER COURSE

ZERO TURN MOWER COURSE

LEAF BLOWER OBSTACLE COURSE

UTV/TRAILER COURSE

**Event registration will take place
the on the morning of the event*

REGISTRATION

***Pre-Registration Required for
Competitors & Spectators**

\$20 SPECTATORS & COMPETITORS

REGISTRATION IS INCLUDED WITH
PURCHASE OF FULL FALL WORKSHOP
REGISTRATION PACKAGE. PLEASE
INDICATE ON THE REGISTRATION FORM IF
YOU PLAN TO ATTEND.

For more information on this
event, exhibitor booths, event
rules, registration, and more
CLICK HERE

TITLE SPONSOR



Workshop Tracks

REC PROGRAMMING

#2 Balancing Access & Sustainability in Water Recreation

#3 Engaging Adults 55+

#4 Ushers Ferry Historical Village

#6 Bang for Your Buck: Creating Community Experiences through Aquatics & Recreation

#8 Try Lacrosse

#11 Recruiting and Retaining Volunteers

#12 High Impact, Low Cost Park Activation Strategies

#14 RECreating the Floodplain/Floodway...

#21 Keep them Coming Back: Strategies for Seasonal Staff Retention

[You may also enjoy these sessions...](#)

#1 Social Media that Connects Community

#9 ELN Roundtable

#13 Conflict to Conversations: Responding to Escalated Patrons

#16 Managing Up: Working Smarter with Your Supervisor

#19 Re-Imagining Swimming Lessons Registrations... A Simpler Way to Do It!

PARKS

#2 Balancing Access & Sustainability in Water Recreation

#5 Prairies/Native Plants

#7 Park System Master Planning that Connects Facilities...

#10 Preserving the Past, Building the Future: Historic Park Assets & Capital Improvements

#12 High Impact, Low Cost Park Activation Strategies

#15 After the disaster: Lessons Learned from the Derecho of 2020

#17 Safe Play for All: Playground Assessment

#18 Golf Course Management

#22 Unsheltered Homelessness

[You may also enjoy these sessions...](#)

#4 Ushers Ferry Historical Village

#9 ELN Roundtable

#13 Conflict to Conversations: Responding to Escalated Patrons

#14 RECreating the Floodplain/Floodway...

#16 Managing Up: Working Smarter with Your Supervisor

#21 Keep them Coming Back: Strategies for Seasonal Staff Retention

AQUATICS

#6 Bang for Your Buck: Creating Community Experiences through Aquatics & Recreation

#19 Re-Imagining Swimming Lessons Registrations... A Simpler Way to Do It!

#21 Keep Them Coming Back- Strategies for Seasonal Staff Retention

[You may also enjoy these sessions...](#)

#1 Social Media that Connects Community

#3 Engaging Adults 55+

#9 ELN Roundtable

#11 Recruiting & Retaining Volunteers

#13 Conflict to Conversations: Responding to Escalated Patrons

#16 Managing Up: Working Smarter with Your Supervisor

#20 Leading with Alignment: Anchoring Parks & Recreation Excellence in Values

If you are looking for more aquatics networking and learning opportunities, check out our aquatics committee meetings [here!](#)

ADMINISTRATIVE

#1 Social Media that Connects Community

#4 Ushers Ferry Historical Village

#7 Park System Master Planning that Connects Facilities, Programs & Equity

#10 Preserving the Past, Building the Future: Historic Park Assets & Capital Improvement

#12 High Impact, Low Cost Park Activation Strategies

#13 Conflict to Conversations: Responding to Escalated Patrons

#16 Managing Up: Working Smarter with Your Supervisor

#20 Leading with Alignment: Anchoring Parks & Recreation Excellence in Values

#22 Unsheltered Homelessness

[You may also enjoy these sessions...](#)

#2 Balancing Access & Sustainability in Water Recreation

#9 ELN Roundtable

#15 After the disaster: Lessons Learned from the Derecho of 2020

#21 Keep them Coming Back- Strategies for Seasonal Staff Retention



Q: I am from a small community and not sure that a session will be relevant, should I still attend?

A: Yes! Please still attend the session. Go in with a creative mindset, take away pieces of information and adapt what you learned to fit your community and department!

Evening Socials

Q: Will food be provided during evening socials?

A: Yes! Please refer to the full brochure for details on evening socials.

Q: What should I expect for Monday evening social?

A: Monday evening social will be in the parking lot outside convention portion of Hilton Garden Inn (workshop location). Plan to bring a lawn chair. There will be buffet dinner and cash bar. Yard games will be available and Monday night football will play on large outdoor screen provided by MUSCO. Once dark enough, there will be a light show featured by MUSCO.

Q: What should I expect for Tuesday evening social:

A: Tuesday evening social will be held at Pickle Palace. We have not reserved pickleball courts, but there will be a private party room to gather, along with a buffet dinner.

Q: Will there be any “after-hours” after Monday and Tuesday evening social?

A: After hours are not organized by IPRA. Attendees must arrange these on their own.

Maintenance Rodeo

Q: Is maintenance rodeo included in my fall workshop registration?

A: Yes, maintenance rodeo is included in the full package for fall workshop. In order to receive a lunch, attendees must have indicated they will be attending, either on the workshop registration or the survey that was sent prior to workshop.

Q: Will there be lunch provided at maintenance rodeo?

A: Yes, a lunch will be provided for all registrants for maintenance rodeo!

Q: I would like to enter the competitions at the maintenance rodeo, how do I sign up?

A: Event registration will take place the morning of the maintenance rodeo. You may sign up for 1 or more events. You also may join solely as a spectator! Please note, one event does require a 2 person team.

****Registrants will receive final details for conference the week prior to the event. This is where you will find all the information you will need to ensure your conference experience goes as smooth as possible. Please read all details thoroughly.**

Q: What should I wear while attending workshop and workshop events?

A: Educational Sessions/Day Time Activities: Dress as if you were headed to work for the day! Bring layers as some areas may be chilly!
Evening Socials: Casual attire

Q: Will snacks and refreshments be available at workshop?

A: Complementary pastries (morning), coffee, cans of pop and cookies (afternoon) will be provided. A water filling station will be available. Please bring a refillable water bottle, as we will not be providing bottled water.

Q: Will print brochures be available?

A: Print brochures will not be available at conference. A QR code will be available to scan to access to the at-a-glance brochure, but if you would like a print copy, please plan to print prior and bring with you.

Q: If I have any food allergies or dietary restrictions, what should I do?

A: Please indicate dietary restrictions at the time of registration so that accommodations can be made!