

2021 TRAPS North Conference Program Descriptions

Adapted Aquatics: Special Needs in the Aquatic Environment (.1 CEU)

Locke O’Dea, Aquatics Coordinator, City of McKinney

The deficit in availability of aquatic recreation has steadily grown this past year—and the deficit for adapted recreation even more so. It’s a perfect time to expand offerings for those with special needs.

Learner Outcomes:

1. Recognize whether their organization meets, exceeds, or fails to meet the basic legal requirements of accessibility for students with special needs.
 2. Identify areas in their organization where access, accommodation, or awareness can be improved.
 3. Understand that "special needs" can take many forms, and that there's a deficit in the availability of Adapted Aquatics programs.
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Adventure Camp (.1 CEU)

Lisa McClendon, Special Events Coordinator, City of Dallas Parks and Recreation

Antonio Raya, Program Coordinator, City of Dallas Parks and Recreation

This past summer, Dallas Park and Recreation piloted its first ever Adventure Camp - providing an opportunity for kids to break away from traditional summer camps and instead fill their days with kayaking, mountain biking, archery, and more! With outdoor adventure camps surging in popularity, recreation professionals across the nation are looking to learn how they can offer or enhance similar programs.

Learner Outcomes:

1. Identify components to creating a successful adventure camp experience with the resources available to you.
 2. Identify gaps within your department's current recreation programming.
 3. Identify risk management techniques to provide a safe adventure camp
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Are We There Yet? Planning your new facility with the most effective route. (.1 CEU)

Kevin Armstrong, Principal-in-Charge, Barker Rinker Seacat Architecture

Tim Dentler, Allen Assistant City Manager, City of Allen

This session will use Allen’s newest recreation center as a case study for how to effectively plan your next facility starting from the very beginning with a committed steering committee and concluding with a project bid under budget.

Learner Outcomes:

1. Participants will explore the evolution of the recreation center planning and design process and what can be learned from industry past success and failures.
2. Participants will learn to develop a successful planning process focusing on program, schedule, and total project budget.
3. Participants will understand the importance of effective communication to manage the expectations of decision-makers, steering committees, and the community to garner support for the project.

Behind the Scenes with Allen Events Center (No CEU Credit)

City of Allen Staff, Allen Event Center Staff

Take a tour of the AEC and learn the ins and outs of operating an arena.

Cha-ching! Sponsorship Innovation and Creative Partnerships (.1 CEU)

Travis Cunniff, Recreation Services Manager, City of Allen Parks and Recreation Department

Michael Martin, Assistant General Manager, City of Allen Parks and Recreation Department

Obtaining sponsorships as a revenue source is not new to Parks and Recreation Departments. Look beyond ballfield fence signs and sponsor tables at special events to creatively identify and leverage assets for increased revenue and services.

Learner Outcomes:

1. Discuss why sponsorships are an important and effective piece of the revenue puzzle in parks and recreation
 2. Identify tools and opportunities for sponsorship on a small and large scale
 3. Discuss best practices for activating sponsorship assets
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Current Trends in Sports Complex Design (.1 CEU)

Victor Baxter, Director of Business Development - Landscape Architecture, Parkhill

A discussion of sports complex design in Texas, and how the markets and facilities have changed over the last few decades from simple ballfields to more sophisticated sports venues with economic development incentives.

Learner Outcomes

1. Markets: By the end of this session, learners will be able to identify up to six markets who are served by outdoor sports complexes.
 2. Design: Learners will be given information on major design issues that are important to sports complex design.
 3. Funding: Learners will be given information regarding major funding options used to develop sports complexes.
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Fitness Games for Any Group and Age (.1 CEU)

Patrece Coblenz, The City of Grapevine

In person or online, games can take the dull out of working out. From camps to Active Adults, from Adaptive to Athlete, here are three games to entertain, educate, and brain train for any group. These games can be modified to meet special needs and amped to challenge the athlete. Bonus: they can be done anywhere with minimal cost for maximum effect.

Learner Outcomes:

1. By the end of this session, learners will be able to...give 2 to 4 examples of the Deck of Cards game including modifications and challenges.
2. By the end of this session, learners will be able to...list 2 to 4 modifications and/or challenges for the ClockYourself app.
3. By the end of this session, learners will be able to...list 5 Brain Training topics to use with sticky notes.

How to Make a Peanut Butter and Jelly Sandwich (.1 CEU)

Dr. Shannon Coates, Director of Parks & Recreation, City of Frisco

Ideas are powerless unless they are communicated effectively. We all have ideas and visions we want to share. We think we are clear communicators. We know exactly what we want so why do others sometimes get confused when we ask them to do things? Maybe the key to effective communication is our ability to make a peanut butter and jelly sandwich.

Learner Outcomes:

1. Describe 3 characteristics of a good communicator.
 2. Discuss 3 effective methods of communication.
 3. List 3 ideas for improving communication within their workplace.
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Ice Breakers on Ice (No CEU Credit)

City of Allen Staff

Participants will learn 3 icebreaker activities on the ice at Allen Community Ice Rink

Lewisville Lake Paddling Trail (.1 CEU)

Monica Martin, Program Area Manager, City of Denton

Chris Escoto, Parks Planner, City of Denton

The LLPT is a collaboration by municipalities and partners surrounding Lewisville Lake to create a system of paddling trails that connect the perimeter of the lake and to submit an application through TPWD to add this to the state paddling trail system.

Learner Outcomes

1. Participants will apply communication strategies that will allow for successful collaboration with partners and outside agencies.
 2. Participants will identify sponsorship, grant, and funding sources available for similar projects
 3. Participants will review the steps associated with an application to TPWD for future trail additions across the state.
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Managing your Boss (.1 CEU)

Marty Sillito, Parks Superintendent, City of McKinney

As a worker, you need good instruction and support from your supervisors in order to do your job well. Learning how your boss operates and what their expectations are, will help you know how to best utilize their skills for both of you to be successful.

Learner Outcomes:

1. Participants will utilize their boss to overcome obstacles
2. Participants will identify expectations from management
3. Participants will communicate more effectively with management

My Synthetic Burnout (.1 CEU)

Dr. Jordan Daniel, Angelo State University

Burnout is real. Its effects are real. If the saying "a ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure" is true then our approach to burnout has been all wrong. This session aims to target that ounce of prevention

Learner Outcomes

1. Be able to describe how burnout works
 2. Demonstrate how to develop burnout prevention strategies
 3. create a comprehensive strategy to implement
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No Boundaries: Taking Recreation Outside of the Box (.1 CEU)

Thomas Anich, Senior Recreation Specialist, City of Irving

Sylvestor Brown, Senior Recreation Specialist, City of Irving

Aaron Valtie, Recreation Specialist, City of Irving

In our ever-changing environment, Parks and Recreation Professionals are challenged with overcoming a variety of obstacles to provide quality programming for our residents. Whether it's creating a new and innovative program from scratch or putting a new spin on an old idea, join us for an open discussion of removing boundaries and recreating "outside of the box"!

Learner Outcomes

1. Identify and assess the needs of community stakeholders that are not currently participating in recreation programs.
 2. Organize and implement non-traditional recreation programs to meet the needs of diverse community groups.
 3. Identify and leverage local organizations and businesses to increase the community footprint of your department
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Onboarding - Worth the Investment? (.1 CEU)

Scott Crossnoe, Park Services Manager, City Irving

What is Onboarding and why is it important? This session will highlight proven methods of Onboarding and challenge parks professionals to improve the way they integrate new employees.

Learner Outcomes:

1. Participants will recognize the need for an Onboarding Program.
2. Participants will identify a clear path to successful Onboarding.
3. Participants will improve Onboarding processes.

Park Operations Round Table (No CEU)

Kristie Weaver, Parks Director, City of Hurst

Jackie Kopsa, Park Maintenance Manager, The Colony

Christi Pruitt, Director of Parks & Recreation, Haltom City

Peer discussion on best maintenance practices, COVID adjustments, skills and knowledge for career enhancement and advancement for parks maintenance employees. Topics will include: Creative ways you've tackled COVID, Working smarter not harder, Best Practices in Irrigation, Contract Management, and Certifications/Classes for Upward Mobility

Programming Through COVID: Rediscovering our Value (.1 CEU)

Jaime Jaco-Cooper, Senior Center Manager, Town of Flower Mound

Nicole Brasher, Recreation Supervisor, City of Denton

Senior centers were forced to close for a year due to COVID-19. Learn what was successful in running a program beyond building walls, including keeping staff and members engaged, and how to take what was learned to move forward to build a better program.

Learner Outcomes:

1. identify programs that are successful when a building cannot be used, and social distancing is necessary.
 2. identify how to keep staff motivated, keep members engaged from a distance, and recognize points of growth when an opportunity arises.
 3. identify ways to keep reaching people at home through digital formats.
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Recreation Meets Technology: A Means to Assisting Workplace Involvement (.1 CEU)

Michael Levy, Assistant Manager, The Summit, Grand Prairie PARD

We can prove it in this entertaining session that will assist the entire team in the workplace. In this session, we will discuss ways your team can bring a more consistent message to answer patron's questions through a knowledgebase. You will also discover how ticket management can help your team stay organized internally. Embrace how recreation software can help streamline processes by utilizing technology to work "smarter not harder." Come with an open mind, have fun and learn some newer ways at helping your team be more efficient in their work environment.

Learner Outcomes:

1. Participants will gain an understanding of a knowledge base and how it can be effective in streamlining responses to your patrons.
2. Users will understand what ticket management can do for the organization to help log cases internally for each of your patron's situations.
3. Users will understand how their potential or current recreation software can be a great instrument to streamlining staff work tasks. Your team through the recreation software can allow online registration and booking opportunities for patrons on their own time. Recreation software can be utilized to assist in marketing your programs via digital signage by engaging with your clientele.

Say YES! to Engagement (.1 CEU)

Ann Beck, Marketing & Communications Manager, Mansfield Parks & Recreation

Social media is designed to be social, a chance for organizations to have real conversations with their customers. Let's discuss why customer engagement matters and get ideas for generating creative content to encourage interaction. Let's pop the question!

Learner Outcomes:

1. Participants will review and discuss what customer engagement means and why it's important to your department
 2. Participants will review specific examples of engaging content and apply ideas for generating creative posts
 3. Participants will identify strategies for using social media to encourage citizen involvement and feedback generation.
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Sayonara Silos! Real Strategies for Real Engagement (.1 CEU)

Kate Meacham, Director of Parks & Recreation, City of Allen

Jen Robinson, Strategic Projects Manager, City of Allen

Does your department experience silos? You're not alone! From evaluating your team with benchmarks from Apple, Google & other leading organizations to actual hands-on ways to implement, walk away from this session with tangible ways to shatter the silos.

Learner Outcomes:

1. Develop a Team Engagement Activation Model for your organization.
 2. Develop Internal Communication Plan for your organization
 3. Implement Employee Net Promoter Score Survey to keep a pulse on your team's engagement level
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Sharing Spaces: Arlington's EAST Library & Recreation Center (.1 CEU)

Jim Browne, Director of Recreation Business Development & Planning, Brinkley Sargent Wiginton Architects

Stephen Springs, Senior Principal, Brinkley Sargent Wiginton Architects

Venera Stafford, Assistant Director, Arlington Parks & Recreation Department

Recreation Centers and Libraries co-locating under one roof? What sets EAST apart is its shared operational model. Learn how this unique approach came to be, was designed and how this new dynamic is actually operating.

Learning Outcomes:

1. Demonstrate the benefits of efficiently addressing community needs & goals through cooperative approaches to shared facility design and operations.
2. Discuss and communicate the components of a successful study and design process for a combined recreation center and library facility.
3. Respond with new knowledge of joint operational observations as seen from a recreation, library and city management perspectives.

Streaming video: Bring your sports facility to fans everywhere (.1 CEU)

*Kevin Mitchell, Director of Parks & Recreation, Grapevine Parks & Recreation
Tod Spears, Regional Sales Manager, Musco Lighting*

Is streaming video right for your community? What does it take to provide this service? How can you maximize the value? Learn from firsthand experience from Kevin Mitchell, Director of Parks and Rec for Grapevine TX & Tod Spears with Musco.

Learner Outcomes:

1. Determine if streaming video is right for your facility and community – understand the potential benefits
 2. Understand 5 key elements for providing streaming service, plus cost and funding resources
 3. Discover ways to maximize the value through management tools, marketing, and future technology enhancements
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Urban Forestry Operations in the City of Irving (.1 CEU)

Taylor Guynes, Urban Forester, City of Irving

With a steadily increasing population and increasing challenges such as invasive pests and unexpected freezes, maintaining a healthy, safe urban forest is vital to urban forest management. Learn about how this is accomplished in the City of Irving.

Learner Outcomes:

1. Identify 5 of the most commonly trees planted in the City of Irving
 2. List 5 different common problems with urban trees and how to manage them
 3. Demonstrate the flow chart of proper Urban Forestry management steps to have a healthy, safe, sustainable urban forest
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Virtual Programming: The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly (.1 CEU)

Patrece Coblentz, The City of Grapevine

An overview of the perks and praises, passive-aggressive pauses, and perturbations of going virtual during a pandemic, and the whiplash of easing out and possibly back in again. The Good: So many perks and praises—they love you! The Bad: when technology isn't your friend, do you know any IT guys? The Ugly: Bingo. Online.... Plus, ONE: Why you need to consider whether to keep going.

Learner Outcomes:

1. Learners will identify at least one, if not two classes they can take online with ideas on how to manage them safely.
2. Learners will be able to recognize and give examples of technical difficulties experienced with online and ways to overcome them.
3. Learners will be able to correct and control the dark side of online Bingo.

What is Motivating You? (No CEU)

Will Doss, City of McKinney

Round Table discussion on how people got through not only Covid-19 but also the "restart". How are you still motivated to come in everyday and work? Podcast will record during this session.

Topics:

1. How did you motivate yourself through Covid?
 2. What did you learn about yourself?
 3. What are we doing to take care of ourselves now?
 4. Did you go too hard on the "restart"?
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Work Smarter, Not Harder (.1 CEU)

Marty Sillito, Parks Superintendent, City of McKinney

Ideas and practices to make workflow easier and keep ahead of the work. Organizing and planning your work to maximize work completion. Scheduling your time to increase productivity.

Learner Outcomes:

1. Create a schedule to organize workflow
 2. Know what tools and resources to use to plan work
 3. Identify what makes work difficult and how to prevent falling into the trap of treating everything like an emergency
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Youth Sports 2021 (.1 CEU)

David McCaskill, Halff Associates

Jim Arnold, Sports Facilities Companies

See a snapshot of the exponential growth in youth-sports spending and the arms race to build the biggest and best sports tourism destinations. View trends in sports complex design and review case studies to learn how communities are responding to the increased demand for these facilities.

Learner Outcomes:

1. Lecturer will demonstrate that spending for youth sports has grown exponentially in the last 10 years and the growth will continue at an accelerated rate
2. Lecturer will demonstrate how communities are addressing the growth in sports tourism destinations
3. Lecturer will identify the trends that are impacting the design of sports complexes