

58TH ANNUAL SPRING CONFERENCE



THE WAY PARKS AND RECREATION SHOULD BE!

March 16-18, 2025 Samoset Resort, Rockport

Featured Keynote:
Maine Musician and American Idol Finalist
JULIA GAGNON
“Nature’s Place in Music”



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www.merpa.org

WELCOME TO THE 2025 MRPA SPRING CONFERENCE

I can honestly say this past year as president was a blast! Mainly because of the help and dedication from the Board of Directors, Committee Members, membership, and our fabulous Executive Director! You all ROCK!

There is nothing like Spring Conference - the buzz, the energy, the knowledge and experience that is shared with new faces and fun memories of past times with friends. As MRPA and NRPA launch initiatives around telling their story, I can't help but think back to MY story.

I was fortunate to find many great mentors (or, as I call them, Legends) early in my career that helped guide a young and eager Sabrina, and still do today (Thank You). They always stressed the importance of continued education, networking, and having fun. Of course that included attending my first spring conference, and there is nothing like that first one.

I remember watching how the President gave the welcome speech, who won the MRPA awards, the cool swag from the vendor hall, how the Legends had so many stories, and everyone was just so welcoming. Instantly I felt like I had found my Tribe! A place where I belonged! A group that could relate to my everyday issues and headaches in youth sports, which some days made me question if I was going crazy. I felt part of something bigger, and there is comfort in knowing you aren't alone.

You can see why Spring Conference is a special place for me, it always feels like HOME! I had a P&R Legend once say to me that if you find your job to be fun and rewarding then it will fulfill your soul with happiness you can't find anywhere else in the world. And that, my friends, is what Maine Recreation and Parks Association does for me... and I hope you, too!



So, what's your story?

Sabrina Best

MRPA President

Deputy Director, Brunswick Parks and Recreation

Thanks to our 2025 Spring Conference

Committee Members



Jill McLaughlin

Conference Co-Chair



Robin Cogger

Executive Director



Whitney Dorsett

Vendor Co-Chair



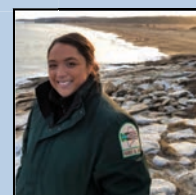
Alan Grady

Vendor Co-Chair



Mathew Henion

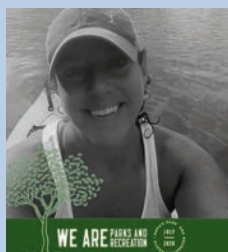
Mathew Henion



Haylee Parsons



Nikki Drake



Angela O'Connor

Conference Co-Chair



Lisa Thompson

Awards Chair



Shannon Rogers

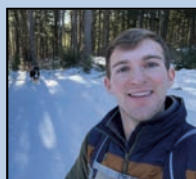


Natalie Gould



Meghan Mazzella

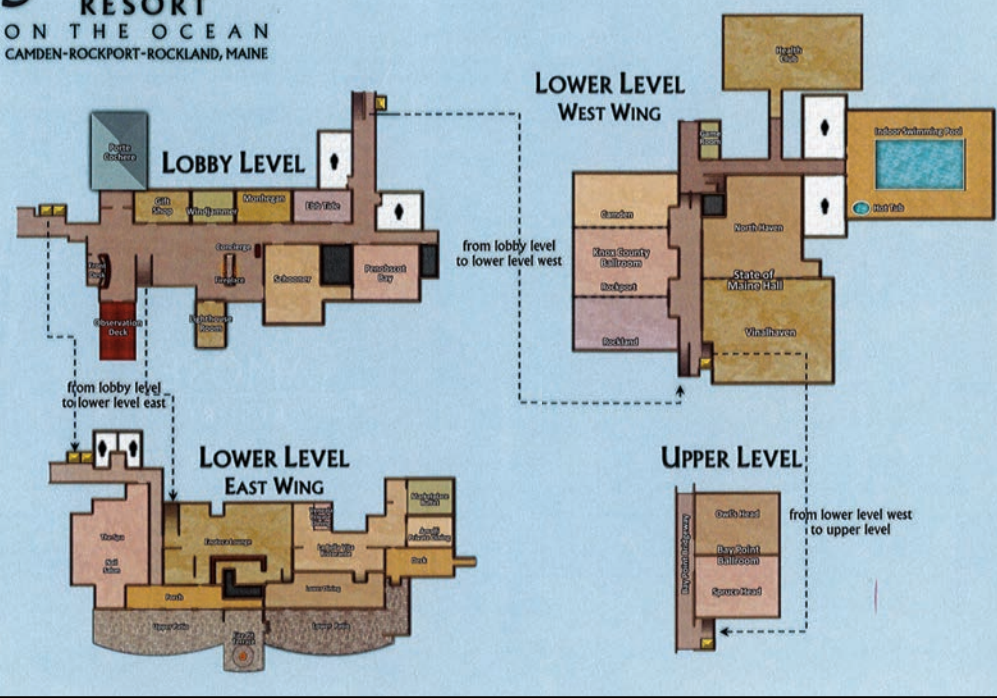
Meghan Mazzella



Owen Gallop

Thank you to the MRPA Marketing Committee for their work on the Conference Brochure and Social Media Advertising!

HOTEL LAYOUTS



At a Glance Conference Schedule

SUNDAY 3/16/25

- 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM Registration
- 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM Workshop: Increasing Access Outdoors
- 1:30 PM - 5:00 PM Registration
- 3:15 PM - 4:15 PM Educational Sessions
- 5:45 PM - 9:00 PM Social Event

MONDAY 3/17/25

- 7:30 AM - 12:00 PM Registration
- 7:30 AM - 8:45 AM Breakfast
- 9:00 AM - 10:15 AM World Cafe
- 10:15 AM - 10:45 AM Break with Exhibitors
- 10:45 AM - 11:15 AM Keynote
- 11:45 AM - 12:15 PM Break with Exhibitors
- 12:15 PM - 1:15 PM Lunch / Business Mtg
- 1:30 PM - 2:30 PM Educational Sessions
- 2:45 PM - 3:45 PM Educational Sessions
- 4:30 PM - 5:30 PM Exhibitor Social
- 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM Dinner/Awards Banquet
- 7:30 PM - 8:45 PM Social @ Lounge/Fire
- 9:00 PM - 9:45 PM Julia Gagnon

TUESDAY 3/18/25

- 5:45 AM - 7:00 AM Cold Water Dip
- 7:30 AM - 9:00 AM Breakfast
- 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Educational Sessions
- 10:15 AM - 11:15 AM Education Sessions



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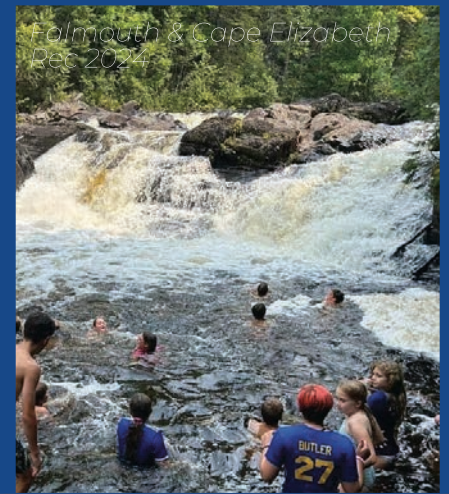
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Gorham Rec 2024



Portland Rec 2024



Falmouth & Cape Elizabeth Rec 2024

Whitewater Rafting Ropes Course Rock Climbing Overnights



Skowhegan Rec 2024



Gorham Rec 2024

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REGISTRATION AND CHECK IN

RESORT LOBBY

8:00 AM - 9:00 AM

CORA GRANT WORKSHOP: INCREASING ACCESS OUTDOORS

SCHOONER

9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Presenters: Kara Wooldrik and Enock Glidden, Outdoor Accessibility Specialists at Community Geographics

What does it look like to create trails and outdoor spaces that are more inviting, inclusive, and supportive of people living with different disabilities? How can we rethink outdoor spaces and how we communicate about them to welcome people who have historically been marginalized in conservation and the outdoors? This workshop combines a series of presentations, hands-on adaptive equipment use, and in-field trail assessments. The workshop aims to share the experiences, needs, and challenges of individuals living with disabilities, and provide concrete suggestions for how to identify, eliminate, and minimize infrastructure and informational barriers that prevent wider access to, and use of, trails and lands. Please note that this workshop is not designed to advise participants on how to build or modify trails to make them fully compliant with federal legislation; rather, instruction focuses on making immediate, attainable shifts to trails, infrastructure, and communications that begin to welcome and accommodate a greater number of people looking to be active outdoors. *CEU .5*



This workshop is a part of the CORA Grant, funded through Maine's Office of Outdoor Recreation.

REGISTRATION AND CHECK IN

RESORT LOBBY

1:30 PM - 5:00 PM

SUNDAY AFTERNOON EDUCATIONAL BLOCK

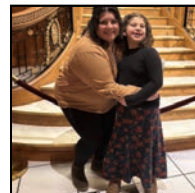
3:15 PM - 5:15 PM

Safety and Maintenance: The Pillars of Great Playground Design

Room: Penobscot Bay

Presenter: Emily Easterling, Certified Playground Safety Inspector (CPSI)

Step into the exciting world of playground design, safety, and maintenance in this interactive session. This session will take a deep dive into the essential elements of designing a playground that is not only fun and engaging but also safe, durable, and in line with the latest trends. We'll cover playground design concepts, inclusive play and creating safe play spaces, while discussing any current projects your community may be interested in pursuing. In addition, we'll share best practices for playground maintenance and how to ensure the longevity and safety of your equipment, handle wear and tear, and perform effective inspections. *CEU .2*



MyRec.com User Group Session: Software that Simplifies your Recreation Management

Room: Owl's Head

Presenter: Marie Heard

This session for current MyRec.com users will cover features of the software including important updates since we last met. We will highlight our newest features, and demonstrate how you could and should use the system, while giving you tips and tricks to make your life easier. There will be a question/answer period for all involved. Let's share how you simplify your recreation management! *CEU .2*



Youth Sports Positive Coaching Alliance Session

Room: Spruce Head

Presenter: Tracy Jones, Positive Coaching Alliance Trainer

Let's talk culture-setting and discuss some specific topics that will help to foster a strong organizational culture of development and fun. This session is sponsored by the Positive Coaching Alliance. *CEU .2*



SUNDAY NIGHT SOCIAL

Bear's Den Billiards in Rockport

6:00 PM - 9:00 PM

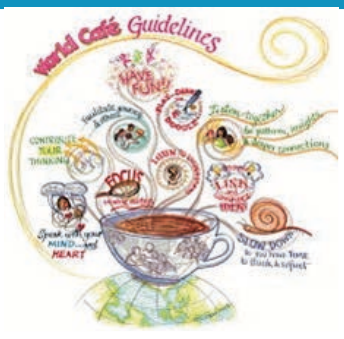
Join us for billiards, arcade games, escape rooms (for those who registered), ping pong, pizza/snacks, a cash bar, and most of all, fun. Your transportation from the Samoset lobby is provided by Northeast Charter, the social sponsor! Departure is 5:45 pm. ATM on site.

Thanks to our Sunday Night Social Sponsor



NORTHEAST

REGISTRATION AND CHECK IN	RESORT LOBBY	7:30 AM - 12:00 PM
BREAKFAST	ROCKPORT	7:30 AM - 8:45 AM
WORLD CAFÉ: A ROUND TABLE EXPERIENCE	ROCKPORT	9:00 AM - 10:15 AM



We heard your call for more round tables....start your morning off with MRPA's newest roundtable experience; World Café! A fast-paced, facilitated group discussion where participants rotate between small groups to share ideas and perspectives on a variety of relative topics. You will not want to miss this speedy networking and learning opportunity.

BREAK WITH EXHIBITORS, Refreshments	VINALHAVEN	10:15 AM - 10:45 AM
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**MONDAY MORNING BREAK SPONSORED BY:
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KEYNOTE	ROCKPORT	10:45 AM - 11:45 AM
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Julia Gagnon

Maine Musician and American Idol Finalist

Join Julia for her keynote address on nature and its inspiration in her music. Julia will draw attention to the importance of returning the love, energy, and appreciation that Earth has given all of us, for as long as we have lived upon her. She'll delve into the effects that nature has had on her childhood, and tell us how nature has been the inspiration for the songs that she is releasing. She will share with MRPA, exclusively, information about her new album entitled WILDFLOWERS. Every song on this soon to be released album is inspired by the outdoors; it's preservation and the foundation that it provides in every person's childhood.



Thanks to our
Keynote Sponsor:



BREAK WITH THE EXHIBITORS	VINALHAVEN	11:45 AM - 12:15 PM
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LUNCH AND MRPA BUSINESS MEETING	ROCKPORT	12:15 PM - 1:15 PM
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Join us for our annual business meeting! All MRPA members are invited and eligible to attend. Hear about upcoming MRPA plans, participate in MRPA Board Elections, and vote on the annual budget.

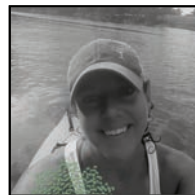
Beyond the Label: Lessons from Cola Wars on Harnessing the Power of Inclusive Language and Marketing to Engage Diverse Audiences

Room: Owl's Head

Presenters: MRPA DEI Committee; Lisa Thompson, Biddeford Recreation Director
Gail Platts, Active Adults Program Coordinator, Scarborough Community Services
Brandi Bradley, Operations and Events Coordinator, Scarborough Community Services
Sabrina Best, Deputy Director Brunswick Parks and Recreation Department
Angela O'Connor, Deputy Director City of Portland Parks, Recreation, and Facilities



Join us for the "Coke or Pepsi Challenge" and a conversation about the power of marketing and its impact on shaping preferences and perceptions. We will also explore using the NRPA Quick Guide on Event Naming to help us to use more inclusive terminology and create a more welcoming environment for a wider range of participants. *CEU .1*



Increase Visitor Enjoyment and Your Park's Relevance Through Engaging Interpretive Programs

Room: Schooner

Presenters: Jocelyn Hubbell, Interpretive Specialist, BPL



Come learn why interpretation is crucial to every aspect of park operations, what it is, and how to get started or improve the programs you already offer. You'll experience several simple yet powerful interpretive vignettes that you can replicate at your parks, and you'll get an interpretive resource list. Bring your sense of wonder and come prepared for a fun and engaging session! Interested in an Interpretive Program networking group? We will explore this too. *CEU .1*

Mission Possible: Panel Discussion on Summer Camp Staff Training Strategies

Room: Spruce Head

Presenters: Ryan French, Recreation Supervisor, Portland Parks, Recreation & Facilities
Audra Keenan, Intergenerational Program Manager, Scarborough Community Services
Anthony Dahms, Recreation Director, Gray Recreation Department
Nicole Welch, Recreation Director, Lewiston Recreation (Panel Moderator)



Bring your notebook, it's time to steal some ideas on how to prepare your staff for a fun, safe, and unforgettable summer. Ryan, Audra, and Anthony will be an open book, and will be sharing their favorite parts of summer camp training week and how to keep that engagement throughout the summer. Learn how other departments schedule training, who they bring in for special guests, and how they coach their staff. Whether you're working with seasoned leaders or first-time counselors, you'll leave with useful ideas to motivate and prepare your staff for an amazing summer. *CEU .1*



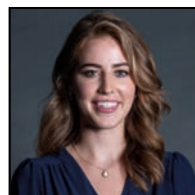
Sports Programming-Unified Champion Clubs

Room: Penobscot Bay

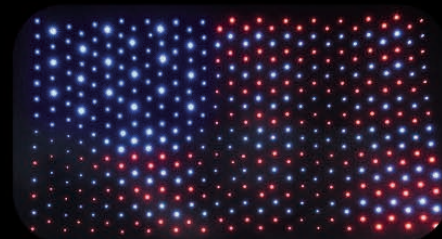
Presenters: Laurie Pearson, Unified Schools and Wellness Coordinator, Special Olympics Maine
Sarah Phelps, Sports and Program Manager, Special Olympics Maine



Parks and recreation departments have a unique opportunity to strengthen and unify their communities by embracing this program, which helps you expand your reach, serve an underserved population, and create an inclusive environment where everyone is welcome. By incorporating Unified Champion Clubs, you can enhance your existing programs without the need to start from scratch. Special Olympics Maine provides the support to ensure seamless integration. We offer trained volunteers, funding to launch programs, and access to a large pool of athletes eager to participate, ensuring your programs are fully supported and impactful. *CEU .1*



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Trail Planning, Design, and Management in a Changing Environment

Room: Schooner

Presenters: Nicole Lazure, Outdoor Recreation Planner, BPL and Bill Beeaker, Outdoor Recreation Specialist, Maine BPL

So, you want to plan, build or expand a new trail system but you're not sure where to begin? As Maine navigates an ever-changing environment, trail planners should familiarize themselves with considerations related to climate change, changing user demographics, funding sources, and recreational trends that inform trail planning, design, and management. This session will provide foundational information and resources to help you design and build for the future of recreation in the state of Maine. *CEU .1*



New Needs in Parks and Recreation: Marketing and Communications

Room: Spruce Head

Presenters: Sabrina Best, Deputy Director, and Weezie Mackey, Marketing and Communications Manager; Brunswick Parks and Recreation

As the Parks and Rec industry continues to grow, it competes with just about everything out there to stay relevant to the people it serves. How do you win amidst all the noise? In this presentation, learn what marketing and communications means to your agency (hint: it's more than social media); why it's important to tell your story; and how to build a strategy, an editorial calendar, and a job description. *CEU .1*



Dip Down to Rise Up - The Science and Magic of Cold-Water Dipping

Room: Penobscot Bay

Presenter: Amy Hopkins, Entrepreneur, Speaker, Cold Water Dipping Guide

Back by popular demand! Join Amy Hopkins, owner and founder of Saltwater Mountain Co. as she talks with passion, experience and enthusiasm all things cold water — the dos, don'ts, whys and the how's! Then consider joining our (optional) real on-site cold-water dip at sunrise the next day. Meet in the lobby at 5:45 AM . This is not to be missed, never regretted and always the best part! **RECOMMENDED:** come dip-prepared (with bathing suit, bathrobe, warm layers, wool socks and water shoes) even if you're on the fence! (Some Neoprene booties will be available for borrowing.) Hope to see you (and your curiosity) there! *CEU .1*



Activating Parents Towards a Positive Youth Sports Experience

Room: Owl's Head

Presenters: Tracy Jones, Positive Coaching Alliance Trainer

Explore the topic of activating parents towards a positive youth sports experience. This research-based workshop will discuss tangible topics on how to align parents with your vision of development. This session is sponsored by the Positive Coaching Alliance. *CEU .1*



Positive Coaching Alliance: Sessions Sponsored by Russell Packett Memorial Youth Sports Scholarship



MRPA is offering two educational sessions this conference featuring Tracy Jones of Positive Coaching Alliance. These sessions are both sponsored by the Russell Packett Youth Sport Scholarship Fund.

About the Russell Packett Memorial Youth Sports Scholarship: Russell was a long-time parks and recreation professional from 1993 until he passed away after a brief illness in 2017. He spent his career working in Yarmouth, Freeport, and Cape Elizabeth. Russell was the creator and director of the 130-team travel basketball league for kids in grades 5-8 in Southern Maine and also served for many years on the MRPA Board of Directors as its treasurer. He was passionate about youth sports and promoting training for professionals in the field.

Russell Packett scholarship funds are available to support MRPA member training, education, and other youth sport opportunities that support the mission of MRPA. For more info: merpa.org



The Way Parks and Recreation Should Be!

EXHIBITORS SOCIAL **VINALHAVEN** **4:30 PM - 5:30 PM**

Join our Commercial Members and Conference Exhibitors to find the next “new thing” for your department — from field trip locations and sports equipment to maintenance products and more! Please take a moment to introduce yourself to this year’s exhibitors and thank them for their support of the 2025 conference!

MRPA AWARDS BANQUET **ROCKPORT/ROCKLAND** **5:30 PM 7:00 PM**

Join us for our annual awards ceremony as we recognize and celebrate our colleagues, volunteers, and facilities that have done outstanding work in our profession, have given back to their communities, and continue to create a world that emphasizes the importance of community, kindness and well being. We will celebrate and recognize the deserving 2025 award recipients for their commitment and efforts to our profession. Be part of you state’s professional organization and learn about the amazing work happening in Maine.

LOOKING BACK: CONGRATULATIONS TO 2024 AWARD RECIPIENTS



- “William V. Haskell” Distinguished Professional of the Year Award: Nicole Welch, Lewiston Recreation Director
- “Dr. Bill Eckart” Young Professional Award: Kelsey Crowe, Deputy Director, Windham Parks and Recreation Department
- Citizen Volunteer of the Year: Camden Goddard, Auburn Recreation Dept
- Facility of Merit Award: York Parks and Recreation Department, Mount Agamenticus Facilities/Parking

MONDAY NIGHT SOCIAL **SAMOSSET LOUNGE/OUTDOOR FIRE PITS** **7:30 PM - 8:45 PM**

Swing by for socializing, spirits, and s’mores. Drink tickets are courtesy of our Monday Night Sponsor, Aquaboggan!
 Feeling lucky? Head to the lounge to be entered into a drawing for the 4/18 Aziz Ansari Show in Portland! Thanks to Portland Parks, Recreation, and Facilities for donating!
 The fire pit party is followed by a 9:00 pm concert with Julia Gagnon — Maine musician, American Idol finalist and our keynote speaker. You won’t want to miss it!



PERFORMANCE BY JULIA GAGNON **ROCKPORT/ROCKLAND** **9:00 PM - 10:00 PM**



Julia Gagnon
 Maine Musician and American Idol Finalist

Julia Gagnon is an up-and-coming artist known for her journey on the Emmy Award winning show American Idol, in its 22nd season, where she placed in the top 7. She’ll take to the Rockport Ballroom stage using the name JULIA in preparation for her new album, WILDFLOWERS, an album dedicated to planet Earth. JULIA as well as her co-musician and writer Nate Haven both grew up on Maine’s great coast, something that inspired their writing long before the spotlight found them. They are so excited to be a part of this event and hope to spread the message of WILDFLOWERS to MRPA before it’s even released!

2025 Summer Discount Ticket Prices are \$49 each (a \$10 savings)!

Watch for an email on how to reserve tickets to sell in your community!

Ticket prices for Aquaboggan and York Wild Kingdom will be announced soon.



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COLD WATER DIP **MEET IN LOBBY** **6:00 AM - 7:00 AM**

This is not to be missed, never regretted and always the best part! RECOMMENDED: come dip-prepared (with bathing suit, bathrobe, warm layers, wool socks and water shoes) even if you're on the fence! Some Neoprene booties will be available for borrowing.

TUESDAY BREAKFAST **ROCKPORT** **7:30 AM - 9:00 AM**

TUESDAY EDUCATIONAL BLOCK 1 **9:00 AM - 10:00 AM**

Cemeteries and Community

Room: Penobscot Bay

Presenters: Wesley Brumbaugh, Director of Cemeteries and Historic Project, City of Portland

This session explores the history of cemeteries and their future challenges. Learn about the issues cemeteries face with maintenance, space, and planning for the future. We'll also discuss how to balance these practical concerns with the emotional and cultural needs of the community. This session is perfect for anyone interested in cemetery management and the ways cemeteries will evolve over time. *CEU .1*



99 Seconds — YOUR Program Ideas!

Room: Owl's Head

Presenters: Lisa Thompson, Recreation Director, City of Biddeford

This session is fully interactive where YOU are the presenter! Our best ideas come from networking and sharing our program ideas with others in our profession, and this session allows you to do both! Bring your biggest and best program ideas to share — in 99 seconds — with your cohorts in the recreation field. Topics such as special events, multi-generational, outdoor recreation, teen programming and more will be covered. *CEU .1*



Maine Trails Program

Room: Spruce Head

Presenters: Doug Beck, Outdoor Recreation Program Manager, BPL

With voter approved \$30 million available for trail projects across the state, now is the best time ever to improve your local trail network. Attend this session and learn how you can take advantage of this opportunity to increase local economic vitality, improve public health, increase property values, attract and retain residents and business all with some awesome trails. *CEU .1*



Building Communities Online; Creativity and Connection in Parks and Recreation

Room: Schooner

Presenters: Ryan Avery, Owner, THE LAB MAINE

Videos, digital examples, recommendations, slides and discussions surrounding the importance of keeping up with social media. Covering free and paid options for better design work, posts, flyers. Who in your organization can help with this? Tips and tricks for photos and videos of leagues, classes and events. *CEU .1 VISIT RYAN IN THE VENDOR HALL FOR A FREE PROFESSIONAL HEAD SHOT!*



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Ultimate Frisbee: Your Next Greatest Program

Room: Vinalhaven

Presenters: Nicole Welch, Youth Program Manager, Maine Ultimate

Are you looking for a new high activity program to add to your next brochure? Plan on attending this active session to learn how easy it is to run Ultimate Frisbee in your programs. Attendees will be given practice plans on how to run simple skill building activities that will translate into a full game. Whether you're looking for a new summer camp program, or wanting to start a new 6 week sports opportunity, Ultimate is the way to go! All session attendees will receive a Maine Ultimate Disc! *CEU .1*



Not Just Surviving, But Thriving!

Room: Owl's Head

Presenters: Abigail DiPasquale, MPH, MCHES; Senior Health Promotion Coordinator

Recognizing your addiction to stress. Understanding why we stay so BUSY and how to break the cycle. Identify five key areas to REVAMP your life to restore balance and happiness. The problem is not that you can't manage stress. Most likely you are doing a fine job getting the things done that need to be done, meeting deadlines, and even attending a social event every once in a while, (especially if it is a part of your responsibilities). But what is your experience of life? Are you taking time to appreciate what you're working so hard to accomplish or are you just speeding through in order to tackle the next items on your to-do list? This session will help you find a way back to the balance of working for a living and having a life. *CEU .1*



Community Water Safety: The Importance of Organizational Partnerships

Room: Schooner

Presenters: Brooke Teller, Executive Director, Maine Community Swimming

Drowning is the leading cause of death for children 1-4 years old and the second leading cause of injury death for children age 5-14 years old. We need to work together to tackle this national issue. Equitable access to water safety and swimming lessons has become increasingly difficult in Maine due to decreased workforce, aging infrastructure and high demand for lessons. Come hear about how organizations in your area can work together towards a goal of water safety for ALL. *CEU .1*



Grant Funding for Trails, Playgrounds, Courts, Parks, & other Public Outdoor Recreation Facilities

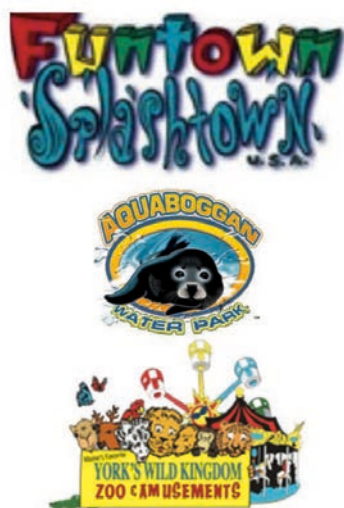
Room: Penobscot Bay

Presenters: Mat Henion, Outdoor Recreation Grants Specialist and Catherine Dufault, LWCF Stewardship Specialist; Maine Bureau of Parks & Lands

Staff from the Maine Bureau of Parks & Lands' Grants & Community Recreation Program will discuss the annual grant funding opportunity for parks projects in your community through the Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), a state-side federal reimbursement grant program. This session will cover all the basic information about LWCF, including: a brief history of the fund, what to consider before applying, a review of the grant application process and helpful tips to make an application competitive, as well as an important discussion on LWCF lifetime stewardship obligations that every applicant should know before becoming a project sponsor. *CEU .1*



MRPA TICKET PROGRAM



Summer Ticket Program

2024 Highest Ticket Sales

Congratulations!

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Old Orchard Beach	Hermon	Augusta
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2025 Ticket Program information coming soon!

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A Message from MRPA Executive Director, Robin Cogger

Welcome to the 58th Annual MRPA Spring Conference!

I am so glad that you are here!

Throughout the planning of this conference, I have had an opportunity to reflect on my own parks and recreation story and I'll admit, it has been a wonderful stroll down memory lane. I've thought about many of the people, places, decisions and experiences that make up my story.

I've taken a moment too, to think about each of your stories. Every one of you with a unique story to tell about your journey in parks and recreation. Today, our stories will intersect. Being here, you have chosen to make MRPA a part of your story. More importantly, you have chosen to be a part of MRPA's story. In making that choice, you have made MRPA better.

Over the next couple of days, while you connect with old friends and make new ones, while you learn and network, while you socialize by the fire, I hope that you will also share your parks and recreation story, better yet, I challenge you to ask someone about their story. No two stories will be the same, many will be similar, and others will be far different, but collectively your stories are MRPA and THIS is where WE belong; making parks and recreation in Maine, the way it should be!



Robin Cogger
MRPA Executive Director

MRPA: OUR ORIGIN STORY

No matter where you find yourself, there's a place for you in Parks and Recreation. Whether you're a recreation programmer, park ranger, or summer camp counselor — however you got here — we're glad you made it.

We are the Maine Recreation and Park Association, established in September of 1964 to support the field and its professionals. Each community is vastly unique. As your needs and services have changed over the years, we work hard to change with you.

Our broad membership includes municipal and state employees in parks and recreation, therapeutic recreation providers, educators, commercial recreation and related businesses, citizen board members, students, and park friends' agencies.

We are here to grow that membership, improve the support of our professionals, and promote Parks and Recreation programs to enrich communities across the state.

We hope you'll join us.

Maine Recreation and Park Association. This is where you belong!

MRPA COMMUNITY AGREEMENT

A community agreement is helpful for setting the rules of engagement in meetings, with the purpose of building a sense of community and setting clear expectations and boundaries.
(Adopted 12/15/23)

RESPECT Listen for understanding and be respectful of each other and the views of others.

EMPOWER YOURSELF Bring your whole self to this space. Respect your own mind, body and spirit, and vocalize and process your experience as you see fit.

ACCOUNTABILITY Accept responsibility for your words and actions. Be aware of your power, positionality, and privilege.

ONGOING LEARNING Engage with materials and new information with curiosity and an open mind. Have courage to challenge ideas and ask questions to seek understanding. Recognize that everyone is at different points in their learning and give room for others to learn without judgment.

SPEAK YOUR TRUTH Say what you know to be true for you and your experience.

CONFIDENTIALITY Personal information shared in workshops or meetings should not be shared outside the session. Lessons go. Stories stay.

WAIT (Why Am I Talking?) Be conscious of why you are (or are not) sharing. Be willing to share air time.

EXPECT NON-CLOSURE Not every question or challenge can be resolved in one session or meeting.



The Way Parks and Recreation Should Be!

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