

Tuesday, February 26th

1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

HLI: A Collaborative Model for Prevention of Childhood Obesity

Short Creek 2, 0.1 CEU

Learn how the Healthy Lifestyles Initiative has taken to integrate approaches across multiple sectors to help children and families enjoy healthy lifestyles. With support at the local, state, and national levels, the Healthy Lifestyles Initiative has been implemented across Missouri using 12345 Fit-Tastic!

Shelly Summar Emily DeWit Laura McCulloch

Small Crew Safety: Preventing Jobsite Injuries

Short Creek 3, 0.1 CEU

Many parks departments break work up among small crews. This session focuses on how crew leaders can keep their team safe and out of trouble. We will discuss topics like safety rules, safety meetings, addressing hazards, unsafe behaviors, and jobsite safety must-haves.

Mark Woodward Flint Walton

Recruitment and Training of Sports Officials

Short Creek 4, 0.1 CEU

Are your officials not up to snuff? Do you have a hard time recruiting officials? While this is a universal problem without a good solution, this session will cover how a Kansas agency has combated the lack of officials with increased success! Join us as we cover recruitment, training, and setting the standard for officials in a recreation setting.

Brandon Stortz

Planning: You Need a Plan! Turning the Subjective into the Objective

Cooper Creek 1, 0.1 CEU

Parks and recreation departments have many moving parts: facilities, programs, staff, and customers. The question facing most professionals is how to maximize their performance? The answer is simple: You need a plan! Join us for a fast-paced session discussing the different types of plans that are integral to the success of a department.

Fred Couceyro John Fletcher

Lights, Camera, Action!

Cooper Creek 2, 0.1 CEU

Don't know where to start when it comes to video creativity and production? Make this session your one stop shop for understanding video importance for your social media world, why live videos are key, and how to do this on any budget.

Kelly Stroot Travis Vancil

Conference 101

Cooper Creek 3, 0.1 CEU

New to conference? You don't want to miss this! Students, new professionals, or distinguished professionals can all learn from a crash course of MPRA's Annual Conference including different events, networking

opportunities, and where your best resources are located. Make the most of your time over the next three days with these tips, tricks, and secrets.

Michael Biedenstein Jody Siemer

More than Stuffed Animals: Creating a Successful Community Nature Center

Compton Ferry, 0.1 CEU

Explore ways to reconnect people with nature while building community. Please bring information about your site and facilities so we can discuss practical ways to help your team develop programming, volunteer opportunities, and exhibits to engage users in conservation and sustainability.

April Anderson

1:00 pm – 3:25 pm

Swimming and Water Instruction Modifications for Children with ASD

Short Creek 1, 0.2 CEU

MU's Occupational Therapy adapted swimming program's mission is to enrich lives of children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) by building confidence through learning swim skills and water safety in a fun, customized environment. We intend to teach recreation programs how to adapt programming to include children with ASD.

Brittney Stevenson Lea Ann Lowery

Changing Your Aging Brain Can Be As Simple As Child's Play!

Short Creek 2, 0.1 CEU

Experience playful, creative, physical movements to change your brain! Based on the concept of neuroplasticity, Ageless Grace® exercises all five functions of your brain and all 21 physical skills needed for optimal fitness. It is developmental, preventative, and restorative for all ages and abilities. And it's FUN!

Karen Haseley

Nuisance Urban Geese

Short Creek 3, 0.1 CEU

Geese in your parks? Sanitation issues due to fecal matter? Turf damage? This workshop is designed to discuss urban geese conflicts and give you solutions to those nuisance factors that commence.

Todd Meese Joe DeBold

Recreational vs. Competitive Sports

Short Creek 4, 0.1 CEU

Two years ago, Warrensburg was faced with the question; why don't you offer a competitive (insert sport here) league? Come learn how WPR answered this question with the assistance of the community and helped define the role of Parks & Recreation in competitive sports.

Kyle Crews

Making Sense of Marketing

Cooper Creek 2, 0.1 CEU

Struggling with how to even begin marketing your programs? Go beyond Microsoft publisher and learn about other tools to make your programs appeal to your audience. Learn the difference between program guides and your website. Discover how to use the media and advertise to your advantage. Understand how to best use billboards, radio, print, etc.

Diana Tyndall

A New Professionals Guide to Successfully Surviving the First Year

Cooper Creek 3, 0.1 CEU

Every wish you could pick the minds of various successful leaders from all over the state? This engaging session has done just that by giving new/young professionals a chance to understand expectations, learn what characteristics and values are most important and receive advice on how to not only survive, but to be successful in your first year on the job.

Jody Siemer

A Higher Level of Inclusive Play

Compton Ferry, 0.1 CEU

Traditional playgrounds focus on accessible design and developmentally appropriate play activities. One in 59 children has autism (CDC, 2018) resulting in challenges interpreting sensory messages, engaging in play and social interaction. Evidence-based research shows sensory-rich play environments develop functional skills, imagination, and social skills.

Jill Moore Jason Meinke

2:20 pm – 4:45 pm

Tips from the Dinosaurs

Cooper Creek 1, 0.2 CEU

This engaging and interactive panel discussion between the audience and seasoned park and recreation directors is designed to answer questions from young professionals. The session will highlight lessons learned from many years of experience in leadership, planning, team building, negotiation, collaboration and conflict resolution.

Fred Couceyro John Fletcher Joe Abel Julia Jones

3:40 pm – 4:45 pm

Developing Frontline Leaders for Long Term Success

Short Creek 1, 0.1 CEU

Investing in short-term employees can have lasting benefits for your organization. Join us to learn why it is important to go all-in with training your transient employees. This session will show you how to develop a training program that creates leaders who create leaders.

Renee Jeep Hannah Worrell Scott Diven

Walk With Ease

Short Creek 2, 0.1 CEU

Walk With Ease is an evidence based program designed by the Arthritis Foundation and supported by NRPA. Although it was designed for those with arthritis, it benefits individuals with other chronic conditions and/or anyone seeking a healthier lifestyle. Learn the steps needed to implement WWE in your department.

Karen Haseley

Volunteerism in Parks Maintenance

Short Creek 3, 0.1 CEU

Learn how to grow an episodic and long-term program that supports the mission of your parks maintenance department. Develop skills to successfully engage volunteers in program activities. Leave this presentation with information that you can apply to your everyday operations.

Kylie Christanell Pete Laufersweiler

Disc Golf: From Ace to Z-Line

Short Creek 4, 0.1 CEU

Programming a new sport can be intimidating, especially when you're not familiar with the sport. This session will include the steps to program disc golf from scratch for recreational benefits and revenue generation. We will also cover the design/build process and considerations for new disc golf courses as well as how to fundraise.

Brandon Stortz DJ Welsh

Creating a Customer Centric Website

Cooper Creek 2, 0.1 CEU

"I tried finding it online, but your site sucks." It became evident after recent focus groups that JC Parks needed to improve its web presence. They have been hard at work to create a new online storefront to rebrand, improve customer engagement, and increase revenue. This session will discuss key components of website development with your customer in mind.

Kayla Wilbers Amy Schroeder

What's the Purpose of Your F.A.C.E?

Cooper Creek 3, 0.1 CEU

Are you losing engagement and having trouble defining your passion or purpose? Invigorate or reinvigorate the purpose of your F.A.C.E. (Facilities, Activities, Communities, Employees.) As parks and recreation professionals, we all know we are mission driven, this session will help you personalize it and how to get your staff to recognize it.

Matt Crouse Katie Buford

Are You Meeting the GOLD Standard of Background Screenings?

Compton Ferry, 0.1 CEU

Professionals want to keep known "high risk" individuals from gaining access to children on public facilities under their control. Low cost programs leave a dangerously large number of criminal records going undiscovered and leaving the agency at risk for falling under the national standards.

Chris Goodman

Wednesday, February 27th

9:00 am – 10:05 am

Lessons Learned from a Major Aquatic Facility Renovation - Alligator Creek

Short Creek 1, 0.1 CEU

Undertaking a major renovation of your existing aquatic center can require a significant investment for your community. This session will walk you through the experiences from O'Fallon, MO as they started from a grass root effort for project support and funding all the way through opening day.

Scott Hester Brian Garvey Craig Feldt

Give Them What They Want (and Need)!

Short Creek 2, 0.1 CEU

When was the last time you changed your concession stand menu? If you answered never, this session is for you. Consumers' tastes change and have never been more sophisticated. Learn about current food trends and how you can figure out what your customers really want.

Cindy DeBlauw Natalie Hampton

The ABC's of Park Facility Assessments

Short Creek 3, 0.1 CEU

We will provide a "how to" guide for completing park facility assessments that will be useful for identifying capital improvement projects. Case studies from several park systems will be presented as well as strategies to manage all of the assessment data that is collected.

Scott Emmelkamp Andrew Franke

Participation Award, Result Award, or Both for Grades 3-8: Which is Best?

Short Creek 4, 0.1 CEU

Which team are you on? Everyone gets an award OR winners get the awards. Which is best for the participant and for the parent? Let's build the foundation of the future together!

Chad Unterreiner

Fast Track: "Mentoring" the Next Generation of College Interns

Cooper Creek 1, 0.1 CEU

This session will examine successful agency and non-profit association internship models. Providing the Gen-X student an internship opportunity may be viewed either as a "risk" or as a method of recruiting fresh "new talent" to your organization. Most of today's students are sharp, tech savvy, and looking for a diverse internship experiences. Learn how dynastic mentoring will allow the modern day intern to be innovative and a future leader.

Jodie Adams Hugh Gibson

Four Keys Embraced by Successful Agencies

Cooper Creek 2, 0.1 CEU

This session will elaborate on the four keys to success including proper interpretation of external impacts, quantification and conveyance of gaps between resources and responsibilities, using metrics for both leading and lagging indicators, and mastering how best to connect with citizens.

Dick Horton

9:00 am – 11:25 am

Team-Building for All Ages

Cooper Creek 3, 0.2 CEU

Students, professionals, managers, and coaches can never have enough "team-building" games and activities in their personal tool-boxes. This session will introduce participants to some original ideas for running a team-building session of your own. All participants will leave with a resource to conduct over 50 activities.

Paul Wright

Creating Community & Economic Benefit Through Amateur Sports

Compton Ferry, 0.2 CEU

This session is a case study of all the aspects of building the Boombah Sports Complex in Seminole County, FL. Join in discussing all the steps taken including land purchase, writing scopes, business plans, design, development, pro-formas, naming rights/sponsorships, partnerships, booking, hiring the right people, etc.

Joe Abel

10:20 am – 11:25 am

Aquatic Facilities: From Programming, Operations, Codes and In Between

Short Creek 1, 0.1 CEU

This presentation focuses on a variety of topics related to public aquatic facilities. A portion of the session help identify how an aquatic facility may capture a wider demographic of patrons. Additionally, the discussion will devote time to current regulatory issues facing operators: ADA, Virginia Graeme Baker Act and the Model Aquatic Health Code.

Kyle McCawley Andy Smith

How to Make Your 5k or Triathlon Awesome

Short Creek 2, 0.1 CEU

Need to get a boost in your race participants? Let two experienced athletes turned race directors tell you how it's done! This session will cover what draws participants to races and what keeps them coming back for more.

Teresa Johnson Richard Adams

Signage and Wayfinding for Park Systems

Short Creek 3, 0.1 CEU

Crafting beautiful, informative, and price conscience signage systems is a great way to improve your agency image to the public. We will share case studies and discuss the best practices including; hierarchy, legibility, material selection, and future flexibility.

PJ Novick

Achieve More with the United States Tennis Association

Short Creek 4, 0.1 CEU

The US Open highlights what the USTA does for tennis on a world stage but we partner with local park and recreation departments to bring tennis to your community as well. Learn about what the US Open does, grant opportunities for your department, and some youth and adult programming opportunities available to enhance your community tennis offering.

John Terpkosh Jodi Gordon Sue Riemann

Strategic Planning 2.0: Who, What, and How to Actionize!

Cooper Creek 1, 0.1 CEU

The importance of strategic planning and a health workplace culture are vital to any organization's effectiveness. Learn about a strategic planning process that not only provides a framework for planning success, but also enhances mutual respect, understanding, and teamwork among all levels and members of the organization.

Dave White Sylvan Schulz

ADA Accessible Websites and Newsletters

Cooper Creek 2, 0.1 CEU

To contribute to a more digitally accessible business, we must improve the accessibility and usability of both our websites and newsletters to become ADA compliant. This session will give you six core skills for updating your digital presence for your audience and have an open discussion time for Q&A.

Danielle McGuire Zac Rantz

12:30 pm – 1:45 pm

Keynote Presentation

Play on Player: Overcoming Disability with Play

Taneycomo A, 0.1 CEU

"We gotta drive back, we forgot her wheelchair." Growing up with a mobility impairment opens the door for quite a few "you live and you learn" moments. 2015 Team USA racer Jill Moore shares her story of how these moments shaped a life that went beyond disability and became something truly extraordinary.

Jill Moore

Thursday, February 28th

9:00 am – 10:05 am

Easy and Effective Community Engagement

Short Creek 1, 0.1 CEU

Looking for inexpensive, brief, and creative ways to engage your customers? Here are some simple ideas to give customers a glimpse of your programs, promote upcoming events, or share information you need them to know, all while highlighting the talents of your staff and bringing positive exposure to your organization.

Stephane McCormick

Trends in Play Space Design: Innovation Drives Activity, Engagement, and ROI

Short Creek 2, 0.1 CEU

Parks today face the challenge of providing environments that will attract children and families to engage, play, and stay. In this session, we will examine play space trends that create kid magnets, facilitate equitable opportunities for multi-generational interaction, support fitness, wellness, learning for all, and return economic impact.

John McConkey Jason Meinke

Benefits of Native Plants and Prairie Plantings to Missouri Communities

Short Creek 3, 0.1 CEU

Plants native to original prairies, glades, and other grasslands provide many benefits to communities when integrated into municipal infrastructure and facilities including parks. Huebner will share information on Missouri's native grasslands and provide an overview of prairie planting establishment steps, to benefit people, pollinators, and water protection.

Jerod Huebner

Coaching Coaches

Short Creek 4, 0.1 CEU

You complete the background check for your volunteer coach, now what? This session will help youth sports programmers identify effective practice tools and techniques to give to their volunteer coaches. Additionally, we will discuss effective approaches when dealing with the possible "challenging" coach.

Brittany Johnston

Understanding Leadership

Cooper Creek 1, 0.1 CEU

Leadership means many things to many people. What does it mean to be a good leader? How can leadership infuse quality, create direction, and formulate success? Do you think you are a leader? This session looks at research, contemporary thought, and trends in leadership.

David Vaught

How to Build a Culture of Guest Service Excellence

Cooper Creek 2, 0.1 CEU

In many agencies, customer service is often "good enough for government." Discover secrets to build your Disney-like culture of customer service excellence. Learn how to create employee happiness and buy-in, invest in your customers, train staff properly, and track improvement using technology and data. Using case studies will help participants see the evolution of truly building an award-winning culture that their customers and community want to associate with and that can lead to greater engagement and, ultimately, higher revenues as well.

Neelay Bhatt

Coming In for a (Job) Landing

Compton Ferry, 0.1 CEU

Everyone has an education. Everyone has some experience. What sets you apart to land the job you desire? Learn what to do pre- and post-interview, as well as during the interview to stand out and make an impression. Tailor the experience to your reviewers from start to finish.

Miki McKee Koelsch Joe Snook

10:20 am – 11:25 am

What's Hot and What's Not in Aquatics

Short Creek 1, 0.1 CEU

Wondering what the new trends are in aquatics in both facilities and programs? In this session we will look at aquatics from a national perspective and discuss trends that are increasing and decreasing with facilities and programs. We will also discuss potential pitfalls to avoid as you look to implement these new and exciting programs.

Darin Barr

Can a Floor Do More? Athletic Flooring For A Purpose

Short Creek 2, 0.1 CEU

Everywhere you walk, work, and play there is a surface that fits those needs. When selecting the right flooring for your community center consider safety, ergonomics, and acoustics. If you are planning to renovate an existing floor, you need to know the following: demo, abatement, mitigation, transitions, and the install process.

Lisa Miceli Standage

Advances in Technology Can Help Park Agencies Make Informed Decisions

Short Creek 3, 0.1 CEU

Let's face it. Project data can be intimidating, especially during the design process. How will we effectively use data to make informed decisions? This session will look at traditional methods and compare them to technological advancements (i.e. Augmented/Virtual Reality) and how this may impact future decision-making in the parks and recreation industry.

Jay Wohlschlaeger Adam Stroud Brock Piglia

Training Officials for Perfection

Short Creek 4, 0.1 CEU

Whether you contract out for scheduling your officials or train them yourselves, this will guide you through the process on how to put them in the best possible position to succeed.

Justin Wieberg Devin Nevels

Empowering Employees

Cooper Creek 1, 0.1 CEU

How do you get the most out of your employees? Let them own it! This session will move you from being the boss to being a co-worker in your work space. Empowering employees to own their part of the business is key to the success.

Joe Abel

Two Free Marketing Tools for Success

Cooper Creek 2, 0.1 CEU

Learn two FREE marketing tools for program advertisement and how to master ways to re-brand programs while adding fun-filled, attention-grabbing graphics to promotional materials. Explore a variety of ways to use outreach as a promotional tool and how you can accomplish this on a limited budget using a lot of creativity.

Jende Smith Julie Noel

Hosting External Special Events

Compton Ferry, 0.1 CEU

Parks are a draw to many organizations wishing to host a variety of special events from festivals to runs, bike races and more. Join us for a panel discussion of what to consider and ideas on how to price your parks and facilities to attract these special events and still protect your municipality. Bring your own policies and forms to share.

Cindy Springer Michael Biedenstein Maralee Britton Patty DeForrest

1:00 pm – 2:05 pm

Tackling the Beast of Aquatics

Short Creek 1, 0.1 CEU

Learn some of the ins and outs of Aquatics with Columbia Parks & Recreation. We will take a thorough look at the general overview of aquatics management in a municipal setting. Tips from a full time staff member and a former part time staffer.

Janel Twehous Clara Scott

Performance Nutrition

Short Creek 2, 0.1 CEU

How does nutrition influence athletic performance? You know what you should be eating, but why?

Performance Nutrition: The Competitive Edge is a six-module series offered by MU Extension that focuses on nutrition basics to help guide athletes through practice, game day, and everything in between.

Kristin Miller

Ensuring Equitable Distribution of Park Improvements Via Master Planning

Short Creek 3, 0.1 CEU

Does your park system demonstrate a commitment to all residents within your community ensuring high quality opportunities for everyone? Using JC Parks' recently completed master plan as a case study, raise the value of your community through equitable distribution of park improvements.

Shannon Gordon Todd Spalding Brian Adams

Why Special Olympics is Much More than Sports

Short Creek 4, 0.1 CEU

Learn what how Special Olympics has changed over the past 50 years. Found what new in Special Olympics and how Parks and Rec and be involved in Special Olympics.

Susan Shaffer

Missouri Trails Project - Be a Part of Trail Data Collection

Cooper Creek 1, 0.1 CEU

The Missouri Trails Project has made great strides over the past year. See the updated trails website, learn about how to participate, and hear how this project will benefit you. With the website update complete, the next two years will focus on "filling the gaps" in the data and identifying ways to connect trails across Missouri.

Josh Adams Gary Gates

What's in a Brand?

Cooper Creek 2, 0.1 CEU

It's more than your logo or your website. Your brand is a reflection of your agency. More importantly, your brand is how you make your patrons feel. In this session, we'll talk about positioning your services to solve your community's problems. You'll walk away with a fresh approach to branding parks and rec.

Becky Dunlap

Essentials of Effective Writing

Cooper Creek 3, 0.1 CEU

In the workplace, writing clearly is an important employability skill! Session participants will get an overview of effective writing. Attention will be paid to email, memo, and letter writing (with a tone appropriate for one's target audience). All who have writing responsibilities will benefit from techniques shared in this session.

Elaine Bode-Oliver

Predicting Trends for an Unpredictable Future

Compton Ferry, 0.1 CEU

As agencies continue to focus on NRPA's Three Pillars, this session will help them predict trends and plan for future shifts in an increasingly unpredictable time. Also, it will share insights for how to build an agency culture and mindset that can innovate and thrive in a changing landscape as parks and recreation agencies look to

changes to their communities, policies, park and facility designs, financial sustainability, marketing and communications, partnerships, program delivery and innovation in general.

Neelay Bhatt

2:20 pm – 3:25 pm

The Beginners Guide to Flipbook

Short Creek 1, 0.1 CEU

In this interactive session, learn how to begin utilizing flipbook publishing software to create magazines and brochures for your aquatics program.

Julie Noel Jende Smith

Special Olympics Missouri Health & Wellness: Taking It to the Next Level

Short Creek 2, 0.1 CEU

Special Olympics Missouri is paving the path to ensure our athletes and those with disabilities get to live their best life by the development and implementation of their new health and wellness programs. Join us to learn about all of the new resources and education we have to offer and incorporating them into your current program.

Carol Griffin Meagan Davis

The Bark and the Bite: Visitor Perceptions of Dog Parks in Columbia, MO

Short Creek 3, 0.1 CEU

Dog parks provide many important benefits to dogs, owners, and the community. This session will explore a recent study of dog parks in Columbia, MO. On-site surveys of dog park visitors examined usage, experiences, concerns, and support for fee structure options. Findings will be shared and discussed with session participants.

Lily Bennett Sonja Wilhelm Stanis Gabe Huffington

Sports Concussions: Facts and Fallacies

Short Creek 4, 0.1 CEU

Understanding concussions help reduce the risk of short- and long-term effects for youth participating in recreational sports at all levels of competition. We will discuss signs and systems of a possible concussion and how to manage a possible concussion at the time of the incident through recovery and return-to-play protocols.

Maureen Cunningham

ADA Check-Up

Cooper Creek 1, 0.1 CEU

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is 28+ years old, are you in total compliance? We will review the key elements to compliance from not saying NO to what happens if you get sued and most everything inbetween.

Terri Johnson

Creating Campaigns That Count

Cooper Creek 2, 0.1 CEU

How would it feel to market an event/program from start to finish, being able to see exactly what worked and what didn't? Social media campaigns can do just that, but it's essential to get intentional with setting goals, using available resources, and executing on your plan.

Becky Dunlap

Grammar, Spelling, and Proofreading Review

Cooper Creek 3, 0.1 CEU

Business writing can be troublesome with challenges when it comes to grammar, and challenges occur for even the most seasoned writers. Session participants will brush up on some rules/guidelines about grammar, spelling, and proofreading. The overarching goals are to rely on correct grammar and improve one's professional image!

Elaine Bode-Oliver

3:40 pm – 4:45 pm

Fitness Staff: Contract or Payroll?

Short Creek 2, 0.1 CEU

Hiring staff for fitness programming can be blurred by all the certifications and qualifications available in the industry. On top of that, fitness professionals may be brought on as a contract basis or as a payroll employee. Explore the pros and cons of contract versus payroll when hiring fitness staff.

Matt Struempf Steve Clark

Recreation Out of the Main Stream

Short Creek 3, 0.1 CEU

Our session will describe the challenges that disadvantaged youth face in not having safe, accessible recreational facilities. We will highlight two case studies for youth with physical and mental disabilities and how proper facilities can enhance the youth's experience at their respective institutions.

Russ Volmert Brian Burmeister

Partnering: The Bigger Picture

Short Creek 4, 0.1 CEU

Do you work for a small parks and recreation department? Are you trying to grow recreation offerings in your community? Are you hoping, one day, to expand your parks department? Learn how the City of Smithville transformed their parks department into a multifaceted parks and recreation department by partnering with Liberty Parks and Recreation.

Brett McCubbin Brittany Johnston Matthew Denton

Park System Planning

Cooper Creek 1, 0.1 CEU

Many of us have worked on master plans for specific parks. Less often we work on a plan for the entire park system. A park system master plan and strategic plan are fundamental standards for accreditation. Learn about their value and how to get an exceptional plan for your agency.

Ted Jack

Video Storytelling

Cooper Creek 2, 0.1 CEU

Learn about the tools and apps to get you started with video storytelling! We will walk through the steps of planning your video, creating your storyboard, and getting footage. We will then talk about best practices when it comes to editing and sharing your videos

Becky Dunlap

Delivering Your TED Talk: How to Speak So People Listen

Cooper Creek 3, 0.1 CEU

The successful implementation of the best of ideas often comes down to how it is communicated. In today's times with shrinking attention spans and a focus on simplicity that resonates, TED Talks have become the gold standard for how to deliver innovative ideas worth spreading. This session will share insights from a multiple TEDx speaker and currently a TEDx speaker coach that will help attendees be better communicators and to deliver 'their' TED talk.

Neelay Bhatt