

Lakeview Golf Resort October 7–9, 2025

# Welcome!

The West Virginia Recreation and Parks Association (WVRPA) Annual Conference is the premier gathering for professionals, advocates, and enthusiasts dedicated to enhancing parks and recreation across West Virginia. This event offers an opportunity to connect, learn, and collaborate with leaders in the field while exploring innovative

strategies, emerging trends, and best practices that shape the industry. Attendees will gain valuable insights through engaging sessions, networking opportunities, and hands-on discussions, all designed to strengthen our communities and elevate recreational experiences throughout the Mountain State.

## WVPRA strives to ...

**UNITE** into one organization, all conservation, recreation and park personnel in the state of West Virginia.

PROMOTE professional objectives.

**FOSTER** and **MAINTAIN** high standards of professional qualifications and professional ethics.

STIMULATE and PROMOTE a widening interest in recreation in local communities and statewide through the conservation and development of the resources of the state of West Virginia.

**PROMOTE** principles and standards for the improvement of recreational services and to encourage study and research in professional relations.



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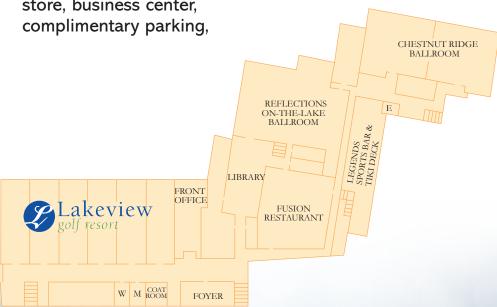




## Facility Map

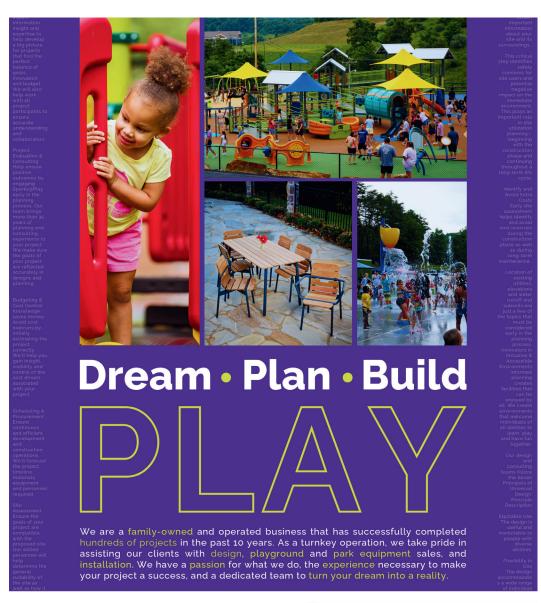
With 24,000 sf of versatile event space, including a grand ballroom and scenic outdoor venues, we're the perfect destination for meetings and special events. For utmost convenience, we also provide a convenience store, business center, complimentary parking,

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WiFi. Let us exceed
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amidst the beauty of
Morgantown, West Virginia.



**MAIN ENTRANCE** 









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# Agenda

## Tuesday, October 7th

#### 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM:

Attendee Registration & Vendor Setup

#### 12:00 PM:

Golfer Luncheon at Legends Sport Bar

#### 1:00 PM:

John Cooper Memorial Classic Golf Scramble (Lunch provided at Noon)

#### 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM:

Vendor Free Beer Hour sponsored by Thrasher Group and Bluegrass Recreation





#### 7:00 PM to 10:00 PM:

Welcome Social with music by Optimus Riff, sponsored by Cunningham Recreation



## Wednesday, October 8th

#### 7:30 AM - 8:30 AM:

**Breakfast Buffet** 

#### 8:00 AM to 9:00 AM:

**Attendee Registration** 

#### 8:00 AM to 9:00 AM:

Coffee with the Vendors #1 sponsored by Community Solutions Group





#### 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM:

Keynote Speaker, John McGovern presents, "Parks and Recreation in West Virginia: Wild, Wonderful, and Accessible"

#### 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM:

Coffee with the Vendors #2 sponsored by Community Solutions Group



#### 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM:

Speaker Session with Mike Fingeroth, "Designing a Spray Park A to Z"

## Agenda

## Wednesday, October 8th

#### 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM:

Lunch with the Vendors!

\*\*30 Minute BREAK & Vendor Tear Down\*\*

#### 1:30 PM to 2:00 PM:

Coach Bus Transfer

#### 2:00 PM to 3:30 PM:

WVU OEDC Site Visit Session to West Run Trail System

#### 3:30 PM to 4:00 PM:

Coach Bus Transfer

#### 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM:

Speaker Session with Jim Christie "Advancing the RV Park Experience"

\*\*1 Hour BREAK\*\*

#### 6:00 PM:

WVRPA Dinner & Auction



### Thursday, October 9th

#### 7:30 AM - 8:30 AM:

**Breakfast Buffet** 

#### 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM:

Speaker Session with Tatum Story "Accessibility in our Parks"

#### 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM:

Speaker Session with Jesse Cecil "You got the grant, now what?!"

#### 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM:

Speaker Session with Shellie Humphrey with the West Virginia State Auditor's Office "Challenges Smaller Agencies Face"

#### 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM:

WVRPA Awards Luncheon & Awards

#### 1:00 PM:

2025 WVRPA Conference Adjourns

#### 1:15 PM:

WVRPA Board Meeting





## John McGovern, Keynote

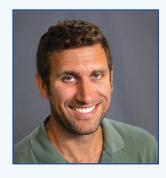
Parks and Recreation in West Virginia: Wild, Wonderful, and Accessible (60 minutes)



John McGovern leads the Accessibility Practice at the WT Group, LLC. The firm helps parks and recreation agencies across the country attain CAPRA, make programs available to people with disabilities, and make facilities and parks accessible. John has been directly involved in the development of ADA technical standards, has trained federal agency staff on accessibility implementation, and is recognized as the preferred accessibility consultant by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA). His national perspective, paired with a practical, community-centered approach, makes him one of the leading voices in accessibility for parks and recreation.

## Mike Fingeroth

## **Designing a Spray Park A to Z**Wednesday 11AM – 12PM (50 minutes)



Mike Fingeroth has been working in the Recreational Products industry since 2006. He is currently the Eastern Regional Manager for Landscape Structures, Inc. He is very knowledgeable about the equipment and surfacing requirements associated with those areas. Mike has provided market intelligence, identified key target markets, and taught countless CEU's that focus on compliance, maintenance, ADA updates, and general product info.

## Speakers

## Jim Christie

### Advancing the RV Park Experience

Wedesday 4PM - 5PM (50 minutes)

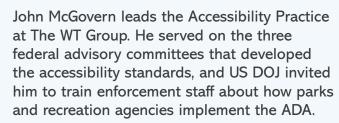


Jim Christie, PLA, is a landscape architect with a 27-year career designing destination resorts, parks, and campgrounds. Based in West Virginia, Jim works with Civil & Environmental Consultants, Inc. (CEC), where he leads recreational design projects across the country. Under his guidance, CEC has designed over two dozen campgrounds in the past five years—ranging from new developments to major renovations—for clients nationwide. Jim's work emphasizes sustainable, user-focused design that enhances the outdoor experience while working with his clients on a return of investment.

## John McGovern & Tatum Story

From Theory to Practice: Making Reasonable
Modifications in West Virginia Thursday 9AM – 10AM (60 min)







Tatum Storey, a native West Virginian, is the Principal – Operations for the Accessibility Practice at The WT Group. Her ADA experience, knowledge of the standards, and understanding of the court decisions and settlement agreements is an asset to everyone in the session.



## Jesse Cecil

## You got the grant, now what?!

Thursday 10AM – 11AM (50 minutes)



Jesse serves as the Grants and Research Coordinator, advancing the land-grant mission of West Virginia University by overseeing and providing centralized external funding development and administration for the Smith OEDC and its community partners. His responsibilities include grant proposal development, award management, training workshops, and impact reporting.

## **Shellie Humphrey**

### **Challenges Smaller Agencies Face**

Thursday 11AM - 12PM (50 minutes)



Shellie Humphrey is currently a Budget-Finance Specialist in the Local Government Services Division of the West Virginia State Auditor's Office. In this capacity she provides training and assistance to various local governments. She has been in this position since May 2011. She began work for the West Virginia State Auditor's Office in December 2001 as a Municipal Field Auditor. As a Municipal Field Auditor she did financial and compliance audits of Municipalities and their component units as well as a few fraud investigations. Prior to that, she worked for a public accounting firm doing audits of public and private entities as well as some tax preparation and bookkeeping work.



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Coopers Rock Overlook

**Cathedral State Park** 

**Covered Bridge Tour** 

**Dorsey's Knob Park** 

**Don Knotts' Statue** 

WV Farm Crawl Month (July)

**WV Botanic Garden** 

Morgantown History Museum

Tygart Lake State Park

Monongalia Arts Center

Cranesville Swamp

WV Waterfall Trail

**Country Roads Geocaching** 

**WVU Core Arboretum** 

**Public Art Passport** 

**Caperton Trail** 

**WVU Planetarium** 

**Kayak Deckers Creek** 

**WWII Museum Tour** 

**Smallest Church in 48 States** 

**Art Museum of WVU** 

**Seneca Center** 

**McGrew House** 

Old Iron Furnace

**Almost Heaven Swings** 

+ Ruby Summer Concert Series



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#### **Board Members**

Molly Williams, Raleigh County Parks & Recreation

Joe Shuttleworth, City of Bridgeport Parks and Recreation

Doug Comer, City Parks of Clarksburg

Craig White, Grand Vue Park

Jennifer Myers, Jefferson County Parks & Recreation

Amy Callahan, City of Bridgeport Parks and Recreation

J.R. Petsko, Monongalia County Parks and Recreation

Justin Williams, Putnam County Parks and Recreation



## Member Benefits

Professional growth for a healthier, happier West Virginia. Please consider supporting our parks & recreation professionals. Benefits include:

#### **Professional Development**

Access to workshops, trainings, and annual conferences focused on the latest trends, best practices, and innovations in parks and recreation.

### **Networking & Collaboration**

Connect with professionals across West Virginia to share ideas, learn from peers, and build lasting partnerships.

### **Recognition & Awards**

Opportunities to highlight outstanding programs, facilities, and individuals making a difference in parks and recreation.

### **Resources & Support**

Access to toolkits, industry updates, and shared knowledge that strengthen local programs and services.

#### Advocacy & Representation

A unified voice promoting the value of parks and recreation to policymakers, stakeholders, and the communities we serve.

### **Community & Enjoyment**

Celebrate successes together, support one another, and enjoy the many experiences that parks and recreation bring to West Virginia communities.



wvrpa.com

## Sponsors

We would like to thank the following businesses for supporting the 2025 WVRPA Conference. Please support the people who support you!





























## **2025 WVMPA CONFERENCE**

Lakeview Golf Resort October 7–9, 2025

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