



2025 WVRPA CONFERENCE



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.





Playful Landscapes.

Custom-Designed Recreation Spaces

Transform your outdoor spaces with custom-designed solutions that bring your community areas to life. From parks and schools to recreation centers, we specialize in creating environments where imagination and activity thrive. Our landscapes are designed to promote creative play, physical wellness, and social engagement. With our thoughtfully selected site furnishings, we not only enhance the functionality of your spaces but also elevate their aesthetic appeal, ensuring a welcoming atmosphere for all.



CUNNINGHAM RECREATION

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Design • Build • PLAY!



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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,

and complimentary WiFi. Let us exceed your expectations at Lakeview Golf Resort, where relaxation meets unparalleled hospitality amidst the beauty of Morgantown, West Virginia.



information, insight and expertise to help develop a big picture for projects that find the perfect balance of goals, innovation and budget. We will also help work with all project participants to ensure accurate understanding and collaboration.

Project Evaluation & Consulting help ensure positive outcomes by engaging Sparks@Play early in the planning process. Our team brings more than 35 years of planning and consulting experience to your project. We make sure the goals of your project are reflected accurately in designs and planning.

Budgeting & Cost Control knowledge saves money. Avoid cost overruns by initially estimating the project correctly. We'll help you gain insight, visibility and control of the cost drivers associated with your project.

Scheduling & Procurement Ensure continuous and efficient development and construction operations. We'll forecast the project timeline, materials, equipment and personnel required.

Site Assessment Ensure the goals of your project are compatible with the proposed site. Our skilled personnel will help determine the general suitability of the site as well as how it



important information about your site and its surroundings.

This critical step identifies safety concerns for site users and potential negative impacts on the immediate environment. The plays an important role in site utilization planning—beginning with the construction phase and continuing throughout a long-term life cycle.

Identify and Avoid Extra Costs Early site assessment helps identify and avoid cost overruns during the construction phase as well as during long-term maintenance.

Location of existing utilities, elevations and water runoff and subsoils are just a few of the topics that must be considered early in the planning process. Innovators in Inclusive & Accessible Environments informed planning creates facilities that can be enjoyed by all. We create environments that welcome individuals of all abilities to learn, play and have fun together.

Our design and consulting teams follow the Seven Principles of Universal Design Principle Description

Equitable Use The design is useful and marketable to people with diverse abilities.

Flexibility in Use The design accommodates a wide range of individual

Dream • Plan • Build PLAY

We are a family-owned and operated business that has successfully completed hundreds of projects in the past 10 years. As a turnkey operation, we take pride in assisting our clients with design, playground and park equipment sales, and installation. We have a passion for what we do, the experience necessary to make your project a success, and a dedicated team to turn your dream into a reality.

 Sparks@Play



Let's Build Together

sparksatplay.com - 410-356-4151 - 3705 Crondall Lane, Owings Mills, MD 21117



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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 Fingerroth,
"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

OMNI
ARCHITECTS

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



Speakers

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

Wednesday 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)



John McGovern leads the Accessibility Practice at The WT Group. He served on the three federal advisory committees that developed the accessibility standards, and US DOJ invited him to train enforcement staff about how parks and recreation agencies implement the ADA.



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.



Speakers

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.



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Sponsors

We would like to thank the following businesses for supporting the 2025 WVRPA Conference.

Please support the people who support you!





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