1947 2023

# GREAT LAKES PARK TRAINING INSTITUTE

## INDIANA UNIVERSITY

## Pokagon State Park | Angola, Indiana

## February 27 – March 2, 2023

*Practical and innovative training for park professionals at all levels*

INDIANA INSTITUTE ON DISABILITY AND COMMUNITY

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# Get Whova for 2023 Great Lakes Park Training Institute

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1947 2023
GREAT LAKES
PARK TRAINING INSTITUTE
INDIANA UNIVERSITY

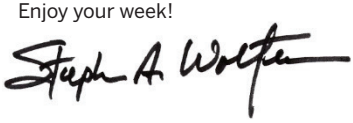
## Welcome!

Welcome to the 2023 Great Lakes Park Training Institute! The Institute will provide you with a week filled with educational sessions, social networking, and opportunities for relaxation.

The Great Lakes Park Training Institute is deeply rooted in the heart of professional park and recreation training history. In the mid-1940s, amidst the rapid growth of park districts, state parks, and recreation departments throughout the Midwest, many professionals realized that they needed quality training opportunities to advance their careers and improve their skills. At the invitation of Dr. Garrett Eppley at Indiana University, the summer of 1946 ushered in a meeting of representatives from Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin. Dr. Eppley proposed an educational institute to include general sessions and detailed workshops. The group supported the idea and arranged for a pilot program to be held in late 1946. A total of 116 delegates attended the pilot program held at McCormick's Creek State Park in Indiana. The pilot was a huge success and provided much service to those departments in attendance.

The representatives met again the following year, this time adopting the name *Great Lakes Park Training Institute* and agreed to continue the meeting. Throughout the years, the Institute has been polished and tailored to become what it is today. Costs have been kept low through aid from Indiana University. Each February, attendees from the surrounding Great Lakes states convene at Pokagon State Park for a week of fellowship and learning. As a 2023 attendee at this historic Institute, you are now helping to strengthen the parks and recreation field, as well as taking part in history.

Enjoy your week!



**Stephen A. Wolter**
Director
Great Lakes Park Training Institute

## Institute Guidelines and Tips

### Electronic Devices
Please, for the professional courtesy and respect of all our participants and presenters, silence your cell phones and other electronic devices during presentations and sessions.

### No Smoking
The Potawatomi Inn is a smoke-free environment. Please observe this policy for the comfort of other guests and conference attendees.

### Appropriate Attire
Dress comfortably and neatly at the Great Lakes Park Training Institute! Layers will come in handy for any time you spend outdoors. Tuesday evening's Awards Dinner requires business casual attire. Thanks!

### Alcohol Policy
Alcohol will be available during certain evening events for small fees. Please drink responsibly. No one under the age of 21 is permitted to consume alcohol. Also, any person who appears intoxicated will not be served. Attendees may be asked to produce proof of age/identification. You may consume alcohol in your room, but the hotel does not permit alcohol in any of the hallways or lounge areas. Alcoholic beverages are not permitted to be brought to events with a cash bar in operation.

### CEUs
If you are working toward earning CEUs at this year's Great Lakes Park Training Institute, we are happy to help! The room host at each session will be equipped with a hole-puncher to confirm your attendance at the session. You are required to be present for the entire session. You can also pick up a copy of the session learning objectives at the registration desk.

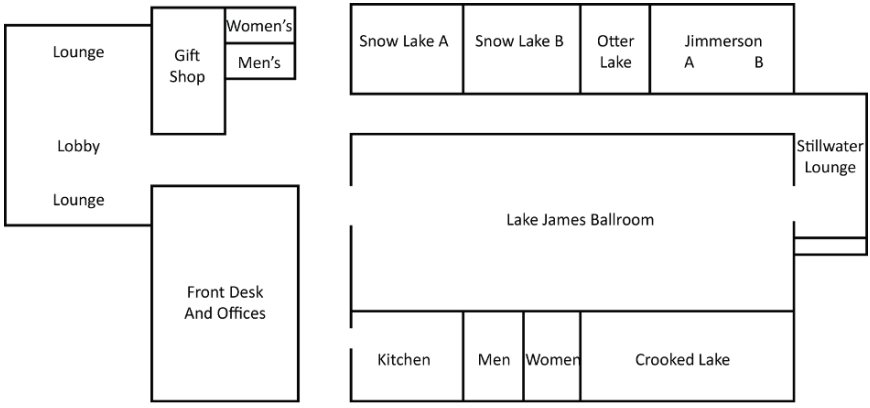
### Education Tracks
The education sessions for the 2023 Institute are divided into five tracks: Personnel and Career Development, Park and Facilities Maintenance, Natural Resource Management, Natural and Cultural Interpretation, and Park Operations. These tracks will help attendees identify sessions that are of interest. Education track information is featured next to each session's title in this program.

### Need Help?
Many people have worked hard to put together this slate of events for your training and networking pleasure—and they are not done working yet! Speak with a GLPTI staff member, regent, or someone at the GLPTI Registration Table. We will all be happy to help you in whatever way we can!

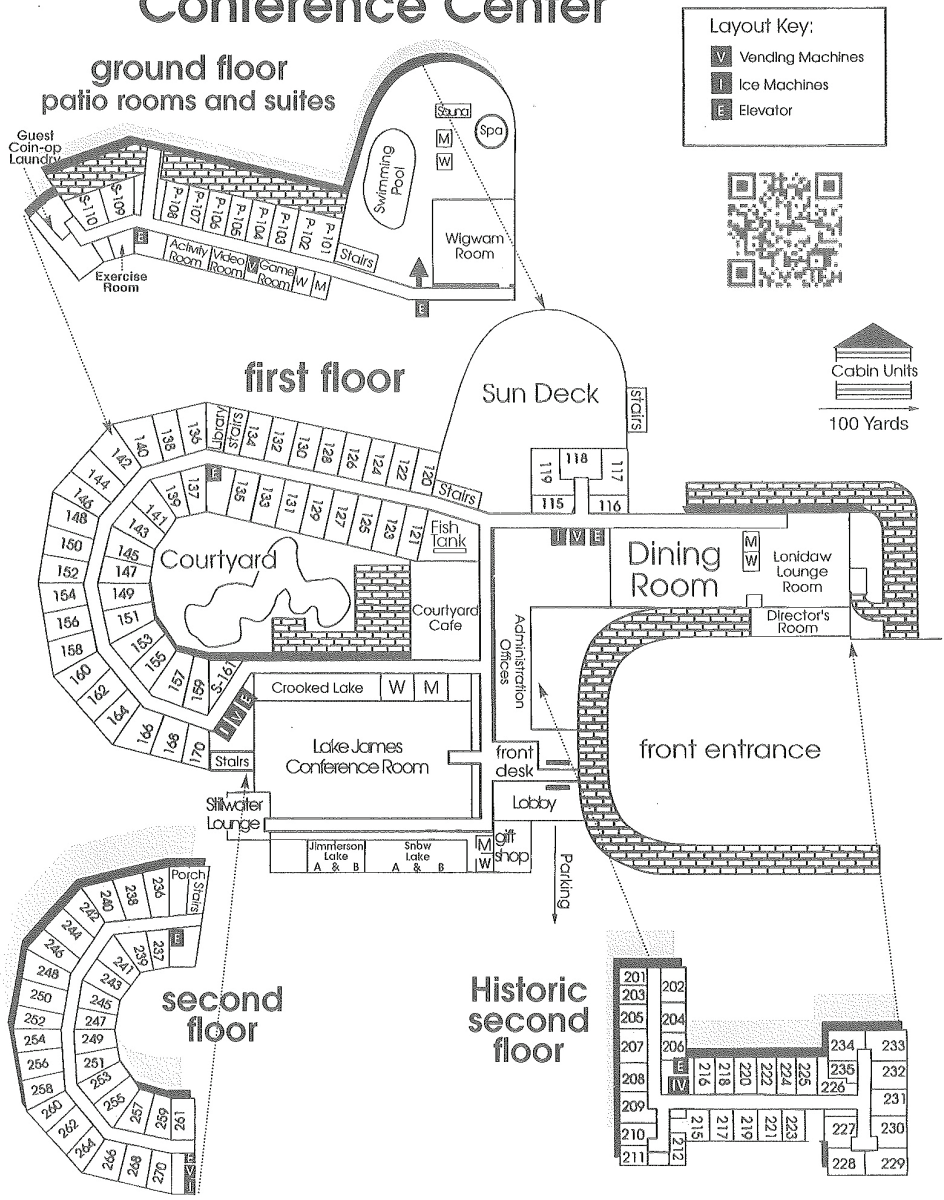
### Break Area
The Break Area in the Courtyard Café will have snacks and drinks available through the entire Institute. Snacks and beverages will be rotated every morning and afternoon to keep your energy levels up!

## The Inn

While you are here, do not forget to take advantage of the amenities offered by the Potawatomi Inn! The inn hosts an indoor swimming pool, whirlpool, sauna, library, satellite TV, movie rentals, Indiana gift shop, on-site ATM, a large sun porch facing Lake James, wireless internet services, guest laundry, exercise area, game room, nearby toboggan run, complimentary coffee and tea, and 11 miles of walking trails in the park.



# Potawatomi Inn Resort & Conference Center



## Institute Host

The **Eppley Institute** is Indiana University's unique outreach program for the park, recreation, and public land management professions. The Institute works to enhance the quality of natural, cultural, and recreational experiences for all people. With the resources of Indiana University, the Eppley Institute has access to experts and a technology support system that are difficult to duplicate. The Institute provides expertise in several areas, including technical assistance and research, planning and design, and training and education for the National Park Service and other organizations around the world. As a unit of the Department of Recreation, Park, and Tourism Studies, the Eppley Institute has a rich history and legacy in park and recreation management. Indiana University has been a leader in parks, recreation, and public lands education, research, and technical assistance since 1946. Visit our website at www.eppley.org to learn more about what the Eppley Institute can do for you. We have a wide range of training and educational resources for individuals and organizations!

INDIANA INSTITUTE ON
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## 2023 Great Lakes Park Training Institute Board of Advisors

The Board of Advisors assists with the programming, objectives, curricula, and related issues that should be addressed by the Great Lakes Park Training Institute. Board members maintain the highest possible knowledge of industry and professional trends, state and constituency needs for development and training, and practical and professional leadership needs for park operations and management activities. The 2023 Board of Advisors consists of the following individuals:

**Kristi Solberg** (Chair)
Wilmette (IL) Park District
MIPE Representative

**Larry Hess** (Past Chair)
Independence Township Parks, Recreation, and Seniors
Michigan Representative

**Rowdy Perry** (Chair-elect)
Michigan Department of Natural Resources
State Parks Representative

**Dan Caraher**
Deerfield Park District
Illinois Representative

**Erin Parker**
Huron-Clinton (MI) Metroparks
At-Large Representative

**Brandt Baughman**
Indiana State Parks and Reservoirs
Ex Officio

**Michael Rae**
Indiana State Parks and Reservoirs
Indiana Representative

**Randy Auler**
City of Westerville
Ohio Representative

**Patrick Walters**
Wickcraft Boardwalks
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# SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

## Monday, February 27, 2023

**12:30-12:45** **ORIENTATION**

### First-time Attendees Orientation *Lake James*

New to GLPTI? Join us for an introduction to the history and purpose of the longest running parks training conference in the U.S., getting around the Potawatomi Inn and Pokagon State Park, and the fun and unique opportunities that the Institute has to offer!

**1:00 PM – 3:15 PM** **WORKSHOPS**

### Building Your Park's Potential through Strategic Grant Plans *Lake James*

PERSONNEL AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT TRACK

**Michelle Kelly** (Principle Landscape Architect, Upland Design, Ltd.)
**Kate Wiltz** (Project Manager and Research Associate,
Eppley Institute for Parks and Public Lands)

Successful parks and recreation agencies employ strategic use of grants to implement their comprehensive plan and move capital projects forward. Multi-year grant plans align timing, required documentation, and intended capital projects with potential fundings sources. This hands-on workshop will familiarize participants with grant opportunities and the key components necessary for winning proposals.

### Tree Selection: Urban vs Park Trees Meet in Snow *Lake Room*

NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT TRACK

**Phil Graf** (Principal Owner, Great Lakes Urban Forestry)

Selecting the proper tree species for your various sites is very important. In this session we will discuss proper tree selection and how expectations for urban trees and park trees are different. We will list and describe the various site characteristics that one must consider when matching the appropriate tree species to plant. Examples of good and bad urban and park tree selections will be discussed in detail.

### Hands on Chainsaw Maintenance *Large Equipment Building*

PARK AND FACILITY MAINTENANCE TRACK

*Limited to 25. Registration required.*

**Shane Morse** (Park Supervisor, Michigan DNR Parks and Rec Division)

This course will go over hands on saw maintenance & techniques. The end goal of this training is to provide everyone with the resources, tools, and knowledge to be comfortable maintaining their chainsaws on a daily and annual basis.

## Guidelines for Excellence: Designing, Implementing, and Evaluating Nonformal Environmental Education Programs *Crooked Lake*

NATURAL AND CULTURAL INTERPRETATION TRACK

**Erin Parker** (Eastern District Interpretive Services Supervisor, Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority)

How do you design, implement, and evaluate programming to best suit the needs of your audience? In this workshop, we'll explore program development and assessment using the framework of the North American Association for Environmental Education's Guidelines for Excellence and the newly updated Nonformal Environmental Education Programs guide. Participants are encouraged to bring a lesson plan or program outline with them to work through during the workshop and all participants will receive a copy of the updated Nonformal Education Guidelines to use at their own site.

**3:30 PM – 5:00 PM** **GENERAL SESSION**

## Supporting Women in Parks and Recreation Careers *Lake James*

**Carrie Fullerton** (Executive Director, Arlington Heights (IL) Park District)

It's a simple fact that at times women don't feel confident enough to apply for that exciting new leadership opportunity or share their great ideas in a group setting. This stems from questioning their confidence levels, lack of belief in their ability to influence others, and organizational cultures. This session will heighten awareness of these challenges, highlight some strategies to overcome them, and is appropriate for ALL professionals who want to grow their careers and create a thriving, supportive environment in their agencies.

**5:30 PM – 7:00 PM** **DINNER IN THE LAKEVIEW RESTAURANT**

**7:00 PM TOBOGGAN RUN!**

Join us at the famous Pokagon State Park Toboggan Run for thrills and fun! The Toboggan Run will be open for GLPTI attendees. With 90 feet of vertical drop and speeds of up to 40 mph, the quarter-mile track is sure to make you scream! Light refreshments and warm beverages will be available in the Warming Station.

## Tuesday, February 28, 2023

**7:00 AM – 8:15 AM** **BREAKFAST IN THE LAKEVIEW RESTAURANT**

**8:30 AM – 10:00 AM** **GENERAL SESSION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### Sharing Data Effectively: How to Turn Information into Impact *Lake James*

**Bobbi Nance** (Founder & President, Recreation Results)

As our work becomes more complex, finding ways to effectively present information about what we are doing, what impact it is having, and what we should do next becomes increasingly challenging. Often the important insights are lost in the way we (and our software programs like Excel and PowerPoint) default to sharing them. Learn six key steps that you can apply to any communication piece you plan to share whether it's a chart, report, presentation, or even an email to increase the impact of the information you are sharing. Whether you are trying to communicate what happened, or make a case for what to do next, discover how small changes to the way that you present and share data can not only increase your audience's understanding and retention of what you are sharing with them, but also your own credibility, appeal, and influence.

**10:15 AM – 11:15 AM** **CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

### Remnant Native Plant Populations: *Lake James*

PARK AND FACILITY MAINTENANCE TRACK
NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT TRACK
PARK OPERATIONS TRACK

**Eric Mollahan** (Consulting Department Manager, ILM Environments)

When deciding how to allocate limited resources for habitat restoration, ecosystems containing remnant plant populations need to take high priority. Remnant plant populations are fragments of original habitat with original native plant communities (or seed bank) still intact. These tend to be rare and easily overlooked. Learn how to spot the signs of remnant plant populations and what to consider when managing them. The Floristic Quality Assessment (FQA) monitoring tool will be reviewed to monitor changing biodiversity associated with remnant plant populations over time. Several case studies will be considered that illustrate a broad range of remnant plant populations, including those with threatened and/or endangered plant or animal species.

### Be a Goal Getter *Crooked Lake*

PERSONAL AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT TRACK

**Bobbi Nance** (Founder & President, Recreation Results)

It may feel like the time for thinking about goals has already passed, but with the hecticness of the holidays and the pressure of New Year's resolutions behind us, now is the perfect time to plot out a plan of attack for 2022. Through a series of guided exercises and discussions, take an hour to refocus on the year ahead, plot out and prioritize what you want to accomplish, and most importantly, start designing your plan of attack to make sure that you end the year not just as a goal setter, but a goal getter.

## Volunteer Recruitment and Retention *Snow Lake*

PERSONAL AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT TRACK

**Jodi Heaston** (Volunteer Coordinator, Indiana State Parks)

Having trouble with your volunteer program? Are your volunteers aging out? A successful volunteer program is very important during this time of staffing issues and maintaining user friendly properties. Hear ways Indiana State Parks recruit and retain volunteers of all ages. From volunteer call outs to National Volunteer Day events to customizing volunteer opportunities to the Indiana Master Naturalist program, there are many creative ways to revive an existing program or start a new one.

## The Space Between – Shoreline Buffers *Jimmerson Lake*

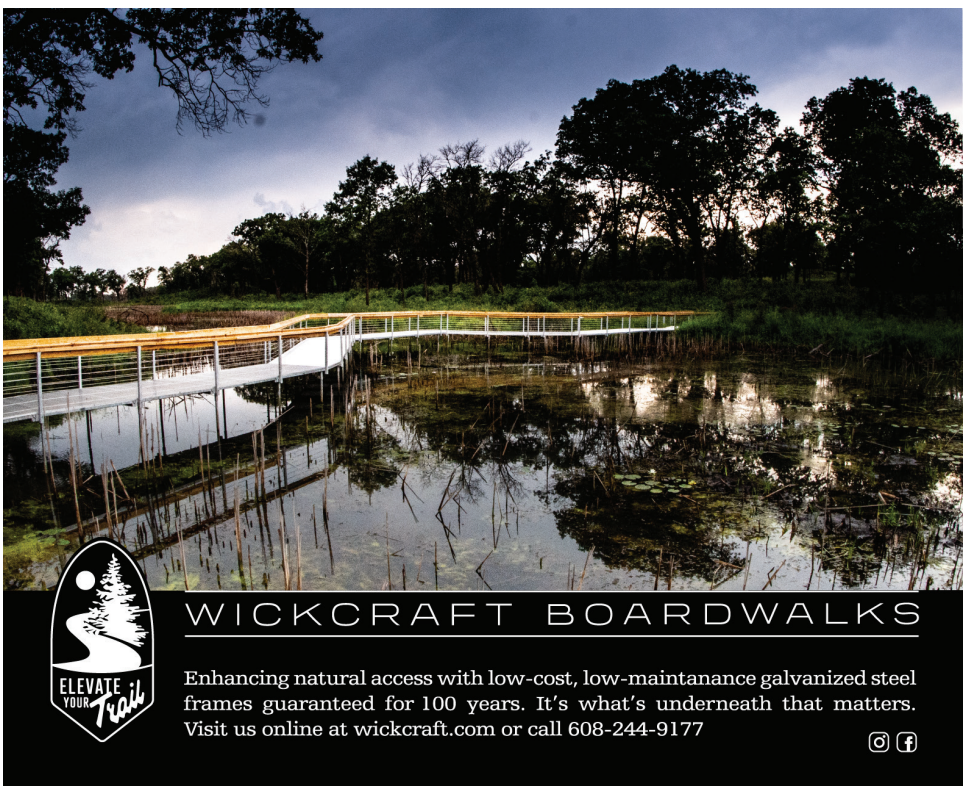
NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT TRACK

PARK AND FACILITY MANAGEMENT TRACK

PARK OPERATIONS TRACK

**Lisa Woolford** (Forest Health Specialist, ILM Environments)

When managing lakes or ponds, special attention needs to be given to space along the periphery of the shoreline. Called shoreline buffers, these vegetated areas can look beautiful while also providing important ecosystem services like soil stabilization and water filtration. We will discuss the benefits of using native plants compared to rock armoring, or rip rap, and explore site-specific native plant selections that will leave you with a breathtaking shoreline buffer.



**11:30 PM – 12:30 PM** **INFORMAL SESSIONS**

### Topical Discussion *Lonidaw Lounge*

Join GLPTI Board Members for an informal discussion of important issues of the day in parks and recreation. Feel free to bring your own topics and questions.

### Gadgets! *Lake James*

Creative solutions for every-day problems. Bring your gadget for this grown-up show-and-tell and show us how it revolutionized your park's operations.

### Pokagon History Walking Tour (Outdoors), *Meet in Lobby*

Join Pokagon's Interpretive Naturalist for a guided walking tour of this historic State Park. Dress warmly!

### Forest Bathing (Outdoors), *Meet in Lobby*

**Christy Thomson** (Certified Forest Therapy Guide, Wild Communion)

The practice of forest therapy or forest bathing is an internationally recognized therapeutic practice that increases the body's immune function, mindfulness, mental health, and connection with the natural world. We will do a series of embodiment invitations to help us slow down and see the natural world with fresh eyes.

Dress warmly. We won't be going far. Forest therapy is not a naturalist walk, a hike, nor is it a social event. Come alone or bring a friend.

**12:30 PM – 1:45 PM** **LUNCH IN THE LAKEVIEW RESTAURANT**

**1:45 PM – 2:45 PM** **CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

### Design Innovation in Play *Lake James*

PARK OPERATIONS TRACK

**Jeff Barber** (President / Owner, Playground Specialists, Inc.)

Learn about multigenerational playground innovation from a playground industry veteran. In this session we will discuss playground industry trends - both past and present - and how we see innovation in the industry developing to include multigenerational play opportunities.

### Making Your Park Storm Ready *Snow Lake*

PARK AND FACILITY MAINTENANCE TRACK

PARK OPERATIONS TRACK

**Rachel Cobb** (Meteorologist, National Weather Service)
**Lonnie Fisher** (Meteorologist, National Weather Service)

The National Weather Service StormReady program helps arm America's communities with the communication and safety skills needed to save lives and property. Learn how to be prepared to protect not only your park, but more importantly the visitors from severe weather!

## Prescribed Fire (Rx) and Its Uses *Jimmerson Lake*

PARK AND FACILITY MAINTENANCE TRACK
NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT TRACK

**Darren Bridges** (State Fire Supervisor, Indiana DNR)
**Mark Huter** (Assistant State Fire Coordinator, Indiana DNR)

This session from two Indiana State Fire supervisors will educate learners on the uses of prescribed (RX) fires. They will discuss the implementation and effects of prescribed fires, the complexity surrounding them, and what factors need to be met in relation to weather and other indices desired results in your setting.

## Hydraulic Drive Maintenance *Crooked Lake*

PARK AND FACILITY MAINTENANCE TRACK

**Larry Tarket** (Assistant Store Manager, Weingartz)

This session will provide an introduction to hydraulic drive power equipment. Attendees will learn how to recognize and address hydraulic drive issues they may have as well as prevent major repairs in the first place so that they can reduce down time and increase productivity in their work.

**3:00 PM – 4:00 PM** **CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

## Design Innovation in Play *Lake James*

PARK OPERATIONS TRACK

**Jeff Barber** (President / Owner, Playground Specialists, Inc.)

Learn about multigenerational playground innovation from a playground industry veteran. In this session we will discuss playground industry trends - both past and present - and how we see innovation in the industry developing to include multigenerational play opportunities.

## Managing Up and Sideways *Crooked Lake (Live Stream)*

PERSONAL AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT TRACK

**Darren Hurley** (Director, City of Worthington Parks and Recreation)

Do you have a challenging boss? Having trouble getting on the same page with a coworker or team member? Tired of being frustrated by those supervising and working beside you and the negative impact to productivity that comes with it? It doesn't have to be that way! Learn the art of managing up and sideways in this engaging session. The speaker will share strategies and practical examples of how to effectively work with all types of supervisors and co-workers. Participants will have an opportunity to share experiences and ask questions.

## Weather Spotting and Water Safety at the Beach *Snow Lake*

PARK OPERATIONS TRACK
NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT TRACK

**Richard Castro** (Meteorologist, NOAA)
**Megan Dodson** (Meteorologist , NOAA)

The primary goal of this session is to enhance partner awareness and understanding of weather/water hazards, and to review collaborative opportunities that strengthen partnerships between the National Weather Service (NWS) and water safety officials. We hope to equip partners with the knowledge and resources to both educate the public about these

hazards, and establish best practices at parks and beaches that may prevent weather and/or water-related casualties. This session will be broken down into two 30 minute parts: "Weather 101" and "Beach Hazards 101."

The first portion will cover weather spotting principles such as hazards of thunderstorms, identifying clouds associated with severe weather, weather safety tips and reporting practices, and how to monitor NWS outlooks, watches, warnings, and advisories.

In the second portion of this session, we'll provide a statistical overview of the drowning problem on the Great Lakes, an in-depth look at the types of dangerous currents, how waves and currents form, and best practices for staying safe. Finally, we'll review collaborative opportunities (NWS Beach Observation Program, Great Lakes Water Safety Consortium) and available water safety resources, such as the NWS beach forecasts and statements page, NWS decision support services, and signage or other outreach materials.

### Pavement Design, Assessment and Maintenance Planning *Jimmerson Lake*

PARK AND FACILITY MAINTENANCE TRACK

**Tom Rychlik** (Senior Engineer, Gewalt Hamilton Associates)

Learn the facets that go into pavement design, from what constitutes appropriate subgrade to what surface materials are appropriate. Learn maintenance strategies that are considered when reviewing in-place roads and parking lots. Learn how pavement assessments are developed for municipal districts, and how these can help with annual budget planning.

**6:00 PM –8:00 PM** **AWARDS RECEPTION AND DINNER**

Join us in the Lake James Room for dinner and the Awards Ceremony honoring our Garrett G. Eppley Scholarship; Great Lakes Park, Facility, or Program Award; and Richard Lawson Award for Professional Excellence winners. Stay after the ceremony for music, networking, and a cash bar.

### Great Lakes Park, Facility, or Recreation Program Award

The Institute presents this award in recognition of parks, facilities, and programs that represent the cutting edge of the leisure movement in the United States. Award winners represent innovative, cost-effective design; demonstrate community engagement; and create a significant impact on their community and agency.

**2023 PARK, FACILITY, OR PROGRAM AWARD WINNERS:**

- **Charter Township of Orion (MI)- Miracle Field of North Oakland**

### Richard Lawson Award for Professional Excellence

Given annually by the Institute's Board of Regents, the Lawson Award is presented to individuals who exemplify continued and significant contributions to the parks and recreation profession in the Great Lakes region. This is the highest individual honor that the Institute bestows.

**2023 LAWSON AWARD WINNER- Terry Coleman, Director, Division of State Parks, Indiana Department of Natural Resources**

## Garrett G. Eppley Scholarship

This annual scholarship is available to young professionals and those who are new to the field in order to encourage them to pursue professional development opportunities and to provide important networking opportunities. The scholarship will cover the full cost of Institute attendance for those who are selected. Scholarship winners are required to provide five hours of volunteer service during the Institute.

### 2023 Garrett G. Eppley Scholarship Winner:

- Daniel Tyson, Woodridge (IL) Park District

## Wednesday, March 1, 2023

**7:00 AM – 8:15 AM** **BREAKFAST IN THE LAKEVIEW RESTAURANT**

**7:15 AM – 8:15 AM** **INFORMAL**

### Bird Hike *Meet in Lobby*

Granola bars, danishes, coffee, and juice will be available at the meeting area.

**8:30 AM – 10:00 AM** **GENERAL SESSION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### Nothing Change if Nothing Changes *Lake James*

**Chris Nunes** (Chief Operating Officer, The Woodlands Township)

Chris Nunes, CPRE is the Chief Operating Officer for The Woodlands Township, in The Woodlands, Texas. In that position, a $50+ million operational budget and is accountable for the management of 151 parks, 14 swimming pools and aquatic facilities, 220 miles of pathways, and 200 miles of streetscape. He speaks around the country (over 500+ times) on topics including: business plans, contracting, creative programming, marketing, external funding, communication, leadership and succession planning. In 2012, Chris was elected as a fellow of the American Academy of Parks and Recreation Administrators and in 2015 he received the National Distinguished Professional Award from NRPA and in 2016-2017 he was the President of the American Academy of Parks and Recreation Administrators and in 2019 The Woodlands Township was recognized by NRPA by winning the Gold Medal Grand Plaque Award for excellence in parks and recreation management. Chris also serves on the GreenPlay Red National Operating Board. Chris holds a Bachelor's Degree in Recreation Management and a Master's Degree in Sports Management from Springfield College in Massachusetts and a Doctorate in Parks and Recreation Administration from the University of New Mexico.

**10:15 AM – 12:30 PM** **CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

### Tree Risk Management *Snow Lake / Outdoors*

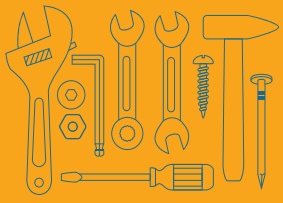
PARK AND FACILITY MAINTENANCE TRACK, NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

**Steve Lane** (Forestry Consultant, Great Lakes Urban Forestry)

Trees are undeniably part of the DNA of our parks. They provide shade, aesthetics, environmental benefits, and a sense of well-being and community. However, trees can also pose risk to our patrons in the form of failing or falling limbs, unseen decay in the root system, etc. Join Steve as we examine the current standards governing tree risk management in the Arboricultural profession, and how to identify and mitigate risk caused by trees. This course will likely involve some outdoor time (weather dependent) spent looking at trees and defects, so make sure to dress for the weather, and bring some questions and examples from your organization to discuss!

# PLAYGROUND MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN TRAINING

**The most comprehensive, long-standing maintenance and inspection training program in the country.**



## PMT TEACHES SYSTEMS, PROCESS, AND BEST PRACTICES IN PROACTIVE MAINTENANCE.

*PMT equips boot-on-the-ground staff with the knowledge, skills, and practices to most effectively prevent incidents and minimize liability.*

Start your 2022 with minimized liability by registering your staff for a PMT training. We are again providing in-person training and have added an online version of the curriculum.

PMT online can be taken on your own where you work at your own pace or as part of a cohort. The cohort occurs over three weeks. It kicks-off with a live webinar on the first day and each of the three weeks concludes with an additional webinar. These are four opportunities to interact with a PMT instructor who will answer questions, review concepts covered in e-courses, and lead interactive learning activities. Participants will be required to complete 13 e-courses with independent assignments over the course of the training. Each e-course is approximately an hour in length.

Enroll your staff in this comprehensive, long-standing maintenance and inspection training program and equip them with the knowledge, skills, and practices to most effectively prevent incidents and minimize liability.

Visit http://playgroundmaintenance.org/ to register or contact the Program Coordinator at pmt@eppley.org.

## How to Get the Exhibits You Want *Crooked Lake*

NATURAL AND CULTURAL INTERPRETATION TRACK

**Grace Carrol** (Senior Exhibit Designer, Taylor Studios, Inc.)
**Sarah Dress** (Business Development Manager, Taylor Studios, Inc.)

Planning new exhibits, or just making smaller improvements, can be a daunting task for any nature center. You may be working with an exhibit design firm for the first time and it can feel overwhelming. At Taylor Studios, we create exhibits in partnership with our clients, who are the driving force behind the exhibit design. In this workshop, we will demystify exhibit design process and explore ways you can prepare for beginning exhibit design. The workshop will include collaborative breakout sessions and practical activities. We'll follow up and provide attendees with all materials presented or created during the workshop.

## Building Better Teams *Lake James*

PERSONAL AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT TRACK

**Chris Nunes** (Chief Operating Officer, The Woodlands Township)
**Stephen Wolter** (Director, Eppley Institute for Parks and Public Lands)

Teams are important to successful agency operations that help with service, quality, cost, value, speed, efficiency, performance, and effectiveness. Understanding groups and teams is often like selecting the best tool or approach to repair, or construction of a new park feature. This session is designed to help with the understanding of team/groups and getting the job done.

**1:45 PM – 2:45 PM** **CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

## Fireside Chat for New Professionals *Lonidaw Lounge*

PERSONAL AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT TRACK

**Layne Elliott** (Project Manager, Eppley Institute for Parks and Public Lands)

Especially for professionals who have been in the field of parks and recreation for ten years or less, the Fireside Chat is a highly interactive session featuring round table discussions and opportunities for networking and brainstorming. During the Fireside Chat you will:

1. Utilize your networking skills to connect with seasoned professionals
2. Engage with your peers in the field
3. Help shape the future of the Great Lakes Park Training Institute

## Eagle Scout Projects *Jimmerson Lake*

NATURAL AND CULTURAL INTERPRETATION TRACK
PARK OPERATIONS TRACK

**Ken Kerfoot** (Operations & Safety manager, Geneva Park District)

Eagle Scout projects can be a great benefit to our organizations and communities, but they can also be difficult and produce less than desired results. Learn some of the main reasons for underperformance and what steps you, as the beneficiary representative, can take before and during the project to help it become the great benefit you and the prospective Eagle Scout want, expect, and deserve.

## Electric Zero-Turn mowers First Impressions and Lessons Learned *Lake James*

PARK AND FACILITY MAINTENANCE TRACK

**Carl Gorra** (Superintendent of Parks and Properties, Geneva Park District)
**Kristi Solberg** (Superintendent of Parks and Planning, Wilmette Park District)

Electric Zero Turn mowers are becoming increasingly available to park district and natural resource maintenance organizations. In this session you will hear from two park districts who added electric mowers to their Fleet for the first time in 2022. You will hear firsthand their thoughts on the performance, cost, and environmental considerations associated with this equipment.

**1:45 PM – 4:00 PM**

## Chainsaw Operation & Safety *Crooked Lake*

PARK AND FACILITY MAINTENANCE TRACK

**Shane Morse** (Park Supervisor, Michigan DNR, Parks and Rec Division)

This course will go over saw safety, saw operation, saw maintenance, felling techniques, and much more. The end goal of this training is to provide everyone with the resources, tools, and knowledge to be comfortable with chainsaw operation and safety/PPE's.

**3:00 PM – 4:00 PM** **CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

## Making the Best of a Pesty Situation *Lake James*

NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT TRACK

**Heidi Frei** (Forest health Specialist, Michigan Department of Natural Resources)
**Rowdy Perry** (Supervisor, MIDNR-Brighton Rec Area)

Oak wilt, emerald ash borer and other invasive forest pests have killed millions of trees in Michigan, including those in state parks. Felling and removing dead and infected trees for risk mitigation and disease control is costly and has involved whole-tree and stand losses. With oak wilt becoming more of a threat, DNR Parks and Recreation Division staff have found creative ways to give new life to some very old park residents killed by the disease. Learn a bit more about the risk of oak wilt, management and finding creative solutions to pest and park management.

## Quit Doing the Same Thing and Expecting Different Results *Jimmerson Lake*

PARKS AND FACILITY MAINTENANCE TRACK

**Norm Kleber** (Corporate Turf Specialist, Balanced Environments, Inc.)

When it comes to Parks Maintenance, many variables come into play with restrictions of products, equipment, and lack of a labor force. We will discuss soils and equipment and we will discover why we should reduce the amount of applications and change of product choices in order to be environmentally responsible as well as getting results that they will label you a "Rock Star!" When you have to deal with demands from residents and volunteer coaching on field conditions, high demands for results in sports turf areas have diminished the look of other parks. You will learn a few "Tricks of the Trade" to accomplish these tasks successfully and reduce YOUR stress level. FUN will be the result!

## FAIR Play: Adaptive Recreations Programs *Snow Lake*

NATURAL AND CULTURAL INTERPRETATION TRACK

PARK OPERATIONS TRACK

**Sandy Dorey** (Recreation Supervisor, Oakland County Parks)

**Katie Kowalski** (Volunteer & Recreations Services Supervisor, Huron-Clinton Metroparks)

Parks are for everybody. In this this session, we will explore Fun Adaptive Inclusive Recreation (FAIR) Play type programs and events at the parks. We will review the basics of what adaptive recreation programming means, showcase examples of adaptive recreation programs and events, and look at resources and partnerships within and outside your organization you can use to support these initiatives.

**6:00 PM – 10:30 PM** **DINNER BUFFET, TRIVIA CONTEST, AND GAME NIGHT!**

Game Night provides attendees with the opportunity to relax, have fun, and make new friends. The Game Night will kick off in the Lake James Room with a buffet dinner and bar with our annual Trivia Contest to follow. Other games will be available for open play. Door prizes will be drawn throughout the evening.

## Thursday, March 2, 2023

**7:00 AM – 8:15 AM** **BREAKFAST IN THE LAKEVIEW RESTAURANT**

**8:30 AM – 9:30 AM** **CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

### Is It Ready for the Compost? Cultivating Your Leadership Tools *Lake James*

PERSONNEL AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT TRACK

**Sally Pelto-Wheeler** (Owner, Collaborative Training Network)

A leadership coach's perspective on three common practices parks professionals do that need to be considered for the compost pile. Don't just throw it out – COMPOST IT! When we collect our old, decaying ways of doing things and learn from them, we end up with highly enriched work environments. During this session, Sally will share what she hears and sees as barriers-to-growth and efficiency-killers. Sally is practical, and she works one-on-one with park professionals like you every day. She believes we are all leaders of ourselves. She'll share her observations and the supportive actions anyone can choose to do.

### Tree Movers *Crooked Lake*

NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT TRACK

PARK AND FACILITY MAINTENANCE TRACK

**Ellen Lewis** (Marketing Manager, Environmental Design, Inc.)

A short history and overview of modern methods of transplanting large trees. This presentation will the explain the history of tree transplanting going back as far as Ancient Egypt, explaining the different methods of tree transplanting used in different parts of the country and will highlight the tree transplanting project at the 9/11 Memorial in NYC.

### Interacting with People with Disabilities *Snow Lake*

PARK OPERATIONS TRACK

PERSONNEL AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT TRACK

**Ric Edwards** (Director of ADA Compliance, Indiana Department of Natural Resources)

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a law that protects people with disabilities in many areas of public life. This presentation will better equip you to have positive and appropriate interactions with people with disabilities who visit your park facilities.

**10:00 AM – 11:30 AM** **GENERAL SESSION**

### Planning for the 2024 Solar Eclipse *Lake James*

**Angie Manuel** (Interpretive Manager, Indiana State Parks)
**Ginger Murphy** (Deputy Director for Stewardship, Indiana State Parks)
**Brandt Baughman** (Deputy Director of Operations, Indiana State Parks)

This general session will provide a forum for information and discussion about planning for the 2024 Total Solar Eclipse which happens on April 8, 2024 and arcs across the state of Indiana and into Ohio. It will feature the work that the Indiana DNR has done to prepare to

date, provide an opportunity for others to share their experiences with large events like this solar eclipse, and give session participants will get a sense of what it takes to organize and conduct a large, complex event.

**11:30 PM** **INSTITUTE CLOSING**

## Thank You! See You Again Next Year!

### Help us out! Turn in your Institute Evaluations!

We hope you enjoyed your time at the Great Lakes Park Training Institute. We strive for excellence and hope that you will support us in that mission by completing the Institute Evaluation on the Whova app or returning your evaluations to the Registration Table on your way out of the Potawatomi Inn. As a small token of appreciation for taking the time to complete the survey, we will randomly award one FREE registration to the 2024 Great Lakes Park Training Institute! Have a safe drive home!

### 2024 Great Lakes Park Training Institute

Mark your calendars for the 2024 Annual Great Lakes Park Training Institute. The 2024 Institute will be held February 26-29, 2024 at the Potawatomi Inn in Pokagon State Park, Angola, Indiana and virtually!

### 2024 Awards Nominations

Would you like to nominate a coworker, park, or program for an award at the 2024 Great Lakes Park Training Institute? Please email us at glpti@eppley.org and we will send you an award nomination form.

### CEU Cards & Nametags

Don't forget to turn in your CEU cards and nametag holders at the Registration Table on your way out. Keep the lanyard as our gift!

# 2023 Great Lakes Park Training Institute Evaluation

**Please take a moment to share your comments and suggestions to help the planning committee for the 2023 Great Lakes Park Training Institute.**
**Please rate the following on a scale of 1 to 5. (5 is excellent, 1 is poor.)**

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| General Sessions | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Concurrent Sessions | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Toboggan Social | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Awards Dinner | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Vendor Social | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Publications/Information | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| GLPTI Staff | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Food | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Lodging | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Meeting Rooms | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

What were the highlights of the Institute for you? What did we do really well?

What suggestions for improvements do you have for us? What would you like to see happen next year?

Any other comments?

**OPTIONAL: Enter to Win a FREE 2024 GLPTI Registration**
Interested in being eligible to win a FREE 2024 GLPTI Registration? Please write your name and e-mail address below. Please note, this is completely optional, we would sincerely appreciate your return of this survey if you would prefer to remain anonymous.

Name: _____ E-mail: _____

**Please return your completed evaluation to the collection box on the Registration Table.**
**Thank you so much for doing this!**

1947 2023

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