



GREAT LAKES PARK TRAINING INSTITUTE



February 26-29, 2024

Pokagon State Park



Welcome!

Welcome to the 2024 Great Lakes Park Training Institute!

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 2024 attendee at this historic Institute, you are now helping to strengthen the parks and recreation field, as well as taking part in history.

GLPTI has seen tremendous change over the last few years. We have a new home at Indiana University within the Indiana Institute on Disability and Community. The pandemic forced us to convert the conference to all-virtual in 2021. We used that experience to create a virtual version to supplement our traditional conference at Pokagon, expanding the reach of GLPTI from our region to the world. In addition, GLPTI Director Steve Wolter is retiring at the end of June so we will have a new Director for the 2025 Institute. As we modernize our delivery methods, we constantly strive to offer practical and innovative topical training that reflects the changing world and workforce.

Through all of that change, we are also proud of maintaining the intimate setting and experience that our long-time attendees have come to expect. GLPTI has always been more than just a training program. It is a fellowship dedicated to not just employment in a fulfilling profession but service to our respective communities and to each other. We gather each year in a setting like no other to learn but also to make and maintain professional relationships and personal friendships. For that, GLPTI is unique and special.

Enjoy the 2024 GLPTI!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "LE", written in a cursive style.

Layne Elliott
Assistant 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 2024 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!

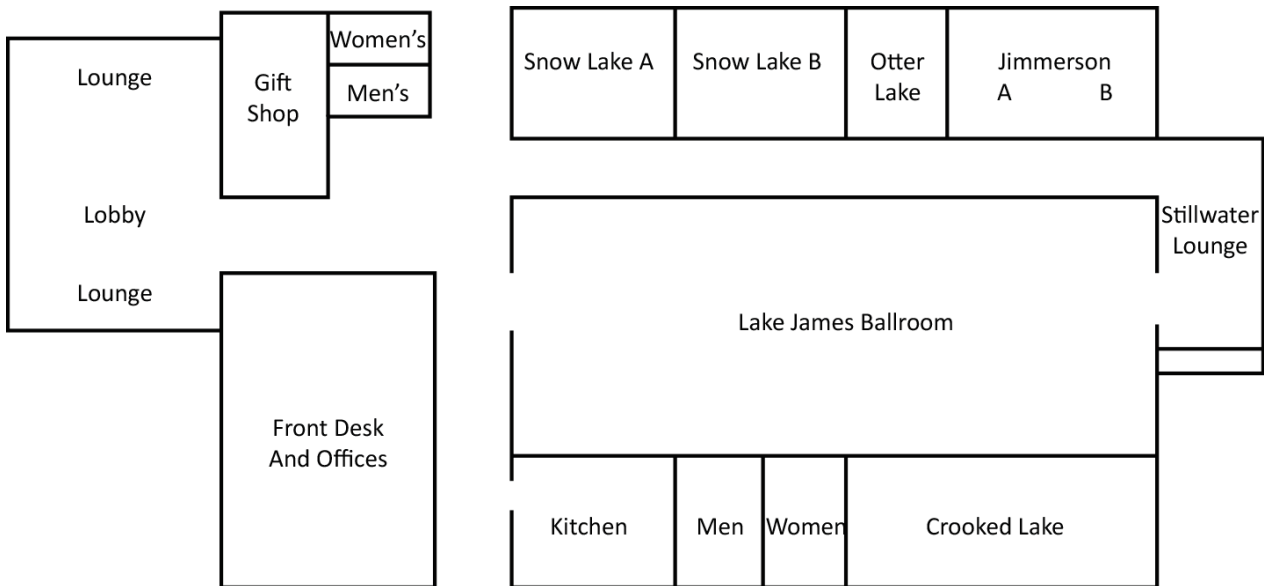
Break Area

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

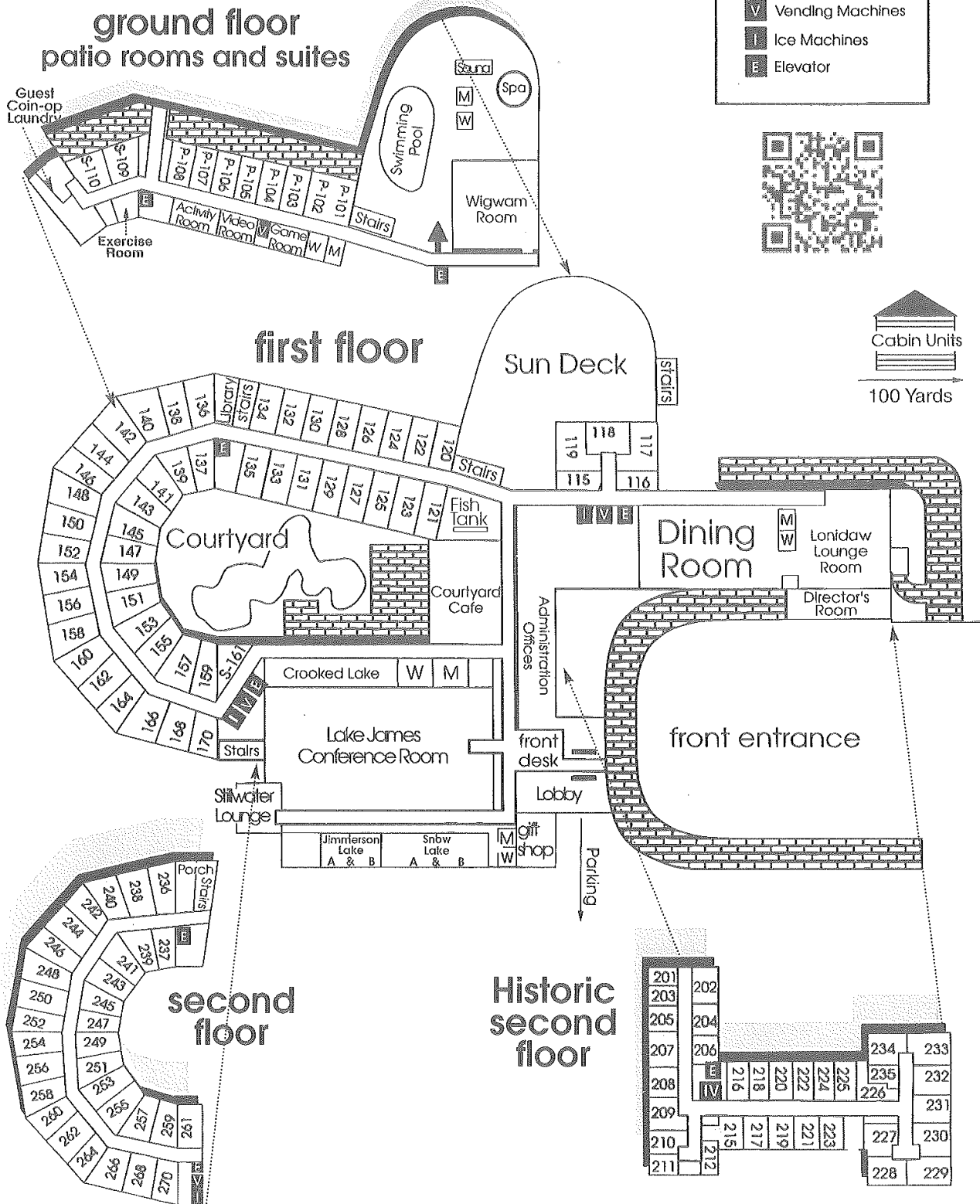
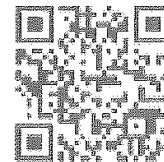
While you are here, do not forget to take advantage of the amenities offered by the Potawatomi Inn! The inn hosts an indoor swimming pool, whirlpool, sauna, library, satellite TV, movie rentals, Indiana gift shop, on-site ATM, a large sun porch facing Lake James, wireless internet services, guest laundry, 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

Layout Key:

- V** Vending Machines
- I** Ice Machines
- E** Elevator





EPPLEY INSTITUTE FOR PARKS AND PUBLIC LANDS

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 Indiana Institute on Disability and Community, 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!

GLPTI Sponsors

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PARKS AND PUBLIC LANDS**

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2024 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 2024 Board of Advisors consists of the following individuals:

Rowdy Perry (Chair)
Kristi Solberg (Past Chair)
Michael Rae (Chair-elect)
Larry Hess

Paul Rogus
Erin Parker
Brandt Baughman
Randy Auler
Patrick Walters
Carrie Fullerton
Benjamin Rea
Ted Bohman

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Wilmette (IL) Park District
Indiana State Parks and Reservoirs
Independence Township Parks, Recreation,
and Seniors
Deerfield Park District
Huron-Clinton (MI) Metroparks
Indiana State Parks and Reservoirs
City of Westerville
Wickcraft Boardwalks
Arlington Heights (IL) Park District
Palatine (IL) Park District
Pokagon State Park

State Parks Representative
MIPE Representative
Indiana Representative
Michigan Representative
Illinois Representative
At-Large Representative
Ex Officio
Ohio Representative
Wisconsin Representative
Ex Officio
Ex Officio
Ex Officio



Our Partners:



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Playground Equipment

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Outdoor Fitness Equipment

Outdoor Musical Instruments

Shade, Shelters, & Pavilions

Design & Installation

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Having trouble joining? Search for our event and enter the invitation code: cz3e2b0k00



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Monday, February 26, 2024

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

Best Practices for Captive Animal Care Plans *Lake James & Live stream* **Natural and Cultural Interpretation, Natural Resource Management Tracks**

- Annabelle Raines (Nature Center Programmer, Farmington Hills Nature Center)
- Elizabeth Schultz (Nature Center Coordinator, Burgess-Shadbush Nature Center)

Gather recommended practices for captive animal care while discussing animal welfare, enrichment, and live animal programming. Discuss the needs of different animals (raptors, reptiles, etc.) and how we as professionals can offer the best quality of life. This roundtable-style session will allow you to be a part

of the conversation of animal care, share successes and ongoing challenges from your facility, and create goals for the future!

GIS Tree Inventory - Manage Costs and Gain Efficiencies in Your Tree Maintenance

Program Outdoors, Meet in Jimmerson Lake Room

Natural Resource Management Track

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

Gain a better understanding of having a GIS-based tree inventory and how it can benefit the efficiency of your organization, control maintenance costs, and mitigate tree risk. We will detail how to perform a basic tree inventory, as well as what you will need if you hire a professional consultant provide one. We will also show how to map out other basic park features using GIS and the freewares that are available to use.

Helpful Tips for Understanding and Prioritizing OSHA Standards in Parks and Recreation

Crooked Lake

Park Operations, Park Facility and Maintenance, Career and Personnel Development Tracks

- Bill Hooker (Training Program Manager, Park District Risk Management Agency)

Proactive employers look at OSHA compliance as a first step towards the implementation of safety systems and a culture of continuous improvement for the safety of all staff. Understanding and implementing OSHA standards can be confusing at times and it may be difficult to prioritize the numerous standards that apply to your organization.

In this program, we will highlight various OSHA-related topics and discuss common industry applications of these topics. Through the use of case studies, pictures, hypothetical scenarios, checklists, and group exercises, you will learn how to identify the standards applicable to your agency, discuss factors for prioritizing topics, and create an implementation plan for an OSHA topic at your agency.

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Roundtable

Emerging Sports and Programs Snow Lake

Park Operations Track

- Nick Worth (Athletic Manager, Arlington Heights Park District)
- Ben Rea (Executive Director, Palatine Park District)

The roundtable discussion will cover sports and program trends occurring at each participant's agency. The discussion will also cover the challenges associated with the sport/program and the solutions reached by each participant.

3:30 PM – 5:00 PM

General Session

Agency in Crisis! Lake James & Live Stream

- Bill Hooker (Training Program Manager, Park District Risk Management Agency)

Bad things happen even with the best risk management plans in place. Key elements of managing any crisis include proactive planning and successfully implementing the response.

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 27, 2024

7:00 AM – 8:15 AM

Breakfast in the Lakeview Restaurant

8:30 AM – 10:00 AM

General Session

The New Workplace *Lake James*

- Steve Wolter (Director, Eppley Institute for Parks and Public Lands)

The new workplace is here to stay but it will evolve as technology, human resources, and organization needs evolve. Agencies will need to address the trends, use a scan of best practices in place in the profession, and adapt the new workplace to their specific need. This interactive session will explore the ever-changing workplace, problems you may encounter along the way, and solutions to help your organization move forward.

10:15 AM – 11:15 AM

Concurrent Sessions

Bringing Workplace Belonging to Life *Lake James & Live Stream*

Personnel and Career Development Track

- Kristen Marks (Executive Director, Centerville-Washington Park District)

Recent research has shown that one-third of government employees feel a lack of belonging at work. In this session, participants will hear success stories related to the fundamental aspects of belonging. From onboarding, to family milestones, to skilling, and more, these experiences can boost belonging, but not without intention and attention from leadership. Employees that belong will serve with purpose and focus on the mission, vision and values that agencies strive to carry out.

Cultural Resource Management in a Park Setting *Crooked Lake*

Natural and Cultural Resources, Natural and Cultural Interpretation, Park Operations Tracks

- Jay Martinez (President/Principal Investigator, Midwest Archaeological Research Services)
- Steven Katz (Principal Investigator/Owner, Global Archaeological Consultants)

When employed, Cultural Resource Management (CRM) Archaeology programs are a vital part of the Identification, management, and interpretation, human activity in park-like settings, which allows for the effective land-use decisions within parks. Archaeological field reconnaissance and the subsequent research adds a substantial element/contribution to the overall interpretation, public education, restoration and ongoing/future development plans.

E-bikes, Wheelchairs and OPDMDs: Where are They Allowed? *Snow Lake*

Park Operations Track

- Ric Edwards (ADA Director, Indiana State Parks)
- Dale Brier (Division Director- Outdoor Recreation, Indiana Department of Natural Resources)

With the advances in E-bikes - their availability/affordability - and the increasing use by people with disabilities of different mobility devices, managers are facing more and greater challenges in knowing where these devices are allowed to go; when/if it is appropriate to limit their use; how to identify the device; what the laws actually say about them. This session will present answers, provide examples of scenarios and offer possible solutions to these and other questions about where E-Bikes and/or Other Power-Driven Mobility Devices might be encountered.

Design, Installation and Maintenance Characteristics of a Sustainable Greenspace

Jimmerson Lake

Natural Resource Management, Park Operations Tracks

- Ryan Anderson (Sustainable Communities Manager, IPM Institute of North America, Inc.)

Midwest Grows Green's (MGG) Ryan Anderson shares pest and weed management practices and strategies that demonstrate proficiency in integrated pest management, sustainable landscaping or organic landscaping. Attendees will leave with the necessary tools to pursue Green Shield Certified for Landscapes for their greenspaces.



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11:30 PM – 12:30 PM

Informal Sessions

Who's the Boss? How to Navigate through a World where Policies, Procedures, and Rules are More Like Suggestions *Lake James*

- Larry Hess (Superintendent of Parks, Independence Township)

A roundtable discussion on how as professionals we are facing new challenges in public interaction. We will identify current issues and have a healthy discussion of tips and tactics to help make your day better, and maybe a little venting of frustrations that may be shared by others.

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!

12:30 PM – 1:45 PM

Lunch in the Lakeview Restaurant

1:45 PM – 2:45 PM

Concurrent Sessions

The Children on the Playground are Too Loud! *Lake James*

Personnel and Career Development Track

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

Ever consider writing a book including some of the crazy communications and input you receive? Darren will share a variety of entertaining letters, emails, and communications gathered over the years to both help us learn from each other and to provide some therapeutic laughter! Learn effective ways to navigate written and verbal feedback from various users, including elected and appointed officials, effective response techniques, and ideas for preparing your staff to handle these situations.

Pickleball Court Construction/Conversion *Snow Lake & Live Stream*

Park and Facility Maintenance, Park Operations Tracks

- Mike Renner (Vice President/Commissioner Eriksson Engineering Assoc/Cary Park District)
- Ben Rea (Executive Director, Palatine Park District)

Park Districts and their design consultant discuss best design practices for new and renovated tennis and pickleball courts. Court design details, recommended location of court in community, environmental concerns, how to manage players expectations, and construction challenges.

Splash Pads – Drain to Waste and Recirculating *Jimmerson Lake*

Park and Facility Maintenance Track

- Jon Sheffer (Field Operations Manager, Michigan Recreational Construction, Inc)
- Craig Sheffer (President, Michigan Recreational Construction, Inc)

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.

The Practice & Science of Moving Big Trees *Crooked Lake*

Natural Resource Management, Park and Facility Maintenance Tracks

- Levi Wooden (Consulting Arborist, Environmental Design)

In this session, we'll take a brief look into the methods, best practices, and science of moving large caliper trees. EDI has been a pioneer in the big tree moving industry for over forty years, with a track record that includes successfully transplanting some of the largest and oldest trees ever relocated.

3:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Concurrent Sessions

The Children on the Playground are Too Loud! *Lake James & Live Stream*

Personal and Career Development Track

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

Ever consider writing a book including some of the crazy communications and input you receive? Darren will share a variety of entertaining letters, emails, and communications gathered over the years to both help us learn from each other and to provide some therapeutic laughter! Learn effective ways to navigate written and verbal feedback from various users, including elected and appointed officials, effective response techniques, and ideas for preparing your staff to handle these situations.

Monitoring and Management of Wildlife for Healthy Ecosystems *Crooked Lake*

Personal and Career Development Track

- Jay Wright (Director of Conservation Science, Metroparks Toledo)

Wildlife species, from birds to beavers and bees to beetles, are critical components of healthy park ecosystems. In this session, participants will learn about the importance of monitoring wildlife for driving adaptive management practices. Drawing on examples from Metroparks Toledo, a variety of monitoring strategies across multiple habitats will be covered, for both species of conservation concern as well as

more common wildlife species and communities. Some common wildlife management issues will also be addressed, such as problems associated with overabundant deer, geese, and beaver.

Pickleball Court Construction/Conversion Snow Lake

Park and Facility Maintenance, Park Operations Tracks

- Mike Renner (Vice President/Commissioner Eriksson Engineering Assoc/Cary Park District)
- Ben Rea (Executive Director, Palatine Park District)

Park Districts and their design consultant discuss best design practices for new and renovated tennis and pickleball courts. Court design details, recommended location of court in community, environmental concerns, how to manage players expectations, and construction challenges, decision support services, and signage or other outreach materials.

Purchasing a Property with Underground Fuel Storage Tanks Jimmerson Lake

Park and Facility Maintenance Track

- Nancy Valenta (Special Projects Manager, Gabriel Environmental Services)
- Judy Freeman (Special Projects Manager, Gabriel Environmental Services)

What should you know if considering purchasing a property with underground fuel storage tanks? Learn how initial environmental assessments gather information on the specific environmental risks that would be encountered, discuss the steps and stages of completing environmental remediation and the amount of time that it could take to make the property safe for development and use, and analyze the costs of completing a remediation plan including possible funding sources.

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, or 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.

2024 Park, Facility, or Program Award Winners:

- **Rochester Hills (MI) Department of Parks and Natural Resources- Innovation Hills**
- **Bloomington (IN) Parks and Recreation- Switchyard Park**

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.

2024 Lawson Award Winner- Michael Klitzing, Director, Carmel Clay (IN) Parks & Recreation

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.

2024 Garrett G. Eppley Scholarship Winners:

- **Kyle Wade, Springfield Township (MI) Parks and Recreation**
- **Lisa Leach, Portage Township (IN) Parks and Recreation**

1:45 PM – 2:45 PM

Concurrent Sessions

Fireside Chat for New Professionals *Lonidaw Lounge*

Personal and Career Development Track

- Layne Elliott (Program 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

Zero Turn Rider Maintenance *Lake James & Live Stream*

Park and Facility Maintenance Track

- Larry Tarket (Manager, Weingartz)

Learn the basics of zero turn riding mower maintenance and discuss tips on preventing major repairs to engines and hydraulic drive systems.

Coordinating Ecological Restoration Among Organizational Partners in Ohio *Crooked Lake*

Natural and Cultural Interpretation, Park Operations Tracks

- LaRae Sprow (Natural Resources Supervisor, Metroparks Toledo)
- Pete Blank (Northwest Ohio Restoration Manager, The Nature Conservancy in Ohio)

Coordinating effective ecological restoration at regional scales often necessitates close collaboration among organizational partners. The Nature Conservancy in Ohio and Metroparks Toledo have been collaborating on ecological restoration in the Oak Openings Region of Ohio for over two decades. In this session, we'll share insights about coordinating invasive plant control (and other restoration treatments) among partner agencies, prioritizing sites for restoration, and conducting ecological monitoring. We'll also share lessons learned about obtaining grant funding, managing collaborative grants, and sharing best management practices.

Splash Pad Trends *Jimmerson Lake*

Park Operations Track

- Michelle Kelly (Principal and President, Upland Design)

Splash pads have become increasingly popular, offering a fun and interactive way for people of all ages to cool off during the summer months. As this trend continues to grow, it's essential for decision-makers to stay informed about the latest trends and best practices in splash pad design and implementation.

"I WANT TO GO TO WORK TODAY!" *Snow Lake*

Personnel and Career Development Track

- Norm Kleber (Industry Consultant, Balanced Environments, Inc.)

When it comes to today's workforce, it is imperative to keep the grease on the wheel if you expect to retain staff for an extended amount of time. You will come away with ideas of programs to create that will engage your staff into wanting to come to work each day. Resignations are an integral part of doing business BUT you can help dictate it. Programs that excel staff to constantly better themselves and move forward in the industry will set you in a light of the kind of Supervisor many will want to work under.

3:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Concurrent Sessions

Cultural Resource Management 101 *Lake James & Live Stream*

Natural and Cultural Interpretation Track

- Cathy Draeger-Williams (Archaeologist, Indiana Dept of Natural Resources)
- Ben Clark (Cultural Resources Manager, Indiana Dept of Natural Resources)

Learn to identify a cultural resource, understand the basic legal framework protecting cultural resources, and will know what an accidental discovery is and what to do if it happens.

Zero Turn Rider Maintenance Snow Lake Park and Facility Maintenance Track

- Larry Tarket (Manager, Weingartz)

Learn the basics of zero turn riding mower maintenance and discuss tips on preventing major repairs to engines and hydraulic drive systems.

Splash Pad Trends Jimmerson Lake Park Operations Track

- Michelle Kelly (Principal and President, Upland Design)

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Contracting for Rookies Crooked Lake

Personnel and Career Development, Park Operations Tracks

- Tom Rychlik (Senior Engineer, Gewalt Hamilton Associates)

Many park executives and "parks side" supervisors and/or superintendents are tasked with administering contracts for maintenance and other construction projection activities. Much of the terminology is used without a full understanding of what the terms or contract steps mean or what obligation the documents tie their agency to. The presentation is designed to assist those park professionals looking to understand the components of contract engagement.

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, February 29, 2024

7:00 AM – 8:15 AM

Breakfast in the Lakeview Restaurant

8:30 AM – 9:30 AM

Concurrent Sessions

“IS intelligence REALLY Artificial!” AI in the Day 2 Day Lake James & Live Stream Park Operations, Personnel and Career Development Track

- Norm Kleber (Industry Consultant, Balanced Environments, Inc.)

How will “AI” (Artificial Intelligence) help or hinder your day to day operations and maintenance is definitely going to reflect upon how you manage it? AI could help with certain machines that reduce labor, but with excelling programming within today’s modern agencies, you need to decipher the right percentage of AI to use and not alienate the staff or clients. There are a myriad of daily processes where AI is already being used but learning how to decipher them to make your operations run smoother is the key element.

Restoring and Creating Stunningly Beautiful Ecosystems Crooked Lake Natural Resource Management Track, Park and Facility Maintenance Track

- Jack Pizzo (President / Sr. Ecologist / Principal Landscape Architect, Pizzo Group)

Green is in! Nature, Monarchs, & Pollinators are all the buzz. Some of you love it and some of you dread it. Failed projects are everywhere. Why do they fail? There are two causes: Failures in design and Failures in long term management. The good news is that it doesn’t have to be that way. I will share some tip and tricks to creating success with nature.

Create a Culture of Greatness and Your Team will do Amazing Things! Snow Lake Personnel and Career Development Track

- Randy Auler (Director, City of Westerville Parks and Recreation)

We all aspire to be great and to be part of something great! Why do some organizations achieve greatness and other remains mediocre? Greatness begins and ends with the practices of leaders, and everyone is a leader. This session will provide you with a game plan to create a culture of greatness.

10:00 AM – 11:30 AM

General Session

CTRL ALT DELETE: Restarting during a Leadership Transition Lake James & Live Stream

- Sally Peltó-Wheeler (Owner, Collaborative Training Network)
- Bruce Oldham (Deputy Director, Hamilton County Parks & Recreation)
- Chris Stice (Director, Hamilton County Parks & Recreation)
- Kyle Stocks (Hamilton County Parks)
- Christy Brocken (Hamilton County Parks)

Join Coach Sally and Hamilton County Parks and Recreation in candid discussions about their intentional shifts after a beloved director’s retirement, thriving through a pandemic, and restarting their leadership practices. We’ll explore coaching strategies for big leadership transitions, learn from peers, and outline practices that encourage teams to thrive through transitions.

11:30 PM Institute Closing Lake James



GREAT LAKES URBAN FORESTRY

- Tree Inventory
- Urban Forestry Management Planning
- Tree Risk Management
- Contract Municipal Forester
- Tree Planting Plans




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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 2025 Great Lakes Park Training Institute! Have a safe drive home!

2025 Great Lakes Park Training Institute

Mark your calendars for the 2025 Annual Great Lakes Park Training Institute. The 2025 Institute will be held February 24-27, 2025 at the Potawatomi Inn in Pokagon State Park, Angola, Indiana and virtually!

2025 Awards Nominations

Would you like to nominate a coworker, park, or program for an award at the 2025 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!

2024 Great Lakes Park Training Institute Evaluation

Please take a moment to share your comments and suggestions to help the planning committee for the 2024 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 2025 GLPTI Registration

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