

2026 Parks Spring Workshop Session Descriptions

City of Fort Collins Parks – Asset Management Journey

Jill Wuertz, CPRP, PLA, Kristy Bruce, AICP, GISP, David Hansen, PLA, LEED AP
City of Fort Collins

8:45am-10:00am - Conference Room A

“As park and recreation systems mature, agencies are increasingly challenged to expand services while responsibly maintaining aging infrastructure. This session highlights the City of Fort Collins Parks asset management journey over three decades. Beginning in the early 1990s, Fort Collins recognized that every new park, trail, and facility created permanent obligations for maintenance, repair, and replacement. Rather than treating asset management as an afterthought, the City embedded lifecycle thinking into the creation of a program and supported it through long-range plans. Although the budget fluctuated over time, consistent planning alignment finally led to voter approval of the Parks & Recreation 2050 Tax in November 2023, resulting in an additional \$11 million annually.

For Parks, a large portion of the tax is guided by The Fort Collins Parks Infrastructure Replacement Plan. Overall, the tax enabled Fort Collins to scale the infrastructure replacement program, strengthen asset management staffing, and systematically address park updates—transforming asset stewardship from aspirational to implementable through 2050. The session will review the history of the program, lessons learned over time and conclude with recent City Council guidance on implementation. Participants will gain practical insights into park asset management, regardless of the size or funding level of their agency.”

Mow-tivating Great Decisions

Farrell Buller, Principal & Executive Coach, 110%

8:45am-10:00am - Conference Room B

“As a park professional, you are an essential part of your organization's operation. You understand the work and how it needs to be done. But oftentimes, there can be disconnect between those doing the work and those driving decisions, which can lead to disengagement and complacency. This session is about changing that and increasing buy-in by utilizing your knowledge to build your credibility in the decision-making process, and having your voice heard. This interactive session explores how parks professionals can increase their influence. Participants will learn practical strategies to identify and use existing operational data, translate daily work into meaningful community impact, and strengthen the credibility of their recommendations. We will also examine how complacency and disengagement can quietly erode standards and what it takes to stay sharp, professional, and influential over time. You deserve a stronger voice in decision making, from operational needs to capital planning. Because those who maintain the system can help better shape it.”

Getting the Most out of PVC Piping

Jeff Butler, Technical Service Representative Spears Manufacturing

8:45am-10:00am - Conference Room C

“This session will cover types of PVC available, stress points including catastrophic failure, mechanical failure and cyclic fatigue. We will also learn about proper joining techniques such as solvent cementing (gluing) and threaded fittings. Swing joint implementation will also be included.”

Regenerative Open Space Habitat Development

Ron Green, MA, Executive Director - Originateve Holistic Learning Designs

8:45am-10:00am - Pawnee Buttes Room

“Many spaces exist for municipalities, districts and commercial organizations that fall in between or outside of irrigated public use categories. Medians, drainages, or community parks with naturalized areas that are non-irrigated can be susceptible to invasive plants and require maintenance. Regenerative community practices can help to offset the costs of maintenance of these areas while building bio-diversity and habitat for local wildlife. Utilization of existing resources such as district mulch and plant waste can also improve passive water retention in the landscape and aid in erosion control, weed suppression, and habitat building.

This workshop will highlight a Regenerative Community partnership pilot program for habitat development for pollinator species, native plants, and trees while mitigating invasive species at a 2 acre site at Mossbrucker Park, part of the Foothills Parks and Recreation District in Jefferson County. The project, entering its third year, demonstrates the effects of carbon input in the form of mulch from the district, invasive species mitigation with volunteers and biodiversity improvement with plants and seeds provided by community organizations.”

Play Starts with You - Playground Inspection and Maintenance (+ 2026 CPSI update)

Tony Jaramillo, CPSI, Owner - Playground Safety Solutions, LLC

11:00am-12:15pm - Conference Room A

“This one-hour training session provides parks maintenance personnel with a practical, CPSI-aligned overview of playground safety inspection and maintenance responsibilities. Designed to support daily field operations, the class focuses on identifying common playground hazards, understanding inspection frequency and documentation, and applying maintenance best practices that reduce risk and extend the life of playground equipment.”

Bermuda Grass on the Front Range – The Good, the Bad and the Ugly

Moderator - Josh Koss, CSFM, Territory Manager - Harrell's

Panelists:

- Matt Krebsbach, CSFM, Manager of Park Operations - City of Aurora
- Dan Payson, CPRP, Open Spaces, Parks & Trails Manager - Arapahoe County Parks & Rec
- Jared Musil, CPRP, Deputy Director of Parks, Forestry and Open Space - Town of Parker
- Joe Wilkins III, President - Green Valley Turf
- Zac Kempf, NoCo Sod

11:00am-12:15pm - Conference Room B

“Thinking about installing Bermudagrass on the Front Range but not sure if it’s the right move? Join this panel discussion with end users who have successfully grown Bermudagrass—or are weighing the decision to install it. Learn from their experiences, including key decision points, lessons learned from mistakes, and successes. Walk away with practical insights and a clear picture of how Bermudagrass performs as a functional turfgrass in this region.”

The Emerald Menace: A Brief History and Management Options

Joe Boffa, BS in Forestry, ISA Certified Arborist, CDA Qualified Supervisor,
Rocky Mountain Territory Manager - Rainbow Ecoscience

11:00am-12:15pm - Conference Room C

“A brief history of the Emerald Ash Borer, an invasive pest that has ravaged native and transplanted Ash populations in the United States. We will cover how and when this species was introduced, its current range in the United States and Colorado, and management options that are backed by science driven protocols.”

Parks Roundtable Discussion: Drought Mitigation & Other Pressing Parks Issues

(Note - This is **not** a CEU-certified session)

Facilitators:

- Sarah McAfee, CPRA Parks Section Chair, Parks Operations Coordinator - Foothills Parks & Recreation District
- Eric Henschel, CPRA Parks Section Chair-Elect, Parks & Recreation Operations Supervisor - Town of Wellington
- Adrian Torres, CPRP, AFO, CPO, CPRA Parks Section Secretary, Deputy Director - City of Englewood Parks, Recreation, Library and Golf
- John Weaver, CPRA Parks Section PD Chair, Parks Skilled Maintenance Supervisor, City of Colorado Springs Parks, Recreations and Cultural Services

11:00am-12:15pm - Pawnee Buttes Room

This is a roundtable format where you can bring a topic to discuss amongst the group. One topic up for discussion will be drought mitigation plans. Get advice from your fellow parks professionals on how they are handling any pressing issues impacting the parks community. Please note that this session is not a CEU-certified session.