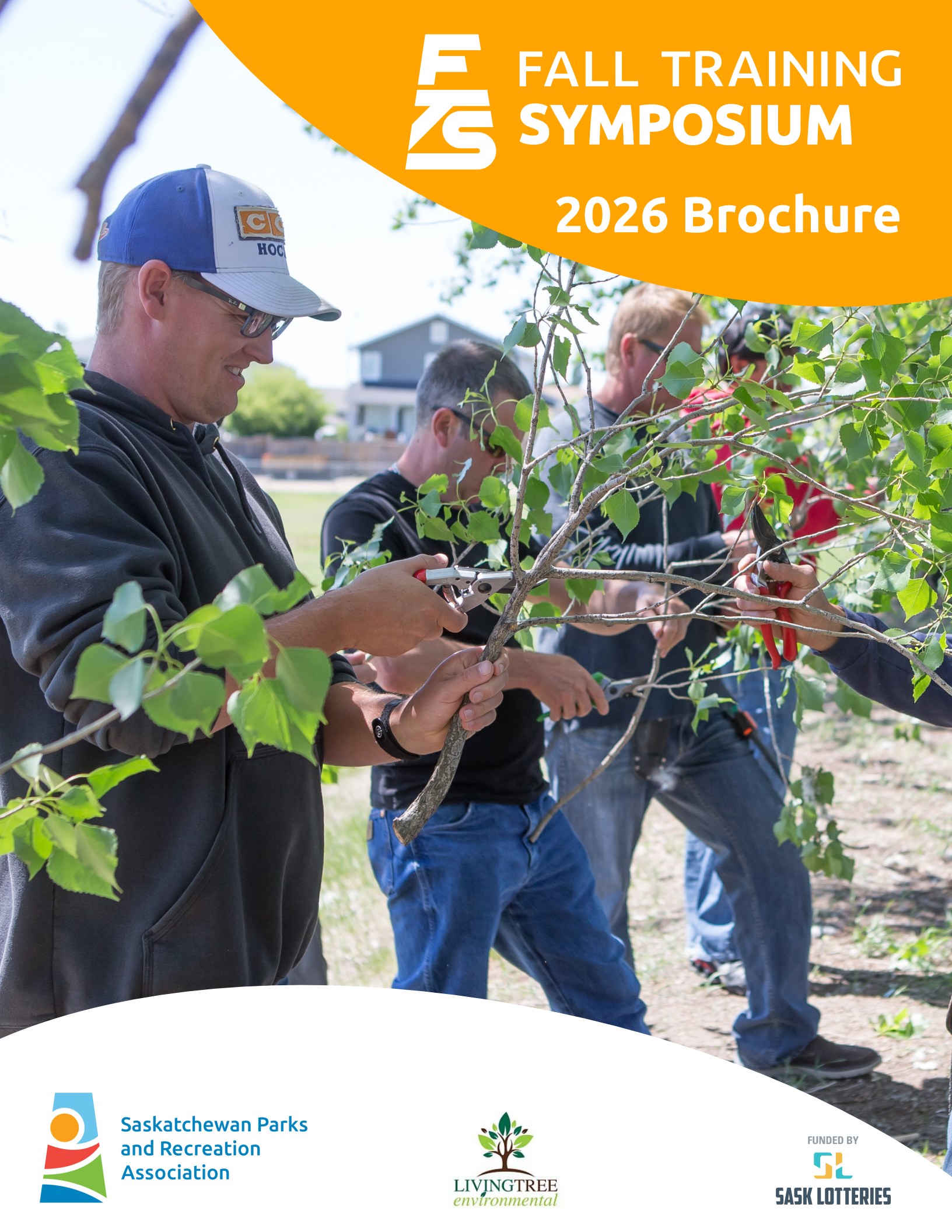




FALL TRAINING SYMPOSIUM

2026 Brochure



Saskatchewan Parks
and Recreation
Association



FUNDED BY



SASK LOTTERIES

Join us for the Fall Training Symposium!

What is the Fall Training Symposium?

Hosted by the Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association (SPRA), the Fall Training Symposium is four days of training, education, and collaboration!

Join us in the City of Prince Albert from September 14th to 17th as we offer a variety of in-person courses intended to enhance the skills of front-line facility operators, volunteers, and supervisors. Want to learn more about the course offerings? Check out the Course Schedule below!

Course Schedule and Fees

Sun Sept. 13	Mon Sept. 14	Tues Sept. 15	Wed Sept. 16	Thurs Sept. 17
<u>Arena Operator Level #2 Course</u> (limit 20) \$725+taxes				
	<u>Fac Module 2 – HR & Leadership</u> \$225+taxes	<u>Fac Module 1 – Health & Safety</u> \$225+taxes	<u>Fac Module 3 – Asset Mgmt</u> \$225+taxes	<u>Turf Management & Sportfields</u> \$225+taxes
	<u>Building Maintenance Level #1 Course</u> \$375+taxes (limit 20)		<u>Arena Operator Level #1 Course</u> \$375+taxes (limit 20)	
	<u>Tree Pests and Diseases featuring Dutch Elm Disease & Emerald Ash Borer</u> \$425 + taxes (limit 20)		<u>Pruning & Trimming Trees and Shrubs</u> \$225+taxes (limit 20)	<u>Basic Chainsaw Training</u> \$225+taxes (limit 12)
	<u>Saskatchewan Parks Worker Course</u> \$725+taxes (limit 20)			

Networking and Connecting

Monday, September 14 – Meet & Greet BBQ at Art Hauser Centre, times to follow

Wednesday, September 16 – Surprise event – More information to follow

Complimentary Lunches and Refreshment/Snack Breaks

Join us daily for a complimentary lunch and refreshment breaks. Another opportunity to network with your peers and learn from each other!



Registration Deadline

5 pm CST September 8, 2026 unless otherwise noted.

[Register Here](#) - or visit us at www.spra.sk.ca

What are Past Participants Saying?

- "What I liked best about the course was the experience of the facilitator."
- "I liked the engagement, practical examples, alternatives and hands on in the course."
- "The Fall Forum was a great opportunity to network."
- "The facilitator was easy to approach and has great real-life experiences and stories that relate to the subject matter."

Hotel Information

Holiday Inn Express & Suites

Location: 4395 7th Ave E, Prince Albert, SK S6V 7K5

Phone: (306) 970-1397

Website: [Holiday Inn Express & Suites Prince Albert](#)

Email: frontdesk.ypapa@gmail.com

Rate: \$169.00 + taxes

Breakfast: Included

Booking Date: August 20, 2026

Booking Link: [Select your room](#)

Cancellation: **FREE** cancellation up to 24 hours before scheduled check-in time; 1 night charge applied **IF** cancellation less than 24 hours before check-in time.

Best Western Marquis Inn & Suites

Location: 602 Marquis Rd, Prince Albert, SK S6V 7P2

Phone: (306) 922-9595

Website: [Best Western Marquis Inn Prince Albert](#)

Email: marquisinn.reception@sasktel.net

Rate: \$159.00 + taxes

Breakfast: Included

Booking Date: August 13, 2026

Booking Link: [Best Western Marquis Inn & Suites | Rooms & Rates](#)

Cancellation: 72 hours prior to arrival

Want to Learn More?

For more information about the Fall Training Symposium, contact Tim Hanna, SPRA Training Consultant, by phone at (639) 638-4083, or by email at thanna@spra.sk.ca.

Session Descriptions

Arena Operator Level #2 Refrigeration

September 13 - 17, 2026 (8:30 am – 4:30 pm Sunday – Wednesday, AND 8:30am – 2:30pm on Thursday. Provincial Refrigeration Operator Exam starting at 1 pm)

Deadline to register: August 31, 2026, at 5 pm so participants can be registered with TSASK

Note: This course starts on Sunday, September 13 at the Art Hauser Centre.

Presenter: Bill Cote and Austin Gorski

Description: This intensive 4.5-day course will provide participants with an overview of modern industrial refrigeration systems and their safe operation.

Topics include:

- Thermodynamics
- Operation and Maintenance of Refrigeration Plants
- Refrigeration Components
- Equipment and Controls
- Refrigerants and Brines

Prior to taking this challenging course, participants should have a basic understanding of refrigeration systems and some mechanical aptitude. Participants will take the Provincial Refrigeration Operators Exam at the end of the course to become a Licensed Refrigeration Plant Operator in the province.

Facility Management Module 2 – HR & Leadership

September 14, 2026 (8:30 am – 4:30 pm)

Presenter: Wayne Hellquist, Future Quest Consulting

Description: Leadership is an essential ingredient for successful supervisors. Topics covered in this session include the importance of leadership in a dynamic and changing work environment, different types of leadership styles, traits of exceptional leaders, the difference between leadership and management, when to lead and when to follow, personal leadership strengths and weaknesses using Colour Spectrums, and leadership action plans. This session will help participants create and maintain a high-performance recreation team.

Facility Management Module 1 – Health & Safety in Recreation

September 15, 2026 (8:30 am – 4:30 pm)

Presenter: Joel Friesen, Parks and Facilities Foreman, Town of Wynyard

Description: This course will assist supervisors and workers in identifying and controlling workplace Health and Safety (H&S) concerns and hazards. Topics include understanding and meeting provincial legislation; identifying and dealing with hazards faced daily by workers including slip and falls, chemical safety, safe lifting, ladders, sprains, and strains; weather hazards; fatigue and dehydration; confined space awareness training; facility chemical and fossil fuel audits; and incident reporting.

Facility Management Module 3 – Asset Management
September 16, 2026 (8:30 am – 4:30 pm)

Presenters: Dan Gallagher, Recreation Consultant, and Tim Hanna, Training Consultant – SPRA

Description: This course provides an overview of Asset Management and Capital Planning practices for municipal recreation practitioners including supervisors, managers, directors, volunteers, Boards, and Councils. By learning sound management practices, participants will be better able to improve the overall management of fixed recreation assets, lengthen the useful life of the assets, and plan for future upgrades and replacements. Recreation examples and tools will be discussed during the course, including SPRA's own Inventory Register spreadsheet – a tool designed to help recreation professionals begin collecting Asset Management information.

Turf Management & Sportfields
September 17, 2026 (8:30 am – 4:30 pm)

Presenter: Pierre Vezeau, Superintendent Cooke Municipal Golf Course, City of Prince Albert

Description: In this full-day course of professional instruction, participants will discuss topics including turf care, water management, chemicals, mowing, irrigation, aeration, top dressing, soil testing, fertilization, Ph adjustments, integrated pest management (IPM), and safety and playability of sportsfields.

Building Maintenance Level #1
September 14-15, 2026 (8:30 am – 4:30 pm)

Presenter: Craig Geisler

Description: In this course, participants will receive information to help operators and maintenance staff understand the ins and outs of workings within their facilities. Topics covered include facility maintenance best practices, contractor terminology, and preventative maintenance protocols to help improve the useful life of fixed facility assets. With the tools provided, participants will be better able to plan and implement maintenance practices that benefit their departments and their communities.

Arena Operator Level #1 Course
September 16-17, 2026 (8:30 am – 4:30 pm)

Presenter: SPRA

Description: This course provides a detailed account of ice installation and maintenance practices. Several complementary topics are discussed to provide participants with a well-rounded knowledge of arena industry practices. All the aspects discussed are related to the successful and safe operation of an arena facility. Furthermore, this course will be an opportunity to discuss and share best practices for those attending. Participants need to wear appropriate clothing and footwear (cleats are strongly recommended) to spend periods of time on the ice surface.

Pruning & Trimming Trees and Shrubs
September 16, 2026 (8:30 am – 4:30 pm)

Presenter: David Kearns, Kearnsy Consulting and Educational Services

Description: Proper pruning is critical to tree and shrub health and general safety in our green spaces. Improve the health of your trees, enhance crew safety and create consistent

quality control with proper pruning cuts, tool handling, and trimming techniques that protect plant health and reduce long-term maintenance costs. This is a 1-day course that is designed for anyone that maintains public spaces, manages landscapes, or oversees outdoor crews.

Basic Chainsaw Operator
September 17, 2026 (8:30 am – 4:30 pm)

Presenter: Living Tree Environmental Limited

Description: This course provides instruction on basic chainsaw operations including an overview of chainsaw handling skills, maintenance, and safety to help participants become confident in their use of chainsaws. Participants must bring proper Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and their own chainsaw for use in the course. Required PPE includes head to toe coverings, a helmet, chaps, and gloves.

Tree Pests and Diseases
featuring Dutch Elm Disease & Emerald Ash Borer
September 14-15, 2026 (8:30 am – 4:30 pm)

Presenter: David Kearns, Kearnsy Consulting and Educational Services

Description: This two-day course provides a basic level of knowledge about the pests and diseases that affect the trees in our parks and communities. It begins by discussing general concepts around pests and diseases and integrated pest management, and concludes by reviewing many specific pests, diseases and environmental factors that may affect your trees. This course was developed by SPRA with a specific focus on common pests and diseases found in Saskatchewan.

Topics covered include:

- General discussion about tree health and causes for pest and diseases concerns
- Review of a variety of diseases, pests and their control methods with a special focus during this Fall Symposium on Dutch Elm Disease and Emerald Ash Borer!

Saskatchewan Parks Worker Course
September 14-17, 2026 (8:30 am – 4:30 pm)

Presenter: Nathan Croes, Parkland to Prairie Forestry Services

Description: Focused on the horticultural requirements for a successful park system, the Saskatchewan Parks Worker Course provides an overview of a typical parks system and its maintenance practices. This SPRA developed course provides an in-depth review of soil health, plant biology, turf, pest and weed management, equipment maintenance, parks design, public relations and safety. This course is specifically designed for SPRA Members, municipalities in Saskatchewan, and all park operators. If you are involved in the management or hands-on operation of a park or green space, this is the course for you! Successful completion of the course exam provides participants with a Certificate of Completion issued by SPRA. This is a four-day course that includes classroom learning and outdoor tours. Please dress appropriately.

SPRA reserves the right to cancel, add or change courses as required for the benefit of the Forum, SPRA Members and participants



For More Information

Office Hours:

Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
1250 Dewdney Avenue, Regina, SK S4R 8T7

Phone: 1.800.563.2555 | **Web:** www.spra.sk.ca | **Email:** office@spra.sk.ca