



# SPARKS|25

Oct 7-9, 2025 | Conexus Arts Centre, Regina

## Tuesday Oct. 7

TIME	ACTIVITY
10:00 AM - 3:30 PM	<b>Provincial Recreation Practitioner's Innovations Meeting</b> <u>*No cost - separate registration required</u>
3:30 PM - 5:00 PM	<b>Rec Room Happy Hour</b>

## Wednesday Oct. 8

TIME	ACTIVITY
9:00 AM - 9:30 AM	<b>Welcome</b>
9:30 AM - 10:15 AM	<b>Recreation As a Relational Infrastructure: A Movement Rooted in Relationships, Reciprocity, and Responsibility</b>
10:15 AM - 10:30 AM	<b>BREAK</b>
10:30 AM - 12:00 PM	<b>Reimagining Recreation Practices: Shifting From Transactional to Relational Provisions (Workshop)</b>
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM	<b>LUNCH</b>
1:00 PM - 2:15 PM	<b>Concurrent Sessions</b> <div>Creating a Community of Practice around Inclusive Parks and Green Spaces</div> <div>Coming Soon!</div>
2:15 PM - 2:30 PM	<b>BREAK</b>
2:30 PM - 3:45 PM	<b>Concurrent Sessions</b> <div>Responsible AI Playbook</div> <div>Working with Children with Diverse and High Needs</div>



## Wednesday Oct. 8 - Continued

TIME	ACTIVITY
5:00 PM - 10:30 PM	<b>The Ice Breaker</b> *Offsite recreation activity. Transportation provided to and from host hotel

## Thursday Oct. 9

TIME	ACTIVITY
8:00 AM - 9:00 AM	<b>BREAKFAST</b>
9:00 AM - 9:15 AM	<b>Reflections &amp; Recap</b>
9:15 AM - 10:15 AM	<b>Advocating in your Circle of Influence: Panel</b>
10:15 AM - 10:30 AM	<b>BREAK</b>
10:30 AM - 11:45 AM	<b>Concurrent Sessions</b> <div><b>Municipal Guide to Promising and Best Practices for Disability Inclusion in Recreation and Physical Activity</b></div> <div><b>AI Paperwork-Buster for Rec Pros</b></div>
11:45 AM - 1:00 PM	<b>Weaving it all Together: Collective Visioning</b>

## Event Partner



## Host Hotel

**The Atlas**  
4177 Albert St.  
Regina, SK

FUNDED BY



# Igniting Parks and Recreation Providers!



Sparks 25 is your go-to event for networking and inspiring the continuous growth and education of the parks and recreation industry, happening October 7-9, 2025 at the Conexus Arts Centre.

So, whether you are working or volunteering in the parks and recreation industry or are connected to the industry as an ally in health, community development, or tourism, join in the invaluable conversations and learning opportunities centered around creating a better quality of life through parks and recreation!

## Registration

General Admission (Entire Event) - \$185 + taxes

Student Rate (Entire Event) - \$50.00 + taxes

Daily Rate - \$145 + taxes

[Register Here](#)

**Deadline is Sept. 29, 2025**

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## Tuesday, Oct. 7 – Connections & Conversations

### Provincial Recreation Practitioner's Innovations Meeting\*

Oct. 7, 2025

10:00 AM – 3:30 PM

*Facilitated By:* SPRA's Consulting Team

*Description:* This is a **free** opportunity for recreation and parks providers working across the province to connect, discuss issues they are experiencing and share (and celebrate!) innovative solutions to these challenges.

With an agenda that is driven by the topics that matter most to YOU, you'll have a chance to expand your network and take what you learn from your peers back to your communities and organizations. SPRA's experienced Consulting Team will provide opportunities to bridge the gaps between conversation topics as well as provide insights into what is happening across the industry. Common topics discussed in past meetings included staffing, supervision, programming, and aging facilities.

Recreation and parks providers are encouraged to submit topics for discussion in advance, which can include both successes and challenges. Lunch is included. Space is limited and **pre-registration is required.**

[\*\*\\*Click here to reserve your spot\*\*](#)

### Rec Room Happy Hour

Oct. 7, 2025

3:30 PM – 5:00 PM

*Description:* Welcome to the Rec Room! A place for casual conversations and opportunities to connect with your peers and allies in the parks and recreation industry.



## Wednesday, Oct. 8 – Reimagining Recreation

### **Welcome** (Continental Breakfast offered)

Oct. 8, 2025

9:00 AM – 9:30 AM

### **Recreation As a Relational Infrastructure: A Movement Rooted in Relationships, Reciprocity, and Responsibility**

Oct. 8, 2025

9:30 AM – 10:15 AM

*Presenter:* Jackie Oncescu, Leisure Rethink Collective

*Description:* Communities today face a web of complex and interconnected challenges—from climate change and wildfires to homelessness, aging infrastructure, reconciliation, loneliness, artificial intelligence, and deepening social inequalities. In this shifting landscape, the recreation and parks industry is called to chart new and unfamiliar territory to support, protect, and nurture our communities.

Navigating this unknown requires more than just updated policies or programs—it calls for a fundamental shift in how we think, relate, and respond. This means letting go of practices and provisions rooted in rigid, transactional, and efficiency-focused frameworks, and embracing more flexible, relational, and responsive systems. Systems that foster trust, dignity, and belonging, and position recreation as a relational infrastructure—a space for collective care, connection, and resilience.

This keynote invites delegates to consider releasing outdated approaches and assumptions, and instead weave more relational, empathetic, and responsive practices into the fabric of our sector. By strengthening our ability to connect, listen, and act together, we can begin shaping a future grounded in care and possibility—a future that nurtures the good life for all.

### **Break**

Oct. 8, 2025

10:15 AM – 10:30 AM

### **Reimagining Recreation Practices: Shifting From Transactional to Relational Provisions**

Sept. 8, 2025

10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

*Facilitated by:* Rachel Bedingfield, R.E. Bedingfield Consulting Services, Jackie Oncescu, Leisure Rethink Collective

*Description:* This workshop offers a space for dialogue, reflection, and exploration. Building on the keynote's call to reimagine recreation as relational infrastructure, participants will explore the differences between transactional and relational practices, and consider how these approaches shape our relationships with communities, residents, and the sector itself. Through interactive exercises, storytelling, and collaborative discussion, delegates will begin to identify opportunities to shift their practices toward models that connect and promote belonging.

### **Lunch**

Oct. 8, 2025

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM



## Wednesday, Oct. 8 – Reimagining Recreation

### **Concurrent Session #1: Creating a Community of Practice around Inclusive Parks and Green Spaces**

Sept. 8, 2025

1:00 PM – 2:15 PM

*Presenter:* Martin Sampson, [Canadian Parks and Recreation Association](#)

*Description:* Building on the momentum from the first-ever National Inclusive Green Spaces Symposium held earlier this year, we'll continue this meaningful dialogue around creating welcoming, equitable access to parks and green spaces.

Key takeaways and findings from the Symposium will be shared as a foundation for further exploration of strategies and ideas in creating more accessible and inclusive parks and green spaces, locally, provincially, and nationally. Get involved in the community of practice and leave with a shared commitment towards more inclusive, accessible parks and green spaces.

### **Concurrent Session #2: Coming Soon!**

Sept. 8, 2025

1:00 PM – 2:15 PM

*Presenter:*

*Description:* Coming Soon!

### **Break**

Oct. 8, 2025

2:15 PM – 3:30 PM

### **Concurrent Session #1: Responsible AI Playbook**

Sept. 8, 2025

2:30 PM – 3:45 PM

*Presenter:* Toby Nwabuogor, Founder of [CivicPlay.ai](#)

*Description:* As AI tools become more prevalent, understanding their ethical implications is crucial. This workshop offers a practical "Responsible AI Playbook" covering quick-win opportunities versus potential risks. Learn how to leverage AI's benefits while ensuring data security and ethical usage.

### **Concurrent Session #2: Working with Children with Diverse and High Needs**

Sept. 8, 2025

2:30 PM – 3:45 PM

*Presenter:*

*Description:* Coming Soon!



## Wednesday, Oct. 8 – The Ice Breaker

### **The Ice Breaker\***

Sept. 8, 2025

5:00 PM – 10:30 PM

*Description:* Get ready for an evening of connection, laughter, and a little friendly competition! On Wednesday night, SARP—partnering with the talented students of the SaskPolytechnic Recreation & Tourism Management program—will host a networking event like no other. You'll team up with old friends and new faces for an activity that's guaranteed to break the ice—literally. Expect food, drinks, and a good time! Come experience the fresh ideas of the next generation of recreation professionals and show your support for their hard work—you won't want to miss it!

\*Offsite event. Transportation provided to and from The Atlas Hotel.

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## Thursday, Oct. 9 – Igniting the Spark!

### **Breakfast**

Oct. 9, 2025

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

### **Reflections & Recap**

Oct. 9, 2025

9:00 AM – 9:15 AM

### **Advocating in your Circle of Influence: Panel**

Oct. 9, 2025

9:15 AM – 10:15 AM

*Panelists representing:* SUMA, CPRA, SPRA

*Description:* As a voice and advocate for the parks and recreation industry, our collective voice is stronger when we work together! This panel discussion will highlight key advocacy priorities for the industry, from national, provincial and local perspectives and offer insight on messaging and tactics to position parks and recreation as a solution and cornerstone of quality of life.

The dialogue will:

- Inspire you to explore opportunities within your circles of influence to talk about the impact of parks and recreation
- Improve your understanding of the role you play in our collective work in building relationships with government, partners and other allies, who mutually care about quality of life through parks and recreation

### **Break**

Oct. 9, 2025

10:15 AM – 10:30 AM



## Thursday, Oct. 9 – Igniting the Spark!

### **Concurrent Session #1: Municipal Guide to Promising and Best Practices for Disability Inclusion in Recreation and Physical Activity**

Sept. 9, 2025

10:30 AM – 11:45 AM

*Presenter:* Taryn Barry, [Active Living Alliance for Canadians with a Disability \(ALACD\)](#)

*Description:* People living with disabilities are less likely to meet physical activity guidelines than people without disabilities. Designed in partnership with the Active Living Alliance for Canadians with a Disability and the Canadian Disability Participation Project, the Municipal Guide is a how-to resource for staff at all levels of municipal parks and recreation departments to support participatory experiences for people living with disabilities.

Gain an introduction to the Guide and participate in thoughtful group discussion on what challenges you have encountered in disability inclusion at the municipal level and the ways in which the Guide can support you in creating systemic change.

### **Concurrent Session #2: AI Paperwork-Buster for Rec Pros**

Sept. 9, 2025

10:30 AM – 11:45 AM

*Presenter:* Toby Nwabuogor, Founder of [CivicPlay.ai](#)

*Description:* Tired of paperwork eating into your valuable time? This session will demonstrate several ways AI can significantly reduce the hours spent on essential tasks related to data, marketing, and communications. You will leave with a powerful, reusable prompt bank and insights into how AI can streamline your administrative workload.

### **Weaving it All Together: Collective Visioning**

Sept. 9, 2025

11:45 AM – 1:00 PM

*Led by:* Rachel Bedingfield, R.E. Bedingfield Consulting Services, Jackie Oncescu, Leisure Rethink Collective

*Description:* This closing session will bring together insights from the keynote, workshops, and other sessions to help delegates synthesize what they've learned and begin envisioning how these ideas can take root in their communities and shape the Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association (SPRA). Through facilitated dialogue, storytelling, and collective reflection, we'll explore:

- What practices are we ready to release—and which ones are we ready to embrace?
- What conditions are required for the sector to embrace new practices?
- How can we continue building momentum for relational, responsive, and community-led recreation?

