



Saskatchewan
Parks and Recreation
Association

Event Brochure

2025 SPRING TRAINING SYMPOSIUM

20 Years of Training Excellence

PRESENTED BY



FUNDED BY



2025 Symposium Training at a Glance

Sun April 27	Mon April 28	Tues April 29	Wed April 30	Thurs May 1
	Saskatchewan Parks Worker Course (limit 20) \$875+GST			
	Sports Fields Training Session & Field Day (limit 40) \$175 + GST	Ball Diamond & Sportsfield Maintenance (limit 20) \$175 + GST	Level 1 Introductory Turf Management (limit 20) \$775+GST	
	Tree Pruning (limit 20) \$775 + GST		Tree Pests & Diseases (limit 20) \$475 + GST	
	Canadian Playground Safety Institute Theory Course (limit 20) \$550 + CSA Manual \$125		Canadian Playground Safety Institute Practical Course (limit 20) \$675	
	Lifesaving Society's Aquatic Manager Course (limit 20) \$175 + GST			
	Arena Operator Level #1 Course (limit 20) \$375 + GST		Building Maintenance Level #2 Course (limit 20) \$375 + GST	
	Recreation Practitioner's Innovation Meeting 2.0 (no limit) No Cost	Community Authenticity Do You Know Where to Find Yours? (limit 20) \$50 + GST	Moving From Customer Service to Relationship Building=Enjoying Your Work teams (limit 20) \$50 + GST	Adapting to Extreme Weather Events \$25 + GST Keeping Rec Facilities Standing \$25 + GST
Arena Operator Level #2 (limit 20) \$725+GST DEADLINE: APRIL 17 @ NOON				

Register online at www.spra.sk.ca/symposium.

Deadline to register is noon on April 21, 2025.

SPRA reserves the right to cancel, add or change courses.



Networking and Connecting

Monday, April 28 – Meet & Greet Pizza Night sponsored by 1 Stop Playgrounds.

Monday to Thursday – Group lunch is included in the registration fee.

Here are a few things our registrants' attendees had to say about the 2024 Symposium:

- *"I liked the informative instructors, fun atmosphere, and great courses."*
- *"For a first-time attendee, very impressed."*
- *"Group luncheons were great addition to network."*

Accommodations

Canalta Hotel

Location: 2421 8th Ave

Phone: 1-888-831-1331

Website: www.canaltahotels.com

Email: canaltahumboldt@canalta.com

Rate: \$148.00 per night + taxes

Reference: SPRA2025

Book by April 15 for discounted rates

Bella Vista Inn – Main Host Hotel

Location: 1815 8th Ave

Phone: 1-800-667-0790 or 1-306-682-2686

Website: www.bellavistainn.ca

Email: info@bellavistainn.ca

Rate: \$119.95 per night + taxes

Reference: SPRA2025

Book by April 15 for discounted rates

When booking rooms please quote, "Block of rooms for SPRA 2025 Symposium April 28 - May 1".

Session Descriptions

Saskatchewan Parks Worker Course (Certification)

April 28 - May 1, 2025 (8:30 am – 4:30 pm)

Presenter: Patricia Hanbidge with Orchid Horticulture

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 relation 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.**

Arena Operator Level #2 Refrigeration Course

April 27 - May 1, 2025 (8:30 am – 4:30 pm Sunday – Wednesday, AND 8:30 – 2:30 on Thursday with the Provincial Refrigeration Operator Exam starting at 1 pm)

Deadline to register: April 17, 2025, at NOON

Note: This course starts on Sunday, April 27 at the Bella Vista Inn.

Presenter: Bill Cote

Description: This intensive five-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 write the Provincial Refrigeration Operators Exam at the end of the course to become a Licensed Refrigeration Operator in the province.

Sports Field Training Session & Field Day

April 28, 2025 (8:30 am – 4:30 pm)

Presenter: Sports Turf Canada

Description: Get ready for a full day of applied learning and connecting with others in sports field maintenance. The day begins with indoor presentations with from experts sharing their expertise followed by outdoor demonstrations and exhibitions. Attendees will learn about sports field challenges, transformations, successes, and best practices. Participants will have the opportunity to see and test out sports turf management supplies, tools and equipment up close.

Topics include:

- Athletic Field Construction
- Sports Field Renovations & Restorations
- Seed Options for Optimization and Drought Tolerance
- Drought Management Strategies
- Ball Diamond Maintenance Effectiveness
- Sports Field Maintenance Practices
- Supplies, Products, Tools and Equipment Introduction

Ball Diamond & Sports Field Maintenance

April 29, 2025 (8:30 am – 4:30 pm)

Presenter: Barry Ault, Sports Field Consultant

Description: This course provides professional instruction on proper sports field maintenance. The morning will consist of discussing several aspects of ball diamond and sports field maintenance like: infield grooming techniques, clay repairs, edging, field lining, turf management, and safety. Best practices are the focus of the day's conversation and input from participants is encouraged. The afternoon will feature practical demonstrations on how to maintain these facilities. Participants need to wear appropriate outdoor clothing and footwear in the afternoon.

Level 1 Introductory Turf Management

April 30 – May 1 (8:30 am – 4:30 pm)

Presenter: Dennis McKernan with LifeWorks Design & Consulting Ltd.

Description: This introductory class will examine the grasses commonly used to establish turfgrass in golf courses, parks and landscapes; this includes annual and Kentucky bluegrasses, creeping bentgrass, the fine fescues and perennial ryegrass; we will also look at cultivars of each type. The class also looks at a variety of grass species used for low maintenance areas, such as the fescues, crested wheatgrass, Canada bluegrass, bromegrass and native grass species.

The class looks at specific establishment techniques of seeding (small scale, large scale, hydroseeding) as well as sodding (rectangles vs rolls). The class will also briefly introduce students to routine



maintenance practices, such as mowing, fertilizing and irrigating turfgrass. This class will also look at different preparation techniques for establishing turfgrass by both seed and sodding. A section on soil management will focus on soil amending prior to establishing turf, and determining which amendments are best suited for addition. The class looks at specific establishment techniques of seeding (small scale, large scale, hydroseeding).

Tree Pruning (Certification)

April 28 - 29, 2025 (8:30 am – 4:30 pm)

Presenter: Nathan Croes, Instructor, Saskatchewan Polytechnic and Carlton Trail College

Description: In this 2-day course, you will gain skills and knowledge needed to understand how pruning affects the development and survival of trees, and learn how pruning is used for disease prevention.

This course meets the requirements for elm tree pruners in Saskatchewan under Dutch Elm Disease regulations. It consists of classroom instruction and practical application of the principles of tree pruning. You will practice pruning under an instructor's guidance. Homeowners, landscapers, and tree pruners (commercial and municipal) will benefit from this course. Students are required to dress for the weather and bring the following items:

- Handheld pruning shears
- Gloves
- Safety glasses
- Safety footwear (optional)
- Small pruning saw (optional)
- Safety vest (optional)

Tree Pests and Diseases

April 30 – May 1, 2025 (8:30 am – 4:30 pm)

Presenter: Heather Richardson with Orchid Horticulture

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
- Integrated Pest Management
- A review of Diseases and their control methods including but not limited to Fireblight, Dutch Elm Disease, Cankers and Black Knot
- A review of pests and their control methods included but not limited to the Bronze Birch Borer, Cottony Ash Psyllid, Emerald Ash Borer, Spruce Budworm and Tent Caterpillars

- A review and discussion of other problems such as Burls, Salt Stress, Physical Damage from Mowers and Trimmers, Herbicide Damage and more.

Canadian Playground Safety Institute – Theory Course

April 28 - 29, 2025 (8:30 am – 4:30 pm)

Presenter: Canadian Playground Safety Institute

Description: The courses and exam are based on the "Children's playground equipment and surfacing" standard, CSA Z614:20. Each participant should have a copy of CSA Z614:20. A hard copy of the standard will be automatically added when adding a Certification Part I (Theory) Course and will be mailed to you after purchasing the course.

If you already have a copy of the standard or would like to purchase a pdf copy, you can opt out by decreasing the quantity of the CSA standard as required.

The purpose of this course is to learn and understand the technical requirements contained within the CSA Standards Document.

This course will help you:

- Understand the CAN/CSA Z614 Standards
- Identify hazards and equipment not in compliance with CSA Standards
- Understand inspection requirements
- Process and manage risk and reduce liability

To attend, register directly with the Canadian Playground Safety Institute at:

<https://cpsionline.ca/resources/courses/>

Download the registration form here: https://cpsionline.ca/wp-content/uploads/Humboldt_Apr_2024_CPSI_Reg_Form.pdf

Canadian Playground Safety Institute – Practical Course

April 30 – May 1, 2025 (8:30 am – 4:30 pm)

Presenter: Canadian Playground Safety Institute

Description: The courses and exam are based on the "Children's playground equipment and surfacing" standard, CSA Z614:20. Each participant should have a copy of CSA Z614:20. A hard copy of the standard will be automatically added when adding a Certification Part I (Theory) Course and will be mailed to you after purchasing the course.

If you already have a copy of the standard or would like to purchase a pdf copy, you can opt out by decreasing the quantity of the CSA standard as required. The PDF version of CSA Z614:20 can be purchased through them.

The purpose of this course is to learn and understand the technical requirements contained within the CSA Standards Document. This course will help you understand the CAN/CSA Z614 Standards, identify hazards and equipment not in compliance with CSA Standards, understand inspection requirements and process, and manage risk and reduce liability.

To attend, register directly with the Canadian Playground Safety Institute at:
<https://cpsionline.ca/resources/courses/>

Download the registration form here: [https://cpsionline.ca/wp-content/uploads/Humboldt Apr 2024 CPSI Req Form.pdf](https://cpsionline.ca/wp-content/uploads/Humboldt_Apr_2024_CPSI_Req_Form.pdf)

Lifesaving Society's Aquatic Manager Course

April 28 - 29, 2025 (8:30 am – 4:30 pm)

Presenter: Shelby Rushton, CEO Lifesaving Society, Saskatchewan Branch and Lauren Haubrich, Recreation Coordinator for Aquatics, City of Prince Albert

Description: Aquatic Manager Certification is the Lifesaving Society's professional designation for managers who, regardless of their aquatic background, are responsible for oversight of aquatic programs and services. This course equips participants with the knowledge, principles and skills required to confidently direct excellent program delivery, responsive customer service, and attentive compliance with health and safety standards in the aquatic environment. **Candidates must bring a copy of the Saskatchewan Swimming Pool Regulations and the Design and Operational Guidelines, OR they can bring their laptops, and they can have it on there.**

Arena Operator Level #1 – Ice Maintenance Course

April 28 - 29, 2025 (8:30 am – 4:30 pm)

Presenter: Canadian Arena Services

Description: This course provides a detailed account of ice installation and maintenance practices. The practical work of this course will focus on ice maintenance. Emphasis is on the safe operation of ice resurfer, edger, ice thickness, ice leveling, etc. Ice installation will be discussed more in the classroom portion of the course. 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.**

Building Maintenance Level #2

April 30 – May 1, 2025 (8:30 am – 4:30 pm)

Presenter: Kameron Kiland

Description: This course provides a detailed account of facility maintenance practices and practical advice. This course is designed to help operators and maintenance staff understand the workings of components within their facilities and know the terminology to deal with contractors. From there, the operators and maintenance staff can develop sound maintenance practices to improve the operation and useful life of the fixed assets in their facility. Proper planning and the implementation of preventative maintenance practices benefits your department and community.

Recreation Practitioner's Innovations Meeting 2.0

April 28, 2025 (9:30 am – 3:30 pm)

Presenter: Dan Gallagher, SPRA Field Consultant

Description: Building on the success of the first Recreation Practitioners Innovations Meeting at pre-SPARKS 2024, we are doing another one! This is a unique opportunity for Recreation Practitioners to gather with others from across the province to discuss challenges and issues they are experiencing, and to share innovative solutions. The event will expand participant networks and encourage peer-to-peer learning. Recreation Practitioners will gain knowledge and tools so they can further support and enhance parks and recreation services in their communities and organizations.

Community Authenticity – Do You Know Where to Find Yours?

April 29, 2025 (8:30 am – 4:30 pm)

Presenter: Tara-Leigh Heslip, Outreach Consultant, SaskCulture

Description: This session is designed to help communities recognize and capitalize on their unique and authentic culture. Cultural planning has been a process introduced many years ago that helps direct the compilation of cultural inventory and mapping which can be used to foster community identity and pride. Furthermore, culture can be closely linked to community development, economic development and tourism. What stories does your community have that are being lost?

Let's have a conversation on how your community can proactively and successfully capture these gold nuggets. Join SaskCulture and community representatives as we mine for these gems.

Moving from Customer Service to Relationship Building = Enjoying your Work

April 30, 2025 (8:30 am – 4:30 pm)

Presenter: Darcy McLeod, President, SPRA and former Director of Recreation and Community Services, City of Yorkton

Panelists: Communities will be invited to participate and share their ideas

Description: A culture of customer service excellence used to be the gold standard in the Parks and Recreation industry when dealing with customers and user groups. In today's environment, a higher standard is required – relationship building.

Relationship building is based on good two-way communication, trust and being transparent. This will result in a good relationship, with a strong foundation to good customer service partnership. Building strong bonds with customers and user groups will bring the fun back to the essential programs and services we provide. Come and hear from others and share your own thoughts on how to make this movement from customer service to relationship building to bringing back the fun in what we do.

Adapting to Extreme Weather

May 1, 2025 (8:30 am – 4:30 pm)

Presenter: Dr. Amber Fletcher, Ph.D. & Abraham Bugre, Ph.D. Student, University of Regina

Description: Building upon the research being done with the University of Regina and SPRA, this session explores how increasing extreme weather events, such as heatwaves, flooding and wildfire, affect parks and recreation spaces.

The session is divided into two parts. First, participants learn about new research findings on the challenges posed by these events, including infrastructure damage, ecosystem shifts, and safety concerns in Saskatchewan. Participants will also engage in an interactive game designed to identify practical strategies for adapting to these changes, promoting resilience, safeguarding community spaces, and stand the chance to win gift cards. The second part will be a focus group discussion where participants can share their thoughts on how to make parks and recreation spaces more resilient. Join us for an informative and fun approach to preparing for a rapidly evolving climate.

Keeping Rec Facilities Standing

May 1, 2025 (8:30 am – 4:30 pm)

Presenter: Lee Weisgerber, Manager, Special Projects, PCL Construction Management Inc.

Description: Recreation facilities in SK are aging to the point that they are close to their end-of-life. This session will focus on understanding how to assess your building's condition, and what can be done to keep your facility operational. Closing a recreation facility is never an easy decision and is politically unpopular. Find out more about how to keep recreation facilities standing by attending this course.

Contact Us

Office Hours:

Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

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