



2025 LRPA Conference Agenda

November 17-21, 2025
Hilton Capitol Center, Baton Rouge, LA



Monday, November 17

9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	Conference Registration - Hilton B.R. Capitol Center
9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.	Exhibitor set-up – Hilton B.R. Capitol Center
12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Check-in for Maintenance Rodeo & Beautification Project – BREC Memorial Sports Complex
1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Maintenance Rodeo & Beautification Project at a BREC Memorial Sports Complex
4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Awards, Prizes, and Networking

Tuesday, November 18

7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.	Conference registration - Hilton Baton Rouge Capitol Center	
7:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.	Exhibitor setup – Hilton Baton Rouge Capitol Center	
8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.	Building & Maintaining Natural Grass Fields Nick Simoneaux, President of La. Turfgrass Assoc. <i>Governor Room</i>	Letting Go of the Box: Rethinking the Programming Paradigm Thomas White, MPA, Deputy Admin. of Recreation Henry County Parks & Recreation <i>Capitol Room</i>
9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	Meet with Exhibitors	
10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Turfgrass Irrigation & Water Resource Management Stacia L. Davis Conger, Ph.D. E.I.T., Associate Professor, LSU Ag Center <i>Governor Room</i>	Parks to Prosperity: Balancing Local Recreation, Sports Tourism, and the Business of Youth Sports Ryan Barker, Executive Director Hammond Area Recreation District #1 <i>Capitol Room</i>
11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	LUNCH with EXHIBITORS	
1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.	Managing Natural Resources for the Public in SELA Sharon King, Asst. Director; Cade Storzyszyn, Trails Foreman; Lydia Russell, Natural Resource Mgr. BREC <i>Governor Room</i>	Modern Marketing Essentials for Engaging Residents in Recreational Programs Jared Moore, Owner, Athletify <i>Capitol Room</i>
2:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Meet with Exhibitors	
2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.	Fire Safety & Heat Hazards on your Playgrounds <i>Governor Room</i>	Park Management & Standard Operations of a Mega Park Jamison Abshire, Parks & Rec. Director, Broussard, La. <i>Capitol Room</i>
3:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Meet with Exhibitors	
4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Roundtable: What is LRPA working on for 2026? Letisha “Tisha” Smith, LRPA President; Amie Hebert, LRPA Past President; Katrina Ward, LRPA President-Elect; Andrea Roberts, LRPA Legislative Chair <i>Riverview A</i>	
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.	Baton Rouge Welcome Social – Located at Red Stick Social (includes bowling, food, and beverages) <i>*St. Pierre the Pelican will be attending!</i>	

Wednesday, November 19		
7:30 a.m. - 11:30 p.m.	Conference Registration	
7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Exhibit Hall Open	
7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.	Meet with Exhibitors	
8:30 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.	WELCOME – Honorable Sid Edwards, Mayor, Baton Rouge, LA	
8:45 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	OPENING GENERAL SESSION Introduction: Kristine Stratton, NRPA President/CEO Keynote Speaker: John David – ETA Sports President Parks, Recreation, & Sports Tourism: Uniting for a Healthier, More Equitable, & Prosperous Future <i>Riverview A</i>	
10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	Meet with Exhibitors	
10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	What NRPA Can Do for Your Department and YOU! Kristine Stratton, NRPA President/CEO <i>Riverview A</i>	
11:30 a.m. - 11:45 p.m.	LRPA BUSINESS MEETING	
11:45 a.m. - 1: 00 p.m.	LUNCH with EXHIBITORS	
1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.	Trends in Playspace Design Trevor Howard, Regional Sales Manager, Landscape Structures (LSI) <i>Governor Room</i>	Servant Leadership Principles for Your Organization Honorable Wade Evans, Mayor, City of Central <i>Capitol Room</i>
2:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.	BREAK - Meet with Exhibitors	
2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.	Cut Costs & Gain Control w/ Smart Technology Dave Ramirex, CPRP, CYSA; National Parks & Rec. Specialist Outdoorlink, Inc. <i>Governor Room</i>	Parks With Purpose: Elevating Public Trust Through Engagement Alissa Cavaretta, Director of Digital Marketing & Strategic Communications LSU Tiger Athletic Foundation <i>Capitol Room</i>
3:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.	BREAK - Meet with Exhibitors	
4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	“Meets Expectations” Standing out & Showcasing Your Impact in Performance Reviews Katrina Ward, CPRP, Asst. Superintendent of Recreation Facilities & Programs, BREC <i>Governor Room</i>	Transformational Leadership 101: You Are the Transformation Thomas White, MPA, Deputy Admin. of Recreation Henry County Parks & Recreation <i>Capitol Room</i>
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.	“80th Anniversary Celebration” Expo Reception and Silent Auction at the Old Governor’s Mansion ***Entertainment: DJ Bob will be spinning some tunes. Come dressed in 80’s attire (OPTIONAL) so you can take pictures in our photo booth!	

Thursday, November 20		
7:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Exhibit Hall Open	
8:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.	Meet with Exhibitors	
8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.	Leadership Roundtable Discussion Kristine Stratton, NRPA President/CEO <i>Riverview A</i>	
9:30 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.	Meet with Exhibitors	
9:45 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.	Federal Funding for Local Parks, You Still Have Options Kyle Simpson, Director of Government Affairs and Advocacy, NRPA <i>Governor Room</i>	You Don't Say: Becoming a Pro at Body Language Skills Karen White, Attorney, Karen White Consulting, LLC <i>Capitol Room</i>
11:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.	LAST CHANCE to Meet with Exhibitors/District Meetings	
11:45 a.m. – 1:15 p.m.	LUNCH LOTTERY! LINK UP WITH A NEW WORK FRIEND FOR LUNCH	
1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Conquering the NRPA CPRP Exam: Why & What to Know? Ashlei Morrison, BA, MA, CPRP Director of Arts, Parks, & Recreation Plaquemines Parish Government <i>Governor Room</i>	How Louisiana Agencies Can Access MLS Support and Funding Kyle Albrecht, VP of MLS GO & GM of MLS NEXT Gloria Castaneda, Manager, Youth and Grassroots Programs, MLS <i>Capitol Room</i>
2:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.	BREAK	
2:45 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.	Fortifying Real Growth in Rural Recreation Ashlei Morrison, BA, MA, CPRP Director of Arts, Parks, & Recreation Plaquemines Parish Government <i>Governor Room</i>	Mastering the Art of Persuasion From Team Huddle to Town Hall James Moore, Owner, Athletify <i>Capitol Room</i>
3:45 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	BREAK	
4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Imagine Your Parks 3 – BREC's 10-Year Master Plan Parks with Purpose Brett Wallace, PLA, PMP Assistant Director of Planning & Development, BREC <i>Capitol Room</i>	
6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.	Banquet Cocktail Reception – Baton Rouge Hilton	
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	Banquet - Located at the Baton Rouge Hilton Capitol Center **Special guest speaker LT. Governor Billy Nungesser and other special guests. Awards, Installation of Officers, Hall of Fame Inductees, and Recognition of Past Presidents.	
Friday, November 21		
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	LRPA Board Meeting – Greater Baton Rouge Economic Partnership – 564 Laurel Street – Wampold Board Room	
SINCE  1945 LRPA Louisiana Recreation and Park Association		