



ABOUT THE 2018 NRPA ANNUAL CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS FOR MEDIA

**Indiana Convention Center
Indianapolis
September 25-27, 2018**

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) Annual Conference is where more than 8,000 park and recreation professionals come each year to advance the field of community parks and recreation.

This conference is the nation's premier gathering for the field of parks and recreation, providing world-class networking combined with cutting-edge education and research sessions, inspirational speakers and experts, and the largest trade exposition in the field.

The **Top 5** reasons to attend NRPA's Annual Conference this year:

1. Opening General Session featuring author, Peter Kageyama and NRPA leadership, as well as General Session keynote SaulPaul
2. More than 200 education sessions featuring top experts in the field
3. Health and Wellness Learning Lab and Learning Playground
4. More than 400 exhibitors in the exhibit hall
5. New Innovation Awards

To see the conference schedule, visit:

<https://www.nrpa.org/conference/about/schedule-at-a-glance/>

2018 Highlights

Opening General Session

Location: JW Marriott, Grand Ballroom

Tuesday, Sept. 25

9:00 – 10:30 a.m.



This year's Opening General Session will feature Peter Kageyama, author of *For the Love of Cities: The Love Affair Between People and Their Places* (recognized by Planetizen in 2012 as a Top 10 Book in urban planning, design and development) and *Love Where You Live: Creating Emotionally Engaging Places*.

The Opening General Session will also feature speeches from NRPA's President and CEO Barbara Tulipane and other leadership. Plus, new Innovation Awards and the 2018 Gold Medal Award ceremony.

General Session

Location: JW Marriott, Grand Ballroom

Wednesday, Sept. 26

9:00 – 10:00 a.m.



The Wednesday General Session will feature keynote speaker SaulPaul, award winning recording artist whose album *Dream in 3D* was considered for a Grammy Award. SaulPaul has shared his story and his music at two TEDx Talks, Google HQ, the last 5 Super Bowls and the Kennedy Center for Performing Arts. In addition, he is the founder of ReRoute Outreach, a non-profit organization which helps at-risk and under privileged youth discover and develop their artistic and entrepreneurial skill sets.

Education Sessions

This year there are more than 200 education and learning opportunities through 12 educational tracks specifically tailored to parks and recreation. Some of this year's top presenters and session titles include:

- James Brainard, Mayor, City of Carmel and Pete Buttigieg, Mayor, City of South Bend - Exploring the Role of Parks and Recreation from a Mayor's Perspective

- Deborah Cohen, Senior Scientist, RAND Corporation - The National Study of Neighborhood Parks: Infrastructure and Programming Impacts on Park Use and Perceptions
- Carol Coletta, Senior Fellow, Kresge Foundation American Cities Practice and NRPA Board of Director - Advocacy by Design: Innovations in Parks and Public Places for Building Diverse Constituencies
- James Firman, President & CEO, National Council on Aging - Aging Mastery Program®: Engaging Older Adults in Your Community
- Linda Henderson-Smith Ph.D., LPC, Director of Children and Trauma Informed Services, National Council for Behavioral Health - Empowering Youth Impacted by the Opioid Crisis: Providing a Safe, Supportive Environment at Your Rec Centers
- Keith Laughlin, President, Rails-to-Trails Conservancy - The Age of Connectivity: Putting Trails and Parks at the Center of Our Communities
- Timothy O'Connell, Vice President of Ballpark Operations, Cincinnati Reds - Leading from the Middle
- Claudio H. Ternieden, Senior Director, Government Affairs and Strategic Partnerships, Water Environment Federation - Support your Stormwater Management Goals with the National Green Infrastructure Certification
- Marjorie Thomas, Chief of Interpretation, National Park Service Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park - The '3 Ps' and the Three Pillars: National Parks Addressing Social Equity, Conservation and Health & Wellness in Urban Communities
- Jason Urroz, Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation, Kids in Parks - Designing Self-Guided Trail Adventures That Get Kids in Parks

For a complete list of education sessions, [click here](#).

The Exhibit Hall

Location: Indiana Convention Center

Exhibit Hall Hours:

Tuesday, Sept. 25: 10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday, Sept. 26: 10:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The largest trade show in the industry, the exhibit hall will feature **more than 400 exhibitors** showcasing the latest products and services relating to parks and recreation. Education sessions also will be offered in the exhibit hall, including the **Learning Playground** and **Glass Room Sessions** where directors and executive-level professionals will focus on trending issues and challenges. In addition, the **Learning Lab** will feature health and wellness demonstrations covering new trends, free nutrition education tools and creative physical activities.

For more about exhibit hall highlights, [click here](#).

For detailed exhibitor information and floor plans: [click here](#)

Online Information

- For detailed information on the 2018 NRPA Annual Conference and registration, visit: <https://www.nrpa.org/conference/>. You also can download the NRPA Events mobile conference app, which will allow you to access speaker bios, event details and the most up-to-date schedule. An exhibitor list with locations is available, as well. To download the app, visit: <https://www.nrpa.org/conference/about/mobile-app/>.
- Join the conversation about the NRPA Annual Conference on Twitter (@NRPA_News) and Instagram (@NRPA) by using #NRPAConference.

***Media/Press Information:** *Most events take place at Indiana Convention Center (100 S Capitol Ave, Indianapolis, IN 46225) or at the JW Marriott (10 S West St, Indianapolis, IN 46204). Press with valid credentials may receive a press pass to attend the NRPA Annual Conference prior to the start of the conference – contact Suzanne Nathan (snathan@nrpa.org). During the NRPA Annual Conference, all media representatives should check in at the Press area designated at the main registration desk to receive press badges and press materials. All credentialed media can register for the NRPA Annual Conference onsite as well. During the conference, inquiries (including requests to speak with NRPA leadership) should be directed to Suzanne Nathan at 703.728.4597 or snathan@nrpa.org.*

About the National Recreation and Park Association

The National Recreation and Park Association is a national not-for-profit organization dedicated to ensuring that all Americans have access to parks and recreation for health, conservation and social equity. Through its network of 60,000 recreation and park professionals and advocates, NRPA encourages the promotion of healthy and active lifestyles, conservation initiatives and equitable access to parks and public space. For more information, visit www.nrpa.org. For digital access to NRPA's flagship publication, *Parks & Recreation*, visit www.parksandrecreation.org.