



Why YOU Should Attend Parks School 2019

April 1 - 4, 2019 | Olds College

What is Parks School?

Inspired by the incredible diversity of parks, landscapes and open spaces in this country, Alberta Recreation and Parks Association (ARPA) created the Parks School to gather key partners, educators, students, thinkers, and decision makers to develop ideas and forge connections. This inaugural event is focused on providing professional development and training on the operations side of parks. It will provide opportunity to keep parks practitioners and professionals current with new trends and industry issues, to connect them with other professionals, and local industry leaders.

The school is split up into two days to maximize the targeted learning for those working in parks and grounds maintenance, and for horticulture practitioners and professionals.

Who will be in Attendance

The Parks School will provide training for parks and grounds professionals from across Alberta. The target audience for the School include:

- Parks Managers & Coordinators
- Park Designers
- Park Planners
- Landscape Architects and Technicians
- Private Landscapers and Constructors
- Arborists
- Playground Maintenance Staff
- Horticulturists
- Gardeners
- Groundskeepers
- Trail & Habitat Trades staff
- Turf Specialists
- Equipment Operators
- Trades Foremen
- Cemetery Attendants

About the Alberta Recreation & Parks Association

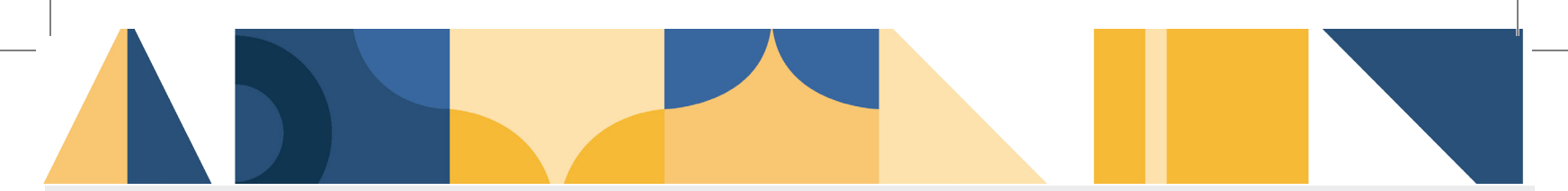
The Alberta Recreation and Parks Association is a not-for-profit organization committed to building healthier and happier communities and citizens by developing and promoting recreation and parks. ARPA has successfully facilitated seven previous Parks Forums, demonstrating their proactive leadership in the field of parks, open spaces and outdoor recreation.



PARTNERS

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Ten Reasons Why YOU Should Attend Parks School

1. Educational Opportunities

At Parks School 2019, there will be ample opportunities to take part in sessions that pertain to your field of work. This gives you a chance to expand your knowledge and take part in educational opportunities you may not otherwise be presented any other way.

2. Networking with Peers in the Field

Networking is one of the most important aspects to this field of work! You will be able to chat and meet others whom you may have only communicated with through email or teleconference. There is lots of time during coffee breaks and meals to sit down and talk about what's going on in your field and how to make it better wherever you are by applying and sharing these ideas!

3. Meet with Experts in the Field

There is a reason we hand picked these trainers/presenters for the first official Park School 2019 – because they know what's up! You can network and connect with these experts before and after their presentation with time to approach them during the breaks as well. Park School is a great place where there is a diverse number of professionals in the field that you can interact with and get tips on how to improve your job, trainings you can take, and more! Who knows, you could meet your future employer for a job promotion!

4. Unique Once-A-Year Opportunity

Not only is this the FIRST official Park School, but depending on its success it only happens once a year! There is nothing like this in this field of work so it's important you come down and take in all you can experience!

5. Learn in a New Space

Sometimes it gets boring being in the same space that it can be difficult to learn or be excited about your learning! New spaces create new excitement and motivation that makes your mind more receptive and ready to learn.

6. Stay on Top of Trends

Parks School is designed with certifications and continuing learning credits in mind to bring you the most up to date trends in the parks sector. It's important to attend these forums annually as it's essential to know what's up in a field that changes quickly from year to year! Learn from the best and stay on top of trends in the parks sector.

7. Meet & Give Feedback to Sponsors

We have an abundant array of sponsors who are helping make this event happen, and they are there to show you what they offer and also give feedback on what they offer (based on your on the job direct field experience) as well as potential suggestions for future endeavors they might encounter!

8. Improve Productivity & Excitement

It's true that when you are continually improving, your productivity and excitement go up immensely! – There's something about being in a room with like-minded individuals that you can talk to about happenings in your area, and bounce ideas off of. This creates excitement and improves your productivity as you go back to your area post-conference and share some of these ideas not only that you learned through.

9. Expand on your Knowledge & Skills

The most important thing in any job is continuous learning and development. Going to Park School provides a unique opportunity with an array of different trainings and sessions meant to expand and broaden your knowledge and skills in regards to your field of work. Expand your knowledge and skills to bring back and show/teach others in your area!

10. Have Fun!

You've never been to a real conference until you've been to an ARPA conference! We love to have fun through engaging and informative seminars that further your skill set in this field of work.

How to Convince Your Boss?

Here is a list of ideas you can present to your boss so they can be aware of how valuable attending Parks School could be for you and your organization.

1. Review the Educational Sessions

Take a look at the program for Parks School in advance and write down the sessions you are interested in, as well as a point form description on what will be covered (according to the session descriptions). Note the continuing education credits/units that you can earn attending those sessions.

2. Plan

Next, write down how these sessions will help to support your goals in further learning and continuous improvement with regards to how it will ultimately benefit your organization in the long run. List speakers you plan to engage with, sponsors you would like to approach and talk to. Then identify potential business opportunities that could develop from building and growing these connections.

3. Share Your Experience

Ultimately, you want to not only grow yourself as a worker for your organization, but it is important to note in your proposal to your boss how you will share and present the knowledge you have gained that will spill over and help other workers in the organization.

In your plan you have prepared, ensure to include who will cover for you, as well as how your workload will be handled while you are out of office and attending Parks School.

EXPENSE	TIPS FOR BUILDING YOUR CASE	COST ESTIMATE
Conference Registration Fee	Be aware of your membership discounts and early bird rates. If your municipality/organization is a member, you are also a member! If you aren't a member of ARPA, consider joining to save up to \$100 annually.	\$
Extra Fees (e.g. pre-conference sessions)	Most of these fees are covered in your registration. But if there is a pre/post-conference session, extra fees may apply.	\$
Hotel	Be sure you book using the ARPA code for the best rate. Calculate (the number of nights) x (room rate). Note: Consider shared accommodations to save!	\$
Meals	Note which meals are included in your package, and which meals you will need to buy on your own.	\$
Transportation	Using a mapping service to calculate travel distance. Then, use your organization's mileage reimbursement. Or, include costs for parking, taxi, etc.	\$
Miscellaneous reimbursable expenses	Check you organization's policy for other types of expenses you can claim (e.g. tips, internet fees, etc.)	\$
Total:		\$

Take this information and utilize our Sample Letter for your Supervisor/Manager!