

Call for Presenters



2026 MTRPA Conference in Missoula, MT

The **Montana Trails Recreation & Park Association** Annual Conference will be held March 30 - April 2, 2026 in Missoula, MT with the theme "Celebrate the Treasure State".

What is the Montana Trail Recreation and Park Association?

The Montana Trail Recreation and Park Association (MTRPA) is a non-profit, public interest professional organization representing professionals involved in providing recreation opportunities, natural resource management and leisure facilities to all Montanans as well as the countless tourist who visit our state each year.

Reasons to Present at MTRPA

- Facilitate an exciting conference schedule.
- Network with Parks and Recreation professionals across the state.
- Inform a broad audience on the latest industry standards and trends.
- Share compelling success stories from your profession.
- Introduce regional, national, and global trends to Montana professionals.

Your presentation will reach:

- Directors, Administrators and Recreation Supervisors
- Natural Resource Land and Wildlife Managers
- Park Operations and Maintenance Personnel
- Trails Management and Maintenance
- Therapeutic Recreation Professionals
- Educators and Students
- Commercial Recreation Professionals
- Aquatics Professionals

- Students Pursuing a Career in Recreation and Land Management
- Park & Recreation Commissioners & Board Members
- Citizen Members

The conference committee is working hard on a session framework to address current topics and opportunities. The conference theme is “Celebrate the Treasure State”, and sessions can expand on the changes and adaptability in the state of Montana related to that theme. We are seeking thought provoking speakers with professional, cutting edge, interactive education sessions, and presentations that can provide information and proven methods to successfully manage and maintain parks, trails, recreation programs, aquatics, and urban forests in the following tracks:

1. Programs and Community

- a. Recreation/Aquatics
- b. Customer Experience/Software/Surveys/Data Management
- c. Health and Wellness - Social Impacts
- d. Community Engagement

2. Parks, facilities, Opens Space, and Urban Forestry management

- a. Turf management
- b. Trees & Urban Forest
- c. Conservation Lands
- d. Asset management
- e. Environmental resilience and deferred maintenance

3. Leadership Development

- a. Admin/Customer Service/Policy
- b. Funding finance and Grants
- c. Technology and innovation
- d. Professional development programs
- e. Funding, Planning, Legislation, Friends, Grants, Partnerships, Policy, Boards
Climate Strategies in P&R, Equity/Access

1. 4. Advocacy, Policy and Planning

- a. Recreation initiatives
- b. Active transportation
- c. Development Review
- d. Social/public health/environmental policy
- e. Parks & Trails/City/Towns/Resiliency Thru Parks & Open Space

Sessions Length Options:

- 1-hour full session
 - o The 1-hour full session will be offered in rooms set up with round tables or theatre style seating.

If you have specific questions about program concepts/formats, please feel free to contact the following conference committee members:

Lincoln Lake, Conference Committee Lead – lakel@ci.missoula.mt.us
Cassie Lasson, Resource Development Coordinator – contact@mtrpa.info

Please submit proposals (template below) in electronic format via email to: lakel@ci.missoula.mt.us by January 15, 2026 for conference committee review.

Conference Agenda

(Draft Schedule)

Monday, March 30th

12:00pm-5:00pm	Registration and Check-in
1:00pm-4:00pm	Exhibit Hall Set-Up
1:00-2:30	Optional Active recreational activities
2:30pm-3:30pm	MTRPA Business Board Meeting
3:30pm-5:00pm	Walking Roundtables Discussions
5:00pm-8:00pm	Welcome Social – TBD

Tuesday, March 31st

7:00am-12:00pm	Registration and Check-in
7:00am-8:30am	Full Breakfast
8:30am-9:00am	Welcome
9:00am-10:00am	Keynote Speaker
10:00am-10:15am	Announcements
10:30am-12:00pm	Exhibit Hall Opens (Time with Exhibitors)
	Coffee/Tea Service
11:00am-12:00pm	Breakout Session 1
12:15pm-1:30pm	Lunch Catered
12:30pm-1:30pm	Tentative Leadership Lunch
1:30pm-4:00pm	Equipment Rodeo
1:45pm-2:45pm	Breakout Session 2
3:00pm-4:00pm	Breakout Session 3
4:15pm-6:15pm	Exhibitor Happy Hour
	Dinner TBD

Wednesday, April 1

7:00am-12:00pm	Registration and Check-in
7:00am-8:30am	Breakfast
8:30am-8:45am	Announcements
9:00am-11:00am	Exhibit Hall Tear-Down
	Coffee/Tea Service
9:30am-10:30am	Breakout Session 4
11:00am-12:00pm	Breakout Session 5
12:15pm-1:30pm	Member Meeting and Awards Lunch
2:30pm-4:30pm	Site Visits
5:00pm-8:00pm	Closing Social (Simple Catered Dinner)

Thursday, April 2nd

8:00am-9:30am	Breakfast
9:30am-10:30am	Closing Keynote
10:30am-10:45am	Closing Remarks and Announce Raffle Winners

Educational Session Proposal
MTRPA Conference
March 30 - April 2, 2026
Holiday Inn Downtown
Missoula, MT

Speaker Information:

Full Name: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Short Bio: _____

Second Speaker (optional):

Full Name: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Short Bio: _____

Third Speaker (optional):

Full Name: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Short Bio: _____

SESSION DETAILS:

Session Title: _____

Preferred Date/Time (We will try to accommodate your request): _____

On a separate page please include a session description, including learning outcomes (maximum 50 words for the program guide) and a session proposal (maximum one page).

Speaker Requirements: (check all that apply)

Speakers who are members of MTRPA or employed in the field of Parks and Recreation or commercial companies are not eligible for honorarium, expense reimbursement, or waiver of registration fees.

Fee/Honorarium	\$ _____
Mileage	\$ _____
Lodging (Dates: _____)	\$ _____

Audio Visual:

☐ Computer
☐ Internet Connection
☐ No A/V needed
☐ Other: _____

Room Setup:

☐ Theatre Style Seating
☐ Round tables
☐ No preference

Session Length:

☐ 1 hour
☐ 30 minutes

Thank you for your interest in the 2026 MTRPA Conference in Missoula, Montana!