



The 2024 conference delegates were asked what topics they'd like to see in 2025, and below is a list of the top 10 trending responses. These topics reflect a blend of continuing trends, such as the emphasis on technology, health, and sustainability, alongside enduring concerns like financial management, leadership, and community engagement, indicating a multifaceted approach to addressing the needs and challenges facing parks and recreation professionals in the near future.

- **Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Recreation and Park Management:** Emphasizes the growing interest in leveraging AI for enhancing operational efficiency, personalized services, and strategic planning within parks and recreation management.
- **Sustainability and Green Initiatives:** Focuses on sustainable practices, green infrastructure, and environmental stewardship as crucial elements for future park development and maintenance, highlighting the importance of addressing climate change and promoting eco-friendly solutions.
- **Health and Wellness Programming:** Includes fitness trends, mental health sessions, and wellness programs tailored for different age groups, underscoring the role of parks and recreation in promoting community health and well-being.
- **Technology and Innovation in Facility Development and Maintenance:** Explores the integration of new technologies in the design, development, and maintenance of recreational facilities, aiming to enhance user experience and operational efficiency.
- **Inclusive and Accessible Recreation:** Addresses the need for programs and facilities that are accessible to all, including individuals with disabilities, promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion within community recreation services.
- **Youth Engagement and Programming:** Focuses on innovative and engaging programming for children and teenagers, highlighting the importance of recreation in youth development and the need for adaptive programming to meet changing interests.
- **Financial Management and Fundraising Strategies:** Offers insights into effective financial strategies, grant writing, and fundraising techniques for park districts, emphasizing the importance of financial sustainability in maintaining and expanding services.
- **Leadership and Organizational Management:** Covers leadership development, team building, and management strategies for recreation professionals, aiming to cultivate effective leaders and foster positive organizational cultures.
- **Emergency Preparedness and Risk Management:** Highlights the importance of preparedness for natural disasters, health emergencies, and safety risks, providing strategies for parks and recreation professionals to manage and mitigate such challenges.
- **Community Engagement and Partnerships:** Encourages the development of strategic partnerships and community engagement initiatives to enhance recreation services, promote volunteerism, and foster a sense of community ownership and pride in local parks and recreation facilities.