



## TRAPS EAST REGION WORKSHOP PACKET

Wednesday, January 21, 2026

Nessler & Doyle Convention Center Texas City



# Schedule

7:30 a.m. to 9 a.m.	Check In	Lobby
8 a.m. to 3 p.m.	Visit with Vendors	Texas Heroes Ballroom
9 a.m.	Welcome	Lobby
9:15 a.m. to 2 p.m.	Professional Headshot Opportunity	Media Room
	Sponsored by Landmark Aquatics	
9:15 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.	Visit with Vendors	Texas Heroes Ballroom
	Changing Culture & Winning a Top Workplace with Laura Capps & Robert Basford	Wings of Heritage Room
	Environmental Education on a Shoestring Budget with Jina Faith	Captain's Room
	Synthetic Turf Athletic Fields 101 with Ron Kagawa & Kristina Malek	Alamo Room
9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.	Texas City Tour	Lobby
10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.	More Than ChatGPT: How can AI help Rec Depts Deliver Great Experiences with Cadi Hawkins	Wings of Heritage Room
	Inclusive Play Matters: Evidence-based Design Best Practices for Play with Bruce Thompson	Captain's Room
	Quieting the Noise: Shifting from Ego to Purpose in Parks & Recreation Lead (Roundtable) with Jen Basham	Surf Room
	Park by Park: Building a Risk-Based Parks Asset Portfolio from the Ground Up with Don Mai & William Hadjik	Alamo Room
11:30 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.	Lunch   Award Ceremony   Visit with Vendors	Texas Heroes Ballroom
1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.	The Power of Mentoring: Speed Mentoring with Directors with Brandon Torres	Wings of Heritage Room
	Where Parks Meet People: A Modern Marketing Playbook with Tami Spencer	Captain's Room
	Building Aquatic Place Spaces: From Concept to Community with Marisa Austin	Alamo Room
1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.	Texas City Tour	Lobby
2:45 p.m. to 3:45 p.m.	The Generation of NOW! Past, Present, and Gen A to Z! with Stacy Lambert & Andrea Ramirez	Wings of Heritage Room
	From Master Plan to Masterpiece: Funding, Feasibility, and Prioritization with William Spencer & Daniele Stewart	Captain's Room
	Programming the past: Public History, Recreation, and Community Development with Shelby Rodwell	Alamo Room

# TEXAS CITY TOUR

## Departures

Tour 1

9:30 – 11:30 AM

Tour 2

1:30 – 3:30 PM

Please meet in  
Lobby 15 minutes  
prior to start time.

\*Tour does not include CEU's

● MATTHEW T. DOYLE NATATORIUM

● NESSLER FAMILY AQUATIC CENTER

● 6TH STREET COMMUNITY PLAZA

● TEXAS CITY MUSEUM

● DAVISON HOME AT HERITAGE SQUARE  
PARK

● TEXAS CITY DIKE

● SKYLINE DRIVE AND HALFMΟON SHΟAL  
LΙGHTHOUΣE

● TEXAS CITY SHOOTING RANGE

● BAYOU GOLF COURSE

● CARLOS GARZA PARK - BASEBALL AND  
FOOTBALL FIELDS.

\*Tentative stops

# Session Overview

9:15 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.

Session	Speaker	CEU	Overview
Changing Culture & Winning a Top Workplace	Laura Capps & Robert Basford	0.1	Creating an engaging, high-performance culture doesn't happen by accident—it happens with intention, consistency, and a commitment to listening to your people. In this session, Laura Capps, Human Resources Manager, and Robert Basford, Assistant City Manager, share the practical strategies their organization used to transform workplace culture and earn recognition as a Houston Chronicle Top Workplace.
Environmental Education on a Shoestring Budget	Jina Faith	0.1	Discover how to explore key environmental concepts using simple, low-cost materials. Through creative, hands-on activities, learners discover that meaningful environmental education is accessible to everyone, regardless of budget.
Synthetic Turf Athletic Fields 101	Ron Kagawa & Kristina Malek	0.1	Step onto the field and explore the essentials of synthetic turf athletic field design. Discover the design and construction decisions that drive successful projects from concept to completion. We'll follow the real-world journey of a recently completed synthetic turf field, highlighting key decisions, challenges, and solutions. Gain practical insights, discover best practices, and leave equipped with strategies for your next project.

10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

More Than ChatGPT: How can AI help Rec Depts Deliver Great Experiences	Cadi Hawkins	0.1	Artificial Intelligence is everywhere, but how can parks & rec departments actually use it? Join this session with Rec Technologies to learn practical AI applications beyond ChatGPT or Canva, with insights from OpenAI and case studies from innovative departments. We'll cover how new AI tools can help you do more with less, support inclusive recreation, and understand AI agents and policies - no tech degree required.
Inclusive Play Matters: Evidence-based Design Best Practices for Play	Bruce Thompson	0.1	Thoughtfully break down physical and social barriers to create a welcoming atmosphere and ensure parks intentionally support the developmental benefits of inclusive, intergenerational play! Research findings and new data offer unique insights to demonstrate the positive impact of designing outdoor destinations to address the diverse needs of the whole child, the whole environment, and the whole community!
Quieting the Noise: Shifting from Ego to Purpose in Parks & Recreation Lead (Roundtable)	Jen Basham	0.1	In a profession rooted in service, the line between ego and purpose is subtle but transformational. This session helps leaders recognize how ego shapes reactions and decisions, and how to realign toward purpose. Through reflection and diagnostic tools, participants will learn to quiet the noise, listen with intention, and lead with clarity, humility, and purpose that strengthens teams, trust, and community impact.
Park by Park: Building a Risk-Based Parks Asset Portfolio from the Ground Up	Don Mai & William Hadjik	0.1	Across many cities, Parks & Recreation assets lag behind in asset management maturity. Sugar Land launched a bottom-up program to inventory and assess 1,200+ park assets across 28 parks using ArcGIS and Survey123. Staff built a new asset registry, hierarchy, and consequence-of-failure criteria, then completed field-based condition scoring. The result: a defendable, risk-based framework that captures institutional knowledge and guides O&M and capital planning.

1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Session	Speaker	CEU	Overview
The Power of Mentoring: Speed Mentoring with Directors	Brandon Torres	0.1	In this structured, fast-paced format, young and upcoming professionals will have the unique opportunity to meet with the region's top Parks and Recreation leaders. Each round is a dynamic 3-minute interaction, giving you direct access to seasoned leaders. This is your chance to discuss critical topics like leadership development, career trajectory, and current industry trends. Leave with valuable connections and actionable insights to propel your Parks and Rec career forward.
Where Parks Meet People: A Modern Marketing Playbook	Tami Spencer	0.1	Parks are where community life thrives, but citizens only show up when communication is clear, concise, and compelling. In this session, leaders will learn how to transform everyday updates into engaging stories, build a simple but effective content rhythm, and use modern tools (including AI!) to save time while creating messaging that connects with their communities. The result? More participation, stronger community connection, and greater trust in your department.
Building Aquatic Place Spaces: From Concept to Community	Marisa Austin	0.1	Explore how intentional design, inclusive play strategies, and community engagement create successful aquatic environments. Learn best practices in water management, safety, play theory, age-appropriate zoning, and feature selection to design engaging, accessible spaces that deliver lasting impact and inclusive experiences.

2:45 p.m. to 3:45 p.m.

The Generation of NOW! Past, Present, and Gen A to Z!	Stacy Lambert & Andrea Ramirez	0.1	Working in a new and fast paced generation filled with wide eyed and passionate kids. It's only natural that we want to expand and grow the skills and classes we provide for the children that are seeking an escape; whether through movement with their bodies, or techniques and skills, we offer a wide range of opportunities that expand beyond the traditional sets of practices.
From Master Plan to Masterpiece: Funding, Feasibility, and Prioritization	William Spencer & Daniele Stewart	0.1	Your Parks Master Plan is approved, now the real work begins! This session guides you through the critical post-planning phase: securing diverse funding streams (including grants), evaluating site feasibility, and prioritizing projects for maximum impact. Master funding tools like tax notes, bonds, and TPWD grants; assess sites for community fit; and learn to sequence projects strategically. Walk away with actionable steps to transform plans into funded, feasible, thriving parks.
Programming the past: Public History, Recreation, and Community Development	Shelby Rodwell	0.1	In "Programming the Past," history comes to life! We'll kick things off with an interesting presentation before diving into conversation and a hands-on activity; all designed to show how local heritage can spark creative, community-focused public programming.

# Thank You!

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