

October 21, 2009 at 6 pm

Please Join

MD ASLA at



3705 Crondall Lane Owings Mills, MD 21117

For refreshments and a presentation of the National Recreation and Park Association environmental study, the first-ever study on environmental stewardship attitudes and initiatives of 445 of our nation's parks and recreation agencies fielded by Landscape Structures, Inc. and the National Recreation and Park Association. We will discuss how agencies perceive their stewardship roles, initiate environmental programs and plan for a more sustainable future, and the sharing of best practices, and an increase in the effectiveness of sustainability programs.



Continuing Education Credits

From 12:30 pm until 5:30 three LA CES accredited sessions will be given with 90 minutes of training per session topic. Please contact ssparks@sparksatplay.com to register for the sessions below. We will schedule sessions according to interest and desire to stay for the evening program.

Designing Fitness-Focused Playgrounds

When it comes to healthy kids and healthy communities, it's not a question of wanting to do the right thing; it's a question of how to do it. Statistics on obesity rates and negative lifestyle changes over generations illustrate the need for community changes and the importance of motivating kids to be active.

This session enables participants to design playgrounds to get and keep kids active and help participants make a positive, healthy impact on their communities. Session attendees learn about the physical fitness benefits gained by kids utilizing a fun and challenging playground. In addition, they learn why these fitness benefits are important in child development and building a healthy future. They will also learn how to design playgrounds with these fitness benefits in mind that allow and motivate kids to achieve their maximum fitness level for a lifetime of healthier living.

Upon completion of this session, participants will possess the ability to:

- Identify the importance of several fitness benefits gained on the playground
- Identify why each fitness benefit is crucial to successful child development
- Identify which playground components provide specific fitness benefits and why
- Plan a playground designed for maximum physical fitness benefits

Environmentally Preferable Playground Purchasing

The mayors of more than 850 cities in the U.S. have signed the U.S. Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, and these cities are now crafting sustainability plans to reduce their emission of greenhouse gases, conserve water and other natural resources, and reduce energy use. This session enables park and recreation professionals to use their purchasing power to create a positive effect on the sustainability of their operations and the environmental health of the planet.

Participants in this session will learn the fundamental principles of environmental stewardship, gain a working knowledge of what makes a product

environmentally preferable, and how these standards can be applied to the purchase of playground equipment.

Upon completion of the session, participants will possess knowledge regarding:

- The differences between the Earth's natural circular cycle, and humankind's linear manufacturing cycle
- The four key principles of sustainability
- The definitions of common environmental terms
- Awareness of factors that make a product more environmentally preferable than another
- The crucial questions to ask while evaluating playground equipment

Beyond Accessibility: Play for All Abilities

According to the National Center for Education Statistics, 14 percent of school-aged children have a disability of some kind including Autism; visual, hearing or mobility impairments; learning disabilities and more. In this session, participants will review Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) regulations and learn how to create playgrounds that go "beyond accessibility" to include children with of a wide range of disabilities. This session will discuss a variety of playground components and the value they bring to children with various disabilities.

Universal Design, as it applies to playgrounds, will be examined to emphasize a more creative, inclusive design approach. Participants will also learn the questions to ask at the outset of the design process, instead of the conclusion, in order to develop a beyond accessible playground.

Upon completion of the session, participants will possess the ability to:

- Describe what makes a successful playground experience for children of all abilities
- Explain the difference between a playground that meets ADAAG requirements and a playground that is truly inclusive
- Explain the play value of playground components for children of many different abilities
- Recognize the questions to ask at the beginning of a project in order to design a truly inclusive playground

