



# CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE:**  
Monday, December 11, 2023  
by 11:59 p.m.

**SUBMIT ONLINE:**  
[Parkpride.org/conference](https://parkpride.org/conference)

Park Pride is accepting proposals for the 2024 Parks & Greenspace Conference, held annually at the Atlanta Botanical Garden. This year's conference will focus on the theme "Parks for All: Intention to Action." Successful proposals will explore one of the threads listed on the following page.

**CONFERENCE DATE**  
**MARCH 25, 2024**

## Conference Background

We know parks were an important refuge during the pandemic. For many, they were a lifeline. They served as safe havens for our health and connected us to nature. Unfortunately, park access and park quality are not equitably distributed. These inequities exposed real disparities that continue to demand our attention. Governments, nonprofits and individuals began advancing increased awareness of and creative solutions to park equity issues. Coming out of the pandemic, how have our best intentions manifested into actions, and what are the results of those actions? What lessons can we apply to build further momentum for improved park equity? How might we inspire action to build a parks system that meets everyone's needs?

## Target Audience

Park Pride's annual conference attracts approximately 500 park professionals and enthusiasts. Please consider the following audiences when developing your proposals:

- Park Advocate/Community Member
- Policy Makers/Municipal Representatives
- Design Professionals/City Planners

## Submission & Selection Process

Each accepted presenter will receive complimentary registration to the 2024 Conference. Submission of a proposal represents an agreement to attend and present the proposed session if it is accepted. Any changes to speakers or content requires permission from Park Pride staff and may require re-evaluation for acceptance. Submissions are reviewed and selected by Park Pride staff. Submitters may be asked for clarification or to make changes to their session based on feedback from the selection process. Presentations should not have a commercial message for an organization or business or be perceived as a "sales pitch." We evaluate proposals by the following criteria:

- Appropriateness of the content to the conference theme and to one or more of the focus areas
- Contribution to the body of knowledge on parks
- Interest, applicability, innovation, and breadth of presentation appeal
- Diversity of groups/organizations represented

**Questions? Feel free to reach out to Eli Dickerson, Park Pride Director of Education, [eli@parkpride.org](mailto:eli@parkpride.org)**

## Session Types

## Duration

## Format

Panel

60 minutes including Q&amp;A

Panel Discussions (1 moderator + 2 to 3 speakers)

Workshop

60 mins

Interactive Workshop or Demonstration

Outdoor Presentation

60 mins

On the Atlanta Botanical Garden grounds

*Approximately 8-12 proposals will be accepted for the panel sessions, workshops, and outdoor presentations. Park Pride may request that similar or complementary proposals be combined into panels for a more diverse dialogue.*

## Parks for All: Intention to Action

### FOCUS AREAS

Panels, workshops/demonstrations, and outdoor presentations should focus on one or more of the following areas:

#### Action for Climate

Summer of 2023 was the hottest on record...records which scientists can date back 120,000 years. Heat waves and power outages affected millions of people, and new and surprising climate change-related disasters emerged. Urban parks help mitigate many of the negative effects of climate change by serving as carbon sinks; slowing, trapping, and cleaning rainwater runoff, mitigating heat island effects, and cooling the temperatures of surrounding neighborhoods. How have parks been innovative and essential in building climate resilience? How can parks play a key role in future climate resilience as urban centers continue to grow in population?

- Design for climate resilience in urban parks
- Parks to address climate change in urban areas
- Engaging youth in park-related climate solutions

## Action for Equity & Inclusivity in Parks

Everyone should have easy access to a quality park, yet discriminatory practices have led to greenspace-related inequities for many. For example, redlining led to disinvestment in communities of color, gentrification causes displacement of legacy residents, and a lack of inclusive design makes places unwelcoming for disabled children and adults. How has advocating for increased park funding, prioritizing communities of need, creating innovative programming, and cultivating diverse park advocates addressed these inequities? How can we design parks to become more accessible, inclusive and culturally relevant while also protecting and preserving these areas?

- Park Maintenance as an Equity Issue
- Inclusive and Accessible Park Design
- DEI+B: Adding Belonging and Representation to DEI initiatives in parks

#### Setting Future Intentions

What initiatives should be high priority for Future Intentions in parks? What is the connection of parks to urban concerns like affordable housing, workforce development and transit/connectivity? How can unique park programs help address equity issues? How can park maintenance improve on both local and system-wide levels? What are some recent success stories and lessons learned at the intersection of parks and the private, government or non-profit sector?

- Dreaming Big/Innovative Intentions
- Future of Parks and Policy
- Past Successes & Future Goals

