



# CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS

Connecting on  
Common Ground

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE:**  
Monday, November 18, 2024  
by 5 p.m.

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

Park Pride is accepting proposals for the 2025 Parks & Greenspace Conference, held annually at the Atlanta Botanical Garden. This year's conference will focus on the theme "Connecting on Common Ground."

Successful proposals will explore one of the threads listed on the following page.

## CONFERENCE DATE

Monday, March 24, 2025

### Conference Background

In 2024, Atlanta broke into the top 25 in the Trust for Public Land's ParkScore, up from 52nd in 2016. This annual index compares the top 100 most populous cities and ranks their park systems based on equity, access, investment amenities and acreage. This also coincided with the City of Atlanta crossing the 500,000 population barrier for the first time ever. These milestones force us to consider what it means to be a big city and what we should expect from amenities like our parks, trails and greenspaces. Atlanta is not only growing in numbers, but also in diversity. Parks are places of (literal) common ground that give us a shared sense of community. They are places where people from diverse backgrounds, ages and incomes can play, interact or enjoy solitude in nature. Parks remind us that our differences aren't as big as we sometimes imagine. This year's Parks & Greenspace Conference will highlight the theme of "Connections" in various forms, and the notion that parks provide the common ground that make our cities places to live and thrive.

### Target Audience

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

- Park Advocates/Community Members
- Policy Makers/Municipal Representatives
- Design Professionals/City Planners

### Submission & Selection Process

Each accepted presenter will receive complimentary registration to the 2025 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, at [eli@parkpride.org](mailto:eli@parkpride.org)**

Session Types	Duration	Format
Panel	60 mins including Q&A	Panel Discussions (1 moderator + 2 to 3 speakers)
Workshop	60 mins	Interactive Workshop
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.*

## Connecting on Common Ground

### FOCUS AREAS

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

#### Cultural and Historical Connections

These sessions will explore both obvious and hidden histories of parks and associated communities. This focus area also offers an opportunity to foster appreciation of park users' cultural diversity. This is a chance to dig into hard topics including unfortunate historical events and dramatic changes in our neighborhoods that challenged who we are and shaped our parks and our city.

#### Nature Connections

Nature is a crucial element to a great park. These sessions will focus on ways nature forms connections that make our parks better places, and ways we make connections to support nature in parks. Sessions might highlight park designs that work with nature, innovative nature park management and nature-based programming. Proposals might also focus on “disconnecting” with city life to reconnect to nature, ecological health in parks, watershed connections and nature connections to climate within urban parks.

#### Infrastructure Connections

Built amenities adjacent to parks play a major role in accessing parks. How useful are great parks if there's not a great variety of ways to access these parks? Can you safely walk, bike or run to the parks in your area? Are your parks accessible for wheelchair users and strollers? If parks are truly “for all”, then the surrounding infrastructure should support a diversity of users and modes of transit. These presentations will focus on trail networks, bike lanes, public transportation, tactical urbanism and community connections to and between parks. Think beyond park borders!

#### Uncommon Connections

Is there a connection to parks that is unique, innovative, hidden or exciting that you would like to share? These presentations might gain inspiration from uncommon partnerships, unique park design, public art in parks, tech in parks or activations that engage new and diverse audiences while bringing in new park users. This focus area begs for creativity and ingenuity.

