

CALL FOR PROPOSALS



PARKS & GREENSPACE

2027

CONFERENCE

Community Powered Parks

SUBMISSION
DEADLINE:
NOV 23, 2026

CONFERENCE DATE
MARCH 22
2027

Park Pride is accepting proposals to present at the **26th Annual Parks & Greenspace Conference**, to be held at the Atlanta Botanical Garden on **Monday, March 22, 2027**. This year's conference will focus on the theme *Community Powered Parks*. Successful proposals will explore one or more of the focus areas listed on the following page.

Conference Background

Parks exist for the benefit of communities. The best and most loved parks owe their success to many: park users, community groups, nonprofits, government, volunteers, donors, design professionals, and more. This year, we're celebrating the collaborations that turn greenspace into community space.

With the theme of Community Powered Parks, the 2027 Parks & Greenspace Conference will highlight the role of community in designing, creating, supporting, activating and advocating for our parks and greenspaces. Community will be broadly defined, but with a focus on the community of park users. Do you have an interesting case study, story or idea at the intersection of parks and community? If so, we invite you to apply to present at the 2027 Park Pride Parks & Greenspace Conference via the link below. Presentations should fall within one of the focus areas below. Additionally, this year we will prioritize sessions that include a participatory component for session attendees, so please keep that in mind as you draft your proposal.

Target Audience

As the largest parks and greenspace conference in the Southeast, Park Pride's annual conference attracts approximately 525 park professionals and park enthusiasts. Attendees are largely from metro-Atlanta but increasingly have come from across the region and across the country.

Please consider the following audiences when developing your proposals:

- **Park Advocates/Community Members/Friends of Park** group members/**Park volunteers**
- **Policy Makers/Municipality Representatives/ Park Employees**
- **Design Professionals/Planners/Landscape Architects/Native Plant Enthusiasts**

Submission & Selection Process

SUBMISSIONS DUE:

Monday, November 23, 2026, by midnight

SUBMIT ONLINE:

parkpride.org/conference

Each accepted presenter will receive one complimentary registration to the 2027 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 require permission from Park Pride and may require re-evaluation for acceptance.

Submissions are reviewed and selected by Park Pride staff and the Conference Committee. 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." Park Pride reserves the right to reject proposals. We evaluate proposals by the following criteria:

- **Relevance 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**
- **Relevance and applicability to Friends of Park**

For questions about the conference or your proposal submission, please contact Park Pride Director of Education, Eli Dickerson, at eli@parkpride.org



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Session Types	Duration	Format
Panel	50 mins + 10 min Q&A	Moderated discussion with 2 to 3 speakers max
Workshop	60 mins	Interactive Workshop or Demonstration
Outdoor Presentation	60 mins	In the Atlanta Botanical Garden grounds, specify space needed

Approximately 16 total proposals will be accepted. These will be split among 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.

Community Powered Parks

FOCUS AREAS

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

Community Design

Communities are a crucial element behind successful parks. Without actively engaged communities, parks simply cannot reach their full potential. Communities also change over time- this focus area could highlight past communities as well present communities.

Presentations could focus on

- Community park design and techniques for designing with diverse stakeholders
- Unique and meaningful ways to engage community
- Best practices for community-driven park design
- Designing versatile parks with community culture embedded in the design
- Cultural awareness - honoring original communities/prior communities/displaced communities

Partnerships for Success

Stronger together is an alternate title for this focus area. Many hands make light work. Tell us about unique partnerships where Community is at the table. Who were the partners? How did they boost Community efforts to improve or activate parks?

Presentations could focus on

- Exceptions to standard design to meet community needs/wants
- Highlighting partnerships with nonprofits
- Highlighting partnerships with government
- Storytelling to highlight partnership successes
- Partnerships for inclusive spaces
- Community fundraising partnerships
- Partnering for park advocacy
- Unique and meaningful ways to form partnerships with community in parks

Community Programming and Activation

Parks are at their best when they are activated. Have you been a part of unique park programming? How was community a crucial element? Has a unique subset of park users been highlighted or served? Might others be able to learn from and be inspired by your experiences?

Presentations could focus on

- Youth or senior programming around park access and activation
- Training recreation staff to facilitate or partner in community park programming
- Equity in park programming- prioritizing parks in the most vulnerable or underserved communities and most neglected greenspaces
- Park connections with municipal infrastructure
- Community-led responses to gaps in government services
- Projects evolved from community related to ecology, biodiversity or natural communities

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