

Highlighted Sessions by Professional Practice Network

September 16–18, 2026 · Los Angeles, CA

Parks, Outdoor Play & Outdoor Recreation PPN

Focus: Parks, outdoor play, recreation, park funding, maintenance, and operations.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

WED-A06

Equity by Design: Community Engagement and Prioritization in LA's Park Needs Assessment

Wednesday, September 16, 2026 | 8:30 AM – 9:45 AM PT

The 2025 LA Park Needs Assessment guides 25-years of investment across 16,000 acres of parkland. This session explores a community-driven process to prioritize park spending, balancing climate resilience, social equity, and recreation. Discover how the PNA merges innovative tools with hyper-local lived experience to reflect LA's diverse communities.

1.25 PDH [View Session Details →](#)

WED-A07

Designing for Belonging: Advancing Engagement in Landscape Architecture

Wednesday, September 16, 2026 | 8:30 AM – 9:45 AM PT

Contemporary practice demands engagement that builds agency, not simply consensus. This session presents play-based tools that help landscape architects design for belonging as an intentional outcome, fostering shared authorship, empowering communities, and guiding values-based decision-making grounded in empathy and meaningful participation.

1.25 PDH [View Session Details →](#)

WED-B11

Beyond Green: Planning and Operating Parks That Pay for Themselves

Wednesday, September 16, 2026 | 10:45 AM – 12:00 PM PT

Cities and towns are leveraging parks as powerful drivers of economic growth, equity, and resilience. This session explores how thoughtfully designed and financially disciplined public spaces activate local economies, foster inclusive communities, and sustain long-term operations through equitable revenue strategies, partnerships, and performance metrics.

1.25 PDH [View Session Details →](#)

WED-C06

Beyond Compliance: Designing for Cognitive, Physical, and Neurodiverse Inclusion

Wednesday, September 16, 2026 | 1:15 PM – 2:30 PM PT

What is a truly inclusive playground? With 15-20% of the population neurodivergent and 16% living with disability, designing for inclusion is essential. Drawing from the Midway Plaisance Accessible Playground case study, this session explores lessons learned in creating spaces that support cognitive and physical access beyond ADA compliance.

1.25 PDH [View Session Details →](#)

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

FRI-A07

I Would Walk (or Bike) 500 Miles: San Francisco Bay Trail 2.0

Friday, September 18, 2026 | 9:00 AM – 10:15 AM PT

Explore strategies to accelerate trail planning and design to build out a visionary 500-mile regional trail; maintain and steward completed trail segments; provide communities with equitable, accessible public spaces; shift trail use culture from recreational to a transformative active-transportation spine; and adapt to a changing climate and rising sea levels.

1.25 PDH [View Session Details →](#)

FRI-B04

Designing to Last: Stewardship and Context in National Parks

Friday, September 18, 2026 | 10:45 AM – 12:00 PM PT

Designing for the next fifty years means honoring the past and protecting the future. Explore how stewardship-driven, context-sensitive design at Grand Teton and Rocky Mountain National Parks safeguards natural and cultural resources while creating spaces that elevate visitor experiences and preserve the integrity of America's most iconic landscapes.

1.25 PDH [View Session Details →](#)

FRI-C07

Parks Master Class: Designing for Sustainable Operations and Stewardship

Friday, September 18, 2026 | 1:15 PM – 2:30 PM PT

Landscape architects design parks to last for generations, yet stewardship is often missing from design conversations and decisions. To sustain quality parks over the long-term, designers must understand how operations, maintenance, staffing, and revenue shape and sustain success. This 'Master Class' delivers practical tools to integrate stewardship with design.

1.25 PDH [View Session Details →](#)

FRI-C09

State Parks in the City? Lessons from the Garden State

Friday, September 18, 2026 | 1:15 PM – 2:30 PM PT

Although "urban" and "state park" often evoke opposite imagery, New Jersey is merging them to create ambitious public spaces. Leveraging perspectives in park operations, design and technical construction, this panel explores how state parks can navigate issues of history, culture, recreation and resilience to thrive in dense districts.

1.25 PDH [View Session Details →](#)

FRI-D08

Partnerships for the Public Good: LWCF Growing Community Parks and Trails

Friday, September 18, 2026 | 3:00 PM – 4:15 PM PT

Discover how the National Park Service's Land and Water Conservation Fund and its partnerships transform communities: creating vibrant parks, trails, and protecting natural spaces. Learn strategies to secure funding, explore a successful project, and see how collaborative investments boost economies, improve health, and expand access to outdoor recreation for all.

1.25 PDH [View Session Details →](#)

Questions? Visit asla.org or aslaconference.com

© 2026 American Society of Landscape Architects. All Rights Reserved.