



Saskatchewan  
Parks and Recreation  
Association



# FALL TRAINING SYMPOSIUM

*Training | Networking | Information*

## 2025 Event Brochure



FUNDED BY



**SASK LOTTERIES**

# Join us for the Fall Training Symposium!



## What is the Fall Training Symposium?

Hosted by the Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association (SPRA), the Fall Training Symposium is four days of training, education, and collaboration!

Join us at Affinity Place in Estevan, SK. from September 8<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> as we offer a variety of in-person courses intended to enhance the skills of front-line facility operators, volunteers, and supervisors. Want to learn more about the course offerings? Check out the Course Schedule below!

## Course Schedule and Fees

| Mon<br>Sept. 8                                                                      | Tues<br>Sept. 9                                   | Wed<br>Sept. 10                                          | Thurs<br>Sept. 11                                                                                |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Arena Operator<br>Level #1 – Short<br>Course<br>\$150+taxes*<br>*Introductory Price | Facility Mod 1:<br>Health & Safety<br>\$225+taxes | Facility Mod 3:<br>Asset Mgmt.<br>\$225+taxes            | Facility Mod 2:<br>HR/Leadership<br>\$225+taxes                                                  |
| Building Maintenance Level #1 Course<br>\$375+taxes                                 |                                                   | Janitorial Services<br>for Rec Facilities<br>\$225+taxes | Tips & Tricks: Building<br>Community Trails<br>\$150+taxes                                       |
| Ball Diamond &<br>Sportsfield<br>Maintenance<br>\$225+taxes                         | Basic Chainsaw<br>Operator<br>\$225+taxes         | Fruit Trees & Fruit<br>Production<br>\$150+taxes         | Trees and Shrubs:<br>Basic Needs,<br>Construction Planning<br>& Tree Preservation<br>\$390+taxes |
|                                                                                     |                                                   | Shelter Belts & Wind Breaks<br>\$150+taxes               |                                                                                                  |

## Networking and Connecting

The Fall Training Symposium is the perfect time to network! Group luncheons will be offered throughout the event to allow participants plenty of opportunities to meet, network, and connect with other facilities personnel from all areas of the province. Luncheons will take place Monday through Thursday – cost is covered in the event registration fees.



## Registration

The deadline for registration is 5 pm CST September 2, 2025.

**Register Here** - or visit us at **[www.spra.sk.ca](http://www.spra.sk.ca)**

## What are Past Participants Saying?

- "What I liked best about the course was the experience of the facilitator."
- "I liked the engagement, practical examples, alternatives and hands on in the course."
- "The Fall Forum was a great opportunity to network."
- "The facilitator was easy to approach and has great real-life experiences and stories that relate to the subject matter."

## Hotel Information

### Days Inn by Wyndham

**Location:** 1305 9 St. E., Estevan, SK S4A 1J1

**Phone:** (306) 634-6456

**Website:** [Wyndham Estevan](http://Wyndham Estevan)

**Email:** [reservations@daysinnestevan.ca](mailto:reservations@daysinnestevan.ca)

**Rate:** Rooms Starting at \$100 per night + taxes (single) or \$105 per night + taxes (double)

**Breakfast:** Included with the room rate

**Booking Date:** August 29, 2025

**Reference:** "SPRA"

## Want to Learn More?

For more information about the Fall Training Symposium, contact Tim Hanna, SPRA Facilities and Training Consultant, by phone at (639) 638-4083, or by email at [thanna@spra.sk.ca](mailto:thanna@spra.sk.ca).

## Session Descriptions

### **Arena Operator Level #1 Short Course – Theory of Ice Installation & Maintenance September 8, 2025 (8:30 am – 4:30 pm)**

**Presenter:** TBD

**Description:** This short, 1-day course will detail the theory of ice installation and maintenance. The ice installation portion of the course will focus on the best practices for building ice, painting ice, installing logos, etc. while the ice maintenance portion will focus on the safe operation of ice resurfacers and edgers to ensure proper ice thickness, leveling, etc. Several additional, complementary topics will be discussed to give participants a well-rounded understanding of arena industry practices. All components of the course will relate to the safe, successful operation of an arena facility, and opportunities to share best-practices will be provided.

### **Ball Diamond & Sports-Field Maintenance Course September 8, 2025 (8:30 am – 4:30 pm)**

**Presenter:** Barry Ault, Retired City of Regina

**Description:** In this full-day course of professional instruction, participants will spend the morning discussing topics like infield grooming, clay repairs, edging, field lining, turf management, and safety before engaging in an afternoon of practical maintenance demonstrations. Best practices will be a focus of the day's conversations, and input from participants is encouraged. Participants must wear appropriate clothing and footwear to be outdoors in the afternoon.

### **Basic Chainsaw Operator September 9, 2025 (8:30 am – 4:30 pm)**

**Presenter:** Southeast College

**Description:** This course provides instruction on basic chainsaw operations including an overview of chainsaw handling skills, maintenance, and safety to help participants become confident in their use of chainsaws. Participants must bring proper Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and their own chainsaw for use in the course. Required PPE includes head to toe coverings, a helmet, chaps, and gloves.

### **Building Maintenance Level #1 September 8-9, 2025 (8:30 am – 4:30 pm)**

**Presenter:** Craig Geisler

**Description:** In this course, participants will receive information to help operators and maintenance staff understand the ins and outs of workings within their facilities. Topics covered include facility maintenance best practices, contractor terminology, and preventative maintenance protocols to help improve the useful life of fixed facility assets. With the tools provided, participants will be better able to plan and implement maintenance practices that benefit their departments and their communities.

**Facility Management Module 1 – Health & Safety in Recreation**  
**September 9, 2025 (8:30 am – 4:30 pm)**

**Presenter:** Joel Friesen, Parks and Facilities Foreman, Town of Wynyard

**Description:** This course will assist supervisors and workers in identifying and controlling workplace Health and Safety (H&S) concerns and hazards. Topics include understanding and meeting provincial legislation; identifying and dealing with hazards faced daily by workers including slip and falls, chemical safety, safe lifting, ladders, sprains, and strains; weather hazards; fatigue and dehydration; confined space awareness training; facility chemical and fossil fuel audits; and incident reporting.

**Facility Management Module 3 – Asset Management**  
**September 10, 2025 (8:30 am – 4:30 pm)**

**Presenters:** Dan Gallagher, Recreation Consultant, and Tim Hanna, Training Consultant – SPRA

**Description:** This course provides an overview of Asset Management and Capital Planning practices for municipal recreation practitioners including supervisors, managers, directors, volunteers, Boards, and Councils. By learning sound management practices, participants will be better able to improve the overall management of fixed recreation assets, lengthen the useful life of the assets, and plan for future upgrades and replacements. Recreation examples and tools will be discussed during the course, including SPRA's own Inventory Register spreadsheet – a tool designed to help recreation professionals begin collecting Asset Management information.

**Facility Management Module 2 – HR & Leadership**  
**September 11, 2025 (8:30 am – 4:30 pm)**

**Presenter:** Wayne Hellquist, Future Quest Consulting

**Description:** Leadership is an essential ingredient for successful supervisors. Topics covered in this session include the importance of leadership in a dynamic and changing work environment, different types of leadership styles, traits of exceptional leaders, the difference between leadership and management, when to lead and when to follow, personal leadership strengths and weaknesses using Colour Spectrums, and leadership action plans. This session will help participants create and maintain a high-performance recreation team.

**Fruit Trees & Fruit Production – half-day course**  
**September 10, 2025 (8:30 am to 12:00 noon) (3.5 hrs)**

**Presenter:** David Kearns, Kearnsy Consulting & Educational Services

**Description:** Fruit trees are an amazing resource that can add to our urban forests' potential. Many homeowners are planting fruit trees and community orchards are becoming popular in municipalities and parks across the province. This course gives participants the power to manage everything from production to pruning. We teach both beginners and experienced growers alike how to improve the quality and health of fruit trees and shrubs.

**Janitorial Services in Recreation Facilities  
September 10, 2025 (8:30 am – 4:30 pm)**

**Presenter:** Joel Friesen, Parks and Facilities Foreman, Town of Wynyard

**Description:** Participants will learn the basics of proper janitorial maintenance and the importance of a clean facility. Course topics include Workplace Hazardous Material Information System Training (WHMIS), restroom cleaning procedures, disinfecting vs sanitizing, hard floor care, carpet care, and cleaning using biological 'Green' cleaning.

**Shelter Belts & Wind Breaks – half day course  
September 10, 2025 (1:00 pm to 4:30 pm) (3.5 hrs)**

**Presenter:** David Kearns, Kearnsy Consulting & Educational Services

**Description:** Shelterbelts are an integral part of the natural infrastructure that holds the prairies together; however, many shelterbelts are ageing, and revitalization is needed. In this course participants will explore shelterbelt design as well as naturalized vs manicured shelterbelts. Whether you are managing shelterbelts or planting them, this course will provide participants with a wealth of knowledge on both public and private shelterbelts.

**Tips & Tricks: Building Community Trails  
September 11, 2025 (8:30 am – 4:30 pm)**

**Presenter:** Saskatchewan Trails Association, and Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association

**Description:** Join us for an exciting, day-long discussion on trails! This session is a great opportunity to learn from others, ask questions, and exchange ideas. Moderated by Saskatchewan Trails Association, information about trails will be discussed with a panel of community leaders that are currently building trails: Saskatchewan Trails Association, Trans Canada Trail, and Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association. No matter the experience level, participants working with trails in their communities are sure to leave with ideas for improving both community and recreational trails.

**Trees and Shrubs: Basic Needs, Construction Planning & Tree Preservation  
September 11, 2025 (8:30 am - 4:30 pm)**

**Presenter:** David Kearns, Kearnsy Consulting & Educational Services

**Description:** Trees are valuable assets in our communities and green spaces. While they take many years to grow and mature, they are too often damaged or killed due to a lack of knowledge about how they grow. In this course, participants will learn how trees grow, what they need to thrive, and industry best practices for tree preservation during construction.

**SPRA reserves the right to cancel, add or change courses as required for the benefit of the Forum, SPRA Members and participants.**





## For More Information

---

### **Office Hours:**

Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
1250 Dewdney Avenue, Regina, SK S4R 8T7

---

**Phone:** 1.800.563.2555 | **Web:** [www.spra.sk.ca](http://www.spra.sk.ca) | **Email:** [office@spra.sk.ca](mailto:office@spra.sk.ca)