



WHY ATTEND

The Urban Park Tour offers a unique, behind-the-scenes look at how one of the nation's leading park systems leverages arts, culture, sports, and operations to build vibrant, inclusive, and high-performing public spaces. Designed for parks and recreation professionals, this experience blends learning, inspiration, and real-world application through guided site visits and peer discussion.

NATIONAL RECREATION AND PARK



TOUR SITES

Cultural & Arts Destinations

Lincoln Theatre

Located in the historic King-Lincoln District, the Lincoln Theatre is a cornerstone of African American culture in Columbus. Owned by the City and operated by CAPA, the theatre reflects the power of arts investment in neighborhood revitalization and cultural preservation.

King Arts Complex

A major anchor in the King-Lincoln District, the King Arts Complex serves as a hub for cultural education, performances, and community engagement. Participants will learn how this facility supports local artists while driving economic and social impact in the surrounding community.

Fran Ryan Center

A dynamic creative arts and wellness facility offering hands-on programming in woodworking, ceramics, digital arts, fitness, and more. The center also houses the Golden Hobby Shop, showcasing local artists and craftspeople. This stop highlights innovative programming, adaptive reuse, and multi-generational engagement.

Priscilla R. Tyson Cultural Arts Center

Housed in a historic former state arsenal, this downtown cultural asset blends history, arts education, and gallery space. The tour highlights how historic preservation can be successfully integrated with modern cultural programming.

Sports & Recreation Facilities

Lou Berliner Sports Park

The nation's largest softball complex, featuring 31 fields and hosting major regional and national tournaments. This stop highlights large-scale sports tourism, event management, and economic impact.

Kilbourne Run Sports Park

A multi-field soccer complex serving tens of thousands of participants annually. Attendees will explore how field design, scheduling, and park layout support heavy usage while maintaining quality.

Champions Golf Course

A historic public golf course known for its challenging layout and rich history. Participants will learn how legacy golf facilities remain relevant and financially viable in modern park systems.

Operations & Infrastructure Tour

Central Warehouse & Operations Facility

Get an inside look at how Columbus manages inventory, equipment, and supplies across a large park system using efficient logistics and technology-driven systems.

Woodshop

Learn how in-house fabrication of park furnishings and amenities reduces costs, supports sustainability, and enhances customization across park sites.

Forestry Operations

Explore how Columbus manages its urban forest through certified arborists and skilled staff responsible for tree care, safety, and long-term environmental health throughout the city.

What You'll Gain

- Practical insights into managing large and diverse park systems
- Exposure to innovative approaches in arts, culture, and recreation
- Strategies for operational efficiency and sustainability
- Real-world examples of equity-driven park planning
- Opportunities to connect with peers and industry leaders