

PARKS AND OPEN SPACE ALLIANCE



ONTARIO PARKS ASSOCIATION
*Protecting Tomorrow Today**



ONTARIO RECREATION
FACILITIES ASSOCIATION INC.



PARKS AND OPEN SPACE PROFESSIONAL TRAINING PROGRAM LEVEL I & LEVEL II

www.POSAlliance.ca

PARKS AND OPEN SPACE PROFESSIONAL TRAINING PROGRAM - LEVEL I

This program has been created by the Ontario Parks Association, the Ontario Recreation Facilities Association and the Sports Turf Association in response to supporting the training needs of members who work in both facilities and in parks and open space operations.

To complete this program, a practitioner must successfully complete the following three courses: Parks Maintenance and Operations; Parks and Landscaping Equipment Safety Operation; and Sports Turf Management and Maintenance. In addition, the practitioner must have a minimum Grade 12 education; be a member in good standing of the OPA or the ORFA or the STA; maintain current WHMIS and Standard First Aid training; and have a minimum of 24 months practical work experience in the parks and open space industry.

Each course is taught using a combination of classroom-based study and some hands-on training. Participants are expected to be able to return to their workplace and utilize the skills and knowledge they have learned in the courses. The hands-on portion of each course requires participants to arrive in appropriate work clothes including CSA-approved footwear.

Parks Maintenance and Operations

This Ontario Recreation Facilities Association course is designed to introduce recreation facility personnel to the principles and techniques of parks maintenance and operations. It will be of interest to those professionals who maintain parks as a part of their responsibilities, or to those who wish to develop new knowledge and skills in this area. Facilitators will provide demonstrations and tours emphasizing practical applications of the course content.

Topics include:

- Parks maintenance and operation principles and techniques
- Horticultural landscaping and maintenance
- Estimating, tendering and construction of parks facilities
- Playground equipment maintenance, inspection and standards
- Site fixtures and furniture
- Sports facility and sports field maintenance and operation
- Turf maintenance and techniques
- Safe use and operation of equipment
- Current issues and trends

Parks and Landscaping Equipment Safety Operations

This Ontario Parks Association course is designed to help enhance the competencies of experienced employees, while setting the right foundation blocks for those being introduced to the world of green space maintenance and management. Working safely in a parks environment requires a comprehensive understanding of the tasks at hand and the equipment designed to effectively and efficiently perform the work.

Participants will gain first hand exposure to industry best practices, and are expected to complete their professional development experience by participating in workplace specific training once they return to the workplace. With the knowledge gained from Parks Maintenance and Operations and the Sports Turf Management and Maintenance courses, participants will learn the skills required for the safe operations of small hand tools and larger grass cutting and turf care equipment.

Topics include:

- understanding legislative requirements set by the Ministries of Labour and Transportation
- Equipment and fleet training and safety
- The Occupational Health and Safety Act
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Current CVOR legislation
- Load security
- Pre-trip inspection

- Fuel handling, safety and storage
- Off-site equipment demonstrations and training

Mandatory Equipment Requirement: Participants must come prepared with proper protective equipment including rain gear and CSA-approved work boots. Failing to arrive with these items will limit participation in hands-on activities to viewing from a safe distance. There will be no exceptions to this requirement.

Sports Turf Management and Maintenance

This Sports Turf Association course is designed to introduce the latest principles and techniques of managing and maintaining sports turf. The course will be of interest to those who manage or maintain sports turf, other turf areas, and/or those who wish to develop additional knowledge and skills in this important field. The course offers a range of options to deal with issues such as restricted pesticide use, restricted water use, and how best to manage with limited financial resources.

Topics include:

- Turf species and their uses, characteristics and benefits, emphasizing the latest and best varieties for particular uses
- An overview of the identification, monitoring and control of diseases, insects, and weeds in sports turf
- Integrated pest management (IPM) programs to recognize and monitor infestations of diseases, insects and weeds, to manage turf in a pesticide-free environment, and maximize the efficiency of biological and cultural methods to control/reduce infestations
- Soils as a much needed medium for growth and fertility and often the basis for resolving many problems
- Water management including sub-surface and surface drainage systems, irrigation practices and systems and the efficient use of water and weather information for managing improvements under water restrictions
- Cultural practices which enhance and promote good turf and improved playing conditions
- Sports field construction including proper design, layout, orientation and the hidden aspects for good turf
- Renovations and restoration methods for poorly performing fields and best practices which promote good conditions and improved maintenance practices



PARKS AND OPEN SPACE PROFESSIONAL TRAINING PROGRAM - LEVEL II

To complete the Level II program, a practitioner must have successfully completed Parks and Open Space Professional Training Program Level I and 12 POSA-recognized credits (listed below). In addition, the practitioner must be a member in good standing of the OPA or the ORFA or the STA; maintain current WHMIS and Standard First Aid training; and have a minimum of 60 months practical work experience in the parks and open space industry.

POSA-recognized training event with an exam = 1 POSA credit per day
POSA-recognized training event with no exam = ½ POSA credit per day

POSA Programs

Summer Operational Forum - ½ credit

OPA Programs

Accident/Incident Investigation and WSIB Case Management – 1 credit
Annual Educational Forum – ½ credit
Ball Diamond Maintenance Best Practices – 1 credit
Parks-Oriented Chainsaw Safety Awareness – 2 credits
Parks-Oriented Basic Chipper Operations and Handling – 1 credit
Parks-Oriented Horticulture – 2 credits
Registered Playground Practitioner Program – 5 credits
Registered Playground Practitioner Update Course – 1 credit
Playground Compliance and Hazard Analysis Compendium – ½ credit
Playground Compliance and Hazard Analysis Refresher – ½ credit
Supervisor Competency – 1 credit

ORFA Programs

Cemeterian™ Operations Level I - 3 credits
Cemeterian™ Operations Level II - 2 credits
Managing People at Work - 4 credits
Legal Awareness - 4 credits
Advanced Park Management - 4 credits
Marina Management and Operations - 4 credits
Events Planning and Management - 4 credits
Fuel Safety Awareness - 1 credit
Violence in the Workplace (2 day) - 2 credits
Violence in the Workplace (4 day) - 4 credits

STA Programs

Ontario Turfgrass Symposium - 1 credit
STA Field Day - ½ credit

PARKS AND OPEN SPACE A L L I A N C E



The Parks and Open Space Alliance is a coalition of the Ontario Parks Association, the Ontario Recreation Facilities Association and the Sports Turf Association dedicated to strengthening parks and open space practitioners through professional development, recognition and advocacy. For more information, please visit...

- Ontario Parks Association www.ontarioparksassociation.ca
- Ontario Recreation Facilities Association www.orfa.com
- Sports Turf Association www.sportsturfassociation.com

www.POSAlliance.ca

**PARKS AND OPEN SPACE
A L L I A N C E**



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