



National Association of County Park and Recreation Officials

**2022 Summer Meeting - Valdosta, Georgia
May 14-16, 2022**

Registration Deadline: May 5, 2022

Hosted by the Valdosta-Lowndes County Parks and Recreation Authority

Schedule at a glance

Saturday, May 14	County Parks Tour, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm (\$35/person)
Saturday, May 14	Optional Dinner & Social 6:30 to 9:30 pm (self pay)
Sunday, May 15	Board and Membership Meeting, 9:00 to 11:00 am
Sunday, May 15	Annual NACPRO Awards Banquet, 5:00 to 9:00 pm (\$70/person)
Monday, May 16	Classroom Workshop, 8:30 am to Noon (\$20/person)

County Parks Tour - Saturday, May 14

Join us for a tour of Valdosta-Lowndes County Parks and Recreation Authority's facilities. The bus will leave the Fairfield Inn & Suites Valdosta at 9:00 am. Lunch, drinking water and healthy snacks will be provided. The bus will return to the Fairfield Inn at approximately 5:00 pm.

Tour Itinerary

North Lowndes Sports Complex

South Georgia's best new sports complex boasts nine fields for soccer, lacrosse, football, and more. The park originally held a large multipurpose field, playground, walking path, and a skate park. Through a partnership with Lowndes County and the Georgia Department of Transportation, VLPR was able to acquire 65 acres of land free of charge to expand the park into a full athletic complex. Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) dollars funded the addition of eight lit soccer fields with restrooms and parking, which will open to the public soon. The most recent SPLOST added even more funding to create a five-field baseball/softball complex in the same area. Construction on that addition starts soon. Future plans include an indoor recreation/sports center, playground, 5K trail, and dog park.

McKey Park Tennis Center/Future Pickleball Courts

McKey Park is in the middle of Valdosta and is home to the hugely popular Harry B. Anderson Tennis Center. The tennis center features 18 tennis courts that are used for lessons, clinics, and general tennis recreation. The pristine courts are a true gem as they are free for open play and always will be as a condition of the initial land donation. The center has a tennis shelter, bleachers, bathrooms and water fountains as well as a pro shop that houses the tennis pro's office. Pickleball is a hot ticket and VLPR is responding to the local demand by adding 12 pickleball courts next to the current tennis complex. Like

the tennis courts, the pickleball courts will be used for open play and will host a variety of local, regional, and state tournaments. The park also features two large playgrounds and is a hub of activity.

Freedom Park-Miracle League Complex

VLPRA and the Miracle League of Valdosta worked in a public/private partnership to build the nation's largest Miracle Field, which is the centerpiece of the Miracle Field Complex at Freedom Park. The Miracle Field is a two-dimensional rubberized field with fully accessible dugouts that feature full bathrooms. There's also a fully accessible concession stand and restroom building, a fully accessible pavilion, and a boundless playground where children of all abilities can play together. The Miracle Field is flanked by four standard baseball/softball fields to highlight inclusivity. This complex is the crown jewel of VLPRA's parks and facilities.

The tour is \$35/person.

Optional Dinner and Social - Saturday, May 14

6:30 to 9:30 pm (self pay)

Please meet in the lobby of the Fairfield Hotel at 6:15 pm to walk or carpool to the restaurant.

Board and Membership Meeting - Sunday, May 15

9:00 to 11:00 am Board Meeting - members are welcome

The meeting will be at the Fairfield Inn and Suites Valdosta. The meeting room is on the ground floor and will have NACPRO on the door. No food or beverages will be served, the hotel offers a free hot breakfast.

Awards Banquet - Sunday, May 15

5:00 to 9:00 pm at the Rainwater Conference Center in the Gardenia-Azalea Suite. The Rainwater is next door to the Fairfield Inn. (1 Meeting Place, Valdosta, Georgia 31601).

A cocktail reception begins at 5:00 pm (cash bar) and dinner begins at 6:00 pm. Following the meal, the NACPRO Awards of Excellence will be announced and new board members and officers will be installed.

The banquet is \$70/person.

Classroom Workshop - Monday, May 16

8:30 am to Noon at the Fairfield Inn and Suites Valdosta. The meeting room is on the ground floor and will have NACPRO on the door.

No food or beverages will be served, the hotel offers a free hot breakfast.

Sports Facilities Advisory Group – Evan Elaff

This presentation will address the economic impact of sports tourism through parks and recreation agencies. The youth sports tourism market is driven by travel teams, showcase events, and local use when not hosting tournaments. When properly planned, sports tourism facilities can improve local sports participation while producing millions of dollars in tourism spending.

The workshop is \$20/person.

Hotel and Meeting Venue

NACPRO has secured a block of rooms at the Fairfield Inn and Suites Valdosta from May 13-15, 2022. The board meeting and classroom workshop will be held at the Fairfield Inn. The awards banquet is will be at the Rainwater Convention Center, right next door to the Fairfield Inn.

The hotel offers the following amenities: free Wi-Fi throughout hotel, complimentary breakfast buffet, fitness room, outdoor pool, in-room mini refrigerator, microwave and coffee maker, and free parking.

Fairfield Inn and Suites Valdosta

2010 W. Hill Avenue, Valdosta, Georgia 31601

Hotel Reservations:

Supply is limited, please call (229) 242-1225

Group Block Name: NACPRO

Group Rate: \$93 + tax - Single or double occupancy room, 2 king studios available

Make your reservation on or before April 22 to get the group rate.

Register to attend: <https://nacpro.memberclicks.net/2022-registration-form>

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