

NACPRO News



February 4, 2014

The National Association of County Park and Recreation Officials is a non-profit professional organization that advances official policies that promote county and regional park and recreation issues while providing members with opportunities to network, exchange ideas and best practices, and enhance professional development.

Learn more about us at:

www.nacpro.org

Deadline for next issue

The next issue of NACPRO News will be delivered on February 18.

If you have news or an article to share, please send it to Brenda@nacpro.org February 17.

NACPRO's Corporate Sponsors

NACPRO urges our professional members to utilize the services and products of our Corporate Sponsors and support their contributions to the field of Parks and Recreation.

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MKSK transforms cities through creating great public spaces and innovative community planning. We work with municipalities large and small to help our communities become vibrant places of destination. MKSK brings landscape architects, urban designers, graphic designers and certified planners, together to offer creative and sustainable solutions. MKSK offers multidisciplinary professional services through our offices in Ohio, Kentucky, and Indiana. Leadership and expertise guide distinct areas of practice strength for public, private and cultural projects. MKSK considers the environmental, financial, and human impacts of design and development decisions. We design beautiful and sustainable cultural spaces that capture the spirit and story of place. We strengthen cultural connections by articulating the landscape as a medium for celebrating both our history and our contemporary life. The diversity of projects and the consistent high-quality design expertise has created a growing sphere of recognition and respect. MKSK is at the forefront of the profession from city parks to theme parks, and from communities to campuses.

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As a nationally recognized, multidisciplinary land planning and architecture firm, SmithGroupJJR has been a leader in park design and recreation planning for over 60 years. Our assignments have taken us across the nation from New England to the California Coast, and from the Great Lakes states to Texas. Our clients have included national, state, regional, and cultural organizations; major corporations; and private developers. Moreover, with a focus on natural resources, the content of our work for these clients has covered the spectrum of recreation project types from nature centers to waterfront parks and marinas, and from public gardens to golf courses.

For more information: http://www.smithgroupjir.com/projects?utf8=%E2%9C%93&practice_area=21&project_type_ids%5B%5D=15&find



RJM Design Group specializes in the planning and design of environments that enhance the quality of life for the entire community. Established in 1987, RJM Design Group has evolved into a multi-disciplinary planning and landscape architectural design firm committed to serving the needs of public agencies and organizations. The RJM team of dynamic individuals includes licensed landscape architects, architects, designers and planners, many of whom are LEED Accredited Professionals. Our design decisions are inspired by our workshop process where stakeholders are informed of the project parameters and led through a series of activities designed to clarify and prioritize needs and desires for a project. The results are projects that contribute to a cohesive sense of place and become a source of community pride. RJM Design Group has always been a proponent of improving public health and the environment through the creation of sustainable communities. We approach every project with special attention to site sustainability, energy and water efficiency, use of renewable resources, reduced operations and maintenance costs, and minimal impact to the environment.

For more information: www.RJMdesigngroup.com

Would you like to become a Corporate Sponsor?

Go to <http://www.nacpro.org/membership/membership.shtml> for more information or call Brenda at (814) 927-8212.

2014 NACPRO Call for Award Nominations

Nominations are now being accepted for the NACPRO 2014 Awards. The annual NACPRO Awards Banquet recognizes and honors excellence in parks and recreation at the county, regional, special district level throughout the nation. Award categories include park and recreation facilities, programs, staff and volunteers.

The presentation of awards will be held in New Orleans, Louisiana on Sunday, July 13 during the National Association of Counties Conference.

There have been a few changes to the NACPRO award program this year. The award application fee has increased from \$50 to \$75. We have also eliminated the free banquet ticket for awardees. Our costs to provide the awards program have increased and it's important to our financial stability that the awards-related revenue covers the cost of the program.

Award nominations are due by March 31, 2014 and must be submitted in digital format (by email or mailing a CD). The application fee of \$75 must accompany each nomination.

Award nominations are accepted only from agencies that have a NACPRO member. Not sure if your agency has a member? Contact Brenda at (814) 927-8212 or Brenda@nacpro.org. Visit www.nacpro.org/membership/membership.shtml for more information about becoming a member.

Call for Award Nominations and Instructions -

http://nacpro.org/awards/documents/2014_NACPRO_Award_Information.pdf

Award Nomination Form -

http://nacpro.org/awards/documents/NACPRO_Award_Nomination_Form.doc

Member News

County hears parks and recreation plan presentation

Courtesy of the Topeka Capital-Journal

By Tim Hrenchir

Connect Shawnee County's trail system, with a goal of offering 150 miles of trails.

Add an outdoor aquatic center in southwest Shawnee County.

Create a countywide “special parks district” that would have the power to levy a tax to support parks and recreation, instead of requiring Shawnee County to cover those costs.

Those were among 35 key recommendations made to the Shawnee County Commission (Kansas) on Thursday by a consultant working to craft a long-term strategic master plan for the county’s parks and recreation department.

Commissioners Bob Archer, Kevin Cook and Shelly Buhler took no official action during the 90-minute work session, where they heard from Leon Younger, president of Indianapolis-based PROS Consulting LLC.

Younger gave a 112-slide PowerPoint presentation sharing his recommendations and detailing market research conducted on behalf of his company.

Read more: <http://m.cjonline.com/news/2014-01-30/county-hears-parks-and-recreation-plan-presentation>

County selling naming rights at parks

Courtesy of the UT San Diego

By Mark Walker

SAN DIEGO — Park trails, playgrounds and other amenities in the unincorporated area are going up for sale.

At least their naming rights are after the San Diego County Board of Supervisors on Wednesday approved a plan to sell naming rights for park facilities to groups, businesses and individuals for up to 20 years in a move that could generate as much as \$6 million or more.

Supervisor 4-1 to approve the plan to sell naming rights for five, 10, 15 or 20 years as a way to generate money for public open areas.

The only caveat to secure the rights after writing the check is that nothing promoting a product, alcohol, gambling or a political or religious viewpoint is allowed.

Read more: www.utsandiego.com/news/2014/jan/29/naming-county-parks-rights/

County News

Lawmakers consider funding of Oregon county parks

Courtesy of the Statesman Journal

By Zach Urness

There are times when Mike Russell feels a bit like a doctor forced to treat every injury, no matter how severe, with nothing but a Band-Aid.

The Lane County parks manager, who oversees 71 sites from the Oregon Coast to the Cascade Mountains, is facing a \$16 million backlog of deferred maintenance but doesn't have resources for anything but minor repairs to keep facilities in passable condition.

"It has been a decade of downsizing, of losing people to staff cuts and sacrificing our facilities," Russell said. "We're able to do minor maintenance but not address the bigger issues of facilities coming to the end of their lives. There's going to come a point when major things break down."

The situation is hardly unique.

Oregon's county parks face an \$80 million backlog of deferred maintenance projects that includes everything from crumbling picnic shelters to potholed parking lots to deteriorating wastewater facilities.

The problem has grown serious enough that Oregon lawmakers will consider legislation to increase funding to county parks during the 2014 legislative session.

A proposal presented Friday at the Interim Joint Committee on Ways and Means would shift revenue from recreational vehicle fees from state parks to county parks.

Under current law, the Department of Transportation collects RV fees and transfers the revenue to the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department. ORPD directs 35 percent of that money to county parks.

Read more:

http://www.statesmanjournal.com/article/20140121/NEWS/301210035/Lawmakersconsider-funding-Oregon-county-parks?nclick_check=1-

Rogue trails, vandalism vex county park officials as plan is considered

Courtesy of the Marin Independent Journal

By Mark Prado

An X Games-like bike jump course near Mill Valley has drawn the attention of the likes of Tiburon Olympic Gold Medalist Jonny Moseley. One problem: County parks officials say it was built illegally.

The series of a dozen or so undulating earthen hills near Vasco Court apparently took years to build, and was discovered by Marin County Parks and Open Space rangers only recently.

Because the handmade course is so developed and near spotted owl and red-legged frog habitat — both species are federally listed under the Endangered Species Act — officials believe it would take an environmental permit to bring it back to its natural condition.

"The first time I saw this, I was like 'oh my God,'" said ranger Robert Ruiz as he looked over the site this week. "How did they do this?"

"People have been building trails in Marin County since these hills were ranched and people believe it's their birthright to do so," Dahl said. "We are concerned about rogue trails; they are very destructive for the environment. We understand people like to get out into nature, but if you build whatever you want wherever you want, pretty soon that nature is gone."

Read more: http://www.marinij.com/marinnews/ci_24971832/rouge-trails-vandalism-vex-county-park-officials-plan

News from the National Recreation and Park Association

Taboo Topic: Homeless in the Park

By Danielle Taylor

The January cover story about homelessness in parks, "[Out of the Shadows](#)," is one I've wanted to write for a long time. At both the 2012 and 2013 NRPA Congresses, I attended education sessions on homelessness presented by Sara Lamnin, and in each, I hoped to gather some stories from other attendees of successful programs that park agencies have implemented to work with the homeless people living in their parks.

It's uncomfortable to talk about, but homeless people often do cause a major problem for parks and the people who staff them. Gina Mullins-Cohen, NRPA's vice president of marketing, communications and publishing, told me about a park near her former California home that has been completely overtaken by homeless people and turned into an unintended campground where others are afraid to go. This same situation occurs at parks across the country, and because homelessness is an incredibly complex social issue with innumerable factors contributing to it, it's not easy to address on a wide scale.

The January article only included perspectives from a handful of agencies that have developed programs to address problems with homelessness in their parks, but there's a lot more to be said on this topic, and I hope this article will be taken as the start of a broader conversation we need to have on this issue. If you have something to share about homelessness in your community and any responses your agency has made, please do so in the comments section below, and we may publish it in the magazine. I look forward to hearing your thoughts.

Read more: <http://www.nrpa.org/Blog/Taboo-Topic--Homeless-in-the-Park/>

New Research and Resources

Economic Impact Analysis of Orange County Trails, Florida

Courtesy of American Trails

Florida's Office of Greenways and Trails joined with partners in studying the economic impact of trails on downtown Winter Garden and Orange County. Trail user surveys and

business surveys were conducted along the Cady Way and West Orange Trails, the Little Econ Greenway, and in downtown Winter Garden. It was determined that in 2010 in Orange County, these trails supported 516 jobs and had an estimated economic impact of \$42.6 million.

For more information: <http://www.ecfrpc.org/Document-Library/Environment/Economic-Impact-of-Trails-in-Orange-County.aspx>

Prepare to Launch! Guidelines For Assessing, Designing & Building Access Sites For Carry-In Watercraft

Courtesy of the River Management Society

Prepare to Launch! is a resource designed to help facility and trail planners and park and recreation project leaders plan and build or update an access site tailored to the needs of canoeists, kayakers, tubers, stand-up paddlers, or small craft sailors. It guides a reader through the development process from conception to design creation, and provides a variety of launch construction options.

Prepare to Launch! is available in four distinct formats to serve you and sharing with others in your office, meeting or in the field:

1. Web version: Organized by chapter, featuring photo galleries and linked resources. Best for viewing online, via a tablet or mobile device.

2. E-book: Easy to use online book. Best for skimming all content.

3. Interactive PowerPoint Presentation: Can be downloaded to access interactive features. Best for presenting to audiences.

4. Chapter Breakdown (.pdf format): Best for easy downloading.

For more information: <http://www.river-management.org/prepare-to-launch->

Moving to An Area With More Green Space Can Improve Your Mental Health for Years

Courtesy of Smithsonian Magazine

By Joseph Stromberg

There's plenty of evidence for the idea that humans thrive when we have frequent exposure to nature—even when it's just a patch of greenery in the midst of a city's concrete jungle.

Studies have found that, after looking at nature scenes, people are kinder and more charitable. They've suggested that children with ADHD have an easier time concentrating when they spend time outdoors. A 2008 study even found that, for office workers, a mere glimpse of green through a window or a live plant on their desk were, on the whole, associated with lower stress levels and higher job satisfaction.

A new study published last week in *Environmental Science & Technology* underscores just how important green spaces are for our long-term well-being. When a group of researchers from the UK's University of Exeter looked at five years' worth of mental health data for 1064 participants who moved their residence during the study period, they found that those who moved to urban areas with more surrounding green space showed higher overall mental health scores—meaning that they were happier and had lower levels of anxiety and depression—for the very first year after their relocation compared to the years prior to moving.

Even more important, they found that these benefits lingered. Participants who'd moved to greener areas showed higher mental health scores for a full three years after their relocation, when the study stopped collecting data.

Read more: <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/moving-area-with-more-green-space-can-improve-your-mental-health-years-180949348/>

Park health resources: Benefits, values, and implications

Courtesy of Park Science Magazine

By Jennifer M. Thomsen, Robert B. Powell, and Diana Allen

Obesity, cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, and mental illness have reached alarming proportions among children and adults in the United States. For example, approximately 36% of adults are considered obese, 10% have diabetes, and 25% suffer from some form of mental illness (CDC 2013). These chronic diseases reduce quality of

life and cause early mortality (Hyde 2011). To combat these public health challenges, many health professionals promote developing additional recreational programs and infrastructure, such as parks, to increase physical activity (WHO 2008; NPC 2011) and as a form of preventive medicine (Frumkin and Louv 2007). Generally these parks are part of local communities' infrastructure, but all parks and public lands, no matter their location, potentially could serve as part of a unified system of health resources for the public.

One effort to enhance and promote the use of parks as health resources is the Healthy Parks Healthy People (HPHP) program, which promotes proactive and healthy activities as part of the public health and medical care delivery systems worldwide. In the United States, the Healthy Parks Healthy People movement also works to increase society's recognition of parks and protected areas (including state, local, and regional park systems) as places for the promotion of physical and mental health and social well-being. Aligned with these HPHP tenets, NPS director Jonathan Jarvis in the "Call to Action" emphasized the need to "expand the health community's use of parks as a healing tool and increase citizens' recognition of the value of parks to improve health and well-being and encourage park visitors to make healthy lifestyle choices" (NPS 2012). To address these needs, the National Park Service established the Health and Wellness Executive Steering Committee in 2010 to initiate steps for HPHP's integration in the United States and "for park lands to take their rightful place in creating a healthy and civil society."

Read more: <http://www.nature.nps.gov/ParkScience/index.cfm?ArticleID=642>

Placemaking in Legacy Cities: Opportunities and Good Practices

Courtesy of the Center for Community Progress

Placemaking in Legacy Cities: Opportunities and Good Practices explores how residents and leaders in Legacy Cities have used placemaking principles to transform blighted public spaces into revitalized community assets.

The report, prepared for the Center for Community Progress by New Solutions Group, LLC, uses case studies to explore placemaking in four different Legacy City settings: downtowns, anchor districts, neighborhoods and corridors/trails. Featured placemaking sites are: Over the Rhine in Cincinnati, Ohio; Midtown, the Georgia Street Community Collective, and Clark Park in Detroit, Michigan; Elmwood Avenue in Buffalo, New York; and the waterfront development and associated trail system in Pittsburgh, PA.

Legacy Cities are former industrial hubs, largely in the Northeast and Midwest, that experienced industrial and population declines during the latter half of the twentieth century. Placemaking in Legacy Cities: Opportunities and Good Practices examines how placemaking can be adapted to these settings, which often include high vacancy rates, a shrinking property tax base, and other challenges that differ from those of cities experiencing high growth rates and development pressures.

For more information: <http://www.communityprogress.net/placemaking-in-legacy-cities-pages-394.php>

News Clippings

Observations on the Land and Water Conservation Fund

Courtesy of the Living Landscape Observer

By Tom Wolfe

For Living Landscape Observers who may have lost faith in our elected federal representatives allow me to offer you some insights for the New Year. 2014 has begun with a significant legislative accomplishment in Congress. That's right, they actually got something done in Washington, DC!

The second session of the 113th Congress began in early January with unfinished business from last year. There was no federal budget passed in time for the beginning of fiscal year 2014, last September. Finally, during the week of January 13, the House and Senate succeeded in resolving their differences and a \$1 trillion omnibus spending bill was passed.

The agency, most critical to us as outdoor enthusiasts and serves as the overseer of nearly 650 million acres (almost 30 percent of the land area of the United States) the Department of the Interior (DOI), received \$ 30.1 billion. This is an increase of \$300 million from FY '13. Included with DOI are funds for the National Park Service which received \$2.6 billion. That is an increase of 28.5 million from last year. (For those interested in the Historic Preservation budget visit Preservation Action <http://www.preservationaction.org>)

Within the Park Service budget is a very important program that helps to permanently protect land and water for all Americans, the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). Signed into law on September 3, 1964, "the purposes of this Act are to assist in

preserving, developing, and assuring accessibility to...present and future generations ...such quality and quantity of outdoor recreation resources as may be available and are necessary and desirable for the individual active participation in such recreation and strengthen the health and vitality of the Citizens of the United States.”

Read more: <http://livinglandscapeobserver.net/observations-on-the-land-and-water-conservation-fund/>

Should cameras be installed on popular hiking trails?

Courtesy of hikinginthesmokys.blogspot.com

Should cameras be installed on popular hiking trails? According to North Shore Rescue in British Columbia, Canada, the answer to that question is yes.

North Shore Rescue spokesman Tim Jones told CBC News that once a search and rescue is activated, crews will be able to review film footage to get a better idea on where to look when a hiker goes missing. He makes this argument in light of the \$40,000 in air time, and 1600 hours that his team put into searching for a 22-year-old man that went missing in the North Shore Mountains last November 25th. Had there been video surveillance footage, rescuers believe they could've narrowed their search for the man.

For me, the question comes down to the issue of privacy. More and more, cameras are creeping into our everyday lives. How far are we willing to allow cameras to intrude into our lives - in the name of safety and security? By using the line of reasoning I've heard for more cameras and more security, you could make the argument that we should be installing cameras in our homes so authorities can make sure were not abusing our spouses or children.

Read more: <http://hikinginthesmokys.blogspot.com/2014/01/should-cameras-be-installed-on-popular.html>

Rethinking the role of a conservation officer

Courtesy of the StarTribune.com

By Dennis Anderson

Enforcement isn't the most heavily staffed division of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. But for many people it's the face of the entire agency, in the form of the division's 160 conservation officers scattered statewide, most of whom traditionally have been white males.

That's changing, as DNR enforcement brings on more women and minorities to work in the field, an effort that's been underway for some years and that has been fairly successful in diversifying the officer ranks.

Now, under new DNR enforcement director Ken Soring, other changes are afoot, not just in the makeup of the conservation officer corps, but in the emphasis the division places on protecting the state's lands and waters, in addition to its traditional duties of checking hunters, anglers, ATV riders, snowmobilers and others in the field for licenses, registrations and possible violations.

"We're in the process of developing a strategic plan for the division," Soring said. "It will be a guidance document that says where we want to be positioned, and which priorities we need to focus on, in the coming decade."

As part of that effort, a new program intended to attract conservation officer candidates with demonstrable passion for natural-resource protection will take wing this year.

Read more: <http://www.startribune.com/sports/outdoors/240661281.html>

2014 CRT Achievement Award Program

Courtesy of American Trails

The Coalition for Recreational Trails sponsors the Annual Achievement Awards as part of the ongoing effort to build awareness and appreciation of the highly successful Recreational Trails Program (RTP). Outstanding projects funded by RTP are honored at the awards ceremony on Capitol Hill the first week in June during the annual celebration for the American Recreation Coalition's Great Outdoors Month. Members of Congress will be encouraged to join us in honoring the achievements of their constituents. Awards are given in several categories:

1. Maintenance & Rehabilitation – maintaining, repairing damage to, or upgrading the quality of a trail

2. Construction & Design – planning and building a trail, portions of a trail (e.g., a bridge), or trail related facilities (e.g., a trailhead, shelter, etc.)

3. Education & Communication – enhancing trail use and enjoyment through increased environmental awareness, promotion of trail-related safety, and encouragement of trail-related outdoor recreation

4. Multiple-Use Management & Corridor Sharing – facilitating and/or encouraging the use of a trail corridor by more than one type of trail enthusiast, particularly those enthusiasts that do not ordinarily share trails or trail-related facilities

5. Environment & Wildlife Compatibility – enhancing the protection of wildlife and/or the general environment as part of trail development and use

6. Accessibility Enhancement – facilitating and/or encouraging increased access to trail-related recreation opportunities for people with disabilities

7. Youth Conservation/Service Corps – making effective use of the services and skills of qualified youth conservation or service corps to construct and/or maintain trails

For more information: <http://www.americantrails.org/awards/CRTawards.html>

Training Opportunities

2014 National Outdoor Recreation Conference

May 13-16, 2014

San Francisco, California

"Thriving in a New Economic Reality"

Conference Registration is open and a Preliminary Program is available

The Society of Outdoor Recreation Professionals is proud to present the 2014 National Outdoor Recreation Conference. This year we are featuring presentations that demonstrate how you are adapting and thriving in our new economic reality. You will learn about innovative partnerships, diversifying funding sources, use of technology to streamline, entrepreneurial solutions, adaptive reuse of aging facilities, cultivating political and community support, and other case studies that present new ideas and tools to succeed in today's economic reality.

Program Highlights

Plenary Sessions

- How Research Can Help Park and Outdoor Recreation Professionals Thrive in the New Economic Reality from Robert Manning, Steven Rubenstein Professor of Environment and Natural Resources, University of Vermont
- National Outdoor Recreation Outlook Forum - A panel of experts will provide a provocative glimpse into the future

Concurrent Sessions

- Innovative Technology for Bringing Parks to People from Larry Orman, Executive Director of the GreenInfo Network
- The power of outdoor recreation experiences to veterans, soldiers and Army families from John O'Sullivan, Manager of the Army's Outdoor Recreation Program
- Tying Dollars and Cents to the Intrinsic Value of Parks from Jaime English, Senior Planner at Oregon Parks and Recreation Department
- Practical Strategies for Recalibrating Parks and Recreation Services from Becky Kelley, Director of Georgia State Parks
- Innovative OHV Recreation Solutions in California from California State Parks Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division Staff
- Creating Lasting Culture Change through Economic Development Initiatives and Recreation on the Lower Mississippi River from Diana Threadgill, President and Executive Director of the Mississippi River Corridor – Tennessee

Field Workshop

The Presidio Trust: a Different Kind of Model

There will be four educational stops on the field workshop day that explore the complexities of an urban National Recreation Area cooperatively managed by the National Park Service and the Presidio Trust. Craig Middleton, Executive Director of the Presidio Trust, will be the luncheon speaker and provide a behind the scenes look at the financing of the trust.

Pre-conference Training

- Tread Trainer Overview (\$25 fee)
- Accessibility Summit for Outdoor Developed Areas (free)
- SCORP University (free)

For more information: www.recpro.org/2014-conference

Adaptive Paddling Summit

Courtesy of the American Canoe Association

ACA announces the inaugural Adaptive Paddling Summit, to be held in Grand Rapids Michigan, September 15 – 17, 2014. The Adaptive Paddling Summit is designed to be a forum for those striving to make paddlesports more inclusive of individuals with all types of disabilities.

The ACA will share the knowledge it has accumulated through operating its Adaptive Paddling Program since 1990. All others are invited come teach, learn, and share ideas in a collaborative environment, help refine best practices, network together and have fun.

Registration will be available on the ACA website beginning May 1, 2014.

For more information: http://www.americancanoe.org/?Adaptive_Summit

2014 Crime Prevention through Environmental Design Classes

Courtesy of the National Institute of Crime Prevention

5 Day Basic CPTED Course, Greenville, SC - March 31- April 4, 2014

3 Day CPTED REA Course, Greenville, SC - April 2-4, 2014

3 Day Basic CPTED Course, Ventura, CA - May 6-8, 2014

5 Day Basic CPTED Course, Las Vegas, NV - June 2-6, 2014

3 Day Advanced CPTED Course, Evansville, IN - June 17-19, 2014

5 Day Basic CPTED Course, Greenville, SC - September 8-12, 2014

3 Day Advanced CPTED Course, Las Vegas, NV September 23-25, 2014

3 Day Basic CPTED Course, Detroit, MI - October 6-8, 2014 in partnership with [ISCPP](#)

[Crime Prevention Symposium](#)

3 Day Advanced CPTED Course, Greenville, SC - November 4-6, 2014

For more information: <http://www.cptedtraining.net/index.php>

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