

NACPRO News



February 18, 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 March 4.

If you have news or an article to share, please send it to

Brenda@nacpro.org

March 3.

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.

MKSK

Landscape Architecture | Urban Design | Planning

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.

For more information: www.mkskstudios.com

SMITHGROUP JJR

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

El Paso County Parks Master Plan Garner Two State Awards

Courtesy of Landscape Online

The El Paso County Parks master plan has received two Colorado awards: a 2013 Merit Award for "outstanding planning project" from the American Planning Association's Colorado Chapter, and a 2013 Starburst Community Award from the

Colorado Lottery.

Lafayette, Colo.-based Design Concepts CLA, Inc. was part of the consulting team to update the El Paso County Parks master plan, a project led by GreenPlay LLC of Lafayette. The master plan had not been updated since 2005.

The scope of the project was to develop a robust set of recommendations for open space conservation, new parks and trails for the county, which encompasses 2,158 square miles.

The APA Colorado selection committee chose the master plan project for a Merit Award because it addressed specific rural and county planning issues, and for its public engagement, which it deemed a model for other rural communities. The committee also noted the plan provided information needed for the capital budget, and was adopted with considerable support.

Read more: <https://landscapeonline.com/research/article/18618>

Hennepin County hires first bike and pedestrian coordinator

Courtesy of the StarTribune.com

By Elizabeth Hustad

The “bike-friendly” moniker now attached to the city of Minneapolis may soon transfer itself to Hennepin County. Hennepin is welcoming its first bicycle and pedestrian coordinator as the county moves to alleviate county-city communication problems and to enhance biking and walking infrastructure along its roads.

Kelley Yemen, 33, formerly with New York City’s Department of Transportation, will step into the position, which pays a salary of \$68,000, on Feb. 10. “Ms. Yemen will help implement Hennepin County’s complete-streets priorities by focusing on bicycle and pedestrian issues, and she will be a crucial liaison to our partner communities,” Commissioner Peter McLaughlin wrote in a news release.

Although many cities employ bike chiefs, this role was hitherto missing at the county level, meaning that city officials were wrangling with multiple county engineers on joint projects, and communication was inefficient. Organization had been “pretty scattered,” McLaughlin said.

Hennepin County maintains more than 550 miles of bike and pedestrian trails, and that number is increasing by 5 to 10 miles each year, the county reported. It has spent a cumulative \$3.8 million since 1995 on maintaining the trails and providing for cyclist and pedestrian safety, the county said.

The county is now contracting with Three Rivers Park District to create a new countywide bike plan that will better reflect changes in biking and walking habits in the county's cities. The new plan, expected to be completed in late May and to take effect later this year, is a more exhaustive reworking than the comparatively minor yearly updates.

Read more: <http://www.startribune.com/local/west/243425871.html>

Giant animals used as park equipment in Valley

Courtesy of abc15.com

By Nick VinZant

PHOENIX - Giant spiders, mountain lions, and rattlesnakes have been spotted in parts of Maricopa County. County officials said they put them near popular parks on purpose in the hopes that children would play with them.

The giant animals aren't real animals though; they're specially designed playground equipment parks officials brought in to replace aging jungle gyms and slides.

John Lund of Triple M Game Time designed the life-like equipment. Lund said there are Cactus Climbers for children to scramble up, Cactus Swings for people to swing on, a giant mountain lion and a giant spider for balancing, and even a giant rattlesnake slide.

Maricopa County officials commissioned the new playground equipment for five county parks. At a cost of more than \$750,000, the specially designed equipment is more costly than traditional playground equipment. However, county officials believe it is worth it.

Read

more: http://www.abc15.com/dpp/news/region_phoenix_metro/central_phoenix/giant-animals-used-as-park-equipment-in-valley#ixzz2sSTTxXHt

News from the National Association of Counties

NACo Launches County Innovation Network

County Innovation Network (COIN) is a private, managed online community for local government leadership and staff. The goal of COIN is to enable counties to share the wisdom of the crowd nationally, for learning, discussion and decision-making. COIN brings opportunities to extend collaboration beyond the county elected officials to include staff members from counties, state associations, NACo affiliates, economic development authorities and municipalities to all 3,069 counties beyond conferences all-year round. COIN is the culmination of the farsighted vision and leadership provided by technology and innovation leaders.

For more information: http://www.countyinnovation.us/content/help?page=help_howto

2014 NACo Legislative Conference

March 1-5

Washington Hilton, Washington DC

Plan to attend NACo's 2014 Legislative Conference to participate in educational sessions focused on legislative and policy issues impacting counties. Hear from nationally-known speakers and leaders in the federal arena for insight on issues facing our nation.

For more information:

<http://www.naco.org/meetings/participate/LegislativeConference/Pages/default.aspx>

House Endangered Species Task Force Release Recommendations

By Jacquelyn Alamia

On February 4, the House Endangered Species Working Group released a 64-page report detailing its findings and recommendations related to reforms of the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The Task Force recommended changes to the ESA that would:

1. Ensure greater transparency and prioritization of ESA with a focus on species recovery and de-listing
2. Reduce ESA litigation and encouraging settlement reform
3. Empower states, tribes, local governments and private landowners on ESA decisions affecting them and their property
4. Require more transparency and accountability of ESA data and science

The group was established last spring by Chairman Doc Hastings (R-Wash.) of the House Committee on Natural Resources. NACo has adopted policy which supports efforts to reform the Act, and will continue to work individually, and within the National Endangered Species Act Reform Coalition, of which NACo is a member, to promote reforms in the ESA.

Click here to view the final report:

<http://esaworkinggroup.hastings.house.gov/news/default.aspx?postid=368678>

Powering County Resilience: Renewable Energy Solutions Forum

NACo's Green Government Initiative will be hosting the Powering County Resilience: Renewable Energy Solutions Forum in Santa Barbara County, Calif., from March 20-22, 2014. This one-and-a-half day forum will bring together county leaders and industry experts to share how they've implemented sustainable energy solutions, including geothermal heating and cooling and landfill-to-gas conversion. Through presentations, panel discussions and site visits, participants will learn new ways to help their counties reduce environmental impacts while cutting energy costs.

For more information: <http://www.naco.org/programs/csd/Pages/NACo-2014-Green-Government-Initiative-Forum.aspx>

New Research and Resources

Group Mentality: Studies Show that Millennials are all about Group Fitness

Courtesy of GreenPlay LLC

One of the goals that remains on the forefront for parks and recreation professionals is

helping to reduce the obesity rates in their communities. While fitness programs typically conjure up images of people lifting weights or using cardio machines solo, research suggests that the Millennial generation (people born between 1980-2000) prefers group oriented fitness opportunities such as adult sports leagues, instructional sports lessons and other group fitness classes. According to the Sporting Goods Manufacturers of America's 2012 Topline Participation Report, "More than 30 million Millennials ... participate in team sports."

Read more: <http://greenplayllc.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/Millennials-and-Group-Fitness.pdf>

The Cost Recovery Pyramid: Methodology that Works

Courtesy of GreenPlay LLC

The Pyramid Methodology for establishing resource allocation and cost recovery philosophy, model, and policy has proven to be a useful resource for many agencies. GreenPlay's first completed project using the Pyramid Methodology was for Arizona State Parks in 2003. Over the past 10 years, we have completed these projects for a variety of agencies around the United States, and the process has evolved and been refined along the way. Karon Badalamenti, CPRE, Principal, and primary Project Manager for Cost Recovery projects states, "The flexible methodology is tailored for each project, and each agency is asked at the conclusion of the process to provide feedback to make our methodology better, improve our facilitation and development process, and give advice to future participating agencies on what worked, what didn't, tips and challenges."

Read more: <http://greenplayllc.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/Cost-Recovery.pdf>

News Clippings

National Park Service to Assist 350 Communities with Conservation and Outdoor Recreation Projects

Courtesy of the National Park Service

The National Park Service announced that it will help more than 350 communities

improve local parks, establish trails, access rivers, and protect special places through its Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program this year. Learn more about projects in your state.

Every year, the National Park Service makes technical assistance grants to community groups, nonprofits, tribes and state and local governments. Local leaders collaborate with National Park Service staff and other partners to plan trails and parks, conserve and improve access to rivers and natural areas, and create other outdoor recreation opportunities. National Park Service staff provide free facilitation and planning expertise, help engage partners, develop plans and identify funding sources. These projects empower millions of people to get outside close to home in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

Last year, the National Park Service helped communities across the country get their conservation and outdoor recreation projects off the ground. The city of West Jordan, Utah needed a plan to focus on the completion of one of the last four trail gaps in a 45-mile regional trail system. The NPS helped the city develop partnerships with more than 17 stakeholders and used a collaborative planning process to complete an action plan that allowed the city and their partners to secure more than \$2.6 million to construct the trail. Completing this trail segment creates opportunities for physical activity, and provides access to urban parks, trails, and connections to transit for more than one million people. Trail construction is scheduled to occur in the spring of 2014.

Do you have an idea for a local recreation or conservation project? The National Park Service can help you envision your community's future. Applications for 2015 projects are due by August 1, 2014. Visit www.nps.gov/rtca for more information and to apply.

Read more: <http://www.nps.gov/news/release.htm?id=1557>

Beyond Accessibility: Programming for People With Disabilities

Courtesy of GreenPlay LLC

With new ADA rules and regulations making their way toward full implementation (the new regulations must be implemented by March 2015), many agencies are focusing on accessibility with regard to their facilities. However, many agencies may be overlooking opportunities in adaptive recreation programming – programs and classes specifically designed for people with disabilities. One of the more notable examples of adaptive recreation in the past decade was demonstrated in the 2005 documentary, 'Murderball,' which followed the U.S. Wheelchair Rugby team on its quest to win a medal at the 2004

Paralympic games in Athens.

Over the past 10 years, programming for people with disabilities has achieved a heightened awareness with an increase in the number of veterans with disabilities returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. These veterans, along with a U.S. Census estimate of about 19% of Americans as a whole, want to participate in sports and recreational activities; they may even help people with new disabilities adapt to their change in circumstances.

Read more: <http://greenplayllc.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/Adaptive-Rec.pdf>

Interior Secretary Called Upon To Clean Up Air Over Grand Canyon

Courtesy of the National Parks Traveler

Interior Department officials for too long have neglected their responsibility to protect the airshed over Grand Canyon National Park, according to a coalition of conservation groups that want Interior Secretary Sally Jewel to take some action.

The groups maintain that air pollution from the Navajo Generating Station located a dozen miles from the park long has impaired the park's viewshed. Late last week they wrote the Interior secretary about the problem and urged her to declare impairment of the Grand Canyon by air pollution, an action "that would trigger stringent and timely pollutant reduction requirements" for the generating station.

"Anyone who looks can plainly see Navajo Generating Station's pollution plume after the cool, clear air from the north settles into Grand Canyon for the night," said Roger Clark with the Grand Canyon Trust. "Its mustard-brown smear from oxides of nitrogen and white veil of fine particles taint the sunrise and steal away sharp edges throughout the day."

Read more: <http://www.nationalparkstraveler.com/2014/02/around-parks-paddling-rules-poster-contests-grand-canyons-airshed24620>

State announces new site to promote Adirondack touring

Courtesy of denpubs.com

ALBANY — Governor Andrew M. Cuomo today announced the launch of a new interactive Adirondack recreation planning tool to promote tourism attractions in the Adirondack Region and spur economic development opportunities.

The portal, found at VisitAdirondacks.com, was created in partnership between cross-regional organizations—The Adirondack Association of Towns and Villages (AATV), Center for Economic Growth, and Central Adirondack Partnership for the 21st Century—and funded through the Governor’s Regional Economic Development Council initiative.

A mobile app is scheduled to launch in the coming weeks and will provide on-the-go users with the same planning options available on the portal.

Read more: <http://www.denpubs.com/news/2014/feb/06/state-announces-new-site-promote-adirondack-tourin/>

Training Opportunities

WEBINAR: Managing User Conflicts

Courtesy of American Trails

Thursday, February 20, 2014

10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. PACIFIC (1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. EASTERN)

\$35 members / \$55 nonmembers

(CEUs \$20 additional fee)

The webinar "Managing User Conflicts ~ Part 3 of 3" will introduce a variety of innovative approaches to resolving trail user conflicts have been employed and this webinar will review some of these management techniques. We will also look at the obligations land managers and trail users have to help resolve trail conflicts. Ultimately all of the tools in the world will not resolve trail users conflict without compromise on the part of everyone involved.

Learning Objectives:

- Understanding the roots of conflict
- What makes trail user conflicts unique
- Why are managers obligated to address user conflicts

- Engaging trail users in finding solutions
- The hierarchy of management techniques
- Compromise is the key
- The role of the land manager in addressing user conflicts

For more information:

<http://www.americantrails.org/resources/ManageMaintain/webinar-managing-trail-user-conflicts.html>

WEBINAR: Open Questions and Answers

Date: March 6, 2014, 2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET

Presenters: Marsha K. Mazz, Rex Pace, Melissa Andersen & Tim Creagan (all from US Access Board)

Host: US Access Board

Cost: Free

Back by popular demand! Accessibility specialists and information technology specialists from the Access Board are available to answer your burning questions during this session. Session participants are requested to submit questions in advance on the 2010 ADA Accessibility Standard, the Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Standard, Section 508, Medical Diagnostic Equipment or other Board rulemakings or activities. Accessibility specialists will answer questions submitted in advance during the first half of the session, leaving time in the second half to answer questions in the live session.

For more information: <http://www.accessibilityonline.org/Schedule/>

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