



NACPRO News

March 18, 2014

The bi-weekly e-newsletter of the National Association of County Park and Recreation Officials

Serving the needs of County, Regional and Special Park and Recreation District Professionals

New look to the newsletter

We've heard from a few members that this e-newsletter arrives in their inbox in a corrupted form that makes it difficult to read. So I thought I would try a simpler format to see if this transmits more faithfully. Please let me know what you think and if this works better or worse than the previous format. I am also curious how this looks on your mobile devices.

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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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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.smithgroupjjr.com/projects?utf8=%E2%9C%93&practice_area=21&project_type_ids%5B%5D=15&find

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 Special Park Districts Forum

April 29 - May 2, 2014
Orange County, California

Orange County Parks is proud to be hosting the Special Park Districts Forum in 2014. Come visit our wide array of parks and facilities and see our award winning sites. We look forward to showing you our best regional parks, historical sites, wilderness parks, and world class surfing beaches. This year our host hotel is by the water adjacent to the Dana Point Harbor and just a short drive from world class shopping, restaurants and amusement parks to round out your time here in Southern California.

For more information: http://ocparks.com/about/2014_spdf

Member News

Charleston Animal Society's Ambassador Award Goes to the Charleston County Park and Recreation Commission

Courtesy of the CharlestonChronicle.net

The Charleston County Park and Recreation Commission (CCPRC) received the inaugural Community Ambassador Award Feb. 27 from the Charleston Animal Society (CAS) for its role in helping the rescue organization become the first No Kill Community in the southeastern United States.

CCPRC was recognized at the 140th annual meeting of the CAS for its dedication to pets and their owners. CCPRC Superintendent of Administrative Services Kevin Bowie along with other staff members accepted the award on behalf of the organization.

"The CCPRC has been there every step of the way promoting healthy lifestyles between pet owners and their pets," CAS Chief Executive Officer Joe Elmore said. "And, more importantly, (for) providing numerous opportunities to engage those lifestyles, acting as a leader for other organizations and businesses in our community."

"We are very proud to have been chosen for this award," said CCPRC Executive Director Tom O'Rourke. "Pets and the people that own them represent a significant part of our parks and programming. Our pet programming also allows us to educate the community about the relationship between them and the wildlife habitat that inhabit our parks. Our pet-related programming will only increase in the years to come."

Read more: <http://www.charlestonchronicle.net/80966/2152/charleston-animal-societys-ambassador-award-goes-to-the-charleston-county-park-and-recreation-commission>

County News

Salt Lake County Parks and Recreation director retires

Courtesy of the Deseret News

SALT LAKE CITY — Michele Nekota, director of Salt Lake County Parks and Recreation, has announced her retirement effective March 31.

Nekota served 28 years with the county and was named director of the Parks and Recreation division in 2009.

Read more: <http://www.deseretnews.com/article/865598419/Salt-Lake-County-Parks-and-Recreation-director-retires.html?pg=all>

Bill provides county parks bigger portion of state RV fees

Courtesy of the RegisterGuard.com

SALEM — The Oregon House gave final approval Thursday to a bill that would give county parks departments a bigger slice of revenues from recreational vehicle registration fees.

Senate Bill 1514, which passed both chambers unanimously, would increase counties' share to 40 percent from 35 percent of those fees until mid-2015, with the remainder going to state parks. After that, the counties' share would grow up to 45 percent.

The policy was a legislative priority for the Lane County commissioners this year, as it was in the 2013 legislative session, when it died in a budget committee.

If enacted, the bill initially would mean a funding increase of between \$40,000 and \$50,000 a year for Lane County's parks department, according to county officials. After the second formula change, county parks would receive an annual boost of between \$80,000 and \$100,000.

Read more: <http://www.registerguard.com/rg/news/31255033-75/county-parks-bill-state-lane.html.csp>

News from the National Association of Counties

2014 Achievement Awards: Open For Submissions

NACo is proud to announce that the 2014 Achievement Awards process is now open for submissions!

Since 1970, NACo has been highlighting county projects through the Achievement Awards program. Since that time, the program has served NACo's members, leadership and staff, providing an excellent platform to acknowledge the great work county governments are doing to optimize service delivery.

The Achievement Award Program is a non-competitive awards program which seeks to recognize innovative county government programs. Outstanding programs from each category may be selected as the Best of Category.

For more information on the application process, deadlines and program criteria, please visit our Achievement Awards webpage to access to our brochure, checklist, FAQ and to upload your application materials.

We look forward to hearing from you and learning more about the outstanding programs from the 3,069 counties across the country.

For more information: <http://www.naco.org/programs/recognition/Pages/Achievement-Awards.aspx>

NACo Releases "Restoring Habitats for Resilient Coastal Economies" issue brief

This issue brief provides coastal counties and coastal managers with an overview of how environmental restoration initiatives can help strengthen the ongoing vitality of coastal economies. It provides examples from counties that are pursuing coastal restoration projects to promote storm and flood resiliency, support coastal tourism, protect healthy fisheries and create coastal jobs.

For more information:

http://www.naco.org/newsroom/pubs/Documents/Restoring_Coastal_Habitats.pdf

News from the National Recreation and Park Association

Give a Little Love to Your Park

Courtesy of the Detroit News

Macy's and the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) invite you to support a local park near you!

The "Heart Your Park" program will run through March 31 and matches customers' donations for \$1 or more when they make a purchase. The program will match up to \$250,000 to be donated to parks around the country.

More than 550 parks have been selected nationally. Each park has specific store locations collecting donations. Some stores will donate money to the nonprofit National Recreation and Park Association, which focuses on conservation efforts.

Read more: <http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20140310/METRO01/303100007/Mich-parks-including-Belle-Isle-part-Heart-Your-Park-fundraiser>

New Research and Resources

Removing playground benches may get adults moving

Courtesy of Reuters.com

By Elizabeth DeVita-Raeburn

(Reuters Health) - Getting adults to be more active on visits to children's playgrounds could be as simple as removing the temptation to sit, a small new study suggests.

Inspired during his daily lunchtime walks by the sight of parents sitting on playground benches, a U.S. researcher has shown that moving the seating away from the area increased the amount of exercise that parents and caregivers got as they watched their kids.

"For such an easy and inexpensive change, we were able to shift many adults from sitting to standing and that alone promotes health," said lead author James Roemmich, a supervisory research physiologist at the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Grand Forks, North Dakota.

Read more: <http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/03/06/us-playground-adults-idUSBREA2520J20140306>

Triple Bottom Line Report Released: Illinois Prairie Path

Courtesy of CenterLines, the e-newsletter of the National Center for Bicycling & Walking

According to Mar. 11th Trails for Illinois release, "A new report released March 7 by a trail advocacy group shows that segments of the 50-year old Illinois Prairie Path in western Cook and Dupage County are hosting from 33,000 to over 190,000 visits annually from runners, walkers and cyclists who spend money, enjoy time in nature, and are using outdoor physical activity to maintain or improve their health.

"The report, Making Trails Count: Illinois Prairie Path (<http://bit.ly/14WkxJZ>), was funded by the Illinois Prairie Path Not-for-Profit Corporation to measure the 'Triple Bottom Line' benefits of the trail's use—economic impact, environmental stewardship, and health and wellness. The report describes the findings of a 10-week study of trail use by the non-profit Trails for Illinois and its partners Rails-to-Trails Conservancy and the University of Illinois Office of Recreation & Park Resources..."

For more information: <http://trailsforillinois.tumblr.com/maketrailscount>

Cyclists' Crashes More Likely In The South

Courtesy of CenterLines, the e-newsletter of the National Center for Bicycling & Walking

According a Mar. 7th The Atlantic Cities article, "...According to a benchmark study (2012 Benchmarking Report: <http://bit.ly/1hbbyXR>), released last year by the National Alliance for Biking and Walking, the states of the southern U.S. are the most dangerous per biker, and per bike mile traveled, by a wide margin. If you bike in South Carolina you are 10 times likelier to be hit and killed by a car than if you bike in Oregon, one of America's safer states for cyclists. In North Carolina, eight times more likely. In Louisiana, seven. If you bike in Mississippi, that number is close to 13..."

"Warm, flat, and scenic, the south should be a bike rider's dream. But its palm trees and hanging moss stand watch over roadways badly in need of dedicated bike lanes, generous road shoulders, and more navigable urban centers... A report on transportation spending (Lifting the Veil on Bicycle & Pedestrian Spending: An Analysis of Problems & Priorities in Transportation Planning and What to Do About It: <http://bit.ly/1gjCcjI>) by Advocacy Advance, a partner of the Alliance for Biking and Walking, found that the southern states spend the least on biking and walking safety infrastructure as a percentage of their total spending. Over the last few years, Massachusetts directed more than 5 percent of its transportation spending to bicycle and pedestrian facilities. In that same time period Louisiana, North Carolina, Florida, Alabama, South Carolina and Mississippi each devoted one half of one percent..."

For more information: <http://www.theatlanticcities.com/commute/2014/03/braving-deep-deadly-south-bicycle/8590/>

Picking The Right Bike Safety Education Curriculum

Courtesy of CenterLines, the e-newsletter of the National Center for Bicycling & Walking

According to a March Safe Routes to School National Partnership eNews article, "Bicycle safety education has developed into its own field over the past decade with a variety of implementation options depending primarily on the amount of time and resources available. Choosing the right curriculum is not easy, and as educators, we must make informed compromises. Not sure where to start? Here are two integral resources when considering what to teach during valuable class time.

"First, the Bicycle and Pedestrian Curricula Guide (<http://bit.ly/1hbkWuC>), released in 2011, catalogs the curricula available throughout the country. This resource is pure gold for the educator who has not yet chosen a curriculum for the classroom and its individual constraints. Second, and perhaps most relevant, is a new study that was released by National Highway Traffic and Safety Administration entitled 'Bicycle Safety Education for Children From a Developmental and Learning Perspective' (<http://bit.ly/1iyA3zl>) that closely analyzes bicycle education content and its actual effect on student behavior.

For more information: <http://www.saferoutespartnership.org/blog/bicycle-safety-education-beyond-bike-rodeo>

News Clippings

Huge jump in people walking, biking and taking public transit, surveys find

Courtesy of the TimesHeraldOnline.com

By Sarah Rohrs

Historically in the business of building roads and freeways, Caltrans has found it will need to switch gears and accommodate more people choosing alternate modes of transportation, a new survey has found.

Results from the California Household Travel Survey indicate the number of Californians choosing to walk, bicycle and use public transportation has more than doubled since the year 2000, according to an announcement about the survey released Monday.

While Caltrans has, for decades, focused on building more roadways, department spokesman Mark Dinger said things are changing.

Read more: http://www.timesheraldonline.com/news/ci_25317388/huge-jump-people-walking-biking-and-taking-public

Most Rail-Trails Not Affected by Supreme Court Ruling

Courtesy of CenterLines, the e-newsletter of the National Center for Bicycling & Walking

According to Mar. 11th Rails to Trails Conservancy article, "Yesterday's U.S. Supreme Court decision was undoubtedly disappointing for supporters of rail-trails. But after examining the Court's decision, it is clear that its reach is much narrower than has been reported in the press..."

The vast majority of current and planned rail-trails will not be affected. The ruling does not affect trails that have been 'railbanked' (the federal process of preserving former railway corridors for potential future railway service by converting them to multi-use trails in the interim). Potentially affected corridors are predominantly west of the Mississippi and were originally acquired by railroads after 1875 through federal land to aid in westward expansion."

Existing rail-trails or trail projects ARE NOT affected by this decision if ANY of the following conditions are met:

1. The rail corridor is "railbanked."
2. The rail corridor was originally acquired by the railroad by a federally granted right-of-way (FGROW) through federal lands before 1875.
3. The railroad originally acquired the corridor from a private land owner.
4. The trail manager owns the land adjacent to the rail corridor.
5. The trail manager owns full title (fee simple) to the corridor.
6. The railroad corridor falls within the original 13 colonies.

Read more: <http://community.railstotrails.org/blogs/trailblog/archive/2014/03/11/the-supreme-court-decision-how-does-it-affect-rail-trails.aspx>

A Big Legal Blow to the Rails-to-Trails Movement

Courtesy of TheAtlanticCities.com

By Sarah Goodyear

You can find them in every state of the union, from Maine to Hawaii, from Alaska to Florida: old railroad rights of way that have been or are being converted to trails for biking, hiking, and other recreational uses. As many as 1,400 such trails covering perhaps 15,000 miles have been built since a movement to repurpose such land began in the 1960s, and about another 1,100 are in the planning stages.

But a decision handed down by the U.S. Supreme Court Monday could endanger those trails, many of which have become integral to the economies and communities where they are located.

As many as 80 such cases are before courts in the United States today.

The court ruled decisively, 8 to 1, in favor of a southern Wyoming landowner named Marvin Brandt, whose father once ran a sawmill making railroad ties on the family's 83-acre piece of land, now contained within the Medicine Bow National Forest. Brandt had contested the United States Forest Service's right to use a half-mile-long, 200-foot-wide rail right of way going through his land as part of a 21-mile-long trail that runs along the former rail tracks.

What effect might the ruling have on the trail you and your family enjoy near your home? Right now, that is the multimillion-dollar question. Justice Sonia Sotomayor was the only dissenting opinion in the Brandt case, writing, "The court undermines the legality of thousands of miles of former rights of way that the public now enjoys as means of transportation and recreation. And lawsuits challenging the conversion of former rails to recreational trails alone may well cost American taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars."

Read more: <http://www.theatlanticcities.com/politics/2014/03/big-legal-blow-rails-trails-movement/8609/>

Los Angeles to Launch Nation's Largest Interactive Urban Trail Network

Courtesy of gizmodo.com

Alissa Walker

Los Angeles is a big place—Over 400 square miles. Even though it's home to the country's largest urban park many of its residents do not have easy access to a public green space. A new "interactive interpretive" urban trail system hopes to close that distance, while connecting Angelenos to the hidden cultural and fitness opportunities in their city.

Gizmodo got a hands-on of the new app (which will be released officially in April) during a walk yesterday with its creators at the Interpretive Media Laboratory (IMLab). IMLab is a partnership between UCLA's School of Theater, Film and Television and California State Parks that develops tech tools to help Angelenos access public space.

Joining us on the walk were Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti and Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell, who was in town to announce a new initiative that will connect local youth with urban wildlife refuges.

Read more: <http://gizmodo.com/los-angeles-launches-an-interactive-urban-trail-system-1541248828>

Transportation Scholars: News from the Field

Courtesy of the Sarbanes Transit in Parks Technical Assistance Center

Scholar's work leads to road safety audit at Wildlife Refuge in California

By Matthew Bruno

During my first year as a transportation scholar, I conducted a traffic count at the entrance to the largest refuge in the complex. I discovered that almost 25% of the people visiting the refuge were either walking or biking in, even though the refuge entrance didn't have any sidewalks or bike lanes. After reviewing the numbers, refuge staff and managers became interested in making improvements to the refuge entrance. The roads around the entrance area, however, were owned, maintained, or patrolled by multiple government and private agencies. No individual organization could make all the necessary changes.

The findings of the RSA included a number of short and intermediate term improvements. The safety improvements that could be implemented immediately included trimming bushes alongside the road to increase visibility and changing the signal timing on the nearest intersection to allow bicycles to clear the light. Improvements that may take somewhat longer include installing a continuous bike and pedestrian path from the city through the refuge and creating a pedestrian crossing area with connecting facilities at the signalized intersection near the refuge entrance.

In addition to incorporating safety improvements into the plans for both the refuge and the neighboring city, the RSA has had other beneficial effects. The RSA process strengthened the refuge's relationships with partner organizations and the final report will serve as the basis for grant

applications to fund further safety improvements.

TRIPTAC Team members help create National Park Trolley System in Florida

The City of Homestead, Florida recently launched its National Parks Trolley, a landmark service that provides free transportation to not one, but two national parks. Visitors to the Historic Downtown Homestead can ride the trolley to both Everglades National Park and Biscayne National Park. National Park Rangers and volunteers serve as guides, providing commentary on the history and ecosystems of the area.

"This is a wonderful example of a Community Partnership providing public transportation accessibility for visitors and residents alike" said Rob Gregg, CUTR's Director of Transit Management and Innovation; "plus, in a region like this with such iconic and fragile ecosystems, it's especially important to promote environmentally friendly travel. All of the partners were committed to these goals, and we were so pleased to be asked to help."

The trolley is also expected to enhance tourism and economic development in the area. In a recent statement, Homestead Vice Mayor Stephen Shelley stated that the service "has great potential to bring additional commerce to our City's historic downtown businesses and more importantly provide greater access to our neighboring National Parks."

The National Parks Trolley is a partnership among The City of Homestead, Biscayne National Park, Everglades National Park, Miami-Dade County Homestead Bayfront Park and the National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA).

For more information on the transportation scholars program:

<http://www.triptac.org/PublicLandsTransportationScholars/Locations/Default.html>

American Rivers and Google Maps launch Colorado River Street View

Courtesy of American Rivers

By Devin Dotson

We are excited to announce the Colorado River is the focus of a new Google Maps Street View project launched today in partnership between American Rivers and Google Maps.

For the first time, you can explore 286 miles of the Colorado river and the iconic Grand Canyon in full 360-degree photo spheres. Cool trivia — this marks the first time Google Maps has used the Street View technology on a major whitewater river in the U.S.

Read more: <http://www.americanrivers.org/blog/american-rivers-and-google-maps-launch-colorado-river-street-view>

Call for Award Nominations - Excellence in Sustainability, American Planning Association Sustainability Division

Courtesy of CenterLines, the e-newsletter of the National Center for Bicycling & Walking

The American Planning Association Sustainable Communities Division (APA-SCD) proudly announces the first annual Awards for Excellence in Sustainability. The application process is brief; awards will be announced at the National Planning conference. The Division will accept applications in seven categories:

- Sustainable Development Project
- Sustainable Building Project
- Sustainable Park, Recreation or Open Space Project
- Green Infrastructure Project
- Sustainable Policy, Law or Plan
- Leadership in Sustainability
- Emerging Leader's Sustainability Plan or Project

Deadline: March 31, 2014

For more information: <http://apascd.files.wordpress.com/2014/03/excellence-in-sustainability-awards-description-3-5-14.pdf>

Training Opportunities

Webinar: A MAP-21 Guide for Trail, Walking and Bicycling Advocates

Date: Ongoing

Time: Ongoing

Cost: Free

Organization: Rails to Trails Conservancy

This webinar is geared specifically for national, state and local advocates and supporters of trail, walking and bicycling infrastructure as well as other beneficiaries of TE such as historic preservation and environmental interests.

Click here to view a recording of this webinar: http://support.railstotrails.org/site/PageServer?pagename=201207_MAP_21_Webinar_Registration&autologin=true&AddInterest=1481

Online Conference: Organization of Wildlife Planners

The Organization of Wildlife Planners will host its first on-line conference the week of April 7-11th and invite you to join us! The theme of the conference is the "Difference Between Customers and Citizens". Each day OWP will host a speaker who will make a 20-30 minute presentation and then there will be a moderated discussion with the presenter. Webinars will be held 3:30-5:00pm ET each day.

Conference session descriptions are as follows:

Monday, April 7th - "Public Trust Doctrine principles"

The PTD provides some basic principles for good governance to state fish and wildlife agencies relative to their focus of attention on all citizens. The PTD is grounded in history but is still relevant in contemporary society. (Ann Forstchen - FWC)

Tuesday, April 8th - "How to engage with more than the “usual suspects”: Engaging the Hispanic Audience"

Recent research findings and recommendations for agencies to improve and increase boating and fishing among Hispanics. (Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation)

Wednesday, April 9th - "Contemporary collaboration tools for engaging citizens"

New and innovative tools to increase dialogue with citizens, build organizational trust, be open and transparent agencies. (Jack Melnicoff - Granicus, Inc.)

Thursday, April 10th - "The Important Difference between Customers and Citizens"

Is it a good idea for fish and wildlife agencies to “operate like a business”? How far do we go with marketing? Do we care about hunters and anglers beyond their pocketbooks? Should citizens have to contribute before they have a valid voice? This panel discussion will let participants explore those, and many other, questions. (Panelists TBA)

Friday, April 11th - “Compatibility of the North American Model and agency transformation”

Posits that the North American Model and agency transformation are compatible but we need case studies and examples of what’s working to get beyond the early adopter phase. (Steve McMullin, VA Tech)

For more information: <http://wildlifeplanners.org/upcoming-on-line-conference/>

OHV Trail Training Opportunities - Professional Trail Builders Association Conference

March 30 – April 5, 2014

Stonewall Jackson Lake State Park & Resort, West Virginia

Creating Great OHV Trails 2 Day Workshop – March 30 & 31

Drew Stoll, of Great Outdoors Consultants, will cover the fundamentals of OHV management, the trail design process, and evaluate the construction of an existing OHV trail. The trail design process will be practiced on site in the alignment of a new OHV trail. An existing OHV trail will be evaluated to understand construction methods and techniques that were used. The existing trail will also be evaluated for riding experience quality and sustainability. Participants will have the opportunity to share similar projects with each other.

Great OHV Trails - A Guide to Providing Quality Trails & Experiences – April 3, 9:15 - 10:30AM

Drew Stoll, of Great Outdoors Consultants, will present an overview of a new publication that is being written: “Great OHV Trails – A Guide to Providing Quality Trails and Experiences”. This publication will provide the latest techniques and qualities in design, construction and maintenance of OHV trails and related facilities. The National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council (NOHVCC) is developing the guide in cooperation with many OHV managers from across the United States and Canada. The guide is being prepared by OHV trail experts including: Dick Dufourd, Drew Stoll and

others; find more information at www.GreatOHVTrails.com. The guide will incorporate innovative publishing technologies such as digital publishing, video and a mobile application. The graphic rich guide is scheduled to be released in late 2014 and will become a great reference book for anyone involved in recreation trails.

For more information: <http://trailbuilders.org/sustainable-trails-conference/>

About NACPRO

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: <http://www.nacpro.org>

Deadline for the Next Issue

The next issue of NACPRO News will be delivered on April 1 (no joke!).

If you have news or an article to share, please send it to Brenda@nacpro.org by March 31.

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