



## NACPRO News

April 1, 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'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](http://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](http://www.smithgroupjir.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.

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## **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](http://ocparks.com/about/2014_spdf)

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## **Member News**

### **Council Members Want Cost Estimate of Plowing Capital Crescent Trail**

*Courtesy of BethesdaNow.com*

By Aaron Kraut

A group of Montgomery County Council members wants two county agencies to prepare cost estimates for snow plowing on the Capital Crescent Trail.

Councilmember Roger Berliner (D-Bethesda) on Thursday sent a letter to Department of Transportation Director Art Holmes and Montgomery Parks Director Mary Bradford, urging the agencies to revisit the possibility of removing snow and ice from the popular biker and pedestrian trail that connects Silver Spring, Bethesda and D.C:

“The Capital Crescent Trail is local treasure enjoyed recreationally by numerous residents throughout the year. But for those who do not own a car or perhaps have chosen to only own one family car, the trail represents a critical corridor for getting to their workplace. Each year, I hear from residents who report the difficulty of traversing the trail after a snow fall or icy conditions due to the lack of maintenance and snow removal. As a result, commuters are forced onto busy and dangerous roads that often do not have the appropriate bicycling infrastructure, a situation made worse by the accumulation of snow in the curb lanes from the plows.”

Bradford said Montgomery Parks does not have the proper equipment to clear recreational trails because the county's trails were not built to withstand the weight of the agency's heavy trucks. She also said hand-clearing is extremely difficult for such lengthy trails.

**Read more:** <http://www.bethesdanow.com/2014/02/20/council-members-want-to-examine-costs-of-plowing-snow-bike-capital-crescent-trail/>

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## County News

### County Parks Re-Affirm Position

*Courtesy of the Santa Barbara Independent*

By Ray Ford

In a public meeting attended by close to 50 community members, many of them aligned on opposite sides of the issue when it comes to what types of recreation will be offered at San Marcos Preserve, Santa Barbara County Parks affirmed its position that both mountain bikes and equestrians should be banned from the Preserve.

Mark de la Garza, representing the company hired to do the management plan for the Preserve, Watershed Environmental, noted in his presentation that the primary focus of the 200 acre open space area was the protection of the biological, scenic and archaeological resources in this portion of the San Marcos foothills.

Ana Citrin, representing the Law Offices of Marc Chytilo, which represented the San Marcos Foothills Coalition when the land exchange that transferred the property from the Trust for Public Lands (TPL) to the County described the "intent and purpose" of TPL in the exchange was protection of the resources and not recreational use. "The donation did not list access as a goal of the donation," Citrin said.

**Read more:** <http://www.independent.com/news/2014/mar/27/county-parks-re-affirms-position/>

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## News from the National Association of Counties

### Registration is OPEN for the NACo Annual Conference and Exposition

Register today for NACo's Annual Conference and Exposition taking place July 11-14 in Orleans Parish-New Orleans, La. NACo's Annual Conference and Exposition is the conference to attend for county officials and county staff nationwide. After May 30, registration fees increase; so register now to get the best price on the best investment you can make for your county.

**For more information:**

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

### Online Economic Development Tool Available

A new tool, developed with funding by the U.S. Economic Development Administration and guidance from a team of national advisors, including NACo, is available to help describe and optimize investment alignment with community goals for economic, environmental and social performance — what's referred to as the triple bottom line or TBL. The TBL Tool can be used to review applications, prepare bid documents, configure projects and communicate with

stakeholders.

Counties can apply to the TBL Tool early adopter program by contacting the program director, Dr. Janet Hammer, at [info@tbltool.org](mailto:info@tbltool.org)

**For more information:** <http://tbltool.org/>

## **Funding Available for Rural Design Workshops**

The Citizens' Institute on Rural Design (CIRD), an initiative of the National Endowment of the Arts, has issued a Request for Proposals for rural communities seeking to develop strategies to address the specific environmental, social, and economic challenges facing rural communities. CIRD works with communities to revitalize their Main Streets, manage and direct growth, design community-supportive transportation systems, preserve natural and historic landscapes and buildings, protect working agricultural lands, and develop contextually sensitive rural design guidelines.

CIRD will award funding and resources to selected communities with populations of 50,000 or less to develop a multi-day design workshop to address specific community challenges. Counties are eligible to apply. Applications are due May 6, 2014. Application assistance calls available April 2 and April 24.

**For more information:** <http://rural-design.org/>

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## **New Research and Resources**

### **NCA Releases Trail Surface Study Results**

*Courtesy of the National Center on Accessibility*

The National Center on Accessibility has released results of its research on trail surfaces. The study was sponsored by the Access Board. The project assessed the firmness and stability of 11 different types of natural aggregate and treated soil surfaces over a four-year period to determine their effectiveness after exposure to the elements, freeze and thaw cycles, and other factors.

Researchers created test trail segments that ranged in length from 30 to 200 feet at Bradford Woods, a 2,500 acre outdoor education and leadership center in Martinsville, Indiana. The study included three trail segments with a crushed limestone surface and eight with soil surfaces that were treated with organic or natural by-product stabilizers. The limestone surfaces involved different aggregate sizes (1/4" maximum, 3/4" maximum, and a combination of both in a dual layer) that were at least six inches deep and compacted to a rate of 90%. The other surfaces tested were created with stabilizers applied directly to the soil or mixed with an aggregate. The stabilizers tested included polyurethane, organic plant matter, two kinds of polymer, and four types of vinyl acetate copolymer applications.

The Final Report will be available on the NCA web site in April.

**For more information:** [www.ncaonline.org](http://www.ncaonline.org)

### **DOJ Issues Revised Guidance Materials**

*Courtesy of the National Center on Accessibility*

Publications Clarify Regulations for Effective Communication and Mobility Devices

In the wake of the U.S. Department of Justice issuing revisions to the Title II and Title III regulations under the Americans with Disabilities Act, the enforcement agency has issued new guidance materials. One new technical assistance document provides guidance on regulations regarding the use of wheelchairs and mobility aids, as well as other types of less-traditional powered mobility devices. A second publication provides guidance relating to communicating effectively with people who have vision, hearing, or speech disabilities.

**Other Power-Driven Mobility Devices:** <http://www.ada.gov/opdmd.htm>

**Effective Communication:** <http://www.ada.gov/effective-comm.htm>

## **Playground Owners Utilize NCA Study of Play Surfaces in Planning New Sites**

*Courtesy of the National Center on Accessibility*

Spring is a very busy time for public playground owners. They are often found planning new construction projects and conducting seasonal maintenance on existing sites. The National Center on Accessibility findings from its longitudinal study of play surfaces is recommended reading for all public playground owners and operators. The results reveal the importance of proper installation and regular maintenance. The project, which was conducted with funding from the Access Board, assessed the performance of different surfacing materials at 35 new playgrounds over a 3-5 year period. Surface materials tested include poured-in-place rubber, engineered wood fiber, rubber tiles, and hybrid surface systems. "The findings from this project, one of the most comprehensive studies of playgrounds surfacing to date, clearly demonstrate that proper installation and maintenance are critical for accessibility," states Jennifer Skulski, CPSI, the study's principal investigator.

**For more information:** <http://www.ncaonline.org/resources/articles/playground-surfacestudy.shtml>

## **Income Gap, Meet the Longevity Gap**

*Courtesy of the New York Times*

By Annie Lowrey

Fairfax County, Va., and McDowell County, W.Va., are separated by 350 miles, about a half-day's drive. Traveling west from Fairfax County, the gated communities and bland architecture of military contractors give way to exurbs, then to farmland and eventually to McDowell's coal mines and the forested slopes of the Appalachians. Perhaps the greatest distance between the two counties is this: Fairfax is a place of the haves, and McDowell of the have-nots. Just outside of Washington, fat government contracts and a growing technology sector buoy the median household income in Fairfax County up to \$107,000, one of the highest in the nation. McDowell, with the decline of coal, has little in the way of industry. Unemployment is high. Drug abuse is rampant. Median household income is about one-fifth that of Fairfax.

One of the starkest consequences of that divide is seen in the life expectancies of the people there. Residents of Fairfax County are among the longest-lived in the country: Men have an average life expectancy of 82 years and women, 85, about the same as in Sweden. In McDowell, the averages are 64 and 73, about the same as in Iraq.

**Read more:** [http://www.nytimes.com/2014/03/16/business/income-gap-meet-the-longevity-gap.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2014/03/16/business/income-gap-meet-the-longevity-gap.html?_r=0)

## **The Recreational Trails Program Annual Report is Live**

*Courtesy of American Trails*

The goal of FHWA's online Recreational Trails Program (RTP) Database project is to provide a central repository for RTP project data that is usable by FHWA, Congress, the States, all levels of policy makers, RTP administrators, project managers, stakeholders, and the general public. The RTP Database includes over 18,000 projects that have received over \$900 million in funding. These projects have been matched with over \$600 million. To get a sense of the types of outstanding projects funded by the RTP, we encourage you to review the RTP Annual Report and visit the RTP Database. Please note: data collection is an ongoing effort and data is regularly being entered into the database as it is received from the States, District of Columbia, and other sources.

**For more information:** <http://www.recreationaltrailsinfo.org/>

## **Benefits of storytelling and story acting probed in newest edition of the American Journal of Play**

*Courtesy of the American Journal of Play*

Storytelling and story acting build vocabulary skills, help develop essential narrative abilities, and support a child's social and emotional development, according to an interview in the most recent issue of The Strong's American Journal of Play conducted with Jason Sachs, director of early-childhood education for Boston Public Schools; Benjamin Mardell, professor in the Graduate School of Education at Lesley University; and Marina Boni, early childhood mentor for Boston Public Schools. The three educators launched the Boston Listens program nearly two years ago across Boston Public Schools, and 55 schools now facilitate storytelling and story acting curriculum in their early-education classrooms.

### **Also in this issue of the Journal:**

*"Play as Self-Realization Towards a General Theory of Play"* by Thomas Henricks, professor of sociology and distinguished university professor at Elon University.

*"The Elements of Play: Toward a Philosophy and a Definition of Play"* by Scott G. Eberle, vice president for play studies at The Strong.

*"Well-Played: The Origins and Future of Playfulness"* by Gwen Gordon, independent scholar and producer and director of Now Playing, a creative documentary about the power of play.

*"Deep Play: Rationality in the Life World with Special Reference to Sailing"* by Patrick Goold, associate professor of philosophy at Virginia Wesleyan College.

**Now accessible free online:** [www.journalofplay.org](http://www.journalofplay.org)

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## **News Clippings**

### **Jewell urges ranchers, conservationists to support Land, Water Conservation Fund**

*Courtesy of the Missoulian.com*

By Martin Kidston

OVANDO, MT – With the Bob Marshall Wilderness serving as the backdrop, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell and Sen. Jon Tester, D-Mont., praised a group of ranchers and their conservation allies on Saturday for doing what, not too many years ago, was unthinkable.

Starting back around 1992, when American Rivers listed the Blackfoot River as one of America's 10 most endangered waterways, a group of ranchers and conservationists came together to address the problem.

In the years that have followed, the effort has expanded beyond anyone's expectations to encompass a landscape that spreads larger than the boundaries of some Eastern states.

"You know what you've got here and how special it is," Jewell said. "You're setting a pathway forward that's sustainable, takes into account the challenges we face in our environment, and recognizes what's at stake."

**Read more:** [http://missoulian.com/news/local/jewell-urges-ranchers-conservationists-to-support-land-water-conservation-fund/article\\_e9743a74-ac98-11e3-b0a0-001a4bcf887a.html](http://missoulian.com/news/local/jewell-urges-ranchers-conservationists-to-support-land-water-conservation-fund/article_e9743a74-ac98-11e3-b0a0-001a4bcf887a.html)

## **Secretary Jewell Announces Order to Implement Youth Initiative Connecting Millions of Young People to America's Great Outdoors**

*Courtesy of the US Department of the Interior*

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Formalizing an ambitious initiative to connect America's young people to the great outdoors, Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell today issued a Secretarial Order to significantly expand recreational, educational, volunteer and career opportunities for millions of youth and veterans on the nation's public lands, including partnerships with businesses and youth organizations to support the Obama Administration's 21st Century Conservation Service Corps (21CSC).

**Watch the video:** <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZVR8kbAUXUc>

**Read more:** <http://www.doi.gov/news/pressreleases/secretary-jewell-announces-order-to-implement-youth-initiative-connecting-millions-of-young-people-to-americas-great-outdoors.cfm>

## **Lahood Predicts Short-Term Extension of MAP-21**

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

According to a Mar. 24th National Journal article, "The transportation industry is growing anxious over the highway trust fund cliff that could hit as early as July. The fund is slowly running out of money, and if its coffers get too low, road and transit projects will be stalled. Congress is running out of time to draft and debate a full-blown surface transportation measure. They have to do something by Sept. 30, when the current law, MAP-21, expires. If they don't, the money stops cold, assuming there is any left to spend.

"What's going to happen? Here is former Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood's prophecy: 'When September 30 comes and the highway trust fund is broke—it'll even be broke before the 30th, but [definitely] by the end of the fiscal year, it'll be broke—they'll pass an extension of MAP-21,' he said in an interview for an upcoming National Journal Q&A. 'They'll take some money out of the general fund. They'll limp through the election, and then I don't know what will happen after that.' ..."

**Read more:** <http://www.nationaljournal.com/policy/insiders/transportation/lahood-predicts-short-term-extension-of-transportation-law-20140324>

## **Bill Earmarking Funds for Open-Space Preservation Clears Committee**

*Courtesy of njspotlight.com*

By Tom Johnson

In a rare show of harmony, the state's environmental community yesterday largely rallied around a new proposal to finance open-space preservation efforts in New Jersey, although with some reservations.

With even its sponsors acknowledging the measure will need revisions, the bill (SCR-84) aims to ask voters this November to approve a constitutional amendment to dedicate at least \$150 million out of corporate business taxes to preserve open space, farmland, and historic structures for over 30 years.

The amount the bill would set aside is equal to 6 percent of corporate business taxes, up from the 4 percent currently dedicated to environmental programs.

**Read more:** <http://www.njspotlight.com/stories/14/03/17/bill-to-make-open-space-preservation-a-constitutional-amendment-clears-committee/>

## **A lawsuit and dust-control measures aim to end the Oceano Dunes status quo**

*Courtesy of the SantaMariaSun.com*

By Rhys Heyden

Sand dunes are complicated, unstable, constantly shifting, and abrasive—a delight to some, and a nuisance to others.

Fittingly, all of those adjectives are equally suitable for describing the years-long dispute over the regulation of the Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area (California).

At the heart of the debate is a coarse, airborne dust called PM10 (particulate matter with a mean aerodynamic diameter of 10 microns or less). Studies have shown that levels of PM10 on the Nipomo Mesa, a residential area downwind of the recreation area, are dangerously high, with the potential to adversely affect the health of residents.

While no one disputes the high levels of PM10, there's tremendous disagreement over the source of the air pollution. After numerous studies, lawsuits, and highly public tiffs, stakeholders across the spectrum have, essentially, fought to an impasse.

**Read more:** <http://www.santamariasun.com/news/11309/a-lawsuit-and-dustcontrol-measures-aim-to-end-the-oceano-dunes-status-quo/>

## **Save the Children Seeks Volunteers for Operation Recreation Response Corps**

*Courtesy of GP RED*

Save the Children is seeking qualified and highly motivated Parks and Recreation Professionals to launch the Operation Recreation Response Volunteer Corps and help keep children safe

during U.S. emergencies. The effort kicks-off the Operation Recreation Response (ORR) initiative, an official partnership of Save the Children, the Foundation for Sustainable Parks and Recreation (FSPR), and GP RED. Conceived by New England recreation professionals, ORR is dedicated to helping communities prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters.

With more than 90 years of international and domestic response experience, Save the Children is the leader in ensuring children's needs are met when disaster strikes; providing safe areas to play, distributing essential items; and providing the support communities need to build back stronger and more resilient.

Members of Save the Children's Disaster Response Team serve our most vulnerable citizens when they need it most, realizing that the puzzle they complete with a child in a shelter is actually helping that child piece his life back together.

**For more information:** <http://gpred.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/Join-ORR-Volunteer-Corp-Communication.pdf>

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## Training Opportunities

### 2014 National Outdoor Recreation Conference

May 13-16, 2014 - San Francisco, CA

Join the Society of Outdoor Recreation Professionals for their 2014 National Outdoor Recreation Conference May 13-16 in San Francisco, California. Outdoor recreation professionals from local, special district, state, and federal agencies; private sector firms and consultants; university faculty and students; and non-profit organizations gather annually to share success stories, collaborate on challenging situations, and strategize new solutions.

**For more information:** <http://www.recpro.org/2014-conference>

### Sustainable Trails for All Conference

June 25 & 26, 2014 OR October 16-17, 2014

This two-day, in-depth, field-oriented conference will provide you with information on the Federal Trail Accessibility Guidelines that were released in September of 2013. You will learn how to assess land for trail accessibility, and plan and construct trails that meet these guidelines. Completion of this conference makes you eligible to attend the Trail Construction for Universal Access Workshop, which will be held on the two days immediately following this course.

**For more information:**

[http://www.cmf.org/uploadedFiles/Corporate/Programs\\_and\\_Services/Accessible\\_Trails/Accessible%20Trails%20Conference%202014.pdf](http://www.cmf.org/uploadedFiles/Corporate/Programs_and_Services/Accessible_Trails/Accessible%20Trails%20Conference%202014.pdf)

### Trail Construction for Universal Access Workshop

June 27 & 28, 2014 OR October 18 & 19, 2014

Prerequisite: Sustainable Trails for All Conference

Help us design and build a new section of Crotched Mountain's award-winning accessible trails and get hands-on experience with the tools, equipment and materials used in the construction of these types of trails.

**For more information:**

## **Webinar: Open Question and Answer Session: Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Standards for Trails, Camping and Picnic Facilities, Viewing Areas, and Beach Access Routes**

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

**Date:** May 1, 2014, 2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET

**Presenters:** US Access Board staff: Bill R. Botten, Peggy Greenwell, James J. Raggio

**Host:** Accessibility Online

**Cost:** Free

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

## **Webinar: Separated Bikeways: The New Norm in Bicycle Facilities**

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

**Date:** June 19, 2014, 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. ET (1.5 PDH/.2 IACET CEU/1.5 CM)

**Presenters:** Rick Plenge (Fehr & Peers) & Brooke DuBose (Fehr & Peers)

**Host:** Institute of Transportation Engineers

**Cost:** Varies between \$75 and \$125

**For more information:** [http://www.ite.org/education/webinars\\_bikeways.asp](http://www.ite.org/education/webinars_bikeways.asp)

## **Webinars: 2014 American Trails Schedule**

*Courtesy of American Trails*

American Trails continues the dynamic online Advancing Trails Webinar Series to help trail planners, supporters, and managers learn about focused topics of special interest. Our webinars are now eligible for CEUs through the Texas Recreation and Park Society, an authorized independent CEU provider through IACET (International Association for Continuing Education and Training). Our 75 minute webinars are worth 0.10 CEUs and are available for an additional \$20 fee.

**MAY 15, 2014: Planning Trails with Wildlife in Mind** (presented by Robert Spurlock and Elaine Stewart, Metro). Details coming soon.

**JUNE 26, 2014: Applying Foundations of Mountain Trail Sustainability to a trail network ~ Part 1 of 3** (presented by Hugh Duffy, National Park Service). Click link below for details.

**JULY 2014: Urban Trails in Difficult Places** (presented by Bob Searns, The Greenway Team, and Bill Nuemann, DHM Design). Details coming soon.

**AUGUST 2014: Fundamentals of Mountain Trail Sustainability ~ Part 2 of 3** (presented by Hugh Duffy, National Park Service). Details coming soon.

**For more information:** <http://www.americantrails.org/http/webinars-american-trails.html>

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## 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 18.

If you have news or an article to share, please send it to [Brenda@nacpro.org](mailto:Brenda@nacpro.org) by April 17.

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