



NACPRO News

April 15, 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

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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.

Registration open for the NACPRO events in New Orleans

This July, the National Association of County Parks and Recreation Officials (NACPRO) is conducting its annual meeting and awards banquet in conjunction with the National Association of Counties Conference. The link below will download a detailed itinerary and registration form. Please register before July 9 to secure your attendance at these events.

► Download detailed information and registration form:

http://nacpro.org/documents/NACPRO_New_Orleans_Meeting_Registration_Info.doc

Program Schedule

Saturday, July 12 - BREC County Park Tour, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

Sunday, July 13 - Board and Membership Meeting, 9:00 am to Noon

Sunday, July 13 - Annual NACPRO Awards Banquet, 6:00 to 9:30 pm

Monday, July 14 - Educational Program, 9:00 am to Noon

County Park Tour

Join NACPRO for a tour of East Baton Rouge Parks and Recreation's parish parks on Saturday, July 12 from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. Ted Jack, Assistant Superintendent, and his staff have put together a tour of the parish parks that will highlight their innovative partnerships, special natural and cultural sites, and their wide variety of sport facilities. We'll also stop at LSU's Tiger Stadium for a guided tour. Lunch, drinking water and snacks will be provided.

The tour is \$70/person.

NACPRO Board Meeting

The Board Meeting will be held on Sunday, July 13 at the Hampton Inn and Suites New Orleans Convention Center from 9:00 am to Noon. Members are welcome to attend.

NACPRO Annual Awards Banquet

The annual Awards Banquet will be held Sunday evening, July 13, at the Hampton Inn and Suites New Orleans Convention Center. A cocktail reception begins at 6:00 pm (cash bar) and dinner begins at 6:30 pm. Following the meal, the NACPRO Awards of Excellence will be announced and new board members and officers will be installed.

The Banquet is \$70/person.

Educational Program

The Educational Program will be held on Monday, July 14 from 9:00 am to Noon at the Hampton Inn and Suites New Orleans Convention Center. We are still working on lining up our presentations, but the following speaker has been confirmed.

Stephanie Broyles, Ph.D. from Pennington Biomedical Research Center will speak to us about her studies on how recreation impacts public health. The session will provide a recap of evidence and strategies for creating recreational environments that promote healthy children and communities.

The Educational Program is \$25/person.

Sponsor the County Park Tour or Awards Banquet

Our sponsorship program offers opportunities for you to promote your services to our membership at five price levels. As you climb up the scale, you have opportunities to include your ad on our homepage and e-newsletter, and during our awards banquet and educational sessions. At the highest level of sponsorship, your company logo will be imprinted on all the award plaques we present this year.

For more information:

http://nacpro.org/membership/documents/NACPRO_Sponsorship_Brochure.pdf

Member News

Ramsey County Parks director to retire

Courtesy of EastsideReviewNews.com

By Patrick Larkin

Greg Mack looks back at decades of parks progress

It's been a long run for Greg Mack, parting director of Ramsey County Parks and Recreation (Minnesota).

Mack was hired back in February 1988, at a time when the county parks department was much more fledgling.

When he started, parks workers pushed manual 20-inch-wide mowers across county grounds, and many of the facilities didn't have plumbing. Roads through county parks were a tangled mess, and there was none of the vast trail system that now covers wide swaths of the county.

Today, the county parks system serves over 4 million people a year and has a full array of up-to-date facilities.

Read more: <http://eastsidereviewnews.com/articles/2014/04/07/ramsey-county-parks-director-retire#.U02A0aKa9e4>

County Parks System Receives 6 State Awards

Courtesy of Rockville.Patch.com

By Deb Belt

Montgomery Parks, part of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, has received six awards from the Maryland Recreation and Parks Association at the annual conference this week in Ocean City.

Read more: <http://rockville.patch.com/groups/politics-and-elections/p/county-parks-system-receives-6-state-awards>

Mountain lion killed after stalking family on O.C. hiking trail

Courtesy of the LA Times

By Adolfo Flores

An aggressive mountain lion that had lurked in the brushy hills of southern Orange County (California) was shot and killed after it began stalking a mother and her two children after they set off on a day hike.

The woman, and a growing number of fellow hikers and passing mountain bikers, were unable to scare off the cougar, which at one point came within yards of her son.

Authorities said the cougar was hiding in the brush near a grade school when they arrived and then marched directly toward them, seemingly unafraid. The animal was shot and killed by a game warden.

Read more: <http://www.latimes.com/local/la-me-0402-mountain-lion-shooting-20140402,0,2308704.story#axzz2xllPs9C7>

Ottawa County parks seek help of goat herd

Courtesy of the Grand Haven Tribune

By Alex Doty

The Ottawa County Parks Department (Michigan) has proposed a pilot program to have goats munch on invasive species.

“I have been following this for years from a natural land management perspective,” County Parks Natural Resources Coordinator Melanie Manion said. “When I saw what a strong agriculture community we had, I said it was a win-win.”

Parks officials plan to start the goat initiative in May, and expect the program to last several months.

Read more: <http://www.grandhaventribune.com/article/930021>

County News

Miami-Dade parks officials to discuss vision

Courtesy of the Miami Herald

By Andres Viglucci

Miami-Dade County (Florida) parks are no longer just for playing ball, the people who run them say.

Under an ambitious six-year-old master plan that aims to transform the county's extensive but disconnected park system over a couple of generations, they are gradually becoming something else, too: fully integrated links to community, nature, conservation and a more healthful life.

Parks officials will detail progress on their expansive vision Friday at the biannual Great Park Summit, a free public bonanza at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden for lovers of everything green. It features talks by big names in the parks world, panel discussions, exhibits, a tree-planting opportunity and a bike ride along Old Cutler Road. And they'll feed you, too.

Read more: <http://www.miamiherald.com/2014/04/02/4035375/miami-dade-parks-officials-to.html>

News from the National Association of Counties

Agencies Release Administration's National Wildland Fire Strategy

by Jacquelyn Alamia

On April 9, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Department of the Interior released the Administration's National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy (the Cohesive Strategy). The Wildland Fire Leadership Council (WFLC), made up of federal, state, tribal and local government representatives, developed the Cohesive Strategy to improve the coordination of efforts to restore and maintain healthy landscapes, prepare communities for fire season, and better address wildland fire threats on a national scale. Lake County, Ore., Commissioner Dan Shoun, a NACo Public Lands Steering Committee member, represents counties on WFLC.

Read more: <http://www.naco.org/legislation/WW/Lists/Posts/Post.aspx?ID=769>

News from the National Recreation and Park Association

2014 Young Professional Externship

The American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration, a partner with NRPA, announces its 2014 Externship Award that would support four Young Professionals participation in the NRPA Congress in Charlotte. The Externship Program enables outstanding young professionals 35 years of age and younger in the parks and recreation field to interact with and learn from members of the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration, and other individuals who attend the NRPA Congress and its associated meetings.

Externs are paired with Academy members who serve as mentors during the NRPA Congress. Externs may attend selected NRPA Congress meetings, socials and educational sessions with their mentors or on their own. Mentors help introduce Externs to their contacts and widen the young professionals' networks. After Congress, Externs must write a brief evaluation report including 1) an overview of activities they were involved in during Congress; 2) what they have gained from the program; and 3) strengths and weaknesses of the program, along with suggestions for future improvement

For more information: <http://www.aapra.org/apply-externship>

Registration and applications open for Directors School

If you are a new or potential director of parks and recreation, this school was made just for you, and it's the one that participants can't stop raving about. The NRPA Directors School is a two-year program covering everything from management to social networking to strategic planning. This year's Directors School will be held at Oglebay Resort and Conference Center in Wheeling, W.Va., August 23 to 29. Directors School Year One applications are now being accepted and Year Two registration is open.

For more information: <http://www.nrpa.org/directors/>

New Research and Resources

Everything You've Always Wanted to Know About America's City Parks

Courtesy of HuffingtonPost.com

By Adrian Benepe

Arlington, VA, is going to the dogs and to the seniors who like to stay in shape. Chula Vista, CA, is "sick" when it comes to skate parks. And the most heavily visited park in America is an old freight rail line.

These and other facts -- both surprising data and complex analyses -- can be mined from the 2014 City Park Facts (CPF), just published by The Trust for Public Land's Center for City Park Excellence (CCPE).

City Park Facts is a compendium of facts and analysis of the nation's 100 largest cities compiled by the CCPE, which also uses the data to put together "ParkScore", a ranking of the 50 largest cities (to expand to 60 this year) in terms of how well they provide parks for their residents.

Among the factors CPF examines is the size of the park systems, what percent of the city is dedicated to parks, the amount of parkland and number of playgrounds per capita, spending on parks, and how many residents live within a 10-minute walk of a park. In fact, it's all about numbers, according to Peter Harnik, Director of the CCPE: "If you don't count, you don't count. We think city parks really do count towards urban excellence, and we're committed to documenting all their attributes and variety." Harnik compares the process of creating CPF to human gestation: about nine months of work, including detailed contact with 240 separate municipal, county, state, and federal park agencies to gather the facts.

Read more: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/adrian-benepe/size-mattersexcept-when-i_b_5037394.html

Why Playful Learning Is The Key To Prosperity

Courtesy of Forbes.com

By John Converse Townsend

In order for our global society to develop solutions to pressing problems in an increasingly technology-driven and constantly changing world, we need to re-train our workforce to do what machines can't: to be enterprising, independent and strategic thinkers—to be purposeful creators.

This starts with changing the way students, especially the youngest ones, learn.

Learning through play with “hands-on, minds-on” approaches (not workbooks) is a powerful way forward. Play gives children space to dream, discover, improvise, and challenge convention. It's crucial to social, emotional, cognitive and even physical development, helping them grow up “better adjusted, smarter and less stressed.” We know this.

So, where did play go?

Read more: <http://www.forbes.com/sites/ashoka/2014/04/10/why-playful-learning-is-the-key-to-prosperity/>

News Clippings

Oakland considers naming-rights deals for parks

Courtesy of SFGate.com

By Will Kane

Google Park in Oakland? It could happen.

Oakland's Parks and Recreation Department (California) is considering a policy that would allow corporations and wealthy donors to buy the right to name city-owned public parks, gardens and recreation centers if they pay enough to spruce up and maintain the sites.

Oakland's 2,500 acres of parkland, 25 recreation centers, 59 tennis courts, 53 athletic fields and five swimming pools need about \$112 million in capital improvements, and there isn't enough money in the city's budget to fund basic maintenance, let alone large-scale fixes.

"We have to build that money up somewhere," said Dana Riley, a spokeswoman for the parks department. "So how do you get that money? You aren't going to be able to charge people higher use fees."

Read more: <http://www.sfgate.com/bayarea/article/Oakland-considers-naming-rights-deals-for-parks-5402312.php#page-1>

Court sides with relatives of flood victims on definition of ‘malicious’

Courtesy of the ArkansasNews.com

By John Lyon

LITTLE ROCK, AR — The state Supreme Court on Thursday said relatives of 20 people who died in a 2010 flash flood at the Albert Pike Recreation Area are correct in their interpretation of the legal definition of malicious conduct.

Eleven lawsuits have been filed in federal court alleging that the federal government is liable in the deaths because it failed to warn campers of the danger of flooding at the Montgomery County campground or take steps to protect them.

The government has argued that an Arkansas law provides immunity from liability to landowners who make their land available for recreational use of others, but relatives of the flood victims say the law provides an exception to liability for malicious conduct.

Read more: <http://arkansasnews.com/news/arkansas/court-sides-relatives-flood-victims-definition-malicious>

President's Budget Includes Full Funding (\$900 Million) for LWCF

Courtesy of the Trust for Public Land

On March 4, President Obama released his FY 2015 budget proposal, which includes a full funding proposal of \$900 million for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)-including \$25 million for urban parks, as well as funding for other key conservation programs. The LWCF request—three times the current appropriated level—is a very meaningful investment in this important program, which is marking its 50th anniversary this year.

Read more: <http://www.tpl.org/washington-watch-april-2013>

Recreation Community Urges Recreation Enhancement, Not Just Fees

Courtesy of the American Recreation Coalition

Washington, D.C. – The American Recreation Coalition (ARC) testified before the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Natural Resources on reauthorization of legislation allowing federal agencies to collect and retain entrance and recreation fees. ARC told the Congress that recreationists supported fees but were concerned about the lack of focus on improvements in recreation experiences following the enactment of the 2004 Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act.

“We celebrate the marvelous shared legacy of our Great Outdoors - one in three acres of the surface of the nation managed by federal agencies and hosting well in excess of a billion recreation visits annually. Americans spend some \$650 billion annually on fun outdoors and our Great Outdoors is a vital element in attracting international tourists,” Derrick Crandall, ARC President, told the panel.

Mr. Crandall noted that tight budgets made recreation fees even more important to federal agencies. Yet inadequate communications by the agencies and failure to strive for convenient and cost-effective fee programs have lessened support for fees by recreationists. He cited a letter to the Congress by a broad group of recreation, conservation and tourism organizations which outlined twelve consensus principles for federal recreation fees, including retention and use of the fees in close connection with the sites and the activities generating the fees. The organizations also called upon the Congress to include the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the largest federal provider of recreation visits, under the same fee program as the other five agencies with major recreation management roles.

Read more: <http://www.funoutdoors.com/node/view/3087>

Marylanders need to speak up for open space

Courtesy of the Baltimore Sun

By Dan Rodricks

When I have a hard time understanding government spending — the construction and tinkering that goes into, say, Maryland's multibillion-dollar annual budget — I just imagine the whole thing as a kitchen-table conversation with members of a household declaring and negotiating priorities. (Pardon the time-worn metaphor, but it works for me.)

But after the dust settles and everyone's exhausted, someone at the far end of the table, who has waited her turn to speak, reminds us about a certain obligation: One half of one percent of all

transfer taxes paid at real estate closings must be set aside for protection of land against future development; that's state law.

In Maryland, it's called Program Open Space. It was established in 1969 with bipartisan support, and for good reason: The legislators of that time saw massive development coming to the state's suburbs, and they wanted to preserve farms and acquire land for public parks and playgrounds to keep things in balance — Maryland as "the land of pleasant living" even as it became a huge bedroom for Washington and Baltimore.

Take a tiny piece of the revenue from each real estate transaction and fund a program to save open space — buy development rights from Maryland's family farmers so they can keep farming, acquire land for state parks, and send money to Baltimore and our smaller cities and the counties so they can build playgrounds, bike trails and lacrosse and soccer fields.

The logic is beautiful.

Because Program Open Space is tied to real estate transactions — only 0.5 percent of transfer taxes go into the fund — it tracks with the economy. If development and house sales slow, so does Program Open Space. In better times, when there's more action in commercial and residential real estate, more money goes into land preservation.

But the wise lawmakers who established the program are gone, and their political descendants have raided the fund countless times...

Read more: http://articles.baltimoresun.com/2014-04-01/news/bs-md-rodricks-0401-20140331_1_land-preservation-transfer-taxes-program-open-space

Tax Reform and the Conservation Tax Incentive

Courtesy of the Trust for Public Land

Representative Dave Camp, Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, released a draft tax reform bill on February 26, 2014. It included a version of the conservation tax incentive that expired at the end of 2013.

The Camp bill would make permanent the 100% of AGI limit for deductions of donations of conservation easements when taken by qualifying farmers or ranchers, with a 15-year carryover. All other easement donors would be subject to a 40% of AGI limit on annual deductions. This is less than the 50% of AGI limit enjoyed under previous versions of enhanced easement incentive, but it is more than the 30% of AGI limit that now applies to gifts of appreciated property. The draft

bill proposes that all donations, both of cash and of property, have a unified limit of no more than 40% of the donor's AGI.

Read more: <http://www.tpl.org/washington-watch-april-2013#tax>

City Officials In Boulder Consider DNA Dog Waste Ordinance

Courtesy of denver.cbslocal.com

BOULDER, Colo. (CBS4) – Elected officials in the city of Boulder are considering a plan to test dog poop for DNA so the dog owners can be tracked down.

The Boulder City Council on Tuesday Monday night held public hearings on several ordinances regarding dogs and open spaces. One plan being floated by Councilwoman Mary Young includes creating a dog waste DNA database to curb the problem of dog owners not picking up after their pets. Boulder gets numerous complaints about dog waste along trails.

The program is already in effect in more than a dozen apartment communities and HOAs in Denver.

Read more: <http://denver.cbslocal.com/2014/04/02/city-officials-in-boulder-consider-dna-dog-waste-ordinance/>

Training Opportunities

WEBINAR: Having It All - Integrating Habitat and Trails

Courtesy of American Trails

Thursday, May 15, 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)

American Trails presents this webinar on strategies to include wildlife habitat throughout the trail

planning process. Presenters are Robert Spurlock and Elaine Stewart of Metro (the Portland, Oregon metropolitan planning agency).

Attendees will learn about:

- The particular needs of urban wildlife
- Inspiring success stories of trails that improve cities for both people and wildlife
- How the regulatory permit process doesn't always go far enough in protecting wildlife
- Examples of how trails can either harm or potentially benefit wildlife

Recent decades have brought increased interest in building trails in urban areas that connect people to work and play. In the Portland, Oregon, metropolitan area, this has sometimes put trail and wildlife advocates at odds.

For more information: <http://www.americantrails.org/resources/wildlife/webinar-2014.html>

Crime Prevention through Environmental Design Training Opportunities

CPTED strategies are ideal for Law Enforcement Officers, City Planners, City Managers, Landscape Architects, Park Planners, Educators or anyone involved in designing neighborhoods, schools, parks, downtowns, buildings, or revitalization efforts. It is an effective way of fighting crime and promoting business.

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

5 Day Basic CPTED Course, Bellingham, WA - September 15-19, 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?page=conferences>

Basic Trail Construction Skills Training

Date: June 21, 2014

Location: Genesee, CO

Cost: Free

Organization: Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado

A firm grasp of basic trail construction is the gateway in understanding more technical trail concepts such as trail design, drainage structures and trail closure. OSI instructors will walk registrants through our 6 step method of building new trail. More importantly our instructors will breakdown how each step aids in the overall sustainability of the trail.

For more information: <http://www.voc.org/project/genesee-basic-trail-construction-skills-training>

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 29.

If you have news or an article to share, please send it to Brenda@nacpro.org by April 28.

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