



NACPRO News

April 29, 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.

Program Schedule

Saturday, July 12 - BREC County Park Tour, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm (\$70)
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 (\$70)
Monday, July 14 - Educational Program, 9:00 am to Noon (\$25)

► Download detailed information and registration form:

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

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

News from the National Association of Counties

New "Waters of the United States" Definition Released

On April 21, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) jointly released a new proposed rule — Definition of Waters of the U.S. Under the Clean Water Act — that would amend the definition of "waters of the U.S." and potentially expand the range of waters that fall under federal jurisdiction. The proposed rule, published in the Federal Register, is open for public comment for 90 days, until July 21, 2014.

Why "Waters of the U.S." Regulation Matters

The proposed "waters of the U.S." regulation from EPA and the Corps could have significant impact across the country, in the following ways:

Seeks to define waters under federal jurisdiction: The proposed rule would modify existing regulations, which have been in place for over 25 years, regarding which waters fall under federal jurisdiction through the Clean Water Act (CWA). The proposed modification aims to clarify issues raised in recent Supreme Court decisions that have created uncertainty over the scope of CWA jurisdiction and focuses on the interconnectivity of waters when determining which waters fall under federal jurisdiction. Because the proposed rule could expand the scope of CWA jurisdiction, counties could face significant impacts as more waters become federally protected and subject to new rules or standards.

Applies to all Clean Water Act programs, not just Section 404 permits: The proposed rule would apply not just to Section 404 permits, but is also relevant to other Clean Water Act programs,

including stormwater, water reuse and green infrastructure. Such programs may become subject to increasingly complex and costly federal regulatory requirements under the proposed rule.

For more information: <http://www2.epa.gov/uswaters>

Get Answers to Your Questions from COIN Helping Hands

COIN Helping Hands is an online service where members can connect to trusted sources of expertise. Practitioners in the different practice areas have volunteered to answer questions from members in their areas of expertise. The following COIN members are ready to answer your questions in the following areas:

Cyber for Counties

- Phil Bertolini - Deputy County Executive/CIO, Oakland County, MI
- Mary Ann Borgeson - Commissioner, Douglas County, NE
- Jerryl Guy - Information Technology Manager, National Association of Counties
- Catherine Maras - Chief Information Officer, Bexar County, TX
- Joel Rohne - IT/GIS Director, Worth County, IA

Green Government

- Terri Jones - Government Marketing Manager, Hyland Software

Healthy Counties

- Mary Ann Borgeson - Commissioner, Douglas County, NE
- Maeghan Gilmore - Program Director, County Solutions & Innovation, NACo
- Dan Hoffman - Chief Innovation Officer, Montgomery County, MD
- Terri Jones - Government Marketing Manager, Hyland Software
- Emmanuelle St. Jean - Health Program Manager, National Association of Counties

Large Urban Issues

- Dan Hoffman - Chief Innovation Officer, Montgomery County, MD
- Terri Jones - Government Marketing Manager, Hyland Software

Leadership

- Phil Bertolini - Deputy County Executive/CIO, Oakland County, MI

- Mary Ann Borgeson - Commissioner, Douglas County, NE
- Dan Hoffman - Chief Innovation Officer, Montgomery County, MD

Resilient Counties

- Terri Jones - Government Marketing Manager, Hyland Software
- Kathy Nothstine - Program Director, National Association of Counties
- Alyssum Pohl - NOAA Digital Coast Fellow, National Association of Counties

Rural Issues

- Dan Hoffman - Chief Innovation Officer, Montgomery County, MD
- Kathy Nothstine - Program Director, National Association of Counties

Technology and Innovation

- Phil Bertolini - Deputy County Executive/CIO, Oakland County, MI
- Patrick Bresnahan - GIO ,Richland County, SC
- Mark Greninger - Geographic Information Officer, Los Angeles County, CA
- Jerryl Guy - Information Technology Manager, National Association of Counties
- Dan Hoffman - Chief Innovation Officer, Montgomery County, MD
- Bert Jarreau - Chief Innovation Officer, National Association of Counties
- Terri Jones - Government Marketing Manager, Hyland Software
- Catherine Maras - Chief Information Officer, Bexar County, TX
- Jeff Miller - GIS Coordinator, Dubuque County, IA

Transportation and Infrastructure

- Dan Hoffman - Chief Innovation Officer, Montgomery County, MD
- Kathy Nothstine - Program Director, National Association of Counties

Veterans and Military Service

- Mary Bell - Director, NACo, National Association of Counties
- Jim Goltart - Director Veterans Service, Le Sueur County, NM

For more information: <http://www.countyinnovation.us/>

New Research and Resources

Partnership For Active Trans: Safe Routes To Everywhere Platform

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

According to an April Transportation and Public Health Newsletter article, "Trails, walking and biking help to advance many societal goals such as mobility, economic development, health, livable communities and equity. Now there is a national voice for trails, walking and biking - or active transportation - that reflects this diversity of affected interests. The Partnership for Active Transportation (<http://bit.ly/1f4GyNI>) is a national network of nonprofit, for-profit and public-sector entities working together to build healthy places for healthy people by advancing active transportation networks.

"We invite you to join us. Sign on your organization to endorse Safe Routes to Everywhere, the federal policy platform from the Partnership for Active Transportation (<http://bit.ly/1jKgR1T>). (Download the Safe Routes to Everywhere platform: <http://bit.ly/PsHfDS>.) The partnership has launched a campaign to drive changes in federal policy that encourage investments in active transportation as critical elements of our nation's transportation system.

For more information: http://action.apha.org/site/MessageViewer?dlv_id=51801&em_id=47042.0

US Access Board: Online ADA and ABA Standards Guide

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

According to a March/April US Access Currents article, "The [US Access] Board has launched new online guides on the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Accessibility Standards and the Architectural Barriers Act (ABA) Accessibility Standards. This web-based material features illustrated technical guides that explain and clarify requirements of the ADA and ABA standards, answer common questions, and offer best practice recommendations. It also includes a series of animations on various subjects covered by the standards.

"The initial installment of the guide covers the first three chapters of the standards, including application and use of the standards (Chapter 1), scoping in new construction, alterations, and additions (Chapter 2), and basic 'building block' technical provisions (Chapter 3). Guides covering other sections of the standards will be released at a later date. The supplementary animations, which range in length from 6 to 10 minutes, address wheelchair maneuvering, doors and entrances, and accessible toilet and bathing facilities.

"The Guide to the ADA Standards covers design requirements that apply to places of public

accommodation, commercial facilities, and state and local government facilities subject to the ADA in new construction, alterations, and additions...

"Future installments to the guides will be published as they become available. Users can sign-up (<http://bit.ly/1jJ2FGa>) to receive email updates on the release of new technical guides in the series."

For more information: <http://www.access-board.gov/guidelines-and-standards/buildings-and-sites/about-the-ada-standards/guide-to-the-ada-standards>

Surging Seas Risk Finder

Climate Central has launched its Surging Seas Risk Finder for New England states. The launch also includes new analysis and features for New Jersey, New York, and Florida, such as extensive downloadable data.

The Risk Finder is a public web tool that provides local projections, maps and assessments of exposure to sea level rise and coastal flooding tabulated for every zip code and municipality along with planning, legislative and other districts. Exposure assessments cover over 100 demographic, economic, infrastructure and environmental variables using data drawn mainly from federal sources, including NOAA, USGS, FEMA, DOT, DOE, DOI, EPA, FCC and the Census. The web tool was recently highlighted at the launch of The White House's Climate Data Initiative.

Climate Central will roll out the web tool on a regional basis for all U.S. coastal states including Hawaii and Alaska throughout 2014.

Access the web tool: <http://sealevel.climatecentral.org/>

News Clippings

Should Background Checks Be Required for Baltimore County Parks and Rec Volunteers?

Courtesy of essex.patch.com

By Elizabeth Janney

One Baltimore County (MD) lawmaker is taking action to provide safeguards for children participating in local recreational activities.

Council Chairwoman Cathy Bevins has proposed legislation that would require background checks for parks and recreation volunteers, at the urging of the Baltimore County Board of Recreation and Parks, according to The Baltimore Sun.

"Baltimore County is the only jurisdiction in the region that does not already require background checks for rec coaches and volunteers with access to children," Councilwoman Cathy Bevins said this week. "It is time to fix that."

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA)—a nonprofit dedicated to advancing park, recreation and conservation efforts—states that screenings are essential, in its guidelines for parks and recreation organizations across the country.

Read more: <http://essex.patch.com/groups/schools/p/baltimore-county-background-checks>

Striking a balance: Moab's future hinges on energy and recreation

Courtesy of the DeseretNews.com

By Amy Joi O'Donoghue

MOAB, UTAH — The vision for how land use plays out in southeast Utah amid Moab's red rock country is as fluid as the Colorado River that has carved out some of the most spectacular scenery on earth.

At one bend, the land can be enveloped in the protective arms of a new monument designation, or in the next eddy it could be zoned for both resource extraction and wilderness classifications under congressional legislation.

Is there a solution to ease the tension and satisfy both camps?

Rep. Rob Bishop, R-Utah, is proposing legislation called the "Grand Bargain" which call on the parties at the table to carve out sections of land for wilderness designations and set up zones where resource extraction can proceed.

The options run the gamut: one is extremely restrictive for industry, one is middle of the road and the other option is more protectionist of land resources. The county has scheduled a public

hearing April 23 to hear public comments on those options.

Read more: <http://www.deseretnews.com/article/865600936/Striking-a-balance-Moabs-future-hinges-on-energy-and-recreation.html>

Underwater Park Approved by Twin Falls Parks and Rec

Courtesy of MagicValley.com

By Kimberlee Kruesi

TWIN FALLS, IDAHO • A new attraction may be coming to Dierkes Lake, but you'll need a mask, an oxygen tank and rubber fins to see it.

A local scuba instructor has proposed creating an underwater gallery as an attraction for recreational divers.

The proposal was unanimously approved Tuesday by the Twin Falls Parks and Recreation Commission. It must go before the City Council for final approval.

"All structures will be installed away from the shores and will be no less than 5 feet from the surface," said Paul Melni, owner of Twin Falls' River Rat Adventure Toys.

The biggest attraction Melni plans is to submerge an old airplane made of different aircraft. The plane would be bolted to a steel plate to rest at the bottom of the lake.

Read more: http://magicvalley.com/news/local/underwater-park-approved-by-twin-falls-parks-and-rec/article_101d6a58-c51f-11e3-825d-0019bb2963f4.html

Quest for 'racial equity' in parks has some way

Courtesy of the StarTribune.com

By David Peterson

MINNESOTA - Faced with numbers showing that its parks are underused by minorities and having spent millions to develop parks in largely white suburbs, the Metropolitan Council is moving to impose a "racial-equity" filter as it forms its latest long-term plan for transportation, land

use and recreation.

The destination of millions in parks funding is emerging as an early point of conflict in those debates.

“This will make us uncomfortable, but we need to ‘go there’ or we will just keep getting the results we have been getting,” said Gary Cunningham of Minneapolis, chairman of a Met Council committee overseeing parks and planning.

The issue is perhaps best captured in park user counts showing large gaps in usage for some communities of color. Blacks, for instance, make up nearly 7 percent of the metro area’s population but less than 3 percent of regional parks users; for Hispanics, the comparable figures are 5 percent and 2 percent.

How a racial equity plan would work is unclear, but some Met Council members are already wary.

Read more: <http://www.startribune.com/local/minneapolis/254462661.html>

Fish In National Parks From Alaska To Colorado Have Unhealthy Mercury Levels

Courtesy of the National Parks Traveler

By Kurt Repanshek

Timing often is happenstance, but with Earth Day arriving next week, word of high mercury levels in fish in national parks from Alaska to Colorado is particularly sobering. In some cases, the levels exceed limits OKed for human consumption.

One fish sampled for the study, taken from Yosemite National Park in California, had mercury levels of 950 parts per billion, "at which no human consumption is advised," said the report produced by the U.S. Geological Survey and the National Park Service.

All 21 parks included in the four-year survey, from Denali National Park and Preserve in Alaska to Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado, had fish with varying levels of mercury.

Concentrations ranged from 9.9 parts per billion to 1,109 parts per billion, with a mean of 77.8 parts per billion.

“Unfortunately, mercury and other forms of pollution don't recognize park boundaries. Even our

nation's most pristine places like our national parks are vulnerable to toxic pollution," said Sarah Gaines Barmeyer, director of Conservation Programs for the National Parks Conservation Association in an email.

Read more: <http://www.nationalparkstraveler.com/2014/04/fish-national-parks-alaska-colorado-have-unhealthy-mercury-levels24948>

Wilderness Under Siege, The Ongoing Battle Over Public Lands In America

Courtesy of National Parks Traveler

By Alfred Runte

As a historian, I believe that thinking in terms of time provides perspective on the critical issues of our day. Certainly, that was one motivation for my becoming a specialist on the nation's public lands. The rest started with my family. We grew up discovering the public lands together, finally to understand how special they truly are. Even today, I cannot imagine the United States without them, nor can I imagine why anyone would wish to part with the legacy that so distinguishes our national character. The point is that some people not only imagine it; as in the past, they insist we "reconsider" our public lands. What they really mean to say—and have always meant to say—is that we have too much public land.

The sharpness of the current debate may be traced back to 1995 and an essay by William Cronon, professor of history at the University of Wisconsin. He begins with a revealing title: *The Trouble with Wilderness: Or, Getting Back to the Wrong Nature*. Normally, the shelf life of an academic paper is short; in contrast, this essay has been widely read for twenty years. After all, a tenured historian at a major university has insisted that environmentalists are flat out wrong.

How so? Because wilderness, their signature landscape, is a contrivance and not reality, Cronon argues. "As we gaze into the mirror it holds up for us, we too easily imagine that what we behold is Nature when in fact we see the reflection of our own unexamined longings and desires."

Read more: <http://www.nationalparkstraveler.com/2014/04/wilderness-under-siege-ongoing-battle-over-public-lands-america24974>

Boston (MA) Doctors Prescribe-a-Bike

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

According to an April 3rd The Atlantic Cities article, "If an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure, how much health can riding a bicycle deliver? A program just launched by Boston is betting it's a significant amount. Prescribe-a-Bike (<http://bit.ly/1rlobUh>), as it's being called, will allow doctors at Boston Medical Center to write low-income patients prescriptions for a one-year membership to Hubway, the city's bike-sharing system, for just \$5. That's \$80 less than the usual charge for an annual subscription to the service. In order to qualify, you have to be a Boston resident over 16-years-old receiving some sort of public assistance or who has a household income no more than four times the poverty level. A free helmet is part of the deal..."

For more information: <http://www.theatlanticcities.com/commute/2014/04/want-healthier-city-prescribe-biking/8795/>

Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center announces seventh round of Walk Friendly Communities

Courtesy of the Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center

CHAPEL HILL, NC — The Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center (PBIC) is pleased to announce three new Walk Friendly Communities (WFC) and one new designation. The "Walk Friendly" title means a city or town is being recognized for its success in working to improve a wide range of conditions related to walking, including safety, mobility, access, and comfort. As part of its commitment to pedestrian safety, FedEx supports Walk Friendly Communities, a national recognition program of the Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center at the University of North Carolina that encourages cities and towns across the United States to create safe walking environments.

PBIC recognizes these four communities for their commitment to improving walkability and pedestrian safety:

Gold Level: Boulder CO, Charlottesville VA, Denver CO

Bronze Level: Lakeland FL

"These four cities present a very interesting picture of how cities are striving to be more walkable," said Carl Sundstrom, WFC program manager. "Charlottesville has made some great improvements since being named a Silver-level community in our first round of the program. At the same time, Boulder and Denver show how two cities separated by just 30 miles can take different approaches to being pedestrian friendly based on their unique challenges."

There are now 47 Walk Friendly Communities across the nation. To date, Seattle, Wash., remains the only Platinum-level Walk Friendly Community.

The program will begin accepting applications for the seventh round on May 1, 2014, with the deadline for submission on June 16, 2014. Interested communities are encouraged to visit our website to learn more about the program and review the community assessment tool.

For more information: <http://www.walkfriendly.org/>

Training Opportunities

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>

WEBINAR: Accessible Toilet and Bathing Facilities - Advanced session

July 10th, 2014

If you are familiar with the basic requirements for toilet and bathing facilities and are ready for a more "advanced" discussion of these provisions, this is the session for you! Participants interested in this session are encouraged to review an archived session on this topic for a review of the basic provisions. Presenters will highlight some of the more frequently asked questions and respond to your questions submitted in advance.

Presenters:

- Jim Pecht, Accessibility Specialist/Librarian, US Access Board
- Marsha K. Mazz, Director, Office of Technical and Information Services, US Access Board

Continuing Education Recognition Available

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

WEBINAR: Accessible Routes - Advanced Session

August 7th, 2014

Special attention is sometimes needed when applying certain accessible route provisions in the 2010 ADA Accessibility Standard and the Architectural Barriers Act Standard. This session will include an advance level discussion of the accessible route provisions and focus on issues such as overlapping clear space requirements and door maneuvering clearances, exterior routes, among other issues. Presenters will highlight some of the more frequently asked questions and also respond to your questions submitted in advance. Participants interested in this session are encouraged to review archived sessions on this topic for a review of the basic provisions. (see <http://www.accessibilityonline.org/Archives/index.php?app=4&type=transcript&id=2010-10-07>).

Presenters:

- Jim Pecht, Accessibility Specialist/Librarian, US Access Board
- Dave Yanchulis, Coordinator of Public Affairs, Office of Technical and Information Services, US Access Board

Continuing Education Recognition Available

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

2015 International Trails Symposium

Courtesy of American Trails

American Trails is excited to announce the host city for the 22nd International Trails Symposium is Portland, Oregon at the Oregon Convention Center from May 17-20, 2015. Portland has a lot of attractions for the trails enthusiast. The Willamette River Greenway is one of America's great urban river corridors with trails and pedestrian-friendly bridges through downtown. Public transit is outstanding and the city is full of examples of creative community development. Add parks,

bikeways, and in-town hiking opportunities, plus water trails, wildlife refuges, and nearby national forests for every kind of trail activity.

American Trails' biennial International Trails Symposium is the premier opportunity for trail advocates, managers, builders, planners, and supporters -- as well as tourism and business interests -- to come together to communicate and experience an inspirational and educational conference. The Symposium includes numerous educational sessions covering the broad range of trail issues, nationally and internationally prominent speakers, a state-of-the-art exhibit hall, informative and interactive mobile workshops, and much more.

For more information: <http://americantrails.org/ee/index.php/symposium>

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 May 20.

If you have news or an article to share, please send it to Brenda@nacpro.org by May 19.

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