



NACPRO News

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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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For more information: http://www.smithgroupjjr.com/projects?utf8=%E2%9C%93&practice_area=21&project_type_ids%5B%5D=15&find

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For more information:

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

Member News

For Cities to Compete, They Need to Play

Courtesy of HuffingtonPost.com

In order to attract and retain the businesses, jobs and residents who breathe energy and enterprise into their neighborhoods, they first need to foster family-friendly, kid-friendly environments that promote play everywhere, while addressing the needs of underserved communities.

At KaBOOM!, we call this idea playability, the extent to which a city makes it easy for all kids to get balanced and active play. Because play matters for all kids. And this week, in partnership with the Humana Foundation -- the philanthropic arm of Humana, Inc. -- our Playful City USA initiative is honoring 212 cities and towns in 43 states that make playability a part of their community-wide agenda.

Together, these communities represent the vanguard of a national playability movement. They are finding creative ways to meet the needs of families, grow their economies, and become more competitive. And, in the process, they are solving some of our nation's most pressing challenges on the scale that they exist. For instance, these cities know that play can help young people manage toxic stress, an epidemic among children in low-income neighborhoods, and an issue at the heart of our work.

Play is essential for young people's health and wellness, as well. It builds muscles, expands minds, and forges friendships. Cities like Baton Rouge, Louisiana, have launched in-school programs that teach students about balance by getting active, eating better, and spending less time in front of screens. In Baton Rouge's case, the city also introduced a mobile recreation unit called "BREC on the Geaux," which brings play equipment to underserved neighborhoods.

Read more: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/darell-hammond/for-cities-to-compete-stem_b_5312886.html

News from the National Association of Counties

NACo's 2014-2015 Resolutions Process is Underway

In anticipation of NACo's 2014 Annual Conference and Exposition—taking place July 11-14 in Orleans Parish, Louisiana—NACo members are invited to submit policy resolutions and platform changes for consideration at the conference. Submissions will be considered by one or more of NACo's 10 policy steering committees, and if approved by that committee, will be voted on by NACo's Board of Directors and membership for adoption. Approved policy resolutions and platform changes will guide NACo's advocacy efforts in the coming year and beyond.

Deadline for submissions is June 11.

For more information: http://www.magnetmail.net/actions/email_web_version.cfm?recipient_id=729284672&message_id=4242333&user_id=NAC_&group_id=351874&jobid=18538159

Register for the NACo Annual Conference and Exposition

July 11-14 in Orleans Parish, Louisiana

Early bird rates expire May 30. Register now and save.

One of several new additions to this year's event is Roundtable Discussions. These will be informal discussions on specific topic areas and will be held on Saturday and Sunday of the conference.

For more information: <http://www.naco.org/meetings/participate/NACoAnnual/Pages/Annual-Conference.aspx>

News from the National Recreation and Park Association

American Water Charitable Foundation Awards \$2.5 Million for Grants

NRPA is now accepting RFPs for the American Water Charitable Foundation's (AWCF) Building

Better Communities program -- a grant program to create and enhance nature play areas and increase water stewardship education across American Water's nationwide service area. NRPA has been awarded a grant of \$2.5 million from AWCF to administer the program and work with local communities to implement conservation projects during the next five years. In 2014, NRPA aims to support three to five of these projects through grants to local communities.

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

New Research and Resources

New National Assessment Provides Understanding of Boating Access

Courtesy of Responsive Management

As summer approaches and the weather gets warmer, many boaters are hitting the water. Often everything goes smoothly, but occasionally getting the boat in and out of the water is a source of frustration. If you are generally enjoying your boating experiences but have ever been stuck behind an inexperienced boater at the launch ramp or wished for better parking or a restroom at a boating access site, you are not alone according to a new study conducted by Responsive Management for the States Organization for Boating Access (SOBA), as well as the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation, the National Marine Manufacturers Association, BoatUS, and the Association of Marina Industries. The study explores boating access in the U.S., examining the current and future needs for boating access.

Prior to this study, a comprehensive national assessment of boating access had never been conducted. This new study included a review of previously published research; a series of focus groups with boaters; a focus group with boating industry representatives; a nationwide survey of boaters, including anglers who fish from a boat; and a national survey of boating industry representatives and boating agency professionals. The results of the boater survey serve as a baseline against which future survey results can be compared. As part of the study, Responsive Management has also developed assessment tools for measuring boating access throughout the United States, which entails five short survey modules about specific aspects of boating access that may be used by boating agencies and organizations to continue to understand and address boating access issues.

Overall, the study revealed a very positive outlook on boating access programs across the country. More than three thousand boaters from across the United States were contacted for their opinions, and, overall, boat access ratings are positive with almost half rating access as excellent and very few rating it poor (approximately 5%). The large majority of boaters (81%) also disagree that boat access issues constrain their boating participation.

For more information:

www.responsivemanagement.com/download/reports/Boating_Access_Report.pdf

Two NOAA reports show economic gains from fishing and improvement in fish stocks

Courtesy of NOAA

U.S. commercial and recreational saltwater fishing generated more than \$199 billion in sales in 2012, a gain of seven percent over the previous year, with the economic impact of fishing jobs increasing three percent from 2011 to 2012, according to a new NOAA Fisheries economics report.

Further, two more fish stocks were rebuilt to target levels in 2013, bringing the number of rebuilt U.S. marine fish stocks to 34 since 2000, according to another NOAA Fisheries report also released today.

Taken together, the two reports, Fisheries Economics of the United States 2012 and the Status of U.S. Fisheries 2013, show positive trends in the steady rebuilding of the country's federally managed fisheries off our coasts, and the important role fisheries contribute to the United States economy. "These two reports highlight the steady rebuilding of U.S. fisheries and the broad and positive economic impact of commercial and recreational fishing to the nation's economy..."

Read more: <http://www.tcpalm.com/news/2014/apr/29/two-noaa-reports-show-economic-gains-fishing-and-i/>

Illinois DOT Releases Comprehensive Bike Plan

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

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) is proud to release the Illinois Bike Transportation Plan (Plan), the first state-wide bicycle plan in Illinois history. The Plan serves as the transportation alternatives chapter of the 2012 Illinois State Long Range Transportation Plan and follows the long range plan's theme of Transforming Transportation for Tomorrow. It provides the Department with policies, best practices and strategic direction for implementing a sustainable, multimodal transportation system in Illinois.

The Illinois Bike Transportation Plan documents can be downloaded here:

Executive Summary

<http://www.dot.state.il.us/Bicycling/BikePlanSummaryFinal.pdf>

Technical Documents

<http://www.dot.state.il.us/Bicycling/TechnicalMemorandums.pdf>

Appendices

<http://www.dot.state.il.us/Bicycling/Appendices.pdf>

The Illinois Bike Transportation Plan will follow the Long Range Plan's theme of Transforming Transportation for Tomorrow and will provide the Department with policies, best practices and strategic direction for implementing a sustainable, multimodal vision for Illinois.

In order to gain input from as many stakeholders as possible, the Plan will set up an advisory group where other state agencies (IDNR) and bicycling stakeholders such as (but not limited to) the League of Illinois Bicyclists, the Illinois Greenways and Trails Council, and state Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO) can provide advice to the development of the plan. There will be several interactive opportunities, both online and in person, for public input on the plan.

For more information: <http://www.illinoisbikeplan.com/>

Bicycle Safer Journey

Courtesy of the Federal Highway Administration

This report helps educators, parents and others who care about bicycle safety to get the conversation started with children and youth. Available online, three videos — one for each of three age groups — accompanied by a quiz or discussion and an educator's resource library can be used as an introduction to bicycle safety skills or to augment a comprehensive curriculum.

For more information: <http://www.pedbikeinfo.org/bicyclesaferjourney/index.html>

Outdoor Exercise is more Beneficial than Indoor for Children: Study

Courtesy of ScienceWorldReport.com

By Kathleen Lees

As statistics show that childhood obesity has more than doubled in children and quadrupled in adolescents in the past 30 years, many after school programs have pushed for greater physical activity, particularly outdoors.

A recent study conducted by researchers from the University of Bristol in the United Kingdom hones in on the advantage of outdoor activities. Findings showed that children who spent more time involved in exercise outdoors decreased their risk for obesity and other weight-related health issues.

Read more: <http://www.scienceworldreport.com/articles/14687/20140513/outdoor-exercise-is-more-beneficial-for-children-study.htm>

News Clippings

Officials debate payouts for closing revenue gaps

Courtesy of ThisWeekNews.com

By Chris Bournea

The city of Bexley is seeking public input about a pilot program that would offer financial incentives to Bexley Recreation and Parks employees who are exempt from overtime and to provide incentives for reducing the department's operating costs.

Bexley City Council will hold a public meeting about the incentive program before taking a vote after a third reading of the legislation May 27.

The incentive program was the topic of vigorous debate among council members at their April 22 meeting. Lori Ann Feibel, the chairwoman of council's recreation and parks committee, introduced the legislation that would create the incentive program. She said it would provide further motivation for Recreation and Parks employees to find creative ways to more efficiently deliver services.

Read more: <http://www.thisweeknews.com/content/stories/bexley/news/2014/05/05/recreation-department-incentives-officials-debate-payouts-for-closing-revenue-gaps.html>

Ohio Earthwork Saved by Social Media Campaign

Courtesy of the Living Landscape Observer

By Brenda Barrett

Not every story to save a nationally significant cultural landscape from imminent sale and development has a happy ending. Often the auction sign goes up, there is a brief period of

bewailing the tragedy, then the inevitable happens, and the dozers move in. But this was not what happened in the campaign to save the Junction Earth Works in Chillicothe Ohio. The outcome is a lesson in how strong partnership and new media can be combined to save a landscape.

When the for sale notice went up on this property in Ohio, the Arc of Appalachia, a grassroots Ohio based conservancy with the mission to preserve, restore, and reunite the greater Appalachian Forest, spearheaded an all out conservation effort. They were joined by a strong coalition of archeological and historic preservation organizations with interest in the resource. The group mounted an online campaign only eight days before the site was slated for the auction block. The web site was loaded with great content about the significance of the archeological resources on the land and also its natural values. It even included a short video.

An online fundraising thermometer tracked the project's progress towards the goal. The result, \$375,000 was raised from over 900 individual donors. When leveraged with a state grant from Clean Ohio, this was enough money to purchase the 102 acres, which included the earthwork, creek frontage, and the forested acreage on the site. A 170-acre farm field was sold to a local farmer for continued agricultural use. Pretty amazing work for a little over a week of intense effort.

Read more: <http://livinglandscapeobserver.net/ohio-earthwork-saved-by-social-media-campaign/>

Drones banned from Yosemite, other parks

Courtesy of CNN

By Doug Gross

If you're planning to enjoy this spring or summer at a national park, you'd better leave your drone at home.

On Friday, Yosemite National Park in California turned heads when it announced that drones, the unmanned aircraft increasingly making their way into private hands, aren't welcome in the park, famous for its picturesque valley of towering granite cliffs, waterfalls and Giant Sequoia groves.

Apparently using drones to capture experiences at the park, on the western edge of the Sierra Nevada mountains, is becoming a trend.

"The park has experienced an increase in visitors using drones within park boundaries over the last few years," park management said in a news release. "Drones have been witnessed filming climbers ascending climbing routes, filming views above tree-tops, and filming aerial footage of

the park."

And it's not just Yosemite. The buzzing aerial machines, which have become handy for everything from scaring off unwanted birds to delivering medicine and pizzas, aren't welcome at any of the 58 national parks.

Read more: http://www.cnn.com/2014/05/05/tech/innovation/parks-yosemite-drones-ban/index.html?hpt=hp_bn5

How the GROW AMERICA Act Could Modernize Federal Transportation Policy

Courtesy of usa.streetsblog.org

By Tanya Snyder

Yesterday, U.S. DOT did something it hadn't done for a decade: submit a surface transportation authorization bill to Congress.

And what a bill it is. The \$302 billion, four-year GROW AMERICA Act has several major reforms that would shift federal policy in a more multi-modal direction. One big change that we've noted before is that transit would get a bigger slice of the pie, but there are several other new proposals worth a look.

Changes the Highway Trust Fund into a multi-modal Transportation Trust Fund. The bill would replace the current system's highway-centric orientation, which shunts transit funding off to the side, with a truly multi-modal trust fund. It would include not just highways and transit but also intercity rail (which has long been marginalized in a separate bill and funded with unpredictable general funds) and the popular TIGER grant program (which has a history of funding innovative, multi-modal projects). The TTF would also include the New Starts/Small Starts transit grant program, which has historically been funded with general funds, separately from the trust fund.

Doesn't return bike and pedestrian funding to former levels. The Transportation Alternatives Program gets a few little tweaks, like allowing nonprofits (which often administer Safe Routes to School programs) to apply for funds, and it allows applicants to group small projects together to meet the minimum for an 80 percent federal contribution. But the bill does not return dedicated walking and biking funds to former levels. In its analysis, the Bike League notes that the bill doesn't create a national bike plan, doesn't establish a separate bike-ped performance measure, and fails to set aside some TIFIA loan money for bike and pedestrian programs in low-income communities.

Read more: <http://usa.streetsblog.org/2014/04/30/how-the-grow-america-act-could-modernize->

Unlikely partnership seeks to end turf wars in western Colorado

Courtesy of hcn.org

By Krista Landlois

The room was a brawl waiting to happen. Horseback riders sat next to mountain bikers. ATV, jeep and motorbike enthusiasts took their seats across from wilderness, hiking and “quiet trail” advocates. Even a survey of peoples’ heads revealed the potential tension: There were cowboy hats and shiny, banker-like pates; spiky mullets and hair flattened by bike helmets; Patagonia “Live Simply” trucker caps and real trucker caps worn without irony.

But the Trails Roundtable hosted last week in Grand Junction, Colorado, by the soon-to-be nonprofit Grand Valley Trails Alliance turned out to be surprisingly peaceful. Even the mere suggestion of a fight was brushed off: When one man off-handedly commented that the group was “fighting over a quarter-mile of trail,” someone else broke in to say, “I don’t think we’re fighting,” and the entire room murmured its agreement: “Not fighting, not fighting, not fighting...” like an echo chamber or the human microphone from Occupy Wall Street.

The scene was a far cry from the battles enacted here just over a year ago, when the Bureau of Land Management released a draft of its new Resource Management Plan. It was the first such rewrite in 27 years, and it brought to the surface grudges that had been percolating for years. Some argued that there wasn’t enough wilderness; others that too many motorized ORV trails would be closed. One particularly vocal minority of off-roaders staged public protests, broke down blockades and nearly came to blows at a BLM meeting.

Read more: <https://www.hcn.org/blogs/goat/the-trail-blazers-an-unlikely-partnership-seeks-to-end-the-recreational-turf-wars-in-western-colorado>

HydroPoint Releases New Drought & Water Compliance Management Tools for WeatherTRAK® Smart Irrigation System

May 15, 2014 – Petaluma, CA – HydroPoint Data Systems, the established leader in smart water management solutions for the last mile, today announced important new tools and updated features in the Spring Release of its WeatherTRAK® Central™ Internet Management software, available with its line of WeatherTRAK® smart irrigation controllers. The Company also launched its newest flow management accessory, WeatherTRAK® FlowShare™, as it continues to pioneer and deliver comprehensive smart irrigation solutions that help commercial and

municipal organizations maximize water and operational savings while minimizing risk related to their landscape irrigation management.

“As a veteran provider of smart water management solutions for urban landscapes and a company headquartered in one of the regions hardest hit by the ongoing drought, we knew we had to evolve our Web-based tools to help our customers better configure and manage their drought response and water window compliance. We also knew that current flow management accessories on the market fell short at a time when we cannot afford to waste even a drop of water,” said Chris Spain, President & CEO of HydroPoint. “Our Spring Release specifically tackles these issues enhancing our industry-leading water savings capabilities while optimizing water management and overall work flow.”

The WeatherTRAK Central Spring Release specifically includes the following new management tools:

- **Drought Manager** – Helps site managers proactively adhere to drought restrictions avoiding fines and penalties. Site managers can easily set up, track, and manage compliance for each stage of their local water agency’s drought program including configuring site-specific drought response plans and ongoing monitoring. Drought Manager also integrates state-specific U.S. Drought Monitor information and Drought Map and recommends how to best utilize WeatherTRAK’s robust feature set to remotely make controller changes in the field.
- **Water Window Compliance** – Provides site managers with a compliance validation tool minimizing fines and liabilities by ensuring each site is meeting water agency or site-specific water window policies. Site managers easily enter single or multi-site water window policies and receive real-time irrigation water window tracking and diagnostic reports to determine non-compliant settings and sites.

Additional enhancements were also made to:

- **Water Budget Manager** – The newest version allows site-to-site and year-over-year water comparisons of water consumption units and associated dollars with enhanced graphing options.
- **Advanced Account Administration** – New multi-level access management makes it easier for administrators to manage users, including allowing full access control to authorized people reducing their administrative overhead.
- **Controller Reporting** – A new scheduled Multi-Controller Change Analysis Report to more easily monitor and analyze controller settings within the system.

Building on HydroPoint’s existing flow management solutions including the latest FlowLink™ XT Plus, the new WeatherTRAK® FlowShare™ accessory easily “drops into” existing or new sites allowing two smart controllers to share a single source of water. Additionally and unlike

competitive offerings, it also provides direct control of the site's master valve ensuring a quick automatic response to emergency on-site catastrophic breaks and leaks. According to HydroPoint channel partner, Joe Jackson of Sprinkler Supply Company, the new WeatherTRAK FlowShare product "is a very simple and straight-forward installation. I handed the box to the customer, stepped back, and let him do the installation. He had no problems at all."

For more information: www.hydropoint.com/spring-2014/

The Recreational Boating & Fishing Foundation Launches Hispanic Outreach Campaign

Courtesy of the Organization of Wildlife Planners

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (April 24, 2014) - The Recreational Boating & Fishing Foundation (RBFF) today launched the first phase of a 5-year plan to increase awareness of fishing and boating among Hispanics, and engage the fastest growing segment of the U.S. population in these activities. Starting with a new Spanish-language microsite, VamosAPescar.org, and targeted advertising, the campaign aims to motivate the Hispanic audience to partake in the joys of fishing and boating.

According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Hispanic participation in fishing has remained stagnant over the past 5 years, while overall participation has risen 11 percent from 2006 to 2011. Fifty-three million strong and growing rapidly, the Hispanic population is projected to reach 65 million in the U.S. by 2020. "The Hispanic population is a critical group to engage, ensuring the long term sustainability of two of America's favorite pastimes," says Frank Peterson, RBFF's President and CEO.

Read more: <http://news.takemefishing.org/Hispanic-campaign-launch>

4 Award-Winning Buildings That Nudge People To Live Healthier Lives

Courtesy of fastcoexist.com

Former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg was infamous for many of his innovative public health "interventions," from trans-fat bans to a crackdown on large-sized sodas. One of the lesser known was his administration's pioneering of the concept of "active design," the relatively new idea that city and building designers can play a major role in nudging people to live healthier lives through exercise and other habits.

The Center for Active Design, a nonprofit established by the Bloomberg administration in 2013, is

now on a mission to spread the gospel of the active design guidelines put out by the city. (Bloomberg also signed an executive order that all city-funded buildings, from affordable housing construction to new office spaces, must follow these guidelines.) The center recently announced its first annual “Excellence Awards,” featuring four innovative projects that are already built and making an impact on people’s lives.

Frank cites a wide range of small tactics that change people’s activity in built spaces. Benches on sidewalks increase the number of people who walk. Stairwells that are nicely lit and are actually possible to find are a good “active building” strategy. Gardens increase access not just to healthy food, but to increased physical and social activity. “We’re talking about using design to make the choice to move the one you actually instinctively want to take,” she says.

Read more: <http://www.fastcoexist.com/3029708/4-award-winning-buildings-that-nudge-people-to-live-healthier-lives>

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 June 3.

If you have news or an article to share, please send it to Brenda@nacpro.org by June 2.

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