



NACPRO News

June 3, 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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Join NACPRO for their county park tour and awards banquet this July

The deadline for hotel room reservations is Wednesday, June 11 – act now.

This July, the National Association of County Parks and Recreation Officials (NACPRO) is conducting its county park tour, awards banquet and educational classroom session in conjunction with the National Association of Counties Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana. Everyone is welcome.

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

Download detailed information and registration form:

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

Member News

Journey to Healthier Lifestyles through Commit to Health

Courtesy of the National Recreation and Park Association

by Kim Chappelow-Lee

When out of school time (OST) programs first began to appear back in the early 1980's they were seen primarily as safe havens where kids could spend the late afternoon hours while their parents were still at work. Park and recreation agencies were quick to get involved in this rapidly growing and evolving industry doing what we do best, keeping kids active and engaged in numerous games, sports and group socialization activities. It was a simple formula that worked well. Kids were noisy, active and happy.

As time progressed, this formula while successful, began being perceived as too simple. Everyone seemed to recognize that these truly are the golden hours in a child's day and efforts to make the most of them resulted in a shift toward the more academic pursuits of tutoring, computer labs and extended homework time among others. While these activities are of indisputable value their sedentary nature had many of us questioning how prevalent they should be in OST programs.

NRPA's Commit to Health campaign very clearly answers this question for many of us in the field, and reinforces the direction Johnson County Park and Recreation District has taken in its 28 OST programs that serve 1,600 kids on average every working day of the year.

We are still searching for the perfect balance between what we know kids need and what we believe we should provide and our efforts to achieve this balance began several years ago when our OST programs went screen free. The removal of all TV's, video games and DVD's from every program was surprisingly painless.

Read more: <http://www.nrpa.org/blog/journey-to-healthier-lifestyles-through-commit-to-health/>

News from the National Association of Counties

Congress Passes Water Resources Conference Report; Heads to President

During the week of May 19, both House and Senate negotiators passed the bipartisan conference report for the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (WRRDA) (H.R. 3080). WRRDA address many water resource issues important to counties, including navigation channels, harbors, beach management, levee and dam repair, aquatic ecosystems, flood emergency and water infrastructure projects through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. WRRDA now heads to the President's desk for his signature.

Read more: <http://www.naco.org/legislation/WW/Lists/Posts/Post.aspx?ID=823>

NACo Webinar: Keeping Existing Partners Engaged in Environmental Restoration Efforts

On Tuesday, June 17, 2014 at 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM EDT, learn from leaders and partners in environmental restoration projects across the country that have successfully partnered with community organizations, local governments, schools, the business community, etc. to meet restoration goals. Also, learn about strategies to engage new partners and use social media to the maximum benefit in promoting your efforts.

For more information: <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/235596928>

News from the National Recreation and Park Association

CDC creates funding opportunity to encourage healthy environments

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recently released a funding opportunity which recreation and park departments are eligible to apply for. The Partnership to Improve Community Health program will provide \$50 million a year through 30 to 40 cooperative agreements over three years. The effort aims to boost creation of environments that make it easier for people to make healthy choices. Grantees will include governmental agencies and non-governmental organizations, and projects will serve large cities and urban counties, small cities and counties, American Indian tribes and Alaska Native villages. Annual awards will range from \$100,000 to \$4 million a year. Letters of Intent are due on June 5 and applications on July 22.

For more information: <http://www.cdc.gov/chronicdisease/about/PICH/>

New Research and Resources

Strava's Plan to Revolutionize Commuting

Courtesy of OutsideOnline.com

By Aaron Gulley

Just in time for Bike to Work Day, Strava has unveiled a new service that it hopes will help cycling advocates and city planners improve the commuting experience for cyclists.

Strava Metro is a data service that allows planners to view routes taken by Strava members in a given urban area and use that data to improve flow and build infrastructure that serves cyclists and runners. It's a broad departure from Strava's primary service, which lets athletes track their activities and compete virtually against other users. "Our primary mission is motivating and entertaining athletes," says Michael Horvath, co-founder and president of Strava. "But when we began in 2009, we knew that once we collected enough data, there would be so much more that we could do with it."

But it's more than just psychedelic maps. Clients who subscribe to the service—currently a mix of cities, departments of transportation, and not-for-profits working for municipalities—will license the information for a given area from Strava and receive full GIS-ready data that they can parse and overlay with their existing statistics. "Most cities already have traffic data. But the way of collecting data about cyclists has always been very limited, both from a breadth standpoint and even from a collection standpoint," Horvath says. Strava Metro fills that gap.

Read more: <http://www.outsideonline.com/outdoor-gear/gear-shed/cycle-life/Stravas-Plan-to-Revolutionize-Commuting.html>

Google Street Views Give Before and After Images

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

According to an April 25th Streetsblog USA article, "If you ever want to show someone that it's possible to change streets and cities for the better, Google Street View can now help you do it.

Google recently made it possible to view archived Street View images. This means it's easier than ever to show what streets looked like before and after a redesign. (Thanks to the Institute for Quality Communities at the University of Oklahoma for bringing our attention to this new feature.) We were able to animate a few street transformations from around the country with the new Street View feature..."

Read more: <http://usa.streetsblog.org/2014/04/25/you-can-now-bring-street-transformations-to-life-with-google-street-view/>

New Technical Resources - RecLink Library

Courtesy of the USDA Forest Service

Over 600 resources have recently been uploaded for you to use and peruse. Many of these sources have been digitized and made available online for the first time.

These resources should be useful to recreation professionals and landscape architects, particularly inside the Design and Recreation Planning folders. In the Aesthetics folder, we have scenery reports, research, and over 70 presentations and documents relating to the Scenery Management System. Heritage & Culture contains references dealing with historical resources, managing change, and creating a healthy environment. General Resources contains construction guidelines and specifications. We also have sections for resources and references dealing with Natural Resources and Universal Design. Recreation Planning has many useful resources, as well. Case studies of sustainable recreation projects, planning resources for many different types of planning models, and federal agency strategies are available. History contains many references to recreation history, from mid-1960s brochures (like this fantastic Wilderness brochure from 1961), or Forest Service recreation handbooks and NPS park and recreation structure guides from the 1930s.

Everything can be downloaded and saved locally, and any of the pages can be saved as bookmarks on your web browser. Many of these resources found here are now easily available to the public and our partners for the first time, in one place...and there's no dead links.

For more information: <http://www.reclink.us/page/library-home>

News Clippings

Let Kids Run Wild in the Woods

Courtesy of Slate.com

By Emma Marris

It was the kid with the rocks that finally did it for Matthew Browning. Browning was a ranger at Mount Mitchell State Park in North Carolina, and along with the other rangers he had been trained to give a little speech to children caught picking flowers, pocketing shells, or trying to make off with rocks. Browning had given this little talk many times. But on this day, in August 2009, he saw another ranger deliver it to a boy at the park restaurant, about age 8, with a fist full of rocks—rocks, Browning noticed, from the gravel road. “It was gravel we bought at the local store,” Browning says. “It made me sick. The boy was crestfallen. He was so excited about coming to the park that he wanted to take a little memento back with him. More than feeling empowered or excited to protect the natural world, now he is going to associate going to state parks with getting into trouble.”

The encounter got Browning thinking. What if every kid picked a rock or a flower? Would the park really turn into a desolate wasteland? Well, he figured, it depends on the rock, on the flower. “What kids were taking was gravel and weedy yarrow. They were not rare, delicate pink lady slippers.”

Read more: <http://tinyurl.com/pqrspgf>

Senators support continuation of the Recreational Trails Program

Courtesy of American Trails

The Coalition for Recreational Trails member organizations have been working with staff of the United States Senate to boost awareness of and support for the Recreational Trails Program. The very successful result is a letter signed by 24 Senators (18 Democrats and 6 Republicans) in support of continued RTP funding. The letter was sent to leadership of the Senate Committee which oversees federal Transportation funding.

For more information: http://atfiles.org/files/pdf/Rec_Trails_Senate_Dear_Colleague_2014.pdf

A Giant Wheel Is Cleaning up Baltimore's Garbage-Filled Inner Harbor

Courtesy of CityLab.com

By Mark Byrnes

Baltimore wants its Inner Harbor to be clean enough for swimming and fishing by 2020. And it's counting on a big solar-powered wheel attached to a Dumpster to make it happen.

Earlier this month, the sleek, 14-foot high "Water Wheel" set up a permanent spot for itself at the mouth of the Jones Falls, where the river meets Baltimore's biggest tourist destination, the Inner Harbor.

The floating device, powered by nothing more than water current and solar energy, works by sucking up litter as it reaches the harbor. Guided by booms, the debris, which travels down from various points along the Jones Falls watershed, goes straight into the giant wheel and its built-in conveyor belt. From there, the garbage falls into a Dumpster on the other side. When the Dumpster fills up, it's sent out and replaced with an empty one.

Read more: <http://www.citylab.com/design/2014/05/a-giant-wheel-is-cleaning-up-baltimores-garbage-filled-harbor/371293/>

For N.J. Mayor, The Time To Adapt To Rising Sea Levels Is Now

Courtesy of National Public Radio

Last week, scientists warned that a massive chunk of the West Antarctica Ice Sheet will eventually drift into the sea and melt, raising sea levels at least 10 feet higher than previous predictions.

Even before the announcement, scientists at the nonprofit research organization that surging seas could put the homes of nearly 5 million Americans underwater by the end of this century.

Dawn Zimmer, mayor of Hoboken, N.J., is a member of President Obama's Task Force on Climate Preparedness and Resilience. She's one of many elected leaders in coastal areas around the country working to stave off future flooding disasters.

Zimmer says that the devastation caused by Hurricane Sandy — and the four floods that have hit her city since — moved her to action. Hoboken's strategy, she tells Morning Edition's Renee Montagne, includes purchasing land and building new parks to help absorb rainwater; retaining as much rainwater as possible and updating the city's drainage and pumping systems. "We need to figure out a way to live with water," she says.

Read more: <http://www.npr.org/2014/05/21/314281317/for-n-j-mayor-the-time-to-adapt-to-rising->

Foothills students' QR codes highlight dam history

Courtesy of the Great Falls Tribune

By Kristen Cates

Doug Wicks is excited that when people crest the hill along the north shore of the River's Edge Trail and come face-to-face with the falls at Ryan Dam, they'll be able to learn a little bit of history with the tap of their smartphones.

Recreationists can scan the quick response code posted on a sign near the dam to learn the dam's history through an interactive video created by students in Dustin Bauer's software engineering class at Foothills Community Christian School. And there are four other signs posted at the various dams along the River's Edge Trail.

Using a \$7,500 grant from PPL Montana, Bauer and his students got to work researching the history behind Ryan, Rainbow and Black Eagle dams. They interviewed workers to garner more perspective on the work done at the dams, scanned old historical photos and created informational videos that link to each of the QR codes posted at the various sites.

The QR codes are dynamic, and information can be changed and updated without changing the codes, Bauer said. He said the hope next year is to add more signs in more locations to provide historical and tourist information.

Read more: <http://www.greatfallstribune.com/story/news/local/2014/05/27/foothills-students-qr-codes-highlight-dam-history/9647355/>

New bill seeks to connect kids with nature

Courtesy of The Wilderness Society

A bill introduced May 21 aims at moving childhood back outdoors, reversing a disturbing trend of physical inactivity and alienation from nature.

Kids don't spend as much time outside as they used to, to the detriment of their health, happiness and overall connection with nature. Now, Rep. Ron Kind (D-WI) and Sen. Mark Udall (D-CO) have introduced House and Senate versions of the Healthy Kids Outdoors Act, a bill that would

provide incentives for states to combat that trend.

Read more: <http://wilderness.org/blog/new-bill-seeks-connect-kids-nature>

Bigger tourists mean bigger horses on Western trails

Courtesy of the Chieftain.com

By Keith Ridler

Wranglers in the West who have for decades cashed in on the allure of getting on a horse and setting out on an open trail say they have had to add bigger horses to their stables to help carry larger tourists over the rugged terrain.

The ranches say they are using draft horses, the diesels of the horse world, in ever greater numbers to make sure they don't lose out on income from potential customers of any size who come out to get closer to the West of yesteryear.

Ranch operators say they began adding the bigger horses in the 1990s, but the pace has picked up in recent years. Over the last 20 years, obesity has increased to more than a third of adults and about 17 percent of children age 2 to 19, according to federal statistics.

The bigger horses have allowed outfitters to eliminate weight limits.

"I felt bad about telling people they're too big to ride," said Russ Little of Dry Ridge Outfitters, which offers rides at Harriman State Park in Idaho. Eight of the 45 horses he has are part Percherons. He said a 225-pound weight limit these days would cost him \$6,000 a season.

Read more: <http://www.chieftain.com/life/health/2500934-120/horses-horse-draft-bigger>

Gov. Brown, again, is looking for a parks boss

Courtesy of the Fresno Bee

By the Bee Editorial Board

CALIFORNIA - Gov. Jerry Brown's parks director quit after an embarrassingly short tenure, giving the governor an opportunity to try again to find someone who can transform the troubled but world-class system.

Anthony Jackson, a retired Marine major general, was supposed to restore confidence after the previous director blamed budget cuts for needing to close 70 parks, only to discover \$20 million in an off-budget account. Jackson departs after just 18 months, with the parks system still struggling.

The Department of Parks and Recreation is in need of help and leadership, but it also has incredible assets, much public support and great promise. California has more park land than any state other than Alaska. It gets between 60 million and 80 million visits a year, more than any other state system. However, policymakers long have lamented that they have failed to attract inner-city dwellers, particularly poor people.

California will devote \$553 million in revenue from taxes and fees to the system in the coming year, more than any other state in the union.

Read more: <http://www.fresnobee.com/2014/05/26/3940896/editorial-gov-brown-again-is-looking.html>

Obama Administration Announces \$6.7 Million to Hire Young People to Work on Public Lands Across the Nation

Courtesy of Voice of the Valley

COMMERCE CITY, Colo. – As part of the Department of the Interior’s ambitious youth initiative to inspire millions of young adults and veterans to play, learn, serve and work in the great outdoors and the President’s 21st Century Conservation Service Corps Initiative, Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell today announced \$6.7 million in grants to support conservation employment and mentoring opportunities at 43 projects on public lands across the country – a 60 percent increase over last year’s funding.

Read more: http://www.voiceofthevalley.com/community_news/news/article_2c399956-e21a-11e3-ba7c-0017a43b2370.html

Training Opportunities

Navigating MAP-21 Workshop

Courtesy of the Sarbanes Transit in Parks Technical Assistance Center

Date: June 12, 2014

Location: Carrboro, NC

Cost: Free

Organization: Advocacy Advance, Carrboro Bicycle Coalition, Town of Carrboro

Advocacy Advance Workshops train citizens on getting their communities to unlock federal dollars for biking & walking. Participants will gain the knowledge, skills and resources to access untapped or under-utilized federal active transportation funding. During these workshops, we'll look at where dollars are tied up at the state, regional and local level -- and how those dollars can support better infrastructure and programs.

With a focus on the current transportation bill, Navigating MAP-21 Workshop participants will learn how to maximize funding in the Transportation Alternatives Program and utilize all MAP-21 funding programs for bicycle and pedestrian projects at the state and local levels.

For more information: <http://www.advocacyadvance.org/trainings/registration/carrboro-nc-durham-region>

Webinar: What's Walking Got to Do with It? A Look at the Economic and Social Impact of Walkability

Hosted by the National League of Cities in partnership with America Walks and Smart Growth America

Thursday, June 19 | 10:00 - 11:00 am PT / 2:00 - 3:00 pm ET

This webinar will look at the impact of improved walkability on Columbia, MO and Arlington County, VA. Local officials will discuss the economic and social benefits their communities have seen and how they have rallied public support and put financing in place to build pedestrian facilities. The speakers will address the role federal dollars have played in their pedestrian-related initiatives and the importance of them in leveraging funding from other sources to build walking projects that are meeting the needs of their communities, advance social, economic, and environmental goals. Ian Thomas, Columbia, MO City Council Member and America Walks Board Member, is one of the speakers and you'll hear his perspective as an elected official.

For more information: <http://www.nlc.org/walk>

Webinar: GIS Applications in Outdoor Recreation Planning

Date: Thursday, June 26, 2014, 2:00 pm Eastern Daylight Time

Length: 1.5 hours

Cost: Free for SORP members, \$45 for non-members

Host: Society of Outdoor Recreation Professionals

Traditional outdoor recreation resource planning using geospatial technology is conducted through systematic data collection and analysis by trained professionals. Results are presented via maps and charts to inform the public during the decision-making process. In contrast, societal trends using Web 2.0 technologies have brought forth a wealth of data categorized as volunteered geographic information (VGI) presenting a paradigm shift in how geographic data are generated and shared. Park visitors have become data sensors, adding information to the social fabric using mobile phones, online mapping applications or even geotagged Flickr photos. This webinar presents a blending of data generation methods using GIS technology for outdoor recreation planning. Through example case studies, ranging from traditional methods to new technological trends, we will share current practices, demonstrate the potential of participatory mapping in the planning process and describe evaluation techniques for deciding optimal methods to gather data valuable to outdoor recreation planning.

For more information: <http://www.recpro.org/sorp-webinars>

Webinar: Improving Pedestrian Crossing Safety at Uncontrolled Locations

Courtesy of the Sarbanes Transit in Parks Technical Assistance Center

Date: July 17, 2014

Time: 12:00 pm to 1:30 pm ET

Cost: \$299 members/ \$349 non-members

Organization: American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE)

In recent years there has been an increased emphasis on improving pedestrian safety. Improving pedestrian safety extends to areas typically seen as being non-pedestrian-friendly, such as high speed and wide roadways. With traffic conditions changing as traffic volumes and congestion increases, the pedestrians ability to safely cross many roadways is affected. Recent developments in geometric design features, traffic control devices, and technologies may improve pedestrian safety and access by addressing specific problems associated with roadway crossings. Although numerous treatments exist at unsignalized crossings, there is growing concern about their effectiveness. Thus, there is a need to identify and study selected treatments to determine their effectiveness.

A recent research project jointly sponsored by TCRP and NCHRP was initiated to address this particular need. The research was conducted by the Texas Transportation Institute (TTI). The study had two main objectives: (1) to recommend selected engineering treatments to improve safety for pedestrians crossing high-volume, high-speed roadways at unsignalized intersections, in particular those served by public transportation; and (2) to recommend modifications to the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways (MUTCD) pedestrian traffic signal warrant. The research team developed and published a final report entitled Improving Pedestrian Safety at Unsignalized Crossings, NCHRP Report 562. Guidelines for use in selecting pedestrian crossing treatments for unsignalized intersections and mid-block locations is included in the report as Appendix A. A summary of this report will be presented during this webinar.

For more information:

<http://mylearning.asce.org/diweb/catalog/item/id/198422/q/o=t&c=79&t=2125&t=2118>

IMBA World Summit 2014

Steamboat Springs, CO – August 20-24

The International Mountain Bicycling Association (IMBA) World Summit is a biennial event that brings together mountain bike enthusiasts, volunteers, trail builders and thought leaders with bike industry representatives, land managers and government officials from across the U.S. and around the world. The summit is a unique opportunity for people to share ideas, learn new things and ride great trails in a beautiful destination.

For more information: <https://www.imba.com/world-summit>

Trail Construction for Universal Access Workshop

Courtesy of the Sarbanes Transit in Parks Technical Assistance Center

Date: October 18-19, 2014

Location: Greenfield, NH

Organization: Professional Trailbuilders Association

Help 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. This workshop is open to students who have completed Peter Jensen's

Sustainable Trails for All Conference. This Trail Construction workshop will focus on building a new trail section that connects an existing trail to a parking area. Construction will entail use of a mini excavator to rough out the trail treadway, a machine for hauling surfacing materials, a plate compactor for surface material compaction and hand tools for grading and finishing the treadway, as well as the sides of the trail. In addition, it will be likely that stone retaining will be necessary and this will be done by both machine and hand. Each participant will have an opportunity to use the various types of equipment.

For more information, please contact Deb DeCicco at (603) 547-1475 or sustainabletrailsworkshops@gmail.com

Green Industry Conference

Louisville, Kentucky - October 22-24, 2014

For the last 25 years, attendees of the Green Industry Conference (GIC) have been inspired, learned about industry trends, formulated strategies, and built new relationships. Come and celebrate our silver anniversary with highly relevant educational sessions, plenty of networking opportunities, a trade show hosting over 750 exhibitors, and a few special celebratory events. This is THE premier landscape industry event of the year.

For more information: <https://www.landcarenetwork.org/GIC>

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 17.

If you have news or an article to share, please send it to Brenda@nacpro.org by June 16.

Editor: Brenda Adams-Weyant

Tel: (814) 927-8212

Fax: (814) 927-6659

Email: brenda@nacpro.org

NACPRO
PO Box 74
Marienville, Pennsylvania 16239
US

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