



NACPRO News

June 17, 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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It's not too late to register for the NACPRO summer meeting

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. 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, 5:30 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

Three Rivers superintendent Cris Gears retiring

Courtesy of the Lakeshore Weekly News

By Casey Merkwan

MINNESOTA - When Three Rivers Park District Superintendent Cris Gears retires next month, he'll still be able to see and enjoy the work he has done throughout the metro area.

"When I go to St. Louis Park, I can drive by the water park and see a thousand people having a wonderful time, that maybe they might not be enjoying if I hadn't done something with that," Gears said. "I can go to Silverwood and see a wedding that maybe wouldn't be happening in that location if I hadn't played a role in that. I can get on my bike and ride on one of the trails that was built while I was here and see thousands of people enjoying the trail, thinking 'you know what, I had a role in this.' There's a lot of satisfaction in that."

For most of his career, Gears, of Minnetonka, worked with parks and recreation. Most recently, he has served as the superintendent of Three Rivers Park District, a position he has held since 2007. This summer he will retire.

Gears' career began back in his home town of St. Louis Park, where as a student he worked both seasonally and part time for the parks and recreation department. By fall 1970, Gears was hired on full time as the St. Louis Park recreation program coordinator.

Read more: <http://www.weeklynews.com/main.asp?SectionID=10&SubSectionID=10&ArticleID=12800&TM=36174.45>

Solis, Chu hold rally for National Recreation Area bill

Courtesy of San Gabriel Valley Tribune

By Steve Scauzillo

LOS ANGELES, CA - County Supervisor-elect Hilda Solis and Rep. Judy Chu — the two people responsible for creating federal legislation that would bring national recognition to the San Gabriel Mountains and San Gabriel River — led a rally of about 150 supporters at Peck Road Park near El Monte on Saturday.

Both touted the bill by Chu, D-Pasadena, to turn 615,000 acres of mountain and river wilderness into a National Recreation Area that would be co-managed by the U.S. National Park Service, a model that they say has worked for the Santa Monica Mountains for nearly 40 years.

Those invited to the staged event included a wide range of supporters, from cities, the Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation, retail water agencies and labor and job-training groups who see dollar signs not only for the forest but for park-poor communities in urban Los Angeles and San Bernardino counties.

“This will be a tremendous advance forward for all of Los Angeles County parks,” said Russ Guiney, director of county Parks and Recreation.

Read more: <http://www.sgvtribune.com/government-and-politics/20140614/solis-chu-hold-rally-for-national-recreation-area-bill>

County News

Muskegon County parks employees could report to Muskegon County Convention and Visitor's Bureau under new plan

Courtesy of mlive.com

By Stephen Kloosterman

MUSKEGON, MI – Muskegon County Commissioners meeting as the Ways and Means committee Thursday, June 5 approved a measure placing County Parks Department under the leadership of the Muskegon County Convention and Visitors Bureau.

"They're more a marketing style of firm, and it's easier for them to get out and market the park," said County Commissioner Ben Cross.

Read more:

http://www.mlive.com/news/muskegon/index.ssf/2014/06/muskegon_county_parks_employee.html

News from the National Association of Counties

NACo Unveils New Information Hub on "Waters of the U.S."

Today, the National Association of Counties (NACo) launched a new webpage designed to serve as a one-stop resource for counties on the recently proposed federal definition of "Waters of the U.S." released by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) on April 21.

County leaders are encouraged to utilize this resource, which provides the following:

- Comprehensive analysis on how the proposed rule would impact counties, including a policy brief and chart comparing existing regulation and the proposed rule
- Draft comments that your county can use as a guide when submitting comments to the agencies on "Waters of the U.S." The current deadline for submitting comments is July 21
- Sample letter to EPA and Corps requesting a 90-day extension of comment period
- Sample county resolutions on "Waters of the U.S."
- Guide for writing and submitting Op-Eds on "Waters of the U.S." to local media outlets
- Examples of social media posts on "Waters of the U.S."
- Links to the many other resources, including the proposed rule and the agencies' economic cost benefit analysis of the proposed rule

The proposed rule would amend the current definition of "Waters of the U.S." in the Clean Water Act (CWA), which has been in place for over 25 years, and would expand the range of waters (and their conveyances) that fall under federal regulation. If adopted, counties would be significantly affected because they are often responsible for public safety water systems that would fall under the extended jurisdiction. The proposal would eliminate the distinction between bodies of water – like rivers and lakes – and roadside ditches and drains. Costs and permitting times for projects related to many types of waters not currently under federal jurisdiction would also increase.

For more information: <http://www.naco.org/legislation/Pages/WOUS.aspx>

News from the National Recreation and Park Association

Media Tools Now Available for Park and Recreation Month

This July OUT is IN! Since 1985, we've celebrated July as Park and Recreation Month and this year we're challenging everyone to go OUTside, get INspired and try something new through community parks and recreation. To share this message with your community members, we've developed a media toolkit with sample social posts, a template press release, a drop-in article and more! Share your story about the impact local parks and recreation makes in your community.

For more information: <http://www.nrpa.org/july/Park-and-Recreation-Month/ToolKit/#media>

National Land and Water Conservation Fund Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program

This pilot program provides an opportunity to highlight both park innovation and need in urban communities.

Funding Opportunity Number is: P14AS00134

Application Deadline: August 15, 2014

The National Park Service (NPS) State and Local Assistance Division announces the availability of \$3 million in FY 2014 appropriations for Land and Water Conservation Fund State Assistance grants for a pilot national competitive grant program. State, regional, and local government agencies and federally recognized Indian tribes are invited to submit proposals for matching grants to support projects that would acquire or develop public land for outdoor recreation purposes located within or serving jurisdictions with a population of 50,000 or more people that are densely settled.

From the Executive Summary: Eligible U.S. state and local government agencies and federally-recognized Indian tribes (requirements described below) are advised that the NPS State and Local Assistance Division is soliciting proposals for nationally-competitive grant funding from the LWCF. The program is targeting projects that would acquire and/or develop public land for outdoor recreation purposes located within or serving jurisdictions delineated by the Census Bureau from the 2010 Census as having populations of 50,000 or more people and

consisting of densely settled territory. A list of the areas was published in the Federal Register on March 27, 2012 (77 Fed. Reg. 18652-18669). Grants require a minimum of 1:1 match from state, local, or private sources. It is anticipated that projects funded under this announcement will have a grant start date between January 1, 2015 and April 1, 2015. The program authorities are 16 USC 460I-4 et. seq. and P.L. 113-76, Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014.

Additionally, NPS will prioritize projects that seek to directly connect people to outdoor places in their communities; engage and empower underserved communities and youth; provide opportunities for youth employment or job training; involve and expand public-private partnerships, particularly to provide for the leveraging of resources; and rely on a high degree of coordination among all levels of government to improve recreation opportunities for all. In addition to the competition objectives, projects must advance goals or meet needs identified in their State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP.)

For more information: <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=257670>

New Research and Resources

Healthy Parks Healthy People eGuide

Courtesy of the National Park Service

The National Park Service's Healthy Parks Healthy People US program was established in 2011, to reframe the role of parks and public lands as an emerging, powerful health prevention strategy. With this renewed focus on health, we hope to bring about lasting change in Americans' lifestyle choices and their relationship with nature and the outdoors.

Although Healthy Parks Healthy People US is based within the National Park Service, the program works with national, state, and local parks, as well as business innovators, healthcare leaders, scientists, foundations and advocacy organizations to foster and build-upon the role that parks play in the health of our society.

For more information: http://www.nps.gov/public_health/hp/hphp.htm

Minneapolis and New York City Top 2014 ParkScore Ratings

Courtesy of Planetizen

The third annual rating of cities ranks the access, size, and spending of parks in the 60 largest cities in the country.

A press release from the Trust for Public Land announced the results of the third annual ParkScore rating. Here's the summary of the ratings: "Minneapolis took top honors on The Trust for Public Land's 3rd annual ParkScore® index, earning a perfect '5-park bench' rating from the nonprofit organization. Minneapolis remains the only city park system to earn the coveted '5 bench' score. New York, Boston, Portland, and San Francisco rounded out the top five."

Read more: <http://www.planetizen.com/node/69078>

State Revenue Sources that Fund Bicycling and Walking Projects

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

How can my state pay for biking and walking projects? Biking and walking dollars aren't only available from the federal government. States can also have their own revenue sources that can be used to fund active transportation. Use this tool to find what revenue sources can pay for biking and walking projects in your state.

This new resource pulls together information primarily from the League's Bicycle Friendly State program and SSTI's State and Local Transportation Revenue Sources survey. You can learn about different revenue types (like development impact fees, license plates, lottery revenues, and vehicle registration fees) that may already exist in your state, as well as see how other states have implemented them. As a bonus, where applicable, we've included sample campaign plans from other advocates who have successfully won biking and walking dollars from that revenue type.

For more information: <http://www.advocacyadvance.org/statefunding/>

BLM Recreation Strategy — Connecting with Communities

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) manages recreation resources and visitor services to offer the greatest benefits possible to individuals and communities and, as envisioned in this strategy, to better enable communities to achieve their own desired social, economic, and environmental outcomes. BLM public lands—once described as “the lands nobody wanted”—are now recognized as America’s Great Outdoors, a “Backyard to Backcountry” treasure. They are

uniquely accessible. More than 120 urban centers and thousands of rural towns are located within 25 miles of BLM lands.

BLM lands fill a distinctive niche in the federal recreation marketplace—one that offers a competitive advantage for communities and businesses. Moreover, the close proximity of varied stakeholders to BLM lands creates many opportunities for the BLM and communities to collaborate, set mutual objectives for proposed recreation opportunities, and pool resources toward shared goals.

The BLM recognizes that it is part of a greater whole. Public lands are connected to and integrated with communities—not federally designated islands separated from them. This recreation strategy is different because it focuses on proactive engagement with communities, locally based government agencies, and service provider businesses, and emphasizes benefits from the perspective of community networks of service providers. It is not business as usual; it is a serious effort to reposition resources (recreation setting management and visitor services, program funding, operational knowledge and skills, and the BLM culture and brand) in support of community values while optimizing benefits for the public.

For more information: <http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/Recreation.html>

Surging Seas Risk Finder

Climate Central has launched its Surging Seas Risk Finder for California, Oregon, and Washington, and made big upgrades for all 11 states we have so far analyzed for sea level rise and coastal flood risk. The public web tool was developed in order to provide local regions and policy makers with tailored local information that can be used to assess and respond to the risks of sea level rise and coastal flooding.

New findings include:

In California, \$36.5 billion in property and 145,000 people occupying land less than 3 feet above the high tide line -- more than 90 percent within the San Francisco Bay basin or in the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta. Under mid-range sea level projections, floods that high are likely within 30-40 years, and would occur yearly within 20 more.

In Washington, more than \$5 billion in property and 11,000 people occupy Puget Sound area land that would be exposed below 4 feet, a flood level likely to be seen by midcentury under mid-range projections.

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

RTCA Now Accepting Applications for 2015 Projects

Courtesy of the National Park Service

From remote communities in Alaska to the Bronx River in New York, the National Park Service is supporting communities. We're connecting youth with national parks in Alaska, planning a community trail system for mountain biking in Michigan, and getting people paddling on Texas rivers-and helping more than 350 other communities get their conservation and recreation projects off the ground this year.

The National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program helps community groups, not-for-profits, state and local governments, and tribes plan and establish trails and parks, conserve and improve access to rivers and natural areas, and create outdoor recreation opportunities.

National Park Service staff provide free, on-location facilitation and planning expertise. We draw from project experiences across the country and adapt best practices to your community's specific needs. Communities own the land and manage their projects. The National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program can help you:

- Define project vision and goals
- Inventory and map community resources
- Identify and analyze key issues and opportunities
- Engage collaborative partners and stakeholders
- Design community outreach and participation strategies
- Develop concept plans for trails, parks, and natural areas
- Set priorities and build consensus
- Identify funding sources
- Develop a sustainable organizational framework to support the project

Do you have an idea for a local recreation or conservation project? The National Park Service can help. Contact us to find out if this program is a good fit for your community.

Applications for 2015 projects are due by August 1, 2014.

For more information: www.nps.gov/rtca

News Clippings

Great Outdoors Month Recognized in June, a Bipartisan Celebration of Diverse Outdoor Recreation Resources Across the U.S.

Courtesy of the American Recreation Coalition

WASHINGTON, June 2, 2014 /PRNewswire/ -- The nation's top elected officials don't seem to agree on much - but they completely agree that Americans need to spend more time in the nation's parks, forests, refuges and other public spaces. Proclaimed by the President and each governor, Great Outdoors Month is a bipartisan celebration of America's abundant and diverse outdoor recreation resources and the passion Americans have for conservation and volunteerism.

Great Outdoors Month has expanded, mirroring growth in outdoor recreation, which now generates more than \$650 billion annually, and focuses public and private attention on the splendor and beauty of our shared natural resources. Champions of the month also note the contribution of time outdoors to mental and physical health.

Events across the country celebrate Great Outdoors Month and help Americans respond to calls by the President and the governors to hike, bike, fish, camp, boat and otherwise enjoy the outdoors. The events include: free fishing opportunities and more during National Fishing and Boating Week (June 1st - 8th); thousands of work and fun events on American Hiking Society's National Trails Day (June 7th); National Marina Day and National Get Outdoors Day, both offering easy introductions to outdoor fun (June 14th); National Wildlife Federation's Great American Backyard Campout (June 28th); and more.

National partners including The Coleman Company, OFF! and hundreds of federal, state, corporate and nonprofit organizations support Great Outdoors Month's goal to connect all Americans with our Great Outdoors, even reaching those who rarely get outdoors for healthy, active fun. Most enjoyment of the Great Outdoors comes through visits to public lands and waters covering one-third of the nation, including state and national parks, national forests, wildlife refuges and federally managed lakes. Yet many younger and urban Americans have trouble identifying fun outdoors things to do and where to go. With little marketing and promotion and easily overlooked signage, public recreation places are nearly invisible. Great Outdoors Month supporters seek to change that through social media and websites like www.recreation.gov and www.americasstateparks.org.

Coleman is helping families find the outdoors by "setting up camp" at many Walmart stores. Coleman's "Ranger Days" Tour features Coleman rangers, joined by representatives from state and federal land management agencies, highlighting America's vast outdoor recreation resources. Scouts will lead campsite demos and agency and not-for-profit partners will share

"where to" and "how to" information.

Four Governors are holding Great Outdoors Month Capital Campouts, welcoming urban youth and families to camp out on the grounds of their governor's residence or in a nearby state park. 2014's hosts are Governors Sam Brownback (KS), Nathan Deal (GA), John Hickenlooper (CO) and Jay Inslee (WA).

Great Outdoors Month partners include America's State Parks, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, USDA Forest Service, American Recreation Coalition, American Hiking Society, the National Wildlife Federation and many others.

To read the proclamations of Great Outdoors Month, go to www.greatoutdoorsmonth.org.

Secretary Jewell on “Deconflicting” Our Economy AND Ecology

Courtesy of Trout Headwaters

In recent advances by the U.S. Department of Interior, using private markets to drive conservation and restoration appears the clear path forward for business and the environment.

Watch the video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=74QdTdB4Yb8&feature=youtu.be>

Francisco Reservoir plan touches on San Francisco parks and housing issues

Courtesy of the San Francisco Examiner

By Joshua Sabatini

SAN FRANCISCO, CA - For years, the nearly 4-acre abandoned Francisco Reservoir has been eyed for a new Russian Hill park.

But now, as the deal is on the verge of approval, questions remain about whether more open space in the neighborhood is the best course of action for San Francisco.

Some arguments draw on the city's housing crisis, saying the site, which has sweeping views of San Francisco Bay, should be developed. Others are worried that lower-income and more dense communities may lose out if such a large chunk of The City's Open Space Acquisition Fund is

spent in an affluent neighborhood already rich with parkland.

But Supervisor Mark Farrell, whose district includes the reservoir, and a coalition of neighbors who have pledged millions of dollars for the project are celebrating the pending new park space, which is up for approval from the Recreation and Park Commission.

Read more: <http://www.sfexaminer.com/sanfrancisco/francisco-reservoir-plan-touches-on-san-francisco-parks-and-housing-issues/Content?oid=2816949>

Low-Income Neighborhoods In Kansas City Have More Parks, Fewer Playgrounds

Courtesy of KCUR.org

By Sylvia Maria Gross & Gina Kaufmann

Recently, Kansas State University researchers visited every park in Kansas City, Mo., to analyze the distribution of parks and park amenities throughout the city.

They found low-income neighborhoods, including Kansas City's east side, have fewer playgrounds than high-income neighborhoods. That's in spite of having a higher concentration of parkland in those same neighborhoods. Researchers studied 219 parks and about 12,000 acres of parkland.

Read more: <http://kcur.org/post/low-income-neighborhoods-kansas-city-have-more-parks-fewer-playgrounds>

Banff National Park offers hassle-free camping with tents already set up

Courtesy of the Calgary Herald

Parks Canada is inviting you to come camping in Banff National Park this summer. And like a friend with all the gear, they're willing to do all the heavy lifting and set up your campsite for you.

Whether you're a first-time camper, a visitor who doesn't want to bring a tent over on the plane, or are just looking for an alternative family vacation, Parks is hoping its \$55 a night, hassle-free alternative will entice visitors to get a little closer to nature by spending the night at one of 10 sites in the Two Jack Main Campground near Banff. Each is equipped with a tent, sleeping pad,

cook stove and lantern.

“We’ve already had 20 requests,” said Judy Glowinski, Parks Canada product development specialist, in an interview on Wednesday. “We think this will appeal to baby boomers who may no longer have the gear, and new campers who don’t have gear and may feel more comfortable surrounded by people who are also new (to camping) and can learn along the way.”

Read more: <http://blogs.calgaryherald.com/2014/06/06/banff-national-park-offers-hassle-free-camping-with-tents-already-set-up/>

Bid In Congress To Have Ozark National Scenic Riverways Given To State Of Missouri

Courtesy of the National Parks Traveler

By Kurt Repanshek

Is Congress in the mood to return units of the National Park System back to the states in which they are located? An indication could come Tuesday, when a U.S. House of Representatives Committee considers legislation that calls for Ozark National Scenic Riverways to be given to the state of Missouri.

The legislation is the darling of Rep. Jason Smith, a Republican who doesn't want the National Park Service to implement a management plan that would bring an end to some 65 miles of illegal horse trails in the park and place limits on the horsepower of motorboats that use the Current and Jacks Fork rivers that flow through the Riverways.

In his legislation, H.R. 4020, which was introduced to Congress back in February and is scheduled to come up for discussion Tuesday before the House Subcommittee on Public Land and Environmental Regulation, Mr. Smith argues that the proposed management plan would "prevent members of the public from accessing the lands that compose the park." To accomplish the transfer, the Republican wants the federal government to pay all costs associated with it.

Read more: <http://www.nationalparkstraveler.com/2014/06/bid-congress-have-ozark-national-scenic-riverways-given-state-missouri25194>

Training Opportunities

Webinar: GIS Applications in Outdoor Recreation Planning

Date: June 26, 2014

Time: 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm ET

Cost: Free members/\$45 non-members

Organization: Society of Outdoor Recreation Professionals (SORP)

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 recreation resource planning.

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

Webinar: Building Urban Trails in Difficult Places

Courtesy of the Sarbanes Transit in Parks Technical Assistance Center

Date: July 17, 2014

Time: 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm ET

Cost: \$35 members/ \$55 non-members

Organization: American Trails

All the easy trails have been built! While this remark is partly in jest, it is evident, as the trail and greenway movement has exploded across North America and worldwide, building multi-use urban greenways and trails has become more challenging. Projects require much more than simply building a path on grade.

Planners, designers and advocates must increasingly address more complex infrastructure challenges in order to find routes and passageways, fit into tight spots and traverse barriers including roads, rivers and streams, restricted floodplains, railroad tracks, swales and other impediments. In addition, tight budgets require innovative solutions.

This session will review alignment strategies, structural systems and techniques for solving these problems and building quality trails case study examples ranging from pre-fabricated products to custom designs. The presentation will benefit all levels of expertise from novice to experts as well providing tools to lay trail advocates in making the case to build a project in their community.

For more information: <http://www.americantrails.org/resources/trans/webinar-flink-searns-difficult-trails.html>

Webinar: Fundamentals of Mountain Trail Sustainability

Courtesy of the Sarbanes Transit in Parks Technical Assistance Center

Date: August 28, 2014

Time: 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm ET

Cost: \$35 members/\$55 non-members

Organization: American Trails

American Trails presents this second of a series of three webinars on Sustainable Mountain Trails, which teaches techniques for building and managing sustainable trails, and includes Successful Tools, Examples, and Case Studies The presentation is geared to the novice, intermediate, and expert trail planner and designer. Presenter Hugh Duffy has been practicing landscape architecture with the National Park Service for 30 years, working on visitor centers, campgrounds, trailheads, bicycle paths, and mountain trails across the United States. He is the author of "Guide to Sustainable Mountain Trails - Trail Assessment, Planning & Design Sketchbook, 2007 edition."

For more information: <http://www.americantrails.org/resources/ManageMaintain/webinar-Sustainable-Mountain-Trails-Duffy-1.html>

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 July 1.

If you have news or an article to share, please send it to Brenda@nacpro.org by June 30.

Editor: Brenda Adams-Weyant

Tel: (814) 927-8212

Fax: (814) 927-6659

Email: brenda@nacpro.org