



## NACPRO News

July 1, 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 in New Orleans for their 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](http://nacpro.org/documents/NACPRO_New_Orleans_Meeting_Registration_Info.doc)

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## **County News**

### **Safe Routes to Play**

*Courtesy of GP RED*

GP RED is wrapping up our work with the Institute for Public Health Innovation and Prince George's County Parks and Recreation to implement Safe Routes to Play in three communities in the Washington, D.C. area. The project emphasized youth engagement through surveys, Photovoice and Umap, tools that help youth explore perceptions of their neighborhoods. Part of a CDC Community Transformation grant, some of our work was focused on assessing safe access to natural areas and outdoor recreation opportunities, with recommendations to formalize short cuts through forested areas to increase the quality of existing connections and address youth perceptions of safety. For more information about Safe Routes to Play trainings, youth engagement strategies workshops, or to implement a Safe Routes to Play planning project in your community, contact Cindy Heath at [cindyh@gpred.org](mailto:cindyh@gpred.org), GP RED Executive Director, or Jessica Osborne at [jessicao@gpred.org](mailto:jessicao@gpred.org), GP RED Initiatives Director.

**For more information:** <http://gpred.org/safe-routes-to-play/>

### **Legislature abolishes county parks and libraries agency**

*Courtesy of the Citizen Times*

By Mark Barrett

ASHEVILLE, NC – After spending months putting together a Buncombe County Culture and Recreation Authority, a government agency authorized by the state General Assembly last year, county workers are pulling it apart.

A bill abolishing the CRA got the last approval needed to become law from the state House last week, about 11 1/2 months after the General Assembly approved legislation giving the county authority to create the authority.

Ed Sheary, whose title has been authority transition manager, said he and other county workers did a lot of administrative work to create the agency but the process of bringing it to an end will be much simpler.

“There is remarkably little to disestablish,” he said.

**Read more:** <http://tinyurl.com/qchx3f9>

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## **News from the National Association of Counties**

### **Effective Methods of Environmental Education**

**Tuesday, July 22, 2 p.m.-3:15 p.m. EDT**

Local leaders are aligning their environmental restoration goals with environmental educational opportunities for area students and residents to improve community and organization capacity to protect, restore and enhance ecological conditions. Learn from environmental restoration project leaders and partners that have successfully integrated educational outcomes into their restoration efforts.

**For more information:** <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/416294697>

### **12 percent of counties at 'very high' risk for natural disaster**

By Charles Taylor

Six of the 10 U.S. counties at lowest risk for natural disasters such as hurricanes, tornadoes and earthquakes are in Minnesota. Five of the 10 at highest risk are in Alabama, according to a new report analyzing data on more than 3,000 counties.

The Natural Disaster Housing Risk Report's author, RealtyTrac, says this is the first time the data for three risk factors have been analyzed to rank counties in the 48 contiguous states into five categories: very high, high, medium, low and very low risk.

Out of 3,138 Census-designated counties analyzed — including some “counties in name only”

and independent cities — 373 (12 percent) were ranked as very high risk. The number of housing units in those counties was 10.6 million, 8 percent of total U.S. homes, the real estate analytics firm said.

Fire- and flood-risk data were not included because the statistics aren't as readily available from federal data sets, according to Daren Blomquist, a RealtyTrac vice president.

**Read more:** <http://tinyurl.com/pbj5vad>

## Join a NACo Steering Committee

If you have interest in a specific issue, expertise on a certain topic, or concerns about the effects of federal legislation on your county, then consider joining one of NACo's Policy Steering Committees. Fill out a nomination form and submit to your state association today!

**For more information:**

<http://www.naco.org/legislation/Documents/NACoSteeringCommitteeNominationForm.pdf>

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## New Research and Resources

### Quantifying Tree Value

*Courtesy of GP RED*

Professionals in the tree industry, academic researchers, and community land managers may benefit from using an open source software tool called i-Tree created by the USDA Forest Service. I-Tree quantifies the value and benefits of trees, considering their impact on the economy, the environment, and community livability.

The City of Providence, Rhode Island used i-Tree to calculate measures like carbon sequestration, building energy savings, and the structural value of its 415,000 trees (\$582 million). The analysis measured the percentage of tree canopy across the city, identifying gaps. A similar assessment in Toronto, Ontario calculated the worth of the city's urban forest at \$7 billion. If you have a need to show the value of the tree canopy in your city, grab some interns, a researcher, i-Tree or a similar tool, and start counting!

**For more information:** <http://www.itreetools.org/index.php>

## **Tread Lightly! Releases New Public Service Announcements in Partnership with Equestrian Community**

Working jointly with the horseback riding community, the national nonprofit Tread Lightly! has released two new print public service announcements (PSAs) as the latest addition to a growing assortment of PSAs in its Respected Access is Open Access campaign.

These PSAs were funded with a grant through STEP (Stewards for Trails, Education and Partnerships) which is a program of the America Quarter Horse Association (AQHA) and funded by Tractor Supply Company.

"Tread Lightly! was urged to produce these PSAs at the request of concerned equestrians to help raise awareness of the consequences of riding wet trails," said Lori McCullough, Tread Lightly!'s Executive Director. "Traveling on wet trails not only causes resource damage, it also tends to increase conflict among trail users."

Brandon Black, Manager of Recreation and Ranching Programs at AQHA said, "This issue is certainly not exclusive to horseback riders. By partnering with Tread Lightly! to create these educational pieces, we're helping our community lead the way in demonstrating a higher standard of restraint and stewardship of our shared trails."

"The equestrian community is very environmentally responsible," said Joe Meade, Director of Recreation, Heritage and Volunteer Resources at the US Forest Service. "With the extreme weather patterns we are experiencing across the country, it is important to increase all trail users' level of awareness about this specific issue."

"Whether it's hikers, bikers or horseback riders, educational materials and signage informing users to stay off trails when wet will limit damage to our trails," said Jim McGarvey, Chairman of Backcountry Horsemen of America. "I am proud of the equine community for educating itself with regard to key issues and balancing our favorite recreation activity with resource conservation."

**For more information:** <http://treadlightly.org/programs/respected-access-campaign/>

## **Ohio to award state funds to local park projects**

*Courtesy of the Times Leader*

COLUMBUS, OH (AP) — Ohio's Department of Natural Resources says it will award \$3.9 million to local park projects across the state.

The department is accepting applications for grants to help local communities with those projects. The funding through the state NatureWorks Grant Program is available for cities, villages, counties, townships, park districts and conservancy districts

State officials say applicants and project scopes must meet eligibility requirements under the NatureWorks Program. Applications for the funding must be postmarked by Sept. 1.

**For more information:** <http://ohiodnr.gov/realestate>

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## News Clippings

### Land and Water Conservation Fund Seen as Key to Preserving Colorado

*Courtesy of the Public News Service*

Many of Colorado's most popular natural landmarks are funded in part by the Land and Water Conservation Fund. In the last five decades, the state has received more than \$231 million from the fund, which is set to expire next year if it's not renewed by Congress.

According to Suzanne O'Neill, executive director of the Colorado Wildlife Federation, places such as Great Sand Dunes National Park and the Rio Grande National Forest have benefited from the money.

"It's been able to protect many acres of land that's accessible and used heavily by the public to recreate," said O'Neill.

No tax dollars go to pay for the LWCF. Instead, fees paid by off-shore oil and gas companies are used to safeguard wildlife habitat and maintain water quality and recreation opportunities.

**Read more:** <http://tinyurl.com/kw42rch>

## What's the future of park drilling in Allegheny County?

*Courtesy of the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*

By Anya Litvak and Kaitlynn Riely

Simply put, Allegheny County (Pennsylvania) has no plans to lease more public parks for oil and gas development.

At least, not yet.

County officials said they want to see how drilling fares in Deer Lakes Park before the county entertains bids for more oil and gas plans.

In reality, it might be the drillers opting out of future partnerships if they find, as some have said, the remaining eight parks in Allegheny County inhospitable to large-scale oil and gas drilling.

Monroeville-based Huntley & Huntley, the company that's jointly developing Deer Lakes with Range Resources Corp, has been looking at county parks for decades. Huntley has been drilling shallow gas wells in the area for over a century and is likely the largest lease holder in Allegheny County. If there's one company that's poised to drill in more parks, it would be Huntley.

**Read more:** <http://tinyurl.com/nkkd5yw>

## Hiking while black: The untold story

*Courtesy of the Boston Globe*

By Francie Latour

Why is the American story of nature and conservation so white? Carolyn Finney uncovers a complicated history.

Each year, California's Sequoia National Park draws a million people to commune with nature and be dwarfed by some of the largest living things on earth. Visitors pass trees recognizing presidents and heroes of war: Washington, Sherman, Lincoln, Grant. A summit trail bears the name of John Muir, known as the father of our national parks.

But few Americans know the name or story of the man who carved this national park into being: Charles Young, a black Army Captain born into slavery in Mays Lick, Ky. It was Young, with his

segregated company and crosscut saws, who transformed Sequoia from an impenetrable wilderness to a tourist mecca. In 1903, with teams of mules hitched to wagons, Young's mountaineers became the first to enter the Giant Forest on four wheels.

When we think of great conservationists, or just ordinary Americans trekking in the outdoors, we don't typically picture black faces. There are reasons for that: Today, more than a century since Young's team opened up Sequoia National Park, blacks are still far less likely to explore its trails. A 2011 survey commissioned by the National Park Service showed that only 7 percent of visitors to the parks system were black. (Blacks make up nearly twice that percentage of the US population.) Latinos were similarly underrepresented.

But if African-Americans don't figure in our notion of America's great outdoors, geographer Carolyn Finney argues, it is also because of how the story has been told, and who has been left out—black pioneers and ordinary folk whose contributions to the land have long gone ignored. Reclaiming those stories, she contends, could have huge implications for protecting our wilderness in the future.

**Read more:** <http://tinyurl.com/kwo7emr>

## **Chicago Bike Week Highlights The City's Growing Love For Biking Over Driving**

*Courtesy of Progress Illinois*

By Anthony Burke Boylan

This year's Chicago Bike Week will be the biggest ever, experts say, thanks to greater public awareness, higher parking meter rates and gas prices, declining car ownership and more biking infrastructure in the city. Chicago Bike Week 2014 kicked off June 13 and runs through June 20.

The number of people biking to work tripled between 2000 and 2012, according to a report by the Active Transportation Alliance, a non-profit organization that encourages alternative transportation. And increasingly bike trips are utilitarian in nature, including trips to grocery stores and other errands, the study showed.

“Chicago's new biking infrastructure like the new cutting edge bike lanes and Divvy bike sharing program have played an important role in making biking a more welcoming alternative for more people,” said Ted Villaire, communications director for the alliance, known as ActiveTrans. “Certainly, strong support from the city of Chicago has made a difference in getting more people to try out biking.”

ActiveTrans works with the City of Chicago on the Bike Commuter Challenge and, despite a late start to the registration this year, the group expects the largest participation in the event's 23-year-history. The Bike Commuter Challenge prompts companies to encourage their employees to bike to work for the entire week (or bike for part of the commute, incorporating public transit as well) by creating a competition that offers a discount program to those involved and extolls the health and other benefits of biking. The winners and prizes will be announced and awarded in July.

**Read more:** <http://progressillinois.com/quick-hits/content/2014/06/16/chicago-bike-week-highlights-citys-growing-love-biking-over-driving>

## **In Bid for Millennials, Cities and States Promote Cycling**

*Courtesy of the Pew Charitable Trust*

By Tim Henderson

If a 90-minute commute from Brooklyn to New Jersey sounds grueling in a car, just imagine it on a bicycle.

Until a recent job change, 40-year-old Peter Schneider made that daily trip, biking 22 miles from his home in Brooklyn to his marketing job in Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey—and he loved it. “Commuting and exercising at the same time kills two birds with one stone,” he said.

Cycling to work wouldn't have been possible, Schneider said, without the protected bike lanes of the Manhattan Waterfront Greenway, a 32-mile route that circumnavigates the island of Manhattan.

Communities across the country are weighing similar routes, believing that a cycling-friendly reputation will help them attract millennials and the creative and economic energy that comes with them.

“States and cities are competing for the most mobile generation ever and so the job creators and the innovators are really pushing for these amenities,” said Bill Nesper, who heads the “Bicycle Friendly America” program at the League of American Bicyclists. “Baby boomers want to live near millennial children and their grandchildren, so we're really seeing Washington and most major cities seeing this as a way to attract and keep talented people.”

**Read more:** <http://tinyurl.com/prqby8g>

## **Bethlehem open space tax break**

*Courtesy of Times Union*

By Cathleen F. Crowley

Bethlehem, NY - Bethlehem will soon be able to offer a tax exemption to property owners who agree not to develop their land.

The state Legislature approved a conservation exemption for Bethlehem last week. Landowners who participate will receive a 50 percent tax exemption if they commit to preserving their property for 15 to 29 years; a 75 percent exemption if they commit to 30 to 49 years; and a 90 percent exemption if they commit to a perpetual easement. The penalty for land owners who back out of the program is repaying five years of abated taxes with 6 percent interest.

**Read more:** <http://www.timesunion.com/local/article/Bethlehem-open-space-tax-break-5576840.php>

## **10 Best Cities for Urban Forests**

*Courtesy of GP RED*

Just what is an urban forest and how do you know whether you have one of high quality? In 2013, American Forests set out to identify which of the nation's cities have the highest levels of commitment to sustaining an urban and community forest landscape. American Forests defines urban forests as "ecosystems of trees and other vegetation in and around communities that may consist of street and yard trees, vegetation within parks and along public rights of way and water systems." Evaluating community engagement, park system health, energy savings, and air quality measures, American Forests worked with a team from the USDA Forest Service to come up with the Top 10.

**Is your city on the list -** <http://www.americanforests.org/our-programs/urbanforests/10-best-cities-for-urban-forests/>

## **Historic Agreement Aims To Restore, Protect Chesapeake Bay Watershed**

*Courtesy of the National Parks Traveler*

A cleaner Chesapeake Bay watershed. That's the goal of a multi-state agreement written to focus on restoring and protecting the bay and its feeder streams. If it succeeds, it would benefit a good number of National Park System units, foremost, perhaps, the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail that touches parts of Virginia, Delaware, Maryland and the District of Columbia.

The agreement was signed earlier this week by the Chesapeake Executive Council, a group that represents the seven watershed jurisdictions, a tri-state policy group, and federal agencies including the Department of the Interior. Called the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement, the agreement commits Chesapeake Bay Program partners to a set of interrelated goals to advance the restoration, conservation and protection of the Bay, its tributaries and the lands that surround them, according to an Interior Department release.

Agreement signatories include the governors of Delaware, Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia; the mayor of the District of Columbia; the chair of the Chesapeake Bay Commission; and the administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on behalf of the Federal Leadership Committee for the Chesapeake Bay. This marks the first time that the Bay's headwater states of Delaware, New York and West Virginia have pledged to work toward restoration goals that reach beyond water quality, making them full partners in the Bay Program and its watershed-wide work. The signing of this collaborative accord took place Monday on the Annapolis, Maryland, waterfront, at the Executive Council's annual meeting.

**Read more:** <http://www.nationalparkstraveler.com/2014/06/historic-agreement-aims-restore-protect-chesapeake-bay-watershed25236?>

## **Digital map offers recreational trail options for WV residents**

*Courtesy of Charleston Daily Mail*

By Matt Murphy

Outdoor enthusiasts in West Virginia now have the ability to plan trips on about 4,000 miles of recreational trail entirely online, whether from a desktop, tablet or smartphone.

The West Virginia Trail Inventory is a digital map of hiking, biking, horseback, water and all-terrain vehicle trails throughout West Virginia that is believed to be one of the first of its kind in the nation.

Friday, officials at the state Division of Tourism debuted the inventory to a group of about 35

tourism and government officials from across the state.

Available online, the map provides a statewide look at where trails begin and where they go, regardless of whether the user is in the Eastern Panhandle or the Metro Valley.

"It's raw data in a form you can manipulate to your own needs," said Bill Robinson, the former state trails coordinator who helped with the project.

The map is available at <http://mapwv.gov/trails>

**Read more:** <http://www.charlestdaily.com/article/20140601/DM01/140609977>

## **Comite River dispute over ATVs at standoff**

*Courtesy of SFGate.com*

By Ben Wallace

BATON ROUGE, LA (AP) — Locked metal gates were no match for dogged ATV riders prepared to scale any obstacle to gain access to the bed of the Comite River. At one point, the frustrated private property owner installed surveillance cameras to catch trespassers on video. The cameras disappeared, just as his livelihood has over the past few years.

"They're determined, no matter what, to get past these gates," said Shane Rush. He owns a majority stake in more than 300 acres of prime real estate along the Comite in northeastern East Baton Rouge Parish, featuring about 5,000 feet of riverfront land up to and including portions of the river itself.

So a few years ago, after the state shut down his decades-old dirt mining business, Rush and his family opened an all-terrain vehicle park on their property.

"If you can't beat 'em, join 'em," Rush joked. He said he had no other viable option.

That move sparked a pitched battle over use of the river, ultimately leading to a state ban on four-wheeling there. Rush has gone to court over what he believes is the government's violation of his property rights.

**Read more:** <http://www.sfgate.com/news/science/article/Comite-River-dispute-over-ATVs-at-standoff-5570708.php#src%3Dfb>

# ORV Group Loses Latest Challenge To Cape Hatteras National Seashore's Management Plan

*Courtesy of the National Parks Traveler*

By Kurt Repanshek

In a conclusion that has been reached in many other court cases across the country, a federal court, ruling on a case involving Cape Hatteras National Seashore in North Carolina, has found that resource protection trumps recreational interests. U.S. District Judge Terrence Boyle also found that the National Park Service did not rely on shoddy science when it developed an off-road management plan.

The lawsuit was brought by the Cape Hatteras Access Preservation Alliance, which long has argued that the ORV management plan is too restrictive, a detriment to the local economy on the Outer Banks of North Carolina, and, quite frankly, that the Park Service acted arbitrarily and capriciously. Too, the group charged, the plan runs counter to the national seashore's enabling legislation.

In tackling that last argument first, U.S. District Judge Terrence W. Boyle, ruling last Thursday, wrote that, "While the Seashore's Enabling Act does specifically mention recreational activities, Congress' intent as to the priority of natural resource protection over recreational use on the Seashore is quite plain: no plan for the convenience of visitors should be implemented if it is incompatible with the preservation of the flora and fauna of the Seashore. As CHAPA concedes, the Seashore's Enabling Act and the Organic Act are not in conflict on this issue, and indeed 'over twenty years of federal court decisions confirm that conservation is the predominant facet of the Organic Act.'"

**Read more:** <http://www.nationalparkstraveler.com/2014/06/orv-group-loses-latest-challenge-cape-hatteras-national-seashores-management-plan25261?>

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## Training Opportunities

### 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>

## **Navigating MAP-21 Workshops**

**Cost:** Free

**Organization:** Advocacy Advance

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.

**Date:** July 10, 2014

**Location:** Chattanooga, TN

**For more information:** <http://www.advocacyadvance.org/trainings/registration/chattanooga-tn>

**Date:** August 1, 2014

**Location:** Rio Grande Valley, TX

**For more information:** <http://www.advocacyadvance.org/trainings/registration/rio-grande-valley-tx>

## **ACA - Adaptive Paddling Summit**

*Courtesy of the River Management Society*

September 15-17 – Grand Rapids, Michigan

The American Canoe Association has an action-packed 3 days planned including a lineup of presentations and speakers that is nothing less than awesome. Registration is limited to 100 registrants. If you know any equipment or service providers that would be interested in one of the 12 exhibitor spaces, please direct them to the Exhibitor Application. Finally...we have added an Adaptive Paddlesport Workshop, September 19 – 21.

**For more information:** [http://www.americancanoe.org/?page=Adaptive\\_Registratio](http://www.americancanoe.org/?page=Adaptive_Registratio)

## **Crime Prevention through Environmental Design Training Opportunities**

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) is defined as a multi-disciplinary approach to deterring criminal behavior through environmental design. CPTED strategies rely upon the ability to influence offender decisions that precede criminal acts by affecting the built, social and administrative environment.

3 Day Basic CPTED Course, San Bernardino, CA - July 22 - 24, 2014

5 Day Basic CPTED Course, Greenville, NC - July 28 - August 1, 2014

5 Day Basic CPTED Course, Greenville, SC - September 8-12, 2014

5 Day Basic CPTED Course, Bellingham, WA - September 15-19, 2014

3 Day Advanced CPTED Course, Las Vegas, NV September 23-25, 2014

3 Day Basic CPTED Course, Detroit, MI - October 6-8, 2014 (in partnership with ISCPP Crime Prevention Symposium)

3 Day Advanced CPTED Course, Greenville, SC - November 4-6, 2014

3 Day CPTED for Healthcare Facilities, Burlington, MA - November 10-12, 2014

**For more information:** <http://www.cptedtraining.net/index.php>

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## 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 15.

If you have news or an article to share, please send it to [Brenda@nacpro.org](mailto:Brenda@nacpro.org) by July 14.

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