



NACPRO News

July 18, 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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News from the National Recreation and Park Association

Fund Your Park

A new member benefit for NRPA members, Fund Your Park is a crowdfunding platform designed exclusively for park and recreation agencies. This summer, we will choose 5-10 projects from NRPA members to profile on the platform for funding—whether its for building a new playground or installing trail signs. Raising funds for local projects using the Fund Your Park platform engages loyal supporters and helps create new ones by allowing donors to share their experience with friends in just one click. It doesn't get any better than that!

What is crowdfunding?

Crowdfunding is the practice of funding a project or venture by raising many small amounts of money from a large number of people usually through the internet. For examples of crowdfunding platforms and campaign projects, visit Kickstarter or indiegogo. Fund Your Park is a platform for

parks and recreation!

How you benefit

It's Free! Use of Fund Your Park is free to members and each campaign project retains any funds that are raised through Fund Your Park, even if you don't reach your funding goal. NRPA retains a 5 percent administration fee on all donations in order to support the site and administration cost.

Donations are tax deductible! All donations are processed by NRPA, a non-profit 501 (c) 3 organization, as charitable contributions- and therefore tax deductible.

Hands on Support! NRPA will provide the crowdfunding platform, help with crafting messages, and training on how to run your campaign.

For more information: <http://www.nrpa.org/fund-your-park/>

To Make Children Healthier, A Doctor Prescribes A Trip To The Park

Courtesy of NPR

By Sam Sanders and Steven Jackson

When Dr. Robert Zarr wanted a young patient to get more exercise, he gave her an unusual prescription: Get off the bus to school earlier.

"She has to take a bus to the train, then a train to another bus, then that bus to her school," says Zarr, a pediatrician at , a clinic that serves low-income and uninsured families in Washington, D.C. So the prescription read: "Walk the remaining four blocks on the second bus on your route to school from home, every day."

About 40 percent of Zarr's young patients are overweight or obese, which has led the doctor to come up with ways to give them very specific recommendations for physical activity. And that has meant mapping out all of the parks in the District of Columbia — 380 parks so far.

The parks, mapped and rated based on facilities and in a searchable database by zip code, can be linked to patients' electronic medical records. Zarr did it with help from the National Park Service and volunteers from George Washington University's School of Public Health, park rangers and other doctors. Zarr also received some funding for the project from the National Recreation and Park Association, the National Environmental Education Foundation, and the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Read more: <http://www.npr.org/blogs/health/2014/07/14/327338918/to-make-children-healthier-a-doctor-prescribes-a-trip-to-the-park>

New Research and Resources

USGS Launches Historical Topographic Map Explorer

Courtesy of Planetizen.com

A new tool, released in partnership with the U.S. Geological Survey and ESRI, provides easy access to historical maps from all over the country, featuring a timeline to easily select maps from different eras.

"Two of the nation's most authoritative mapping sources, the U.S. Geological Survey and ESRI, have partnered to put the rich tapestry of U.S. Historical Maps into the hands of everyone. Available in time for the Fourth of July and able to be accessed on all digital devices, the USGS Historical Topographic Map Explorer brings to life more than 178,000 maps dating from 1884 to 2006," according to a press release from ESRI.

For more information: <http://www.esri.com/esri-news/releases/14-3qtr/new-york-to-la-history-of-americas-maps-in-one-app>

Surging Seas Risk Finder

Today we have launched Surging Seas Risk Finder for North Carolina. Twelve states have been analyzed to date 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:

Coastal communities in North Carolina will likely see record floods topping 4 feet above the high tide line within 30 to 60 years, possibly sooner, depending on location, under multiple sea level rise scenarios.

More than 60,000 homes, \$8 billion of property, 2,500 miles of road, 1.3 million acres of land, and 131 EPA-listed sites that are potential sources of contamination, sit on land below this level.

New Hanover and Brunswick Counties include more than half of the threatened property value at 4 feet, while Dare and Carteret Counties have the most homes at risk, and Hyde and Tyrrell Counties have the most land.

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

Technology That Gets People Outside

Based on a webinar hosted by the Metropolitan Greenspaces Alliance. This information offers links to online mapping, trail guides, apps, and more.

APPS & WEBSITES

AllTrails: <http://alltrails.com/>

Based in California but available for locations across the U.S., AllTrails provides information about local outdoor activities. Available as an app for both Apple and Droid phones, users can enter a location and are shown a list of nearby locations. It is possible to filter the list based on activity type and difficulty. People can post photos and add their own tracks.

EveryTrail: <http://www.everytrail.com/>

This a mobile travel guide that is available online and an app. It uses the GPS tracking on the user's phone to show where the person is in relation to the various features of the trail. It looks like users have to purchase some of the individual guides, but it also allows people to create their own guide with pictures and comments. (Sand Creek Regional Greenway is posted here.)

A couple of the Denver guides:

Sand Creek Regional Greenway: <http://www.everytrail.com/guide/sand-creek-regional-greenway>

Denver Urban Trail System: http://www.everytrail.com/view_trip.php?trip_id=6125

iNaturalist: <http://www.inaturalist.org/>

The website allows people to share their nature observations with others to share what they've seen or ask experts for identification. People can create and download guides for specific places, as well.

MyTrails: <http://www.frogsparks.com/>

Provides offline maps for users, so even when you don't have access to a network, you can still have access to topographical maps. The app is only available through GooglePlay.

ParkInfo.org: <http://www.parkinfo.org/>

A California-based site that helps connect people to parks, trails, and campgrounds. Users can

find parks close by or near a selected destination, as well as driving and transit directions.

Strava: <http://www.strava.com/>

A free app that helps people track their runs, rides, etc. The premium version allows people to set goals and compare their progress with other users, so there is a social component, as well. Strava Labs provides additional mapping resources, like a heat map for your area.

TrailLink: <http://www.traillink.com/>

A program of the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, the website and app helps people find trails anywhere in the U.S. There is a subscription fee of \$30/year to get full access to all the features. Users have to register (free) in order to access maps, but can submit photos of the trails; one of the full access features is to share trails to the site.

Transit & Trails: <http://www.transitandtrails.org/>

Helps people find trails in the San Francisco Bay Area and then figure out how to get there. They also have a smartphone app.

Treks: <https://www.google.com/maps/about/behind-the-scenes/streetview/treks/>

A feature of Google Maps, they're taking the Street View concept off-road with portable cameras. There are only a few locations available so far, including the Colorado River.

DEVELOPMENT TOOLS

Data Basin: <http://databasin.org/>

A team of scientists, software engineers, and educators at the Conservation Biology Institute (CBI) built Data Basin with the strong conviction that we can expand our individual and collective ability to develop sustainable solutions by empowering more people through access to spatial data, non-technical tools, and collaborative networks. The site provides free access to thousands of existing data sets, maps, images, and guides.

MapBox: <https://www.mapbox.com/>

An open-source mapping platform that provides a mapping service for apps. MapBox Outdoors is geared more toward the outdoors than commercial sites (like Google maps tends to be). It's customizable with several layers (streets, contours, satellite, etc).

OpenStreetMap: <http://www.openstreetmap.org/>

An open source map resource for web sites and mobile apps that allows the community of mappers to add to it (trails, cafes, parks, etc.).

Trailhead Labs: <http://www.trailheadlabs.com/>

Trailhead Labs is the company behind Portland Intertwine's new mobile app and the Transit & Trails app. They are combining their expertise in technology with a love of the outdoors to help get people outside.

They are also working with several groups to share mapping data and create standards so everyone has the same foundation, with groups like Code for America. Denver is one of the cities partnering with Code for America, although their datasets are not relevant to the outdoors, but Summit County, Ohio worked with Code for America to create To the Trails, an app to help people find and get to local parks and trails.

A Protected Bike Lane That Extends Through the Intersection, So Cars Really Can't Hit You

Courtesy of FastCoExist.com

When bike lanes have a physical barrier that keeps cars from swerving into the path of cyclists, unsurprisingly, many more people start to ride. A recent study found that bike traffic jumped up an average of 75% on streets with new protected lanes, about three times faster than bike traffic citywide.

But even protected lanes aren't perfect, which is why urban planner Nick Falbo suggests adding one more element to the equation--protected intersections. With his design, when you reach the end of the block you don't have to worry about making it safely across the street.

"Protected bike lanes are fantastic," Falbo says. "They're low stress, they're comfortable for anyone--little kids love riding in them, people of all ages and abilities love riding in them. But their comfort gets compromised at our intersections. They're stressful, and they definitely impact the ability for these bike lanes to attract a diverse range of users."

Based on some similar designs from Europe, Falbo's proposed intersection has small islands that wrap around each corner. Cyclists can pull up into the middle of the street, protected, while they wait for the light. That means they're more visible to cars, and they have a head start on crossing the street. Cars turn the corner more slowly, and are forced to fully turn around the corner before going forward, so they have a second chance to see any bikes crossing the road. The intersection would also have special signals just for cyclists.

Read more: <http://www.fastcoexist.com/3032399/a-protected-bike-lane-that-extends-through-the-intersection-so-cars-really-cant-hit-you>

New Federal Lands Transportation Institute Website

Courtesy of the Sarbanes Transit in Parks Technical Assistance Center

The closing of the TRIPTAC on June 30, 2014 included the closing of the triptac.org website which housed all of the TRIPTAC's important resources, including:

- TRIPTAC's publications
- TRIPTAC's streaming trainings
- TRIP archives
- Public Lands Transportation Scholars archives
- Searchable Resource Library

Thanks to a partnership between the Western Transportation Institute (WTI), the US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS), and Federal Lands Highway Division (FLH), these resources will continue to be available to you via a new website.

With the closing of the TRIPTAC, WTI is pleased to announce the opening of their new center the Federal Lands Transportation Institute (FLTI). The FLTI works collaboratively across all of WTI's research areas to provide implementable transportation solutions for federal and public agencies that have responsibilities related to public land management, transportation, and resource protection.

With the opening of their center, the FLTI has created a new website and partnered with USFWS and FLH to move the resources of the TRIPTAC to the new online location, so come check it out at: www.fedlandsinstitute.org. For more detailed information about the specific resources available and where they are located on the FLTI site, the final TRIPTAC training, "TRIPTAC Is Closing...So What Now?" is now available on the TRIPTAC Trainings page of the FLTI website, including a streaming video link and a PDF of the presentation slides available to download.

News Clippings

Secretary Jewell Announces \$43 Million to States for Parks, Outdoor Recreation through Land Water Conservation Fund

Courtesy of the US Department of the Interior

FORT WORTH, TX – Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell today joined Fort Worth Mayor Betsy Price, co-chair of the bipartisan coalition of Mayors for Parks, to announce \$43.38 million will be distributed from the Land and Water Conservation Fund to all 50 States, the Territories, and the District of Columbia for state-identified outdoor recreation and conservation projects. A state-by-

state breakdown of the funding is available here: <http://www.doi.gov/news/loader.cfm?csModule=security/getfile&pageid=540552>.

The Secretary's visit to Fort Worth's Gateway Park is part of a week-long series of events across the country by Administration officials to highlight the fund's successes on its 50th anniversary. President Obama has called for full, permanent funding in his proposed budget, recognizing the Land and Water Conservation Fund as one of the nation's most effective tools for creating and protecting urban parks and open spaces for kids to play and learn.

"Over its 50 year history, the Land and Water Conservation Fund has helped fund over 40,000 local conservation and outdoor recreation projects by re-investing a small portion of revenue from offshore oil and gas development in waters owned by the American people," Jewell said. "These local projects – parks, ball fields, open spaces – play an important role in improving the health and vitality of urban areas, and protecting natural areas for future generations of Americans to enjoy. Congress needs to fulfill the promise made to the American people by enacting full and permanent funding of the Land and Water Conservation Fund."

Read more: <http://www.doi.gov/news/pressreleases/secretary-jewell-announces-43-million-to-states-for-parks-outdoor-recreation-through-land-water-conservation-fund.cfm>

An urban park won't succeed with suburban edges

Courtesy of GreaterGreaterWashington.org

By Jeff La Noue

A large urban park may be an oasis where the city feels distant, but to succeed, a good large urban park also ties in well with neighborhoods at its borders. New York's Central Park does this well, as does Patterson Park in Baltimore. Druid Hill Park, to its northwest, does not.

At its edge, traffic engineers designed a tangle of speedy arterial roads with grassy medians not unlike route 175 that links Columbia, MD with Interstate 95. Unlike sprawling suburban Columbia, Druid Hill Park is surrounded by dense historic neighborhoods filled with row houses and apartments.

Many of the people who live nearby do not own cars. The obese hard-to-cross roads do a good job of both being unpleasant for nearby neighbors and creating a barrier to accessing the park. Furthermore, the road slices into the park and leaves the park edges oddly fragmented.

Compounding the problem, Druid Hill Park's many amenities, including the Maryland Zoo in Baltimore, picnic pavilions, pool, athletic fields and courts, gardens, and playgrounds are buried

deep in the center of the park. It is a long walk from the edge of the neighborhoods to the park's activity centers. To get to anything easily in the park, you have to drive.

Happy City author Charles Montgomery writes, "Cities that care about livability have got to start paying attention to the psychological effect that traffic has on the experience of public space." He explains that humans get anxious when speeds increase, because we know our bones cannot withstand a crash at more than 20 mph.

Read more: <http://greatergreaterwashington.org/post/23316/an-urban-park-wont-succeed-with-suburban-edges/>

Amherst to reclassify 102 sites 'recreation conservation' in effort to protect green space

Courtesy of Buffalo News

By Jay Rey

Thousands of acres – including parks, golf courses and country clubs – are being reclassified by the Town of Amherst (New York) in a strategy to provide additional protection for recreation and open space.

More than 100 public and private properties totaling 3,400 acres will be tagged with the new zoning designation, "recreation conservation," as part of a lengthy rezoning process undertaken by the Amherst Town Board.

"How the property will be used will not change," said Gary Black, assistant planning director for the town. Instead, the sweeping changes – while technical and mundane – are a calculated move to address some broader, underlying concerns about the future of large swaths of green space.

Town officials in recent years have raised concerns about what might happen to some of the privately held green spaces, including golf courses and country clubs, if they are sold off.

Right now, those properties are zoned "community facilities," which allows a variety of other uses – including government buildings, churches, schools and senior housing – with little or no input from the Town Board.

Changing the zoning to "recreation conservation" limits their use for that purpose only, and forces any new development to seek approval from the Town Board. "This provides additional protection to the town's recreation and open space resources," Black said.

Read more: <http://www.buffalonews.com/city-region/amherst-to-reclassify-102-sites-recreation-conservation-in-effort-to-protect-green-space-20140705>

City has trouble reaching green on its golf courses

Courtesy of the Houston Chronicle

By Mike Morris

Citizens seeking to raise \$15 million to renovate historic Gus Wortham Golf Course will get first crack at the East End property, leaving those who want to turn the tract into a botanic garden waiting in the wings, drafting their own plans for the site.

Mayor Annise Parker believes the botanic garden would be a better use of the city-owned Wortham property, but said local residents and district Councilman Robert Gallegos want the site to remain a golf course.

"The term sheets we're discussing with them have clear benchmarks: 'You must raise X amount of dollars by this date,'" Parker said. "I intend to have a botanic garden as a backup if they are not able to raise the money that would be necessary to transform the golf course to what it should be in order to be a first-class golf course."

That the city is contemplating giving up golf at Wortham - or at Glenbrook Golf Course, an alternative offered up for the botanic garden - raises broader questions about whether Houston should be in the golf business at a time when the city is facing serious budget challenges and participation in golf is on the decline.

Read more: <http://www.houstonchronicle.com/news/politics/houston/article/City-has-trouble-reaching-green-on-its-golf-5585490.php?>

Hundreds flock to Penn Park in Whittier for @HiddenCash

Courtesy of Whittier Daily News

By Brian Day

WHITTIER, CA >> The philanthropic social media phenomenon known as @HiddenCash

surfaced at a Whittier park Thursday night, where hundreds of people showed up to take part in a scavenger hunt by flashlight.

Secluded Penn Park became the latest scene of the Twitter-fueled frenzy after the @HiddenCash Twitter account first gave clues to the location where Pez candy dispensers stuffed with cash had been hidden. A handful of treasure hunters who solved the clues arrived first at the secluded park, followed by hundreds more when @HiddenCash announced the park by name about 9:30 p.m.

Whittier officials said Friday that the park sustained more than \$5,000 in damage to trees, shrubs, fences and sprinklers, which in some cases appeared to have been torn up by scavengers looking for the hidden cash. Police overtime adds another \$1,700 to the tab, according to Assistant City Manager Nancy Mendez.

Read more: <http://www.whittierdailynews.com/oddities/20140711/hundreds-flock-to-penn-park-in-whittier-for-hiddencash>

Trail Boosts Springdale's Downtown Effort

Courtesy of Arkansas Business

By Marty Cook

There is a sense of nostalgia in Springdale's (Arkansas) attempt to bring life back to its downtown, anchored by Emma Avenue. It's more than simple nostalgia, though, as the city tries to rebuild its economic base.

The opening later this year of a Walmart Supercenter on the west end of town by Interstate 49 has stirred economic development interest there. Downtown Springdale is also seeing activity, not because of a Walmart but because of the Razorback Greenway.

The greenway, a 36-mile multiuse trail from Fayetteville to Bella Vista, will snake through downtown Springdale alongside Spring Creek. The trail stirred the city to action.

The city's master plan calls for about \$20.5 million in improvements to coincide with the opening of the trail later this year. Not all the improvements will be done at once, and not all the activity is being pushed by the city.

Read more: <http://www.arkansasbusiness.com/article/99516/trail-boosts-springdales-downtown-effort?page=all>

Five reasons to ditch the playground and take your kid to the river

Courtesy of American Rivers

By Amy Souers Kober

Our family just spent a weekend on Oregon's North Umpqua River. Watching my four year old play on the riverbank, I saw over and over again how rivers are the best playgrounds. The unstructured time for play, discovery, and relaxation reminded me that visiting a river is a great way to de-stress, get exercise, spend time together, and reconnect.

River and stream banks have everything a kid needs to move and play at his or her own pace and style: beaches, fallen trees and logs, and rocks.

Typical playgrounds don't have the variety of wildlife you can find on a river. We watched water striders in the calm shallows, and cheered a duck as it paddled through a little rapid. We enjoyed the background chorus of birdsong and tried to guess which animals live in the little holes, caves, and cracks under rocks and logs.

Read more: <http://www.americanrivers.org/blog/five-reasons-to-ditch-the-playground-and-take-your-kid-to-the-river/>

Indianapolis Cultural Trail Provides Healthy Transportation Options and Draws Development

Courtesy of FHWA's Fostering Livable Communities Newsletter

By Jamison Hutchins and Lauren Day

Since May 2013, Indianapolis and the Indianapolis Cultural Trail have celebrated multiple successes: increased pedestrian and bicycle traffic, the implementation of a public bike sharing system in downtown Indianapolis, and recognition as a national model for protected biking and walking facilities. The Indianapolis Cultural Trail, which was partially funded by a \$20.5 million Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant, is an eight mile landscaped path that winds through downtown Indianapolis and is both a linear park and a commuter route, leading to Indianapolis being ranked among the New York Times 52 Places to Go in 2014.

The Cultural Trail, while providing a safe and beautiful way to move about the city, is also an economic driver. More than 28 new businesses have opened Trail-side since 2013, and a successful mixed-use development nearby cites the Cultural Trail as a number one amenity. Most notably Virginia Avenue and the Fletcher Place neighborhood have seen intense investment and growth in the years since the Trail construction began. What used to be abandoned brownfields and surface parking are now market-rate apartments, condos, and thriving businesses. Sixty-three percent of surveyed Trail-side businesses report significantly increased pedestrian and bicycle traffic.

Read more: http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/livability/newsletter/july_2014/

State sets out to create Wisconsin biking network

Courtesy of PostCrescent.com

By Keith Uhlig

Bicycling advocates and state transportation officials are taking the first step to map, mark and promote the dozens of bike routes that crisscross Wisconsin.

The Department of Transportation, Department of Natural Resources and the Wisconsin Bike Fed are seeking proposals from route planners and designers to create a network that will include routes already identified in a national network, connect urban areas and their biking systems and create cycling corridors linking the various regions of the state. The consultant will be asked to identify bike-friendly roads and trails, create maps of the system and develop signs marking various routes.

The work is expected to begin in November and be completed by November 2015. Costs of the program have not yet been determined, but the Wisconsin Bike Fed, a private-sector group that promotes cycling in the state, will fund a portion of the study, said Dave Schlabowske, the Bike Fed's deputy director.

"This is a part of a greater vision that Wisconsin Bike Fed has to make Wisconsin 'America's Best Ride,'" Schlabowske said. "We have a number of things that set up for this. We have the third highest mileage of offroad trails ... combined with our unique paved road system, thanks to our dairy industry and the progressive road movement of the early 1900s."

Read more: <http://www.postcrescent.com/story/sports/outdoors/2014/07/02/wisconsin-bicycling-routes/12117633/>

Training Opportunities

Webinar: Neighborhood Wayfinding: What You Need to Know to Get Involved

Courtesy of the Federal Lands Transportation Institute

Date: August 6, 2014

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

Cost: Free

Organization: Easter Seals Project Action

How well does your community help you find your way? Are there services you would like to use, like public transit, but find it hard to figure out how to access them? Do you avoid places because the route to those places is difficult to navigate? Or are you a transportation employee wondering where to start to improve access to your transportation hubs and services? This session will teach you about wayfinding and transportation connections, enabling you to help your community leaders make good choices for spending local dollars on signs and strategies to help you and others find the way to places in your community you would like to reach!

For more information:

<http://www.projectaction.org/News/tabid/727/token/detail/nid/142/Default.aspx>

Co-Creating Narratives in Public Spaces

Date: September 17 & 18, 2014

Time: 8:30am to 5:00pm

Location: George Washington University, Washington, DC

Cost: Free

Organizations: National Park Service and The George Washington University Museum Studies Program

Co-Creating Narratives in Public Spaces will be a forum for NPS administrators and interpreters, academics, museum professionals, anthropologists, public historians, and practitioners of history to discuss how the National Park Service can best define and communicate the complex and challenging narratives that comprise the history of the United States.

Where will it be held? The George Washington University in Washington, DC. The symposium

will be available via a live webcast to any internet-connected computer.

For more information: http://www.nps.gov/history/Narratives_in_Public_Spaces.html

Webinar: Public-Private Partnerships

Courtesy of the Federal Lands Transportation Institute

Date: September 23, 2014

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

Cost: Free

Organization: Advocacy Advance

As all levels of government face budget constraints many are looking to the private sector as a partner in new infrastructure investments. Public-Private Partnership (P3) can be used to promote bicycling and walking in a variety of ways. Common public-private partnerships that benefit active transportation are private sponsorship of bike share systems, private funding of trail networks, and public-private collaboration in community bike shops or transit-related bicycle stations. Join this webinar to learn about the ways in which the private sector and public sector are working together to promote active transportation and lessons from those collaborations.

For more information: <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/901574120>

Online Course: Green efforts at your festival or event

Date: November 3 to 7, 2014

Cost: \$99 if you register by October 13.

Organization: University of Minnesota Tourism Center

Green practices are increasingly popular in the tourism industry—including festivals and events! The Timely Topic session of “Greening Events” will help participants understand the event industry’s approach to sustainability, the practices that events large and small have taken to facilitate sustainability, and the production of a “zero waste” event. The Timely Topic of Greening Events is offered online from November 3 to 7, 2014; \$99 if you register by October 13.

For more information:

<http://www.tourism.umn.edu/EducationTraining/FestivalEventManagement/AbouttheProgram/index.htm>

or contact us at kaden001@umn.edu

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 29.

If you have news or an article to share, please send it to Brenda@nacpro.org by July 28.

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