



## NACPRO News

July 29, 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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## **2014 NACPRO Award Recipients**

NACPRO gathered in New Orleans this July to celebrate excellence in parks and recreation. Twenty-seven awards were given to county and regional park districts across the U.S. for their outstanding facilities, programs, staff and volunteers.

### ***Outstanding Public Official Award***

#### **Commissioner Jim Kordiak, Anoka County, MN**

- During his 27 years on the County Board, Jim has been a member of the County's Parks and Recreation Committee and presently serves as chair.
- As a direct result of the Commissioner's outstanding vision and leadership, Anoka County currently manages 11,000 acres of parks and natural areas serving over 3.8 million visitors annually.
- Outside of his normal duties as a County Commissioner, Jim has also invested his personal time in a number of volunteer projects.

### ***Outstanding Contributor Award***

#### **Baker Foundation, Three Rivers Park District, MN**

- The Baker Foundation's support of the Three Rivers Park District has existed as long as the Park District itself.
- Established by the Minnesota State Legislature in 1955, the Park District's first parkland acquisition was the gift of 210-acre Maple Hill Farm in 1956 from Morris T. Baker and the Baker Foundation.
- \$500,000 was donated to the Park District as a memorial to establish an outdoor education facility.

### ***Outstanding Support Organization Award***

#### **Chicago Area Mountain Bikers, Forest Preserves of Cook County, IL**

- CAMBr is a chapter of the International Mountain Bicycling Association, and a grassroots nonprofit that promotes conservation and trail stewardship, environmental, and social responsibility, education, and a spirit of cooperation and camaraderie among all trail users.
- A committed partner to the Forest Preserves and has been a partner since 2009 with over 10,000 volunteer hours logged.
- Hosts organized rides, bike clinics for novice riders, and partners with the Forest Preserves on a "Take a Kid Mountain Biking" day.

### ***Outstanding Volunteer Award***

#### **Gary Morrissey, Forest Preserves of Cook County, IL**

- Helped with the implementation of the Districts new digital volunteer program.
- Plays an important role in educating and inspiring youth in the Mighty Acorns Program.
- Volunteers as a Trail Watch and Water Trail Keeper to make our trails safer and our visitors feel

more comfortable.

- Takes part in events such as Hummingbird Day, Fall Fest, and the Maple Syrup Celebration

### **Bob Espeseth, Champaign County Forest Preserve District, IL**

- Recognizing over 40 years of voluntary service to the CCFPD's mission.
- Bob's efforts began in 1973 as a commissioner for the CCFPD and continued to remain active in the CCFPD's efforts after serving his full-term as a board member.
- He helped take the foundation through recent strategic planning and continues to be a substantial personal donor to the district for land.

### ***Park & Recreation Program Class I Award***

### **Scientific Learning Involving Magnificent Experiments (S.L.I.M.E) Summer Camp Program, Columbus Parks & Recreation, GA**

- This program was created from a component of the STEM coalition (Science, Technology, Education, and Mathematics).
- Program focuses on introducing science as a career to young learners (Grades 3rd through 5th).
- The program covers the following themes: Physical physics, Lava and liquids, Friendly fossils, and Space spectacular

### **Wild Indigo Nature Explorations, Forest Preserves of Cook County, IL**

- This program engages diverse underserved communities with nature opportunities.
- Promotes beautiful wild places on Chicago's south side (Calumet Region).
- Promotes healthy bodies, healthy communities, and a healthy planet with free outdoor field trips and various activities

### ***Park & Recreation Program Class II Award***

### **Healthy Edge Active Living Report Card, San Diego County Parks & Recreation, CA**

- Program promotes physical activity and opportunity to engage in active living with no costs associated with the program.
- GIS data is used to provide information related to safety, diversity, and partnerships which is used to assess physical activity locations within San Diego.
- Promotes healthy activities within underprivileged neighborhoods

### **Careers in Conservation Internship Program, Los Angeles County Dept. of Parks & Recreation, CA**

- Product of a strong partnership which includes Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation, the City of Pasadena, and the Pasadena Unified School District.
- Participants completed the conservation program at Eaton Canyon Natural Area Park and Millard Canyon.
- The programs goal is to expose young people to conservation careers and foster a deep connection with the next generation entrusted to look after and protect the natural world.

### ***Park & Recreation Facility - Class I Award***

#### **Homer Lake Natural Playscape, Champaign County Forest Preserve District, IL**

- The Homer Lake Natural Playscape is the first of its kind in east central Illinois.
- The Playscape is designed to create nature play and learning opportunities for kids of all ages and abilities including those with physical limitations.
- The elements of the playscape were created to promote active unstructured play with hands-on learning activities.

#### **Webb Park, East Baton Rouge Parks & Recreation, LA**

- During BREC's Imagine Your Parks program passed by Parish voters in 2004, this neighborhood park was identified to receive \$250,000 for improvements.
- A neighborhood grass roots effort led my three individuals, created The Friends of Webb Park to raise private funds in order to supplement improvement costs and make the new park a special and unique place.
- Webb Park is designed to address the need for play in outdoor natural environments, offering a seamless adventurous environment and sanctuary to kids while engaging their minds and bodies.

### ***Park & Recreation Facility - Class II Award***

#### **Hyland Nordic Cross-country Ski Trail, Three Rivers Park District, MN**

- The project created a 5k trail system of stacked loops for recreational and competitive use at Hyland Park, which opened in December, 2013.
- Snow guns are used on the trail which make a 2' to 3' snow base and low energy LED trail lights make the trail usable during the dark hours.
- With snowmaking, the average season has increased from 60 to 100 days, and the first season's use saw twice as many users than previous years.

#### **New Century Fieldhouse, Johnson County Park & Recreation District, KS**

- Known for its forward thinking design and innovative programming.
- The construction company used 75% of recycled materials during the construction of the building.
- Gold LEED certification.
- 100% fee supported

### ***Operational Facility Award***

#### **Irvine Regional Park Maintenance Yard, Orange County Parks, CA**

- Irvine Regional Park is California's first regional park, opened in 1897. It is also Orange County Parks' most popular, with 1 million visitors yearly.
- Its maintenance yard is a key component of keeping this facility in tip-top shape, but needed improvement. This project replaced five buildings in the existing maintenance yard with three new buildings: a 6,500 square foot shop/maintenance building, a 2,400 SF storage building and a 3,500 SF office building.
- This project is the first LEED Certified building in the Orange County Parks system and will serve as a model for future projects.

### ***Historical/Cultural Facility Award***

#### **Ellis Barn, Oakland County Parks & Recreation, MI**

- OCPRC has acquired two barns for recreational reuse, each requiring substantial rehabilitation before they could be put to use.
- The Ellis Barn was acquired in 2005 through a transportation enhancement grant which also enabled the district to hire an ex-Amish barnwright to inventory, dismantle, and reconstruct the barn.
- The Ernst Barn, which may be the oldest standing structure in the township, is being restored with volunteer help and funding. The park district held a free workshop with the Michigan Barn Preservation Network that taught attendees how to evaluate the condition of an old structure, estimate its' age, take dimensions and make masonry repairs.

#### **Original Mine Yard, Butte/Silver Bow City-County Government, MT**

- The Original Mine Yard is a unique recreational facility adapted from an industrial mine yard into an amphitheater and cultural resource facility.
- The transformation executed a vision of preservation through the adaptive reuse of century-old mine infrastructure.
- Butte, Montana has seen over 600,000 individuals since it opened in 2008.

### ***Environmental/Conservation Award***

#### **Habitat Conservation and Restoration Program, Columbus & Franklin County Metro Parks, OH**

- Columbus and Franklin County Metro Parks has a strong focus on habitat conservation and restoration as a central component of its mission.
- In the last fifteen years, Metro Parks has acquired more than 13,000 acres and restored wildlife habitat on more than 8,000 acres.
- Habitat restoration efforts have included re-establishing 2,500 acres of wetlands, 2,000 acres of tall grass prairies, thousands of acres of forests and grasslands, and two miles of streams.

#### **Descanso Gardens Guild, Los Angeles County Dept. of Parks & Recreation, CA**

- Descanso Gardens is county-owned but has been run since 1993 by the nonprofit Descanso Gardens Guild.
- The guild has an annual budget of 4 million and attracts 250,000 visitors per year.
- 14,000 hours of annual service has been logged for their dynamic volunteer program.

#### **Big Butte Regional Open Space Park, Butte/Silver Bow City-County Government, MT**

- In 2005, Butte-Silver Bow City-County was awarded \$650,000 from the state of Montana Natural Resource Damage Program.
- These funds were used to acquire, preserve and protect native landscapes and recreational lands within Silver Bow Creek Watershed of the Upper Clark Fork River Basin.
- Butte-Silver Bow's investment has created a spectacular example of how conservation and preservation goes hand in hand with innovative parks and recreation development.

#### **Haster Basin Recreation Park, Orange County Parks, CA**

- Orange County Parks partnered to created added value in a flood control project which

included upgrades to handle 100-year flood protection and system-wide improvement plan.

- This project reconfigured the basin during construction to accommodate an additional 2 acres of much-needed park area and improvements.
- Construction cost 26 million but Orange County Parks received a grant for \$15.6 million.

### **Lake Erie Bluffs, Lake Metroparks, OH**

- Lake Erie Bluffs was originally slated for industrial development, however the property is now being preserved thanks to the efforts of Lake Metro Parks and the Western Reserve Land Conservancy.
- The property cost \$11 million, but 10 million was secured through outside funding sources including several national grants.
- Property falls on an important migratory flyway and 90 bird species were observed by the Park District's biologist in just two hours.

### ***Removing Barriers Initiative Award***

### **Star F.I.S.H. Adapted Aquatics Program, Riverside County Regional Park & Open-space District, CA**

- Program provides individualized swim instruction to develop water safety, swimming, and social skills in a safe environment for individuals with special needs.
- Partnership with the Autism Society Inland Empire who provides swim scholarships for individuals with autism so they may participate in the program each summer.

### ***Planning Initiative Award***

### **Next Century Conservation Plan, Forest Preserves of Cook County, IL**

- The Forest Preserves of Cook County, the nation's oldest and largest forest preserve district, is celebrating a century of service to the residents of Cook County. The Centennial, celebrated from 2013 through 2015, has been an opportunity for the District to create the Next Century Conservation Plan.
- The plans four key goals focus on nature, people, the economy, and creating enduring leadership.
- Ambitious targets to be reached in 25 years, which include: Restoring 30,000 acres to excellent ecological health. Expanding the preserves from 69,000 to 90,000 acres. Engaging children, families, adults, and educators from all communities who reflect the diversity of our population. Establishing an advisory council to provide continuous conservation leadership.

### ***Marketing Award***

### **County Market Collaborative with SMART, Oakland County Parks & Recreation, MI**

- Oakland County Parks teamed up with Suburban Mobility Authority to place signs with a sunflower icon to show public transportation to the Oakland County Market.
- The Oakland County Market allows low-income urban families to eat healthier with fresh food right off the farm.

### ***Fellow (Professional) Award***

#### **Dr. James Worsley, Columbus Parks & Recreation, GA**

- Provides leadership to more than 350 employees.
- Serves on several local, state, and national boards such as: Chattahoochee Valley United Way Board of Directors, Georgia Recreation and Park Association (GRPA), and National Certification Board with the National Recreation and Park Association.

### ***Lifetime (Professional) Award***

#### **Gregory A. Mack, Ramsey County Parks & Recreation, MN**

- Greg Mack has contributed 26 years of leadership in which he secured the fiscal resources for the redevelopment of eight of nine County Parks, six Regional Parks and the acquisition and development of six regional trail corridors totaling over 50 miles of trails throughout the County.
- Greg was instrumental in the establishment of the County-wide policies for allocation of funds for the established County Capitol Asset Management Program (CCAMP) and Equipment Replacement Program (ERP).
- Greg has also taken on the leader on numerous legislative efforts, including the Legacy Amendment Act that provides 3/8 of a cent sales tax to support the acquisition and development of open space.

#### **Cris Gears, Three Rivers Park District, MN**

- For more than 40 years, Cris Gears has provided exemplary service and leadership in the field of parks and recreation.
- Cris Gears provided critical leadership in the development and implementation of highly successful capital improvements such as Minnesota's first outdoor water park; two indoor ice arenas; and the development of the county fairgrounds and regional sports complex.
- His leadership at Three Rivers resulted in a regional shift towards open and creative collaboration among cities, counties and other park agencies.

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

### **Join a NACo Policy Steering Committee**

Now is the time to get active in the National Association of Counties (NACo) by joining a 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 you should become a member of a NACo Steering Committee. Fill out your nomination form and submit it to your state association for the 2014-2015 term.

Serving on one of these committees enables you to become actively involved in NACo's policy process. The steering committees start the policy process by reviewing legislation and making recommendations on issues that impact counties.

If you are already a member of a committee, you must reapply now, as appointees serve one year terms. However, you can be reappointed to the same committee for consecutive years. This

current nomination process covers appointments from August 2014 to July 2015.

## **How to Join a Steering Committee**

The process of joining a steering committee is simple. You must apply through your state association of counties. Here are the important points to remember:

- You should fill out and submit a nomination form to your state association.
- You should mark on the nomination form your first and second choice of steering committees.
- Members of NACo affiliate organizations who want to serve on a steering committee should follow the same process.

NACo makes every effort to accommodate nominees' first choice of steering committee assignments. Committee appointees serve for one year and cannot transfer membership to another committee, or serve on more than one steering committee, during that year.

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

## **NACo Member Testifies Before Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee on Natural Resource Revenue Sharing with Local Governments**

On July 22, Charlotte Randolph, President, Lafourche Parish, Louisiana testified on behalf of her parish and the National Association of Counties (NACo) before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee at a hearing titled "Leveraging America's Resources as a Revenue Generator and Job Creator." Randolph's testimony focused on how revenues generated from our nation's natural resources should be shared with parishes and counties.

The hearing, led by committee Chairman Mary Landrieu (D-La.) and Ranking Member Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska), focused on the benefits of natural resource production to state and local government in terms of revenue generation and jobs created. With the Secure Rural Schools (SRS) program and mandatory full funding for the Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program both having expired and the Land and Water Conservation Fund set to expire next year, the committee is looking at options to address these pressing needs and ways to share natural resource revenues in a fiscally responsible manner. Securing SRS and PILT funding remains a top national priority for NACo.

At the hearing, Randolph stated, "Revenue sharing—whether for oil and gas production, timber, renewable energy, or other types of natural resources— can be an essential component of a county's revenue stream. Whether counties are allotted revenue from natural resources may depend on state laws. Additionally, how counties can use natural resource(s) revenues can vary widely. For example, in some states, the counties must use revenues for construction and maintenance of county roads. Other states dictate that local governments must use natural resource revenues for public schools, transportation, retirement funds and/or a county's general fund.

**Read more:** <http://tinyurl.com/oxtc8yw>

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## News from the National Recreation and Park Association

### You've got 3 days to secure the best rate for NRPA Congress

Don't miss your chance to cash-in on the best savings on registration for the 2014 NRPA Congress. Registering early means you can come to NRPA Congress at a great rate and leave with Great Ideas. The Early Bird rate ends August 1.

**For more information:** <http://www.nrpa.org/Congress2014/registration/>

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## New Research and Resources

### Best & Worst Cities for Recreation

*Courtesy of WalletHub.com*

By Richie Bernardo

Kick off your Sunday shoes and put on some sneakers. It's time to get moving, folks. Whether your favorite pastime is playing ball, exploring museums or hitting the local nightlife, everyone has a reason to celebrate, as July is National Park and Recreation Month.

Speaking of parks and recreation, public facilities aren't just for the physically active. They provide immense support to the overall well-being of a city, including the health of its community, environment and economy. Unsurprisingly, Americans' fondness for the outdoors is evident in the amount of greenbacks they invest on green space. In 2013, the most populous U.S. cities combined spent more than \$6.2 billion on parks and recreation.

And the return on their investment will be notably positive. Neighborhood parks historically have been instrumental in building community cohesion, boosting property values, improving public health and reducing pollution. Take Washington, D.C., for instance, where close proximity to parks increased property values by five percent, or \$1.2 billion, in 2006. As another example, consider health care spending in Sacramento, Calif. In 2007 alone, the various park facilities that allow the city's residents to engage in physical activity contributed to an estimated savings of nearly \$20 million in health care costs. The 100 largest cities in the United States perpetuated the trend, installing more than 120 new parks four years later.

In an effort to educate Americans on the value of an active lifestyle and the importance of public open spaces in their communities and finances, WalletHub compared the 100 largest U.S. cities and highlighted those with the most diverse opportunities for recreation, sports and culture. We did so using 24 key metrics that examine each city's finances, parks quality, entertainment and

recreation facilities as well as its weather and environmental conditions. To learn how we ranked each city, check out the Methodology section at the end of this article.

**Read more:** <http://wallethub.com/edu/best-worst-cities-for-recreation/5144/>

## **Access Board offers new ADA and ABA accessibility guides**

*Courtesy of the Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center*

The United States Access Board is producing a series of online guides on Americans with Disabilities Act and Architectural Barriers Act accessibility standards. The guides cover a range of requirements related to public accommodations, commercial facilities, and government facilities, among others.

**ABA guides:** <http://www.access-board.gov/guidelines-and-standards/buildings-and-sites/about-the-aba-standards/guide-to-the-aba-standards>

**ADA guides:** <http://www.access-board.gov/guidelines-and-standards/buildings-and-sites/about-the-ada-standards/guide-to-the-ada-standards>

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## **News Clippings**

### **LWCF Coalition**

A broad-based coalition of conservation, recreation, environment, business, historic and cultural organizations as well are working together to secure full and dedicated funding of the LWCF. At the congressionally authorized level of \$900 million annually, we can help preserve natural areas, historical sites, wildlife habitat, and ensure that all Americans have access to quality outdoor recreation.

**For more information:** <http://www.lwcfcoalition.org/>

### **Sen. Heinrich Pushes Congress to Renew Land and Water Conservation Fund**

*Courtesy of the Public News Service*

SANTA FE, N. M. – U.S. Sen. Martin Heinrich of New Mexico is among a bipartisan group of

lawmakers urging Congress to renew a fund credited with paying for many recreation areas, in the Land of Enchantment and across the nation.

Heinrich says the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) helped create Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge in the Rio Grande Valley, and the Valles Caldera National Preserve.

Heinrich was among those who joined the Land and Water Conservation Fund Coalition for the release of a new report on the LWCF's 50th anniversary

([http://www.lwcfcoalition.org/files/LWCF\\_50thAnniversaryReport\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.lwcfcoalition.org/files/LWCF_50thAnniversaryReport_FINAL.pdf)).

**Read more:** <http://www.publicnewsservice.org/2014-07-24/public-lands-wilderness/sen-heinrich-pushes-congress-to-renew-land-and-water-conservation-fund/a40739-1>

## **How City Park Design Contributes to Resident Health**

*Courtesy of UrbDeZine Chicago*

By Jeff Caldwell

City parks are more than pretty outdoor spaces — research shows they can also be critical to improving a community's health. In fact, from the earliest days of their implementation, parks have been tools for boosting air quality, encouraging safe physical recreation, reducing disease and discouraging crime, according to the George Wright Forum. That's why park design is so important. The way a park is set up and organized plays a crucial role in how much it is used and, therefore, what level of impact it can make.

How are some of America's parks influential in city environments today? What are some examples of urban parks that are contributing to their communities' overall physical well-being? To help answer these questions, here's a look at a few of America's healthiest cities and the parks that you'll find in them.

**Read more:** <http://chicago.urbdezine.com/2014/07/16/how-city-park-design-contributes-to-resident-health/>

## **Community parks are part of economy, public health: Opinion**

*Courtesy of NJ.com*

By Albio Sires

For decades, parks have been recognized as significant contributors to the quality of urban neighborhoods. With four of every five Americans living in an urban or metropolitan area, it's time

we realize the necessary attention these spaces deserve.

Union City mayor and state Sen. Brian Stack stated, "Parks and open space continue to be priorities in my administration. It is rewarding to build or refurbish a park that will be used by thousands of residents and put smiles on the faces of our children."

The real question is: with all of the apparent benefits parks offer, why are we simply standing by and watching these spaces deteriorate? It is time for a call to action. I believe our community parks and recreational facilities deserve our attention and long term investment.

Today, as our parks and recreational areas consistently lack the funding they require, park and recreation infrastructure is suffering nationwide from a lack of green space and inadequate access to necessary resources.

I have introduced HR 2424, the Community Parks Revitalization Act, which provides an opportunity for the federal government to combat our crumbling park infrastructure and promote better public health. CPRA would require projects to use environmentally beneficial components, such as "sustainable landscape features," which include low-impact development design techniques pioneered by landscape architects.

**Read more:**

[http://www.nj.com/opinion/index.ssf/2014/07/community\\_parks\\_are\\_part\\_of\\_economy\\_public\\_health\\_opinion.html](http://www.nj.com/opinion/index.ssf/2014/07/community_parks_are_part_of_economy_public_health_opinion.html)

## **In fight against Lyme disease, Loudoun won't spray public parks with pesticide**

*Courtesy of the Washington Post*

By Caitlin Gibson

When Loudoun declared war against the rampant spread of Lyme disease in 2012, a dispute quickly arose over one of the county's tactics of choice: using a potent pesticide spray at public parks, a strategy that was intended to kill Lyme-carrying ticks but that also raised concerns about its effectiveness and possible harm to wildlife.

Beekeepers worried that the bifenthrin-based spray would wreak havoc with their colonies and damage vulnerable populations of wild honeybees. Conservationists were concerned about chemicals leaching into waterways and killing aquatic life. Some researchers maintained there was no evidence that spraying would help reduce the number of Lyme disease infections.

Now, after years of debate and data analysis concerning the use of the spray and the presence of ticks in the county's "high-risk" parks, the controversial strategy has been scrapped.

**Read more:** [www.washingtonpost.com/local/in-fight-against-lyme-disease-loudoun-wont-spray-public-parks-with-pesticide/2014/07/15/3c328194-0b76-11e4-b8e5-d0de80767fc2\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/in-fight-against-lyme-disease-loudoun-wont-spray-public-parks-with-pesticide/2014/07/15/3c328194-0b76-11e4-b8e5-d0de80767fc2_story.html)

## **Traveler's View: Anti-Government Politicians Bear Watching This Election Year**

*Courtesy of National Parks Traveler*

By Kurt Repanshek

How much federal land is too much? When it comes to the state level, U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas believes 50.1 percent is too much. While he recently failed to force the federal government to reduce the size of its holdings, the Republican and other anti-government politicians bear watching, particularly with the coming fall elections.

During the Senate's recent donnybrook over the Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act, a measure that drew amendments like garbage draws flies, Sen. Cruz submitted one that would have prevented the federal government from owning more than half of a state's land mass. If the government's share was above 50 percent, the secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture departments would have to identify parcels that could either be transferred to the respective state, or auctioned off to the highest bidder.

Interestingly, just five states -- Alaska, Nevada, Utah, Oregon, and Idaho -- fall into the senator's bracket. We don't know how he settled on 50 percent (in his home state of Texas, just 1.8 percent of the landscape is owned by the U.S. government).

**Read more:** <http://www.nationalparkstraveler.com/2014/07/travelers-view-anti-government-politicians-bear-watching-election-year25390>

## **CRT Annual Achievement Awards**

*Courtesy of the Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center*

The Coalition for Recreational Trails (CRT) presents Annual Achievement Awards each year recognizing trails making outstanding use of Recreational Trails Program (RTP) funds. The CRT is a federation of national and regional organizations that support funding through the RTP.

**For more information:** <http://www.americantrails.org/awards/CRTawards.html>

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# Training Opportunities

## Webinar: Open Trails System Specification

**Date:** begins August 6, 2014, 11am PST

**Cost:** Free

**Organization:** Code for America

After a comprehensive request for comment period, Code for America - with invaluable support from an array of leaders in the space - has released version 1 of Open Trails System Specification. This open data standard gives stewards a common language for sharing their data with each other.

### Course Overview:

OpenTrails is web-friendly format for publishing data about your trail system. It's designed to help park and public land agencies get good trail maps into the hands of their visitors, by making the easily accessible and usable by web and application developers.

This OpenTrails course is an opportunity for interested governments to fully prepare their OpenTrails data for public use. Over three weeks, Code for America will lead a small class (of about 4 to 6 agencies) through the process of converting their data to OpenTrails, publishing open data according to best practices, and finding the best approach for delivering the data to trail visitors.

### Course Outcomes

1. Become proficient in converting your GIS data to OpenTrails, the web-ready format for trail system data.
2. Publish your OpenTrails data, and gain a thorough understanding of open data best practices.
3. Implement or identify the best use for your OpenTrails data, whether that be an embed on your website or a mobile application.

**For more information:** <http://codeforamerica.org/specifications/trails/>

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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 August 12.

If you have news or an article to share, please send it to [Brenda@nacpro.org](mailto:Brenda@nacpro.org) by August 11.

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