



## NACPRO News

**August 12, 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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## **Best Practices Forum**

Got an issue you would like help with? Send your question to [Brenda@nacpro.org](mailto:Brenda@nacpro.org) with any background that will help our readers understand. We will publish it in the next NACPRO News.

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

### **NACo Releases August Advocacy Toolkit**

The toolkit provides updates on important legislative and regulatory issues impacting counties

Between now and the end of the year, federal lawmakers will be back in their home districts and states more days than they are in Washington. These recess periods, particularly the one occurring during the month of August, provide county leaders with the opportunity to talk to members of Congress on federal legislative and regulatory issues that impact counties.

To assist you in making the most of this opportunity, NACo has prepared a toolkit that provides updates on the policy issues most important to counties across America, as well as helpful tips for communicating with members of Congress and the media. If you do not already have plans to meet with your Senators and Representative(s) while they are home, we encourage you to reach out to their offices and request meetings!

Issues addressed in the toolkit include:

- Highway Trust Fund and Surface Transportation Reauthorization
- Marketplace and Internet Tax Fairness Act
- Tax-Exempt Status of Municipal Bonds
- Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT)
- Secure Rural Schools (SRS)

- Waters of the U.S. Proposed Rule

**For more information:**

<http://www.naco.org/legislation/Documents/2014AugustRecessToolkit.pdf>

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## **News from the National Recreation and Park Association**

### **Can't make it to Charlotte? Attend NRPA Congress virtually**

While we certainly hope to meet you face-to-face in Charlotte, NC for the 2014 NRPA Congress Oct. 14-16, 2014, we know that not everyone can make it. Luckily, you can still participate in the highest rated sessions from your home or office. Don't miss out on the opportunity to learn and virtually engage with park and recreation leaders from across the nation. You can even earn CEUs towards CPRP renewal.

**For more information:** <http://www.nrpa.org/Congress2014/Live-Streaming/>

### **Register now for Supervisors' Management School**

Supervisors' Management School (SMS) students call the experience "priceless" because they return to their agencies with real and tangible lessons they can immediately use. Learning opportunities aren't confined to the classroom, either, as students are able to network with leaders from around the industry. SMS is perfect for any park and recreation professional responsible for the supervision of employees. SMS will be held November 2-6, 2014 at Oglebay Resort and Conference Center in Wheeling, WV.

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

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## **New Research and Resources**

### **Report: Urban River Parkways a Cure for Many Ills**

*Courtesy of la.streetsblog.org*

By Melanie Curry

A new report from UCLA's Center for Occupational and Environmental Health sets out to make the connection between bikeways and walking paths along urban rivers and the health costs of physical inactivity in our cities.

The report, *Urban River Parkways: An Essential Tool for Public Health*, concludes that building walking and bike paths, parcourses, and other recreational facilities along urban rivers can provide major public health benefits and cost savings to individuals and to society by giving people opportunities to be physically active in relatively enjoyable, stress-free environs.

"I don't think anyone's looked at urban river parkways as a health issue," said the report's author, Dr. Richard Jackson, UCLA professor and former head of Environmental Health at the Centers for Disease Control. "I have noticed the great frustration of my physician friends, sitting at the end of the disease pipeline. Too many of their patients were suffering complications from obesity, from diabetes—from diseases related to inactivity."

"We have failed to get people physically active by telling them to join a gym and get on a rowing machine," he said. "But when we build places that are irresistible, people are active."

**Read more:** <http://la.streetsblog.org/2014/08/06/report-urban-river-parkways-a-cure-for-many-ills/#.U-Jz3PZR-sA.twitter>

## **Dam Safety**

*Courtesy of the Forest Service Technology and Development Program*

By Scott Groenier and Lisa Outka-Perkins

Uncontrolled release of a reservoir resulting from a dam failure can have a devastating effect on people and property downstream. Safely maintaining a dam is a key element in preventing dam failure and limiting the liability a dam owner could face. Project leader Scott Groenier, sociologist Lisa Outka-Perkins, and several other employees of the National Technology and Development Program have developed three products that emphasize dam safety.

**Assessing Dams and Impoundments: A Beginner's Guide** (1473–2F01–MTDC) is a Web-based training that provides basic assessment practices for Forest Service employees who work around low hazard dams and impoundments. The program is available in HTML media format.

**Pocket Safety Guide for Dams and Impoundments** (1273–2805P–MTDC) is a quick reference for carrying to the field. The guide has illustrations and photographs of problems to look for, information about the probable causes, possible consequences, and recommended actions to

take. View it at <http://www.fs.fed.us/eng/dams/> or obtain a copy through the Federal Emergency Management Agency at Ready.gov by calling 1–800–237–3239.

**Dam Safety Poster** (1473–2M06–MTDC) is a colorful visual reminder of possible causes of dam failures for all Forest Service employees and dam owners. An 11- by 17-inch copy is available for download.

**For more information:** <http://www.fs.fed.us/eng/dams/>

## **Federal Reports On Visitor Spending In Gateway Communities**

*Courtesy of the American Recreation Coalition*

Two recent reports highlight the importance of visitor spending at and near federal sites. National Park Service Director Jon Jarvis recently released a report on national and unit-by-unit park visitors spending concluding that park visitors contributed \$26.5 billion to the nation's economy and supported almost 240,000 jobs in 2013.

The Federal Interagency Council on Outdoor Recreation (FICOR) also released a new report on visitor spending linked to areas managed by the council's seven federal agencies for 2012. FICOR's report concluded that the agencies hosted 938 million visitors who spent \$51 billion and supported 880,000 jobs in gateway communities.

**Read more:** <http://www.funoutdoors.com/node/view/3180#Spending>

## **Clean, Drain, Dry Public Service Announcement**

*Courtesy of the River Management Society*

The states of Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan teamed up to create a public service announcement targeted at Midwest boaters urging the CLEAN, DRAIN, DRY message for boats, trailers, and other recreational equipment. This PSA will appear across state borders and will air on public TV, outdoor programs, fishing and sport channels.

**Watch the video:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NjBINtLii8s>

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## News Clippings

### Ohio Regulators Aim to Help Water Problem With Fertilizer Licenses

*Courtesy of the Wall Street Journal*

By Mark Peters and Matthew Dolan

The drinking-water crisis in one of Ohio's largest cities is drawing attention to a new requirement for farmers in the state: a license to fertilize.

The certification is the biggest step Ohio has taken to control nutrient runoff from farms, seen as a key cause of algal blooms in Lake Erie. Those blooms are blamed for a two-day "do-not-drink" advisory in Toledo and its suburbs that was lifted Monday.

A big part of Toledo's problem comes from the Maumee River, which drains a broad swath of agricultural land, feeding the bloom on Toledo's end of the lake. Other major cities near the Great Lakes such as Chicago and Detroit haven't experienced similar restrictions, but some are voicing new concerns about the potential threats to their drinking-water supplies.

Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn on Sunday signed a bill requiring each community water-supply system to designate an operator who will be directly responsible for supply and distribution, as well as a separate measure designed to reduce dumping medications down the toilet, which affects water supplies. Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel on Tuesday echoed calls for mayors of Great Lakes cities to hold a summit on water issues in the wake of the recent crisis.

The International Joint Commission, a U.S.-Canadian group monitoring the Great Lakes, in February called for cutting the daily amount of phosphorus flowing into Lake Erie by nearly half by 2022 in a bid to protect drinking water as well as fish. The report urged other states, including Michigan, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Indiana, as well as parts of Canada, to stop farmers from applying fertilizers on snow-covered or frozen ground to help reduce nutrient levels in waterways.

**Read more:** [http://online.wsj.com/news/article\\_email/ohio-regulators-aim-to-help-water-problem-with-fertilizer-licenses-1407251324-IMyQjAxMTA0MDAwNjEwNDYyWj](http://online.wsj.com/news/article_email/ohio-regulators-aim-to-help-water-problem-with-fertilizer-licenses-1407251324-IMyQjAxMTA0MDAwNjEwNDYyWj)

### Park District Supplying Employees with Bikes as Part of Pilot Program

*Courtesy of DNAINFO.com*

By Howard Ludwig

Chicago's bike-friendly attitude has caught on at the park district.

As part of a pilot program, the Chicago Park District has bought 20 bicycles over the last two years. Employees are encouraged to use the bikes to inspect park grounds and commute between meetings.

The numbers seem to support Dimitroff's theory. In May, park district staff logged 93 hours on the bikes. Last month, workers more than doubled their time on two wheels, recording 200 hours, he said.

"You are closer to the action with a bike," Dimitroff said.

Six of the initial bikes were placed at the park district's headquarters at 541 N. Fairbanks Court in Streeterville. An Internet sharing page was set up. Employees were encouraged to "check out" a bike online and use it to commute to City Hall and other nearby meetings.

Two of the other initial 10 bikes were sent to Northerly Island to be used by security personnel. The second wave of bikes arrived in May. These 10 bikes are more industrial, with three-speed gears and heavy park district branding. The latest bikes were distributed among a select group of park supervisors — mostly those with large grounds that include ballfields, beaches and other large stretches of open space.

**Read more:** <http://www.dnainfo.com/chicago/20140725/morgan-park/park-district-supplying-employees-with-bikes-as-part-of-pilot-program>

## **Mayor sets out to transform Los Angeles streets through 'urban acupuncture'**

*Courtesy of the LA Times*

By David Zahniser, Matt Stevens, Laura J. Nelson

San Pedro's Gaffey Street is no one's idea of a quaint village. Cars pour off the 110 Freeway, frequently at high speeds. The street's palm trees provide little shade. The corridor is dominated by businesses catering to the automobile — KFC, Taco Bell and 7-Eleven, among others.

Yet Mayor Eric Garcetti hopes to transform Gaffey and 14 other major thoroughfares into hubs of neighborhood activity. In a process the mayor describes as "urban acupuncture," the city plans to add bike racks, plazas, crosswalk upgrades and other amenities aimed at drawing in pedestrians and attracting new businesses.

Los Angeles is famous for wide and frequently traffic-clogged boulevards that stretch across the landscape, built more for getting people from point A to point B than for fostering street life and a sense of community.

Behind Garcetti's initiative is a hard calculation: Los Angeles lacks the money and the space to add the types of transportation that would significantly reduce traffic congestion, such as widening streets or adding expensive mass transit. So Garcetti is pursuing the reverse strategy: bring enough amenities to a neighborhood so that residents stay closer to home and, quite possibly, avoid using their cars altogether.

**Read more:** <http://www.latimes.com/local/la-me-adv-great-streets-20140727-story.html#page=1>

## 'Geese Police' Scare Off Waterfowl in Winchester Parks

*Courtesy of your4state.com*

By Merris Badcock

WINCHESTER, VA - Got geese? Just call the geese police. They're a group of trained border collies who live for one thing; scaring away waterfowl.

"Geese Police is an environmentally safe and humane way to control the Canada goose population," explained Cathy Benedict, owner of Geese Police of VA.

That's exactly what the Parks & Recreation Department in Winchester did after several years of trying to manage dozens of aggressive geese looking to call Winchester home.

"They Googled me, found me, and now I have a two week window to prove to them that this works really well," said Benedict, who trains her border collies at the Oatlands Historic House and Gardens in Loudoun County.

Before the border collies were brought in, Winchester parks were overrun by Canada geese. The Visitors Center had so many of them loitering around, neither employees nor visitors could safely get in or out of the building.



**Read more:** <http://www.your4state.com/story/d/story/geese-police-scare-off-waterfowl-in-winchester-par/39213/J-hbEeCUTEKch2yt--dZgw>

## **Where the Wild Things Play**

*Courtesy of National Public Radio*

By Eric Westervelt

Braden Swenson wanders into a semi-rickety wooden shed on his search for gold, treasure and riches.

"Is there any treasure in here?" he asks in the endearing dialect of a 4-year-old. "I've been looking everywhere for them. I can't find any." The proto-pirate toddler conducts a quick search, then wanders away to continue his quest elsewhere.

Not far away, Ethan Lipsie, age 9, clutches a framing hammer and a nine-penny nail. He's ready to hang his freshly painted sign on a wooden "fort" he's been hammering away on. It says, "Ethan, Hudson and William were here."

This half-acre of dirt and quirky chaos hugging the Berkeley Marina on San Francisco Bay is ranked among the most innovative and creative places for kids to play in the U.S.

It's got a semi-orderly, beachside junkyard feel. Nothing fancy or slick. Grab a bucket and brush: Kids can paint on almost anything here, except each other. Grab some wood and nails; it's hammer time.

There are only a handful of these "wild playgrounds" in the country. They embrace the theory that free, unstructured play is vital for children and offer an antidote to the hurried lifestyles, digital distractions and overprotective parents that can leave children few opportunities to really cut loose.

**Read more:** <http://www.npr.org/blogs/ed/2014/08/04/334896321/where-the-wild-things-play>

## **Green space is sparse amid boom in Uptown**

*Courtesy of the Dallas News*

By Melissa Repko

Dallas, TX - A little patch of green space in Uptown draws two- and four-legged residents from the townhouses in State-Thomas and the high-rises along McKinney Avenue.

Matt Smithson visits the dog park a few times a week with his fiancée, Leslie Rogers, and his chocolate Labrador, Jade. He's watched apartments and office buildings fill in the neighborhood. "Green space is going to become more and more necessary because there's so much construction going on," Smithson said.

City officials and urban planners agree with him. As the construction boom continues, they say, Dallas must strike a better balance between buildings and open space.

Some cities require developers to dedicate parcels of open land or pay into a parks fund. But in Dallas, the idea of impact fees and dedication ordinances hasn't gained traction.

Dallas caps the maximum lot coverage of a building, but the remaining land can be paved for parking. Many new buildings offer just a thin frame of shrubs and maybe a pool deck. And city parks officials say they don't have money to buy public land, especially in pricey neighborhoods.

"There's no doubt it's been an issue, especially in the Uptown area," said David Cossum, the city's interim director of development. "We haven't been able to obtain the open space, especially recreational type space, we need to serve new residents. Unfortunately, we have a pretty limited toolbox."

**Read more:** <http://www.dallasnews.com/news/community-news/park-cities/headlines/20140802-green-space-is-sparse-amid-boom-in-uptown.ece>

## **New Jersey voters to decide on funding for open space in November**

*Courtesy of NJ.com*

By Matt Friedman

Trenton, NJ - Voters will decide in November whether New Jersey's nearly broke program to preserve open space — for years paid for by borrowing — should get a more stable source of funding.

The state Assembly voted 58-9 with one abstention to put the question (SCR84) on the ballot.

The state Senate had passed the measure in June.

If approved by voters, the amendment would require that the 4 percent of the Corporation Business Tax currently dedicated to environmental programs be used mostly to fund open space programs. It would then increase the share to 6 percent of the corporation business tax after five years.

There was no debate on the Assembly floor.

McKeon said if approved, the measure would generate about \$70 million a year for open space in the first five years, and \$117 million annually after that.

**Read more:**

[http://www.nj.com/politics/index.ssf/2014/08/nj\\_voters\\_to\\_decide\\_whether\\_to\\_fund\\_open\\_space.html](http://www.nj.com/politics/index.ssf/2014/08/nj_voters_to_decide_whether_to_fund_open_space.html)

## **My City Bikes app gives riders the inside scoop of Monterey rides**

*Courtesy of the Monterey Herald*

By James Raia

MONTEREY, CA - Mobile applications can expedite airplane travel, simplify buying a pizza and help streamline paying the bills. Why not an app that touts the health benefits of cycling and details bicycling routes in cities around the country.

That's the idea behind My City Bikes. It's is a national campaign of free localized mobile cycling apps. The easy-to-access information addresses the statistics of obesity and heart disease and correspondingly emphasizes community wellness and detailed bicycling routes.

The Monterey Bikes app shares the same platform as the other 14 cities involved in seven states — Tampa, Fla., to Durango, Colo. The application is expansive and cyclists can find road, mountain, recreational and commuter biking locales throughout the Monterey area.

Each localized My City Bikes app costs \$7,000 to \$12,000 to build. Local co-sponsors contribute \$400 to \$2,500 toward its development, with the remaining costs being covered by the My City Bikes program, individual sponsors and volunteer programmers.

**Read more:** [http://www.montereyherald.com/Sports/ci\\_26253613/My-City-Bikes-app-gives-riders-the-inside-scoop-of-Monterey-rides](http://www.montereyherald.com/Sports/ci_26253613/My-City-Bikes-app-gives-riders-the-inside-scoop-of-Monterey-rides)

## Great Outdoors Month Events Achieve Record Numbers

*Courtesy of the American Recreation Coalition*

Great Outdoors Month featured a record number of National Trails Day®, National Get Outdoors Day and Great American Backyard Campout sites. It also enjoyed the national support of Coleman, Walmart, SC Johnson's OFF!® and others for these activities this year - and all seem to be more committed than ever to future successes.

Nearly 200 GO Day events attracted tens of thousands of Americans who have limited outdoors experiences. By sampling activities ranging from fishing to climbing, kayaking to biking and more and getting basic information about finding great places to go nearby, they learned that time outdoors can deliver improved mental and physical health – and lots of fun! Participants helped create the first GO Day Mosaic – an on-line image built from the many photos they shared from GO Day sites. This year's events enjoyed the highest-ever number of partners, including companies from the healthcare industry, youth organizations and more. National sponsor OFF!® played a key role in this year's events.

**Read more:** <http://www.funoutdoors.com/files/GOM%202014.pdf>

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## Training Opportunities

### Webinar: Clean, Drain, Dry Recreational Boats

**Courtesy of the River Management Society**

**When:** August 18, 2014, 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

**Hosted by:** Environmental Law Institute and National Invasive Species Council

**Cost:** Free

Aquatic invasive species (AIS) are a persistent scourge of our lakes, rivers, and streams. These species—such as the zebra mussel and Eurasian watermilfoil—cause substantial harm to the environment and economy by changing food webs, undermining commercial and recreational fisheries, clogging pipes, and through other means. Unfortunately, we may not be able to eradicate species once they are introduced—but environmental, government, and industry stakeholders are working together to stop them from spreading into new areas.

This webinar will introduce new legal tools and collaborative approaches to prevent the spread of AIS via recreational boats, which are a major pathway for the spread of invasive mussels and other AIS. Speakers will discuss state, industry, and environmental perspectives on the “building consensus” approach used to develop and implement legal tools to address this pathway in the western US. In addition, speakers will address other industry efforts at the national level to minimize risks associated with aquatic hitchhikers and recreational boating.

**For more information:** <http://www.eli.org/events/clean-drain-and-dry-building-consensus-prevent-spread-aquatic-invasive-species-recreational-b>

## **Webinar: Estimating Demand for Non-Motorized Travel**

*Courtesy of the Federal Lands Transportation Institute Training Newsletter*

**Date:** August 18, 2014

**Time:** 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm ET

**Cost:** \$89

**Organization:** Transportation Research Board (TRB)

TRB will conduct a webinar on August 18, 2014, from 1:00pm to 3:00pm ET that will discuss the forthcoming NCHRP Report 770: Estimating Bicycling and Walking for Planning and Project Development. This report will provide a comprehensive overview of the characteristics of bicycle and pedestrian travel and the factors that influence their demand. The report will also introduce a set of tools for estimating demand in various contexts at different geographic scales and with different levels of sophistication.

**For more information:** <http://www.trb.org/ElectronicSessions/Blurbs/170915.aspx>

## **Webinar: Fundamentals of Mountain Trail Sustainability**

*Courtesy of the Federal Lands Transportation Institute Training Newsletter*

**Date:** August 28, 2014

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

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

**Organization:** American Trails

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

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

## **Webinar: Public-Private Partnerships**

*Courtesy of the Federal Lands Transportation Institute Training Newsletter*

**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>

## **Webinar: Design Treatments to Transition from Trails to Roadways**

*Courtesy of the Federal Lands Transportation Institute Training Newsletter*

**Date:** October 15, 2014

**Time:** 3:00 pm to 4:30 pm ET

**Cost:** \$50 members/ \$85 non-members

**Organization:** Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals (APBP)

Regular participants at APBP's monthly webinars know that they're a great way to bring stakeholders, colleagues and clients together to explore bicycle and pedestrian issues and build support for active transportation. Plus, the webinars offer training credits that may meet your professional accreditation requirements.

**For more information:** [http://www.apbp.org/events/event\\_details.asp?id=381979&group=](http://www.apbp.org/events/event_details.asp?id=381979&group=)

## **Training: Trail Construction for Universal Access Workshop**

*Federal Lands Transportation Institute Training Newsletter*

**Date:** October 18-19, 2014

**Location:** Greenfield, NH

**Organization:** Professional Trailbuilders Association

Help design and build a new section of Crotched Mountain's award-winning accessible trails and get hands-on experience with the tools, equipment and materials used in the construction of these types of trails. This workshop is open to students who have completed Peter Jensen's Sustainable Trails for All Conference. This Trail Construction workshop will focus on building a new trail section that connects an existing trail to a parking area. Construction will entail use of a mini excavator to rough out the trail treadway, a machine for hauling surfacing materials, a plate compactor for surface material compaction and hand tools for grading and finishing the treadway, as well as the sides of the trail. In addition, it will be likely that stone retaining will be necessary and this will be done by both machine and hand. Each participant will have an opportunity to use the various types of equipment.

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

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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 26.

If you have news or an article to share, please send it to [Brenda@nacpro.org](mailto:Brenda@nacpro.org) by August 25.

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