



## NACPRO News

**August 26, 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*

---

### **NACPRO's Corporate Sponsors**

NACPRO urges our professional members to utilize the services and products of our Corporate Sponsors and support their contributions to the field of Parks and Recreation.



Central Michigan University's online Master of Science in Administration degree (MSA) in Recreation & Park Administration prepares you to lead and revitalize park and recreation programs. Learn to administer facilities, programs, and personnel to help people improve their quality of life. No GMAT or GRE required.

There is also a 6-course Graduate Certificate in Recreation & Park Administration that can update your skills and résumé while covering the latest issues facing the recreation industry. The graduate certificate can transfer into the full MSA program.

Start today! For more information call 877-268-4636, e-mail [CMUglobal@cmich.edu](mailto:CMUglobal@cmich.edu), or go to our website at [global.cmich.edu/MSA](http://global.cmich.edu/MSA).

***Would you like to become a Corporate Sponsor?***

Go to <http://www.nacpro.org/membership/membership.shtml> for more information or call Brenda at (814) 927-8212.

---

## Best Practices Forum

### City/County Park System Consolidation

I am looking for is any and all information regarding the consolidation of city & county park agencies across the country in the last 10 years. Please contact me if you have any experience and information to share.

Richard Bales, Director  
Tulsa County Park Department  
(918) 596-5985  
[rbales@tulsacounty.org](mailto:rbales@tulsacounty.org)

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.

---

## Member News

### Parks and Climate Change: The L.A. County Story

*Courtesy of losangeles.urbdezine.com*

By Clement Lau

Local and regional parks can be used to mitigate the urban heat island effect and minimize local climate change. Unfortunately, this idea is not often shared, discussed, and/or adequately understood. If you do a search on the web on “climate change and parks,” you will find that most of the results are links to information about how climate change is impacting national parks. Examples include a discussion on the National Park Service (NPS) website, and recent articles published by National Geographic and Scientific America. While it is clear from studies that global warming is threatening national parks, I would like to focus instead on local and regional parks which I am more familiar with. Specifically, I will first briefly explain how local

communities can use parks for climate change management, and then discuss with examples how the Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation is addressing climate change and its effects.

## **Parks and Climate Change**

Parks are the first and best line of defense against the urban heat island effect, and its mostly negative consequences of modified temperature, precipitation, wind, and air quality patterns. In particular, urban parks cool and clean the air, improve and modify local wind circulations, and better regulate precipitation patterns. Well-vegetated parks, in various sizes and forms, mitigate the urban heat island effect and minimize local climate change. Reduced impact of the urban heat island may prolong or even prevent more widespread global climate change as the size and number of urban communities continue to increase. The American Planning Association (APA) has published a briefing paper which explains how cities use parks for climate change management.

**Read more:** <http://losangeles.urbdezine.com/2014/07/29/parks-and-climate-change-the-l-a-county-story/>

---

## **County News**

### **Allegheny County police balk at plan for rangers to patrol parks**

*Courtesy of the Pittsburgh Tribune Review*

By Aaron Aupperlee

Allegheny County Police Department officers said they are not happy with a proposal from county Executive Rich Fitzgerald to turn responsibility for patrolling county parks over to a group of park rangers.

Fitzgerald said discussions about the proposal are preliminary. It is too early to say what type of force could replace police in the parks, he said.

“We're always looking at ways to improve operations. This may be one,” Fitzgerald said. “If it makes sense, we may do it. If it doesn't make sense, we may not do it.”

Union officials planned to meet with Fitzgerald late Thursday to discuss the plan. County police officers patrol Pittsburgh International Airport and the county's nine parks, which cover about 12,000 acres. They have stations in North Park and South Park, and they staff the Allegheny

County Police Academy in North Park.

Of the department's 265 employees budgeted for 2014, 45 work in county parks.

Former North Braddock police Chief Henry Wiehagen, FOP Local 91 president, suspects the proposal is motivated by money.

**Read more:** <http://triblive.com/news/alleggheny/6655617-74/county-fitzgerald-police#axzz3BVi7R0QF>

---

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

### **2013-2014 NACO Annual Report**

The mission of the National Association of Counties (NACo) is to serve America's 3,069 county governments. As a county official, you are an owner and shareholder in NACo. We exist because of you and for you. Therefore, we are pleased to share our recent progress report for 2013-2014.

Each day, we face persistent and costly threats to the interests of county government and your local residents at the federal level. We continue to fight federal attempts to rollback tax-exempt municipal bonds for county infrastructure improvements, resulting in billions of dollars in increased interest payments for counties and local residents. We are confronted daily with new proposed regulations, such as EPA's Waters of the United States rulemaking, which would delay and drive up costs for routine county road maintenance.

These are just two examples of the amazing diversity of federal policy issues involving county government. As outlined in the Annual Report, NACo is tackling the full range of county issues at the federal level, from transportation and infrastructure to health and human services to public lands and environmental stewardship to justice and public safety. This is a never-ending, yet essential role for NACo.

NACo's primary purpose as a representative of county governments is to ensure that America remains the greatest place to raise a family, earn a respectable wage, pursue a business dream, live with dignity and freedom, and enjoy our country's beauty. This report shows how we have expanded our advocacy, professional development, research and peer networking services to assist you and your colleagues in leading our local communities.

**For more information:** <http://naco2014report.org/>

---

## News from the National Recreation and Park Association

### Agencies selected for first round of crowdfunding on Fund Your Park

Keep your eyes peeled -- in the next month or so we'll be launching Fund Your Park -- a crowdfunding site exclusively for parks and recreation. We've selected the first 10 projects to be featured on the site and we can't wait to see how their campaigns turn out! Congratulations to Lake County Forest Preserves\*, Grand Blanc Parks & Recreation Commission, Bowling Green Parks and Recreation Dept., City of Edmond Parks and Recreation, City of Sugar Land, West Allis-West Milwaukee Recreation and Community Services Department, Porter County Parks and Recreation, The Recreation and Park Commission for the Parish of East Baton Rouge\*, Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District\*, and Santa Clara Parks and Recreation Department.

\* Congratulations NACPRO members!

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

### Do you need 49 reasons to attend the 2014 NRPA Congress?

There are only 49 days until the 49th NRPA Congress kicks-off in Charlotte, NC. So naturally we were going to come up with a list of 49 reasons why you should come this year. But... that idea only lasted about 49 seconds until we realized that people would probably only read the first ten reasons.

So here are ten!

1. **Earn valuable CEU's.** Not only can you learn a lot from the hundreds of education sessions and Pre-Congress workshops, you can also earn valuable CEU credits.
2. **Get certified.** Take your career to the next level and get AFO or CPSI certified by taking one of the courses offered during the Pre-Congress workshops.
3. **Attend the industry's largest tradeshow.** This year, not only will the exhibit hall feature some of the best products and vendors in the industry, it will also be full of fun activities.
4. **Interact while you learn.** The new Learning Playground and Learning Labs will get you out of your chair to interact directly with speakers and experience hands-on learning.
5. **Network at the Tailgate.** In the true fashion of NASCAR, we're hosting a Tailgate Party in the exhibit hall prior to the opening party. You just might meet some NASCAR personalities and you'll, of course, get to network with attendees and exhibitors alike.
6. **Branch out.** We are offering some new education options inside and outside the

classroom. Check out the Brand+Aid Marketing Institute, take an urban park tour or visit a botanical garden.

7. **Experience Charlotte.** Our local host Mecklenburg County Parks and Recreation offers opportunities to get active including a golf tournament and 5K Fun Run.
8. **See the transformative Power of Parks.** This year's Parks Build Community project is an expansion of the Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Park. Join us in the morning on Thursday, October 16 to see the transformation for yourself.
9. **Stay connected.** The new and improved NRPA Congress App for mobile devices will allow you to create custom itineraries, connect with colleagues and vendors, interact via social media and more!
10. **Share your Great Ideas.** Take what you learn and experience in Charlotte back to your agency to share with your peers, develop new plans and make an even bigger impact on your community.

We could give you 39 more reasons why you should not miss this experience but visiting our website may be the better option - <http://www.nrpa.org/Congress2014/>

---

## New Research and Resources

### Better Governing Through Data

*Courtesy of the New York Times*

Government bureaucracies, as opposed to casual friendships, are seldom in danger from too much information. That is why a new initiative by the New York City comptroller, Scott Stringer, to use copious amounts of data to save money and solve problems, makes such intuitive sense.

Called ClaimStat, it seeks to collect and analyze information on the thousands of lawsuits and claims filed each year against the city. By identifying patterns in payouts and trouble-prone agencies and neighborhoods, the program is supposed to reduce the cost of claims the way CompStat, the fabled data-tracking program pioneered by the New York Police Department, reduces crime.

There is a great deal of money to be saved: In its 2015 budget, the city has set aside \$674 million to cover settlements and judgments from lawsuits brought against it. That amount is projected to grow by the 2018 fiscal year to \$782 million, which Mr. Stringer notes is more than the combined budgets of the Departments of Aging and Parks and Recreation and the Public Library.

Far more obvious conclusions may be reached from ClaimStat data covering issues like park

maintenance and sewer overflows. The city's tree-pruning budget was cut sharply in 2010, and injury claims from fallen tree branches soared. Multimillion-dollar settlements ensued.

**Read more:** [http://www.nytimes.com/2014/08/20/opinion/better-governing-through-data.html?pagewanted=all&\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2014/08/20/opinion/better-governing-through-data.html?pagewanted=all&_r=0)

## **Ticked Off: America's Outdoor Experience and Climate Change**

*Courtesy of the National Wildlife Federation*

Climate change is bringing about stressful new changes to our outdoor world, and we need to take notice. Extreme weather is becoming more common. Droughts and floods are more severe and more frequent. Winter snow is melting away earlier in the spring and fall weather is slower and slower to come about. These and other aspects of climate change are impacting the plants and wildlife that are a central component of the American outdoor experience. We might like an early spring, but so do tiger mosquitoes with their bothersome presence and bites. An Indian summer may be welcomed by us, but it helps winter ticks survive in huge numbers...enough to suck more blood out of a moose than its body contains. Warm winters are a welcome mat for fire ants and deer ticks to expand their range northward where they can inflict pain or disease on unsuspecting people and wildlife. Poison ivy, which we always steer away from, is growing faster and becoming even more toxic, thanks to the rise in carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

How is climate change impacting your outdoor experience? Concrete examples are provided in this report.

**Read more:** <http://www.nwf.org/News-and-Magazines/Media-Center/Reports/Archive/2014/08-12-2014-Ticked-Off-The-Outdoor-Experience.aspx>

---

## **News Clippings**

### **High in the N.C. mountains, prominent hikers bridge political differences**

*Courtesy of the Charlotte Observer*

By Bruce Henderson

The politically odd couple striding up a rocky trail in the Roan highlands Wednesday came to celebrate a conservation landmark, and to plot its rebirth.

Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and Sen. Richard Burr, the conservative North Carolina Republican, are unlikely partners in promoting the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund. The fund turns 50 in September and, to survive, must be reauthorized by a skeptical Congress by next year.

Jewell hiked with Burr and a handful of conservation leaders Wednesday as part of her four-state tour this week to rally support for the fund. Burr is co-sponsor of the bill that would reauthorize the fund and allocate money to it.

**Read more:** <http://www.charlotteobserver.com/2014/08/06/5090458/high-in-the-nc-mountains-prominent.html#.U-zJkaOMWM6>

## **Ambitious L.A. Parks Plan Will Require Coordination of 88 Cities**

*Courtesy of NextCity.org*

By Sarah Goodyear

Green is not the first color that comes to mind when thinking of Los Angeles. Asphalt gray and dusty brown are hues more typical of the L.A. streetscape.

And yet this is a city set in a gorgeous natural setting of mountains and ocean.

The Emerald Necklace Expanded Vision plan, a multi-partner visionary project spearheaded by Amigos de los Rios and the Conservation Fund, aims to connect the forests of the San Gabriel mountain range with the waters of the Pacific through a network of public park space, bike and walking trails, and restored waterways. It's an ambitious plan that will require coordination of the 88 cities and dozens of public agencies in the L.A. Basin to achieve.

The executive director of Los Amigos, Claire Robinson, says her organization is up for the challenge. "It's already started," she says, pointing at the 10 parks within the proposed Emerald Necklace that Los Amigos has completed in the last 10 years. "Now we want to scale the project."

**Read more:** <http://nextcity.org/daily/entry/los-angeles-emerald-necklace-plan-la-basin>

## **Aerial Drone Ban Goes Into Effect at Zion, Other National Parks**

*Courtesy of the Public News Service*

By Troy Wilde

ZION NATIONAL PARK, Utah - The National Park Service's ban on aerial drones being used inside National Parks, primarily to capture photos and video, is now in full effect nationwide.

The Park Service initiated the drone ban in late June, but gave park superintendents two months to implement the policy.

Ray O'Neil is the acting chief ranger at Zion National Park. He says the policy tightens a long-standing ban on private aircraft being used in National Park airspace.

**Read more:** <http://tinyurl.com/qcydd45>

## **Conservationists to GOP: Public Lands Aren't Partisan**

*Courtesy of the Public News Service*

By Stephanie Carson

DENVER - The Colorado Wildlife Federation, along with 40 other conservation and sportsman groups, is asking the Republican National Committee (RNC) to reconsider its support of states and the private sector taking responsibility for federal public lands.

The RNC passed the resolution this year, but lifelong Republicans like Garrett VeneKlasen, who serves as the executive director of the New Mexico Wildlife Federation, says he wants his fellow Republicans to follow the tradition of the party.

"The genesis of the public lands idea comes out of the conservative party," he says. "As a lifelong Republican, I don't understand why the party itself has abandoned this."

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

## **One-Day Protected Bike Lane Demos Have Swept America this Summer**

*Courtesy of usa.streetsblog.org*

by Michael Andersen

This is what a tipping point looks like.

Around the country in the summer of 2014, community groups across the United States have been using open-streets events and other festivals to give thousands of Americans their first taste of a protected bike lane.

From small-town Kansas to the middle of Atlanta, communities (many of them inspired by last summer's successful \$600 demo project in Minneapolis) have been using handmade barriers and relatively tiny amounts of money to put together temporary bikeways that spread the knowledge of the concept among the public and officials.

**Read more:** <http://usa.streetsblog.org/2014/08/14/one-day-protected-bike-lane-demos-have-swept-america-this-summer/>

## **How Civic Engagement Platforms Can Bring Back the Expertise of Urban Planners**

*Courtesy of Planetizen*

By Karin Brandt

Cities are experiencing significant changes, from fluctuations in population to climate change impacts and affordability concerns. However, the role of city planners in navigating cities through these changes is in flux. Over the last 30 years, planners have seen their role as the brokers of facts for implementing new initiatives diminish. Their expertise takes a backseat to time spent organizing and facilitating evening meetings.

The growth of civic engagement platforms, where residents weigh in with ideas and opinions about urban development plans, could continue this trend unless planners utilize the benefits of this technology as a platform for their expertise.

Why aren't planners able to implement new initiatives? A significant challenge is getting political and community buy-in. To be fair, online engagement platforms cannot solve all the complex political challenges in local communities, but they can bring more transparency and accountability to the political process. Public meetings are the de facto method for collecting resident feedback for urban development projects. Because they are often held at inconvenient times, most residents are unable to participate. Bringing the information online helps more people access the information, weigh-in, and offer support for projects.

**Read more:** <http://www.planetizen.com/node/70447>

## **Put Cleveland bicycle expressway where streetcars once rolled down wide streets, planners say**

*Courtesy of Cleveland.com*

By Alison Grant

CLEVELAND, Ohio -- A big, bold way to connect Cleveland neighborhoods, pump up businesses and add tree-lined bikeways to miles and miles of city streets is hiding in plain sight.

The paved-over tracks of Cleveland's once-extensive streetcar network left some of its main avenues far broader than needed for the traffic they're handling.

Bike and community advocates say that buried transit system can be transformed into "the Midway" -- a center-of-the-road, two-way bike lane protected on either side with boulevards, with a lane of traffic and a parking row on either side of that.

That would put Cleveland in the ranks of a young but growing movement among U.S. cities to build protected lanes, also known as "green lanes" or "cycle tracks." There are about 200 protected lane projects nationwide.

But the Cleveland design doesn't stop there. Far from it. Planners see a bicycle expressway fanning out across 50, 80, even 100 miles of roads that once were streetcar routes. If accomplished, it would put Cleveland at the very forefront of urban areas with non-car connections.

### **Read more:**

[http://www.cleveland.com/metro/index.ssf/2014/08/cleveland\\_bicycle\\_expressway\\_c.html#incart\\_river](http://www.cleveland.com/metro/index.ssf/2014/08/cleveland_bicycle_expressway_c.html#incart_river)

## **Chesapeake Conservation Corps Class of 2015 Gets to Work Today**

*Courtesy of the Public News Service*

By Deb Courson Smith

ANNAPOLIS, Md. - At least 32 young people are ready to get to work Tuesday to serve as yearlong volunteers with the 2015 Chesapeake Conservation Corps program.

More than 100 had applied for positions where they will work with organizations on environmental projects that benefit the health of Chesapeake Bay, from getting their hands and feet muddy on restoration projects or teaching in school classrooms. Chesapeake Bay Trust executive director Jana Davis says the experience is coveted, whether participants recently

graduated from high school or college.

"It's a program that provides professional-development experience, as well as an opportunity to spend a year really delving into a project, or a suite of projects, that help them set up their career for the future," says Davis.

The Chesapeake Trust administers the program, which was created by the Legislature five years ago. Young people ages 18 to 25 can apply to the program, and volunteers receive a stipend and health insurance.

**Read more:** <http://tinyurl.com/lkek34o>

---

## Training Opportunities

### Webinar: Horses and Trails - How to Be Successful with Both!

**Date:** September 18, 2014

**Time:** 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Pacific (1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Eastern)

**Cost:** \$35 American Trails members / \$55 nonmembers

**CEUs:** Continuing Education Unit credit of 0.10 for attending this webinar is available for an additional charge of \$20

American Trails presents this webinar on top-notch trails and facilities for equestrians. Join the presenter, Jan Hancock with Hancock Resources LLC and an American Trails Board Member, for a detailed educational journey about equestrians, and learn the elements to success in planning, designing, and building trails and related recreational facilities that function successfully for horseback riders and their animals.

Whether you are an equestrian or not, we know horses are out on thousands of trails across America. In fact, 70% of the 9 million horses in our nation are used for recreational riding, and many millions more horseback riders are riding on recreational trails around the world.

Jan encourages you to download or obtain a FREE copy of the "Equestrian Design Guidebook for Trails, Trailheads, and Campgrounds" that is available digitally or in print.

**For more information:** <http://www.americantrails.org/resources/horse/webinar-Equestrian-Facilities-Hancock.html>

---

## About NACPRO

The National Association of County Park and Recreation Officials is a non-profit professional organization that advances official policies that promote county and regional park and recreation issues while providing members with opportunities to network, exchange ideas and best practices, and enhance professional development.

Learn more about us at: <http://www.nacpro.org>

## Deadline for the Next Issue

The next issue of NACPRO News will be delivered on September 9.

If you have news or an article to share, please send it to [Brenda@nacpro.org](mailto:Brenda@nacpro.org) by September 8.

**Editor:** Brenda Adams-Weyant

**Tel:** (814) 927-8212

**Fax:** (814) 927-6659

**Email:** [brenda@nacpro.org](mailto:brenda@nacpro.org)

---

NACPRO  
PO Box 74  
Marienville, Pennsylvania 16239  
US

[Read](#) the VerticalResponse marketing policy.

**vertical** DELIVERED  
**response** BY  
Try It Free Today!