



NACPRO News

September 9, 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

Payment Systems for No-leash Dog Facilities

We presently have four dog parks in our county system, one of those at the Small Animal Shelter. We have received complaints from our regular no-leash users that lots of folks do not pay. We are not sure of the percentage. We do not have the staff resources to monitor compliance at the parks.

We collect fees through a self-serve or pay-in-office method. We take in around \$8,000 annually using a self-serve model, we split that with our County Small Animal Shelter. We send tags to anyone who buys an annual permit. The annual tag system has improved efficiency and collections.

Our experience has been that we get a lot of transient use as there are two major interstates close to two of our facilities. A lot of travelers find us on the web and stop in. We would like to continue the self-serve stations so we can accommodate this use.

We were wondering what other methods folks are using to collect fees and how you ensure compliance at your no-leash dog parks.

If you do a key fob system, does it require electricity at the park itself? Are you able to offer daily passes after hours or when the park offices are closed?

What fee collection equipment and supply vendors have you worked with? What are the per park costs associated with those systems? How much do you charge users at your no-leash parks?

Please share any other advice you think might help us.

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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.

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

Member News

Editorial: Merging city, county parks departments worth a try

Courtesy of the Record-Eagle.com

It's an old and expensive story in the Traverse City area - overlapping or duplicated government-provided services that cost taxpayers a bundle but often don't provide better or more efficient services.

With the resignation of Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Department director Jason Jones, some county officials are talking about not replacing him and instead merging Parks and Recreation with the county's facilities department in an effort to save money.

Read more: http://www.record-eagle.com/opinion/article_b33ce4fc-7902-57b5-b952-9bf934c34604.html

New app encourages residents to 'Tell HoCo' about needed repairs

Courtesy of the Baltimore Sun

By Amanda Yeager

Wednesday, county officials launched Tell HoCo, an app that directly connects citizens with the agencies responsible for fixing various municipal problems.

"Our goal is to bring the most efficient, effective government to the citizens of Howard County," said County Executive Ken Ulman. "I believe we are known as a county that gets things done, and this is an important step."

Residents can download the free app from the iTunes or Google Play store and use it to report a variety of issues, including dead animals, graffiti, potholes, downed trees and streetlights in need of repair by locating the problem on a map and entering in a few details. The app notifies the agency in charge of making the fix.

Read more: <http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/maryland/howard/ellcott-city/ph-tell-hoco,0,1568768.story#ixzz3CpX4ee00>

Unincorporated Areas Need More Parks Too

Courtesy of losangeles.urbdezine.com

By Clement Lau

While a recent Los Angeles Times article looked at how the city of Los Angeles is trying to come up with out-of-the-box ways to meet its park needs, the county also is facing the same dilemma.

Los Angeles County also has limited space for parks, but the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) is making several efforts to increase available facilities for residents, according to county planner Clement Lau.

"Like its counterpart at the City of Los Angeles, DPR recognizes that it must be creative and bold in how it meets the park and recreation needs of underserved communities given budget, land, and other constraints. Just as no single agency can do it all, no single solution will be adequate or sufficient. Thus DPR has also been identifying, evaluating, and pursuing opportunities to create new parks and trails at unconventional locations such as utility corridors and small vacant parcels, and coordinating with partners such as utility providers, private property owners, school districts, transportation agencies, and local non-profit organizations."

The county's push includes drafting park plans for six unincorporated urban communities and lobbying for the passage of Proposition P, a proposed ballot measure that would continue funding for parks and other recreation facilities by establishing a \$23 per year parcel tax, Lau writes.

"If approved, the tax would be levied for 30 years, generating an approximate total of \$1.6 billion, including nearly \$45 million to unincorporated areas of the County and almost \$163 million to underserved communities for parks and recreational amenities."

Read more: <http://losangeles.urbdezine.com/2014/09/03/unincorporated-areas-need-more-parks-too/>

Pianos placed in Santa Clara County parks draw curious onlookers

Courtesy of the MercuryNews.com

By Andie Waterman and Karen de Sá

An upright piano, standing alone in the middle of nowhere, its keyboard inviting the fingers of people passing by.

Just how will humans respond?

Visitors to Santa Clara County's open-space parks are among the guinea pigs beginning this Labor Day weekend, part of a growing social experiment from San Francisco to Saratoga that places pianos in public places encouraging anyone to simply strike up a tune.

Or bang a small fist. Or roll their eyes and keep biking by.

Those were some of the reactions in regional parks Saturday, as the Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department launched its month long cooperative venture with a Berkeley piano shop and two multi-disciplinary artists promoting piano culture in an increasingly digital world.

Ethan Ton, 9, joining friends and family Saturday at the Sandy Wool Picnic Area, rushed over to test out his years of piano lessons. Ethan concluded that playing "when there's peace" was a gratifying experience.

Read more: http://www.mercurynews.com/science/ci_26439650/pianos-placed-santa-clara-county-parks-draw-curious

Beer gardens return to Milwaukee parks

Courtesy of the Green Bay Press Gazette

By Carrie Antlfinger

MILWAUKEE — Oversized mugs of beer clink together as drinkers sitting under a canopy of trees in a Milwaukee public park listen to live accordion music and proclaim "Prost!" — the German equivalent of "cheers."

It's a scene that harkens back 150 years, when Germans brought breweries and beer gardens to the city, until Prohibition shut the gathering spots down in the early 20th century.

But traditional beer gardens are back in Milwaukee County, as some parks departments nationwide are starting to embrace once-banned alcohol to shore up their budgets. And regulars at the Estabrook Park Beer Garden in Milwaukee love that they can bring their picnic baskets of snacks to the lines of tables along the Milwaukee River and enjoy drinks in the short-lived warm summer air.

Rich Dolesh, vice president for conservation and parks at the National Recreation and Parks Association, said many parks departments still ban alcohol, but have eased the rules for festivals, concerts, golf courses and weddings.

Read more: <http://www.greenbaypressgazette.com/story/life/2014/08/29/beer-gardens-return-to-milwaukee-parks/14802385/>

New Research and Resources

Let's Get Digital! 50 Tools for Online Public Engagement

Courtesy of CommunityMatters.com

By Caitlyn Horose

Online public participation is an effective complement to face-to-face events such as community workshops and design charrettes. Selecting the right platform to get the most out of digital outreach can be overwhelming.

The first step is to learn what tools are out there! Here are 50 tools for online engagement in no

particular order (and with no implied endorsement). These digital platforms can help local government consult, collaborate with, and empower citizens in community decision-making.

For more information: <http://www.communitymatters.org/blog/let%E2%80%99s-get-digital-50-tools-online-public-engagement>

Do We Look Fat in These Suburbs?

Courtesy of the Atlantic.com

By James Hamblin

Norman Garrick and Wesley Marshall are assistant professors of engineering at the Universities of Connecticut and Colorado, respectively, and they are making names for themselves among the anti-cul-de-sac crowd.

In prior research, Marshall told me, they found that in the most extreme cases “older, denser, connected cities were killing three times fewer people than sparser, tree-like cities on an annual basis.” Of course, people walk and bike more in dense cities, but the research on actual ties to health outcomes is scant. So Garrick and Marshall, along with Daniel Piatkowski at Savannah State University, took on and have just completed a large study of how street networks might influence our health.

They looked at the three fundamental measures of street networks—density, connectivity, and configuration—in 24 California cities, and compared them with various maladies. In the current *Journal of Transport and Health*, Garrick and Marshall report that cities with more compact street networks—specifically, increased intersection density—have lower levels of obesity, diabetes, high blood pressure, and heart disease. The more intersections, the healthier the humans.

Read more: <http://www.theatlantic.com/health/archive/2014/08/blame-the-city/375888/>

Access Board Issues Tech Guide on Outdoor Developed Areas

Courtesy of the National Center on Accessibility

A new guide on achieving accessible outdoor sites, including trails and camping areas, is now available from the U.S. Access Board (electronic versions only, not print copies). The 100-page document discusses and illustrates provisions of accessibility guidelines the Board issued last fall for outdoor sites developed by the federal government. These guidelines provide detailed

specifications for accessible trails, picnic and camping areas, viewing areas, beach access routes and other components of outdoor developed areas when newly built or altered.

The new guide serves as a companion resource to the guidelines by explaining the intent of various requirements and how they can be met. It discusses provisions for trails and trailheads, outdoor recreation access routes, and beach access routes such as those addressing surface characteristics, width, and running and cross slopes. Outdoor constructed features, including viewing areas, camp sites, tent pads and platforms, picnic tables, grills, fire rings, and toilet and bathing facilities are also covered. In addition, the guide explains exceptions in the guidelines that may apply where compliance is not practicable because of terrain, prevailing construction practices, or other specified conditions.

For more information: <http://tinyurl.com/p59377z>

New Docs Published for Fitness Equipment

Courtesy of the National Center on Accessibility

The National Center on Health, Physical Activity and Disability (NCHPAD), in partnership with Beneficial Designs, has released a new resource titled, Discover Accessible Fitness: A Wheelchair User's Guide for Using Fitness Equipment. This resource can be used by people with disabilities and fitness professionals to become familiar with key considerations for wheelchair users using fitness equipment. This guide discusses safety, stability, adaptive equipment, accessibility, exercise precautions, and a full overview of the components of fitness including cardiovascular, strength, and flexibility. This resource was developed as an educational tool in response to two new standards for inclusive fitness equipment approved in August of 2013 by the American Society for Testing Materials (ASTM). These standards provide specifications for fitness equipment that is accessible to users of all abilities and will be used to ensure future development and use of fitness equipment that more closely meets the intent of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

For more information: <http://www.nchpad.org/1247/5933/Discover~Accessible~Fitness>

CDC 2014 State Indicator Report on Physical Activity

Courtesy of CenterLines, the e-newsletter of the National Center for Bicycling & Walking

According to the introduction to a recently released Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report, "...The State Indicator Report on Physical Activity, 2014, provides information for each

state on state-level supports for the three environmental and policy strategies... for increasing physical activity and physical activity behaviors (1) Creating or enhancing access to safe places for physical activity; 2) Enhancing physical education and physical activity in schools and child care settings; and 3) Supporting street-scale and community-scale design policy.. This report, which can be used to inform decision makers throughout the state, shows that physical activity among adults and youth is higher in some states than others; and overall, most states have environmental supports such as sidewalks or walking paths in place that encourage physical activity..."

For more information:

http://www.cdc.gov/physicalactivity/downloads/pa_state_indicator_report_2014.pdf

Grant Opportunity

The Preservation Technology and Training (PTT) Grants program provides funding for innovative research that develops new technologies or adapts existing technologies to preserve cultural resources. Grant recipients undertake innovative research and produce technical reports which respond to national needs in the field of historic preservation. Since the inception of the grants program in 1994, the National Center has awarded over 300 grants totaling more than \$9.1 million in Federal funds.

Deadline for submission: Tuesday, November 05, 2014

In order to focus research efforts, NCPTT requests innovative proposals that advance the application of science and technology to historic preservation in the following areas:

1. Planning for and responding to Climate Change and the impacts of natural and man-made disasters on cultural resources;
2. 3D documentation and visualization techniques for historic sites, landscapes, buildings and objects;
3. Mobile application development for cultural resource detection, documentation, management, etc.;
4. Development and testing of protective coatings for cultural materials.

NOTE: NCPTT does not fund "bricks and mortar" projects.

For more information: <http://ncptt.nps.gov/grants/>

News Clippings

Washington Cities "Fish" for Land and Water Conservation Dollars

Courtesy of the Public News Service

By Chris Thomas

EDMONDS, Wash. - A coalition of hunting and fishing organizations says the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) could be doing a lot more for local economies if Congress would stop raiding the money.

In a new report, 17 sportsman's groups cite examples of recreation and conservation projects in a dozen states where wildlife and people are benefiting from LWCF funding.

Whit Fosburgh, who heads the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, said the fund turns 50 this week and the report asks Congress to take it more seriously.

"We do have an opportunity here," he said, "really recommitting to this and recommitting to not only the money that goes into it, but also what it stands for - and that is getting Americans outdoors and enjoying fish, wildlife, open spaces. That's been such an important part of this country."

Read more: <http://tinyurl.com/pfl3mpr>

Keep Our Wilderness Off Of Wi-Fi

Courtesy of TheDailyBeast.com

By Michael Schulson

In the 1850s, New Yorkers decided that they needed a break from New York. The city was experiencing rapid industrialization, and it was getting smoggy, loud, and crowded. So New Yorkers took the most valuable 150 square blocks in North America and created Central Park.

Frederick Law Olmsted didn't just work in cities. He was helping protect the Yosemite Valley while he was sprucing up the hills of middle Manhattan. Urban or rural, the principle was the same—to maintain the flavor of a pre-industrial pattern of life, even as everything else started to layer itself up with cement, gas lines, and sprawl. Parks ensured that, no matter how much a particular technology made the jump from useful tool to totally pervasive medium, it was always

possible to escape, from time to time, into a different order of reality.

Fifty years later, the parks movement hasn't adapted to the present. After decades of addressing the "noise, bustle, confinement, and noxious qualities" of modern life (in Olmsted's words), parks today aren't equipped to deal with a situation where so much noise and bustle emanates from the phones in our pockets. In cities, it's becoming impossible to find a public space that isn't wired in 12 different ways. And, even in national parks, the hospitality industry is pushing for expanded 4G coverage and Wi-Fi access.

Just to give one example: In college, I had trouble focusing when I was writing essays. Instead of struggling toward a passable analysis of, say, Edenic themes in Moby Dick, I would read about baseball on ESPN.com and check my email six times per minute. So I started looking for some place on campus—just one room in the library, or an antiquated classroom—where it was possible to avoid Wi-Fi for a couple hours.

Read more: <http://www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2014/09/03/keep-our-wilderness-wild-off-wi-fi.html>

A Gorgeous Park Designed With a Double Purpose: Flood Protection

Courtesy of Wired.com

By Liz Stinson

Corktown Common Park is a beautiful urban oasis—the 18 acre park, situated in the West Don Lands district of Toronto, boasts a wildlife-filled marsh, athletic fields, playgrounds and plenty of place to sprawl out on grass or host a bbq. But the coolest of the park's features is the one you can't see. Built into the sprawling greenland is a plan to protect the surrounding neighborhoods from flood waters. The landscape architects from Michael van Valkenburgh Associates partnered with engineering firm Arup to build a park that looks like nature, but works like a dyke.

Ten years ago, if you visited the West Don Lands area of Toronto, you wouldn't find a lot there. The neighborhood, which is situated at the mouth of the Don River near Lake Ontario, has traditionally been a post-industrial site, playing host to brick-making companies and taxi depots. "It was left fallow for many many years," says Emily Mueller De Celis, an associate principal at MVVA. "For the longest time, Toronto really didn't know what to do in terms of developing it." The area was hard to develop, and for good reason: It's one of the most vulnerable areas of the city for flooding, thanks to proximity to the lake and river.

Read more: <http://www.wired.com/2014/08/a-gorgeous-park-designed-with-a-double-purpose->

What the Wilderness Act has taught us

Courtesy of Planetizen

By Gary Ferguson

Fifty years ago, Lyndon B. Johnson signed into law The Wilderness Act, at the time protecting more than nine million acres of wild lands throughout the nation.

Passed unanimously by the Senate and with only one dissenting vote in the House, the Wilderness Act reflected the widespread surge of indignation following major environmental abuses of clear-cutting, government-sponsored animal bounties, and industrial pollution.

Gary Ferguson reflects on 50 years of the Wilderness Act in an opinion piece in the Los Angeles Times. Quoting a study by ecological economists J.B. Loomis and Robert Richardson, Ferguson points out that "wilderness preserves in the Lower 48 states are providing air and water filtering, carbon storage and climate regulation services worth more than \$3 billion annually. In addition, wilderness use supports some 24,000 jobs, and is part of an outdoor recreation industry that sees roughly \$650 million each year in consumer spending."

Today, the system covers a whopping 109 million acres throughout the country. However, the bill is not updated to tackle the challenges brought on by human-caused climate change. In his piece, Ferguson pushes specific policy recommendations such as wilderness expansion and assisted migration to better address the issues facing conservation spaces today.

Read more: <http://www.latimes.com/opinion/op-ed/la-oe-ferguson-wilderness-act-50-years-20140902-story.html>

All Montanans benefit from wildlife management, so all ought to help pay for it

Courtesy of the Missoulian.com

By Dave Chadwick

At the start of the 20th century, fish and wildlife in Montana were in crisis. Once-abundant big game had been hunted to the brink of extinction. Waterfowl were scarce, their habitats drained

and their populations diminished. Our rivers were empty due to overfishing and pollution.

In response, hunters and anglers launched a grassroots movement to restore fish and wildlife through science-based management and habitat protection. They decided to pay for these efforts by “taxing” themselves through hunting and fishing licenses. This funding was matched at the federal level by excise taxes on hunting and fishing equipment. Today, we enjoy an abundance of fish and wildlife that was unimaginable a century ago.

At the same time, the pressures on wildlife and habitat continue to grow in scope and complexity. As we move into the 21st century, we simply must find new ways to pay for the fish, wildlife and natural lands that make Montana the last, best place.

One place we can start is by broadening how we pay for wildlife management beyond just hunting and fishing licenses. All Montanans benefit from our state’s fish and wildlife, but many of them never purchase a hunting or fishing license. Wildlife management and conservation shouldn’t be paid for only by sportsmen. Everyone who benefits from the resource should help shoulder the burden.

Read more: <http://tinyurl.com/kzrsxr>

National & International Trails Awards and Developers Award - Nomination Deadline Extended

Courtesy of American Trails

Due to many requests, the deadline for submitting nominations has been extended to September 30, 2014.

American Trails presents the National & International Trails Awards Program, including our Developers Award, to recognize the tremendous contributions of volunteers, professionals, and other leaders who are working for the betterment of trails both nationally and internationally in both rural and urban settings. Nominations should be made for actions that took place during the period between August 1, 2012 - July 31, 2014.

Winners will be presented at the 22nd American Trails International Trails Symposium (ITS) Awards Banquet in Portland, Oregon on May 19, 2015.

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

Training Opportunities

Webinar: Design Treatments to Transition from Trails to Roadways

Courtesy of CenterLines, the e-newsletter of the National Center for Bicycling & Walking

Date: October 15, 2014, 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET (.1 CEU, 1 AICP CM)

Presenters: TBA

Host: Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals (APBP)

Cost: \$50 APBP members/\$85 non-APBP members, or multi-webinar discounts (Site Fee)

For more information: http://www.apbp.org/events/event_details.asp?id=381979&group=

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 23.

If you have news or an article to share, please send it to Brenda@nacpro.org by September 22.

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