



NACPRO News

September 23, 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.



Southeast Publications was established in 1986 and services RV Resorts and Campgrounds in both the private and public sectors. Currently, Southeast Publications works within 22 State Park Systems and over 1,000 privately held RV Resorts and Campgrounds.

Our free Guest Guides are done by our professional team of Graphic Artists that customize the layout to meet your specification and branding needs. All of our quality publications are created on thick stock paper, full color, full bleed and can be made in a variety of different formats. Our free Oversized Site and Area Map banners are weatherproof and can be used indoors or out.

Our MobileRVing Marketing Platform allows our partners to receive additional exposure online, through social media, a podcast, a mobile app and an e-newsletter that targets campers of all types. Southeast Publications offers this service free to its partners by enabling small businesses

to sponsor parks through advertisements within the publication. All of our sales associates are bonded and insured to protect our partners from liability.

Our service is a perfect complement to any marketing strategy to increase the distribution of your Park Systems' message and because this is a free service, it may even aid in trimming current expenses. See how Southeast Publications can help you by calling (800) 832-3292 or visiting us online at www.southeastpublications.com



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, or go to our website at 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

Equestrian Facility Operations

We recently acquired a 400-acre horse farm that includes over a dozen barns - most are in poor condition. We are told there is a market for boarding stables and an indoor arena but it would require a big investment on our part. We have only been able to find one other forest preserve in

our area that has an equestrian facility and they have experienced some problems.

We want to know if other agencies have had success with any type of equestrian facilities. What types of facilities? Do they operate them themselves or use a third party concessionaire? Are the facilities financially self-supporting or do they require subsidies? Do they know any experts that could help with market analysis or conditions assessment?

Chris Slattery
Director of Planning & Development
Forest Preserve District of Cook County
(708) 771-1572
chris.slattery@cookcountyil.gov

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.

Tim Morgan, CPRP
LaPorte County Parks, Indiana
(219) 325-8315, Fax: (219) 325-8317
rangertim@csinet.net

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

Grand Traverse County parks board survives vote

Courtesy of the Traverse Record Eagle

BY Michael Walton

TRAVERSE CITY, MI — The fun and games won't stop on the Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Commission.

Some county commissioners' efforts to dissolve the appointed parks board fell short in a 5-2 vote during a meeting Wednesday night.

Commission Chair Herb Lemcool made the motion to disband the board, citing a litany of issues tied to it and the parks department, including ongoing problems at Twin Lakes Park, the poor condition of the Kid's Cove playground at the Civic Center and the resignation of two "quality" parks directors in recent years.

"We appoint these boards to take care of these responsibilities for us, and I think they've let our community down," Lemcool said.

Read more: http://www.record-eagle.com/news/local_news/article_35caa26b-a3e0-591e-9c2d-e288c0204bc5.html

County News

Committee exploring city/county park systems consolidation

Courtesy of TulsaWorld.com

By Kevin Canfield

OKLAHOMA - Over the years, Tulsa-area residents have come to see city of Tulsa and Tulsa County parks as interchangeable. LaFortune Park, perhaps the city's best known park, sits in the middle of town but is in fact a county facility. It can be confusing and, some have argued, inefficient to operate separate park systems.

Soon, Tulsans may learn there is a better way. Or not.

Don Walker, CEO of Arvest Bank and former chairman of the River Parks Board of Trustees, is leading a group of private citizens working to identify ways to ensure the long-term viability of Tulsa's parks.

The organization is called Tulsa Leadership Vision Inc. "We are charged with taking a broad look at having two separate parks departments within the city of Tulsa and determining if there are efficiencies and consistencies that would create a more sustainable and healthy parks department," Walker said.

He stressed that the committee is approaching its work with no preconceived notions of what their findings or recommendations will be.

Read more: <http://tinyurl.com/nswz6on>

Polk County Commission OKs Advertising, Sponsorships In Parks

Courtesy of TheLedger.com

By Tom Palmer

BARTOW, FL - Polk parks officials got the go-ahead Tuesday to sell advertising signs and sponsorships in county parks.

The policy is intended to supplement the county parks budget, though it's not clear how much revenue the effort will generate. Polk officials have estimated it could bring in between \$25,000 and \$50,000 a year. The cost for sponsors will depend on the extent of the advertising.

It ranges from \$1,000 per year to erect a sign at a small park facility, such as a garden, trail marker or goalpost, to \$7,500 a year for a sign at a dog park, concession stand or other larger

facility.

The policy also contains a provision to seek proposals for park-naming rights, the cost which will be negotiable and subject to County Commission approval.

Read more: <http://www.theledger.com/article/20140916/news/140919357>

10-mile linear park gets new look

Courtesy of Miami Today

By John Charles Robbins

FLORIDA - GreenLink, a plan to create a 10-mile linear park along the southern Metrorail route, is gaining attention and support and moving ahead with the help of the University of Miami.

This fall, UM students will be launching an economic impact study tied to the GreenLink proposal, according to Friends of the GreenLink.

The proposed renovation of the M-Path for bicycles and pedestrians along US 1, GreenLink is being promoted by various county agencies, including the Miami-Dade County parks and transit departments. The idea to use the underutilized land came from Friends of the GreenLink founder Meg Daly.

Read more: <http://www.miamitodaynews.com/2014/09/10/10-mile-linear-park-gets-new-look/>

News from the National Association of Counties

NACo's Fly-In Brings County Leaders, Members of Congress Together to Support Funding for PILT

Last week, the National Association of Counties (NACo) held a fly-in on the Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program that brought county officials from across the country to the nation's capital. While in Washington, fly-in participants discussed strategy for securing FY 2015 PILT funding and met with key members of Congress and top decision makers from the U.S. Department of Interior's Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service.

During the fly-in, NACo also hosted a Congressional briefing held on Capitol Hill, which featured remarks from Sens. Michael Bennet (D-Colo.), Mark Udall (D-Colo.), Mike Lee (R-Utah), John Walsh (D-Mont.) and Ron Wyden (D-Ore.), as well as Reps. Ann Kirkpatrick (D-Ariz.) and Chris Stewart (R-Utah), Supervisor Liz Archuleta, Coconino County, Ariz. and County Manager Greg Cable, Graham County, N.C.

Further Action Needed

It is important that county leaders help to build on the momentum created by the Fly-In by contacting their members of Congress to urge support for immediate full funding for PILT and the Secure Rural Schools (SRS) program, as well as a sustainable long-term funding solution.

NACo members should also urge their House members to sign the bipartisan "Dear Colleague" letter being circulated by Reps. Jamie Herrera Beutler (R-Wash.) and Joe Garcia (D-Fla.) in support of funding for PILT and SRS.

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

News from the National Recreation and Park Association

Upcoming NRPA Webinars

Don't miss these great online learning opportunities through NRPA's webinar offerings:

Establishing a Professional Growth Program for Your Park and Recreation Agency

Oct 1, 2014; 2 - 3 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time

Driving Revenue to Your Golf Course

Oct 2, 2014; 2 - 3 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time

Youth Concussions in Sports - Best Practices for Your Park Agency

Oct 7, 2014; 2 - 3 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time

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

Natural Play: New Guidelines Mean New Opportunity for Parks and Recreation

By Richard J. Dolesh

The long-awaited national guidelines on the design, development and management of nature play areas written by Robin Moore, noted professor of landscape architecture and head of the Natural Learning Initiative (NLI) of North Carolina State University, have been released this week.

The movement to connect kids to nature and the outdoors has surged in recent years. Inspired by seminal thinkers such as Richard Louv in his ground-breaking book, "The Last Child in the Woods," parents, educators, and parks and recreation professionals have seen the need to allow kids to have unstructured free-play time in nature. Sending kids off to play in the woods, however, may not be feasible or realistic, but providing safe, managed, natural play and learning places is an ideal solution for parks, schools and neighborhoods.

But how do you provide safe natural play places?

This is the question that co-leaders Robin Moore and Allen Cooper of the National Wildlife Federation along with a blue-ribbon steering committee, including NRPA, tackled in developing the new guidelines, "Nature Play & Learning Places: Creating and Managing Places Where Children Engage with Nature".

Read more: <http://www.nrpa.org/Blog/Natural-Play-New-Guidelines-Mean-New-Opportunity-for-Parks-and-Recreation/>

New Research and Resources

Overall, America's Urban Parks Get High Marks

Courtesy of CityLab.com

By Sam Sturgis

The Atlantic Media/Siemens State of the City poll asked roughly 1,600 Americans to rate the availability of parks and recreation facilities near their households. And for all you suburban fathers: Think twice before boasting in the office about your neighborhood's little league field. Urban residents, it appears, are just as happy with their parks and recreation spaces as those living outside the city.

Sixty-five percent of urban residents rated their park and recreation access as either "excellent"

or "good"—exactly the same share of non-urban residents (those living in both rural and suburban areas) who felt the same way. Given the breadth of the term, grouping all non-urban residents undoubtedly creates statistical challenges. A wealthy Dallas suburb may be able to allocate more resources toward recreation than a West Texas farm town. Nevertheless, the evident satisfaction among urban poll responders highlights that cities have worked hard in recent years to ensure outdoor recreation access.

Read more: <http://www.citylab.com/design/2014/09/overall-americas-urban-parks-get-high-marks/380324/>

Playgrounds For All Children: Here's How To Find One

Courtesy of National Public Radio

By Anya Kamenetz

Janna Espinoza's daughter Coraline has hearing loss, cerebral palsy, epilepsy and developmental delays. Nearly 2 years old, she can't sit up, stand, creep or use her hands as a typically developing child does.

Coraline is among an estimated 6.4 million children in the U.S. with a disability. And for these kids the simple ritual of playing outside can get very complicated. On a typical playground, danger lurks just about everywhere.

NPR has spent the last year crowdsourcing the list which includes 2505 playgrounds in 48 states and DC and 996 cities listed in our Playgrounds for Everyone app.

Some metro areas are especially well-represented in our playgrounds database, and others are quite thin. This is where we need your help. If you live in or visit any of these areas, consider visiting local playgrounds and adding them to our database if they have accessible features. And if there truly are no accessible playgrounds in the area, that may signal a larger need.

For more information: <http://www.playgroundsforeveryone.com/>

Sedentary lifestyle linked to depression

Courtesy of Reuters

By Shereen Lehman

(Reuters Health) - A new analysis of previous studies ties too much sitting at the computer or lying around watching TV to a greater risk of depression.

Based on dozens of studies covering hundreds of thousands of participants, Chinese researchers found that sedentary behavior was linked to a 25 percent higher likelihood of being depressed compared to people who were not sedentary.

The research has limitations, Long Zhai, of Qingdao University Medical College in Shangong, and his coauthors write, but it suggests that physical activity would be a good prescription for preventing depression.

“Although it was a thorough investigation of a relatively new research area, a number of unanswered questions still remain,” said Megan Teychenne from the Centre for Physical Activity and Nutrition Research at Deakin University in Melbourne, Australia.

Among these is “whether sedentary behavior increases the risk of depression; or whether it is that those with depression are just more likely to engage in sedentary behaviors such as computer use or television viewing,” said Teychenne, who wasn’t involved in the study.

Read more: <http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/09/18/us-health-depression-sedentary-idUSKBN0HD2K120140918>

Surging Seas Risk Finder

Courtesy of Climate Central

Today we have launched Surging Seas Risk Finder for Delaware, Maryland, Virginia and Washington, D.C. The other 14 states analyzed to date for sea level rise and coastal flood risk are also accessible on our website.

In the coming few decades, many tidewater and coastal communities in Delmarva are likely to face record floods. More than 183,000 people, 116,000 homes, \$42 billion in property value and 3,400 miles of roads in the region sit on land less than 5 feet above local high tide lines. Flood threats vary by location, but across 11 study sites in the region and under a mid-range sea level rise scenario, the average risk for a local flood topping 5 feet by mid-century is 55 percent, according to Climate Central's analysis.

The Risk Finder is a public, multi-part web tool to help communities, planners and leaders review

sea level rise and coastal flood risks at a screening level, using detailed zip-searchable maps; analysis of over 100 variables for thousands of communities; community comparison maps; and local sea level and flood risk projections.

Climate Central will continue to roll out tools for all remaining U.S. coastal states including Hawaii and Alaska in the coming months.

For more information: <http://sealevel.climatecentral.org/>

U.S. Transportation Secretary Foxx Announces New Initiative to Enhance Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety

Courtesy of the Federal Highway Administration

PITTSBURGH, PA – U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx today announced a new initiative to reduce the growing number of pedestrian and bicyclist injuries and fatalities through a comprehensive approach that addresses infrastructure safety, education, vehicle safety and data collection. The 18-month campaign will begin with road safety assessments conducted by U.S. Department of Transportation field offices in every state, and will produce multiple resources to help communities build streets that are safer for people walking, bicycling, and taking public transportation. Secretary Foxx made the announcement at the Pro Walk, Pro Bike, Pro Place conference, the largest gathering of, transportation engineers, city planners and professional bicycle-pedestrian safety advocates and practitioners in the country.

“Safety is our highest priority and that commitment is the same regardless of which form of transportation people choose, including walking and biking,” Secretary Foxx said. “This initiative is aimed at reversing the recent rise in deaths and injuries among the growing number of Americans who bicycle or walk to work, to reach public transportation and to other important destinations.”

Injuries and fatalities of pedestrian and people bicycling have steadily increased since 2009, at a rate higher than motor vehicle fatalities. From 2011 to 2012, pedestrian deaths rose 6 percent and bicyclist fatalities went up almost 7 percent.

The new pedestrian and bicycle safety initiative will promote design improvements to ensure safe and efficient routes for pedestrians and bicycles, promote behavioral safety, and provide education to help individuals make safer travel choices. The initiative will also encourage vehicle safety by drawing on current crash avoidance technologies to alert motorists to the presence of bicyclists and pedestrians.

Read more: <http://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDOT/bulletins/ceb80a>

News Clippings

Conservation Dollars Make a Difference In Colorado Flood Recovery

Courtesy of the Public News Service

By Stephanie Carson

LYONS, CO - The northern Front Range is still in the midst of recovering from last September's record flooding, but the recovery and rebuilding effort is benefitting from a tool some may find surprising: the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund.

Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) money is being used to help recreation-dependant Lyons rebuild flood-damaged park facilities and trails. Senator Mark Udall says funding can also be used to reclaim private land in danger of being flooded in the future.

"It's given us another tool to work with Mother Nature," says Udall. "So in the future when we have floods, which we will, we'll be better prepared. The mantra here is we're going to build better and stronger."

A report released this month by Trout Unlimited highlights the investments the LWCF has made to help avoid millions of dollars in property damage in last year's floods.

Read more: <http://tinyurl.com/mhewb6k>

In Harahan, can a private golf course become a public park?

Courtesy of nola.com

By Adriane Quinlan

LOUISIANA - In the years before a private golf course closed in Harahan, city planner Steve Villavaso began to hear residents at community meetings making a strange request. They asked officials to save the golf course in order to "preserve our open space," Villavaso recalled.

"That was an interesting outcry, because it never was open space; it was a private golf course,

an exclusive country club that cost \$25,000 to join," Villavaso said. "I always thought that was an interesting myth, that there was open space and public space known as Colonial Country Club, and the citizens wanted to preserve it."

And official efforts to rezone the 88 acres to "parks and recreation," which would bar most construction on the site, were scuttled by the club's owners; they were trying to sell the property in bankruptcy proceedings.

But in a strange turn of events, it was the sale of Colonial Golf and Country Club to a pair of private owners, the J.W. Colonial Group partnership of John Georges and Wayne Ducote, that made the myth a reality - at least temporarily.

In 2012, J.W. Colonial bought the property for \$8.5 million, envisioning a commercial strip along 15 acres of its north edge. To move on that required a zoning change from the City Council, however, and as the site sat in limbo awaiting council approval and a development plan, the owners were forced to meet code regulations and cut the grass. They never bothered to build a fence or post "no trespassing signs," so the land became, by default, exactly what development opponents wanted, a veritable public park streaming with joggers, Frisbee flingers, dog walkers and even a few golfers who still used the course to practice.

Whether it remains so - and how long -- is an open question.

Read more: http://www.nola.com/politics/index.ssf/2014/09/in_harahan_can_a_private_golf.html

City issues are environmental issues. Here's why.

Courtesy of Switchboard.nrdc.org

By Kaid Benfield

Cities need nature, as I wrote in an earlier essay. But what is not so well understood is that nature also needs cities. There is simply no way we can protect and maintain a beautiful, thriving, natural and rural landscape outside of cities if we continue to spread highways and suburban sprawl across the countryside. Healthy, robust, beautiful cities where people want to live are critical to the protection of nature.

To paraphrase my friend Trisha (who coined the phrase that became the title of my latest book), natural habitat needs a corresponding strong "people habitat," so that people are drawn to our own places, and enjoy but do not permanently infringe upon those extraordinary places where humans remain secondary to other parts of nature.

I've been reflecting on these subjects because this year marks the 50th anniversary of the landmark federal Wilderness Act of 1964. That very important law is eloquent in its recognition of natural places:

“A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain.”

In between cities and true wilderness is the “working landscape” of rural America – farms, forests, fisheries, rangeland, and more – where humans must act as stewards of the land’s natural resources. We need our rural landscape and its bounty to be sustained in order to survive harmoniously into the future.

I love cities in large part because I love the natural and rural landscape.

Read more: http://switchboard.nrdc.org/blogs/kbenfield/urban_issues_are_environmental.html

Coalition: Can State Water Plan Sustain Colorado Recreation Economy?

Courtesy of the Public News Service

By Tommy Hough and Chris Thomas

GLENWOOD SPRINGS, CO - Outdoor business leaders and conservationists are joining forces to urge Colorado to prioritize river-based recreation in the state's upcoming water plan.

As the Colorado Water Conservation Board meets Friday to discuss the first statewide water plan, the conservation and business coalition will press the state to rely on data collected around the Colorado River Basin to ensure enough water remains in rivers to sustain the region's \$12 billion recreation economy.

Nathan Fey, director of Colorado River stewardship programs at American Whitewater, said he thinks the draft plan fails to make some crucial connections.

Read more: <http://tinyurl.com/nc6nnw3>

Conservation groups snapped up large swaths of Sierra Nevada during

recession

Courtesy of the Sacramento Bee

By Hudson Sangree

CALIFORNIA - The catastrophic collapse in real estate prices that started in 2007 left more than a legacy of mass foreclosures in the Sacramento region; it also left vast expanses of newly preserved open space in the Sierra Nevada that the public can use for recreation.

Depressed land prices allowed private conservation groups to snap up thousands of acres, much of which had once been planned for housing. The properties stretch along the Interstate 80 corridor from the crest of the mountains to the town of Truckee, north to the Feather River and south toward Lake Tahoe. The parcels form a quasi-public park system – one owned by nonprofit groups but accessible to the public, mostly free of charge.

“Increasingly, land protected for the public benefit is owned by private charitable organizations,” said Tom Mooers, executive director of Sierra Watch, a Nevada City-based group that’s played a leading role in recent conservation efforts.

The nonprofits’ holdings include the 3,000-acre Royal Gorge cross-country ski resort. Developers paid \$35 million for the property at the height of the housing bubble in 2005 and planned to build 950 condominiums and single-family houses. Then the market collapsed, making the arduous task of building atop Donner Summit infeasible.

The Bay Area developers who owned the land were ready to unload it, and conservation groups were eager to buy. They agreed to pay \$11.25 million in the summer of 2011, near the bottom of the real estate market.

Read more: <http://www.sacbee.com/2014/09/06/6685151/conservation-groups-snapped-up.html>

When Adding Bike Lanes Actually Reduces Traffic Delays

Courtesy of CityLab

By Eric Jaffe

A big reason for opposition to bike lanes is that, according to the rules of traffic engineering, they lead to car congestion. The metric determining this outcome (known as "level of service") is quite complicated, but its underlying logic is simple: less road space for automobiles means more

delay at intersections. Progressive cities have pushed back against this conventional belief—California, in particular, has led the charge against level of service—but it remains an obstacle to bike lanes (and multi-modal streets more broadly) across the country.

But the general wisdom doesn't tell the whole story here. On the contrary, smart street design can eliminate many of the traffic problems anticipated by alternative mode elements like bike lanes. A new report on protected bike lanes released by the New York City Department of Transportation offers a great example of how rider safety can be increased even while car speed is maintained.

Rather than increase delay for cars, the protected bike lanes on Columbus actually improved travel times in the corridor. According to city figures, the average car took about four-and-a-half minutes to go from 96th to 77th before the bike lanes were installed, and three minutes afterward—a 35 percent decrease in travel time. This was true even as total vehicle volume on the road remained pretty consistent. In simpler terms, everybody wins.

Read more: <http://www.citylab.com/cityfixer/2014/09/when-adding-bike-lanes-actually-reduces-traffic-delays/379623/>

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 October 16.

If you have news or an article to share, please send it to Brenda@nacpro.org by October 15.

Editor: Brenda Adams-Weyant

Tel: (814) 927-8212

Fax: (814) 927-6659

Email: brenda@nacpro.org

NACPRO
PO Box 74
Marienville, Pennsylvania 16239
US

