



NACPRO News

November 11, 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

Seeking a Job Description for Deputy Director

The Johnson County Park and Recreation District is in the process of developing a job description for a new Deputy Director position to be hired in the spring. Can anyone that has such a position send me a copy of the job description? Thank you in advance for your

assistance on this matter.

Bill Maasen

913-826-3437

bill.maasen@jocogov.org

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

Election 2014: Proposition P failure leaves Los Angeles County parks funding in the lurch

Courtesy of the LA Daily News

By David Montero

Voters rejected a ballot measure that would've continued paying for park maintenance and capital projects throughout Los Angeles County, a decision that now leaves the future of such long-term funding murky.

Proposition P needed the high threshold of a two-thirds vote to pass but has so far only reached 62 percent, according to unofficial results released by the Los Angeles County Registrar on Wednesday.

The measure sought to set a flat tax on landowners in the county — a \$23 assessment — to continue a revenue stream of \$54 million annually for developing and keeping up trails, park maintenance, beach clean-up and park construction in low-income areas. It was the only countywide measure on the ballot.

The current tax that supported this was passed in 1992 and a supplementary one added in 1996 are set to expire next year and in 2018, respectively. Both were based on a weighted tax system that used a complicated formula tied to a location's proximity to parks.

Parks and Recreation Director Russ Guiney said with the loss of revenue next year, the department would look at where to scale back on park maintenance covered by the expiring tax

money.

Read more: <http://www.dailynews.com/government-and-politics/20141105/election-2014-proposition-p-failure-leaves-los-angeles-county-parks-funding-in-the-lurch>

Washtenaw County voters give green light to tax renewals for parks, public safety and roads

Courtesy of mlive.com

By Ben Freed

Washtenaw County voters overwhelmingly approved a proposal that will allow the county's Board of Commissioners to levy a tax supporting the region's park system.

As of 1 a.m. Wednesday, more than 80 percent of precincts in the county had reported their votes and the proposal had support from more than two-thirds of the counted votes.

A millage for maintaining parkland and recreation areas in the county was scheduled to expire after December 1, 2016. The passage of the resolution will allow for the county's board to extend the tax--not exceeding a quarter of a mill--for an additional 10 years.

Read more: http://www.mlive.com/news/ann-arbor/index.ssf/2014/11/washtenaw_county_voters_give_g.html

Gwinnett County Parks and Rec Named No. 1 Agency in Georgia

Courtesy of the Dacula Patch

By Scott Bernarde

Gwinnett County Parks and Recreations, which operates 46 parks and centers in the county, has been named the top large parks agency in Georgia.

The department, which was named tops among agencies serving populations of more than 150,000 residents, was honored by the Georgia Recreation and Park Association at its annual conference last weekend in Jekyll Island.

Read more: <http://patch.com/georgia/dacula/gwinnett-county-parks-and-rec-named-no-1-agency-georgia-0>

Raising Outdoor Kids: Miami Valley, OH

Courtesy of GP RED

Looking for a way to explore the outdoors with youth through history, conservation, and nature but not sure how to start? Check out Ohio's Five Rivers MetroParks for some inspiration!

GP RED got to know the folks at Five Rivers MetroParks and the Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission last summer while teaching a Safe Routes to Play workshop, with a mountain bike ride in the rain as a bonus!

Five Rivers MetroParks offers outdoor education kits for local educators and youth group leaders with topics ranging from birds to farm and agriculture to wetlands and aquatics. The kits emphasize hands-on activities and exercises and include materials such as field guides, books, CDs, posters, and scientific tools. The best part? They're free! The kits operate on a borrowing system. Simply deposit \$25 when you rent a kit, use it for up to two weeks, and then return the kit to receive your \$25 refund. Learn more here.:

<http://www.metroparks.org/GetEducated/EducationKits.aspx>

Create your own education kit! There's no limit to the types of natural areas you can learn and play in with children. Don't hesitate: dig up some tools and materials of your own and get out there.

News from the National Association of Counties

Registration is open for the 2015 NACo Legislative Conference

REGISTRATION IS OPEN. Join us at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel in Washington, D.C. February 21-25, 2015 and register online now to get the lowest registration price available.

The NACo Legislative Conference focuses on timely and pressing federal policy issues that have an impact on America's county governments. Attendees help shape NACo's policy priorities and positions, advancing our message to key federal decision makers, and receive training on the latest information and tools.

This year's conference features new and exciting topics and professional development workshops, including an innovative track for newly elected officials. All workshops will cover cutting-edge solutions to help you lead your county.

For more information:

<http://www.naco.org/meetings/participate/LegislativeConference/Pages/Legislative-Conference.aspx>

Webinar: BLM Planning 2.0

Thursday, November 13, 2014 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM EST

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is pleased to announce an upcoming webinar for local officials to learn about and provide input into the BLM Planning 2.0 Initiative. Through this initiative, BLM hopes to improve the land use planning process so that they can more effectively plan across landscapes and at multiple scales and be more responsive to environmental and social change.

As the BLM continues to develop and update its resource management plans, input from local and state officials is a key part of its collaborative planning effort. During this session, BLM will provide an overview of its Planning 2.0 initiative as well as facilitate a group discussion on methods to improve the BLM's planning process.

For more information: <https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/979903674>

News from the National Recreation and Park Association

NRPA Issues Call for Sessions Proposals

NRPA is inviting all interested speakers to submit an education session proposal for our annual conference, seminars, online webinars, and/or online chats. We are seeking dynamic speakers and leaders who can share knowledge, experience, and best practice techniques related to the work of parks and recreation. We recommend that you review all of the information provided on this page and on the pages in the Related Information section to the right on this webpage prior to submitting your proposal.

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

Apply for a Building Better Communities Grant

In partnership with the American Water Charitable Foundation (AWCF), NRPA is pleased to announce the continuation of grants to build nature-based play areas and promote water stewardship education in select communities. The Building Better Communities program awards grants in the range of \$50,000 to \$150,000 for projects creating natural play areas and nature-based playgrounds. The list of eligible communities and grant requirements is available in the grant application.

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

New Research and Resources

GP RED Research Brief: Walkability Standards

By Robby Layton, FASLA, PLA, CPRP

The increasing interest in walking as a healthy and sustainable means of getting around highlights a need to fill the gaps in what is known about walking as a form of transportation. Planners have traditionally relied on normative standards rather than ones based on evidence to determine time and distance relationships associated with walkability. This paper reports the results of an activity designed to test basic assumptions about walking speed and distance in the built environment and provides suggested guidelines for use in planning for walkability.

Determining how far apart to space things like parks, trails and transit stops has a direct bearing on the cost of providing such services to the public. Placing facilities too far away may discourage people from using them, while spacing them too close together is inefficient. It is important to get it right.

Parks are a good example. Providing parks within walking distance of people's homes has long been a basic principle of urban planning. But serious study of the relationship between walking and parks has been lacking, so planners

have relied on general practices and rules of thumb, rather than standards based on research. The increasing emphasis of walking as a viable and desirable means of transportation highlights a need to fill the gaps in what is known about walking as it relates to parks and other

destinations.

Questions such as how far and how fast people walk; what influences their choices of when to walk and where to walk; and other behavioral aspects of walking have relevance to an expanding cadre of people interested in walking.

Read more: <http://gpred.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/GP-Red-Walkability-Standards-Final-sm-3.pdf>

Nature Trails, Nature Preserves & Physical Activity

Courtesy of GP RED

Researchers at the University of Missouri and University of Minnesota suggest that access to nature preserves alone are not enough to encourage youth to be active outside. By comparing youth activity rates and youth obesity rates throughout Minnesota to the amount of public non-motorized nature trails, motorized nature trails, nature preserves, parklands and forest lands, the results showed that youth access to forest lands and nature trails provide more opportunities to exercise which in turn can decrease rates of obesity.

Sonja Wilhelm Stanis, an associate professor of parks, recreation, and tourism in the MU College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources stated, "This research shows the importance of diversifying the types of public lands available to community residents, especially in communities that struggle with high obesity rates among their youth."

For more information: <http://tinyurl.com/mx55ozg>

On-Water Standards Team Launches Website

Courtesy of River Management Society

The U.S. Coast Guard's On-Water Standards grant management team is pleased to announce the launch of a project website launched Monday, October 20, 2014. This resource will serve as the new home of all things On-Water Standards Project related to improve the overall level of safety and enjoyment people experience on our nation's waterways. Subject matter experts (SMEs) from across the Sail, Power and Human-propelled recreational boating community have been working via U.S. Coast Guard grant funding to develop a voluntary, consensus-based National System of Standards for Recreational Boat Operation. Lead by the SME Team, the recreational boating education community has been helping to develop and test entry-level skill-

based standards for recreational boating safety course developers, instructors, and recreational boating enthusiasts.

For more information: <http://www.onwaterstandards.org/>

News Clippings

Park Police to Hikers: Stop Taking Selfies with Bears

Courtesy of SFWeekly.com

By Erin Sherbert

The fact that hikers didn't know this already makes it news. Either that or a potential Darwin Award.

For whatever reason, Tahoe hikers have taken on a new dangerous pastime of snapping selfies with the physically powerful predators. We get it: bears are cute, but a cranky, hungry bear is not.

National Parks officials have been spreading the word through local media, explaining that taking selfies with bears is not the best idea, seeing how bears are unpredictable, wild, and fully prepared to attack if bothered.

Read more: <http://www.sfweekly.com/thesnitch/2014/10/27/park-police-to-hikers-stop-taking-selfies-with-bears>

Tuesday's Election: A Record Day for Land Conservation

Courtesy of the Huffington Post

By Will Rogers

Politicians, pundits and public officials are looking at Tuesday's election results, to parse exactly what messages the voters were sending.

But one clear message was delivered: Americans cherish land and water and want to protect the special places they hold dear. And they sent that message most clearly in three large states --

Florida, New Jersey and California --approving record spending to protect land and water.

Voters approved 35 local and statewide measures, generating a record \$13 billion in funding for conservation purposes.

Read more: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/will-rogers/tuesdays-election-a-recor_b_6107924.html?utm_hp_ref=green

A 64-Mile Bike 'Superhighway' Will Connect Fort Worth To Dallas

Courtesy of keranews.org

By Stephanie Kuo

Bicyclists in car country just got some good news: Transportation planners took a \$7 million dollar step toward a commuter bike and pedestrian trail reaching from downtown Fort Worth to downtown Dallas.

The money approved Thursday will help build about 10 more miles of connecting trails.

As is stands today, studies rank North Texas at or near the bottom for bicycle commuting -- in one survey of the country's 70 biggest cities, Fort Worth was at No. 60, Dallas No. 65 and Plano dead last.

Urban planners and city agencies are calling it the "superhighway of bicycles." Sixty-four miles in all, the trail will run mostly along the Trinity River -- from existing bike paths in downtown Fort Worth through Arlington, then in a loop through Irving and Grand Prairie and finishing off on the new Trinity Skyline Trail in Downtown Dallas.

Read more: <http://keranews.org/post/64-mile-bike-superhighway-will-connect-fort-worth-dallas>

Additions along new All-Sensory Trail stir all five senses

Courtesy of the Baltimore Sun

By Barbara Pash

Guide ropes line a path that loops in a gentle circle for one-tenth of a mile. Large rocks punctuate

the path. Planting boxes are set high off the ground for pedestrians to smell the herbs and feel the foliage.

Drums stand tall enough to touch. Pipe bells swing musically in the breeze.

The first All-Sensory Trail in Maryland state parks officially opened Oct. 16. Located in the Hilton Area of Patapsco Valley State Park, it is designed for the visually impaired.

Almost a year's worth of effort and consulting with experts went into every detail. Even so, it remains a work in progress.

The All-Sensory Trail is a partnership between DNR and the National Park Service. The National Park Foundation's Active Trails Program funded it with a \$24,000 grant.

There is no national model for sensory trails. Pam Schirmer, of the Maryland School for the Blind, has visited a few in other states. She has attended a conference given by the American Therapeutic Horticultural Association.

DNR staffers had basic ideas. Schirmer had examples of sensory aspects that the students liked, gleaned from the Maryland School for the Blind's gardening program that she runs.

Read more: <http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/maryland/baltimore-county/catonsville/ph-ca-sensory-trail-1015-20141029-story.html>

How Memphis Became a Great Bicycle City

Courtesy of The Atlantic City Lab

By Eric Jaffe

When you think of Memphis, you probably think of Elvis, FedEx, or maybe on a more somber note, the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. So you might be surprised to learn that Memphis is also becoming one of America's great bicycle towns.

A quick bio on Memphis: Years of interstate expansion, urban renewal, and white middle-class flight took a big toll on the city center. City population has been on the decline, despite annexations designed to add residents. The poverty rate exceeded 28 percent as of late 2013, the highest in the nation among major metros. It's the story of so many American cities, to a slightly greater degree.

A few years ago, Memphis didn't have much going for it in the bike department, either. In 2008, Bicycling magazine named the city one of America's three worst for cycling. The following year the city ranked 69th out of 70 large U.S. cities for bike commuting—beating out only Plano, Texas. "In Memphis, bicycling was an afterthought," write Smiley and his co-authors.

Yet this changed with the 2010 opening of the Shelby Farms Greenline, a 6.5-mile rails-to-trails route for walkers and cyclists that runs through the center of town. Despite little support from local officials, project advocates made the idea a reality through private donations and a federal grant. The greenline became an instant hit. One city council member who'd initially opposed the trail said "I've never been so wrong in my life"; it ranked second on a Best of Memphis 2011 list, ahead of a local appearance by Barack Obama.

Read more: <http://www.citylab.com/commute/2014/10/how-memphis-became-a-great-bicycle-city/382061/>

Sharp Park course switches to recycled water as city hits savings goal

Courtesy of the San Francisco Examiner

By Chris Roberts

Sharp Park Golf Course in Pacifica, one of six courses in the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department's portfolio, will no longer use Hetch Hetchy drinking water to irrigate its greens and keep its fairways clean starting today.

City-owned Sharp Park is now on recycled water, delivered to the seaside golf course from a Pacifica wastewater recycling plant at nearby Calera Creek, officials announced Monday. Of The City's six public golf courses, both TPC Harding Park -- which has hosted major champions like Tiger Woods and PGA Tour events in the past -- and Sharp Park are now using nonpotable water, as water has become all the more precious as the California drought enters its fourth year.

Read more: <http://www.sfexaminer.com/sanfrancisco/sharp-park-course-switches-to-recycled-water-as-city-hits-savings-goal/Content?oid=2910414>

Training Opportunities

Request for Presentations - 2015 National Outdoor Recreation Conference

April 12-16, 2015 – Annapolis, Maryland

The Society of Outdoor Recreation Professionals (SORP) and the Northeast Recreation Research Symposium (NERR) are proud to join forces and present the 2015 National Outdoor Recreation Conference. This year we are seeking presentations from outdoor recreation professionals (e.g., planners, managers, academics, etc.) and students that demonstrate how you or your organization are celebrating the past, while addressing and crafting the future of outdoor recreation. Tell us about your research projects, creative approaches to current and future challenges, modern vision for outdoor recreation, innovative partnerships, new and exciting collaborations, use of technology, entrepreneurial solutions, cultivating political and community support, and other case studies that present new ideas and tools that contribute and create a lasting and sustainable future for outdoor recreation.

Please submit your proposals online by November 26, 2014.

For more information: www.recpro.org/2015-conference

Webinar: Crowdsourcing Cyclist and Pedestrian Activity Data

Courtesy of the Federal Lands Transportation Institute

Date: January 20, 2015

Time: 12:00 pm to 1:30 pm ET

Cost: \$100 members/ \$125 non-members

Organization: Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE)

Crowdsourcing tools and crowdsourced data are resources that can help planners understand travel behavior trends; inventory and assess the built environment; make modal and navigational recommendations; identify improvement opportunities; and forecast future needs and conditions. Spurred in large part by advances in social computing technologies, many crowdsourcing tools are emerging from efforts led by tech-savvy planners to find creative ways to engage communities and gather information. These new developments in data collection are being harnessed and integrated into planning projects focusing on facilitating mobility, managing resources, improving health and safety, and meeting other objectives of active transportation planning. This webinar will provide examples of how crowdsourcing applications and crowdsourced data are currently being applied, as well as potential new uses for active transportation research and planning efforts of various types.

For more information: <http://ecommerce.ite.org/IMIS/ItemDetail?iProductCode=PD-W17>

Webinar: Protect What You Love: Water Trail Ambassador and Stewardship Programs

Courtesy of American Trails

Date: Thursday, January 22, 2015

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

The best water trails link outdoor recreation to conservation and stewardship opportunities. This a symbiotic relationship between recreating on waterways and protecting them doesn't occur without effort. This webinar will explore water trail ambassador programs from coast to coast.

Presenters will detail two programs that train and deploy volunteer ambassadors to raise awareness around watershed protection. Additionally, a "Best of the Rest" presentation will highlight a number of short-term and long-term stewardship efforts around the country. The webinar will explore all levels of ambassador and stewardship programs, ranging from single-day clean-ups to ongoing efforts.

For more information: <http://www.americantrails.org/resources/water/webinar-water-trail-stewardship.html>

Youth, Nature and Play - 2015 Conferences on That will Inspire and Motivate

Courtesy of GP RED

The **US Play Coalition** will host a conference on the Value of Play February 15-18, 2015 in Clemson, South Carolina featuring six tracks: Education, Programming, Park and Recreation, Health, Business/Corporate, and Children's Museums. A great opportunity to play, network, and collaborate with your peers in play research and best practices. **For more information:** <http://usplaycoalition.clemson.edu/index.php>

The **Children and Nature Network Conference** will take place in Austin, Texas April 7-9, 2015.

A transdisciplinary gathering offering the latest research and policies, national speakers, and author Richard Louv (Last Child in the Woods and The Nature Principle: Reconnecting With Life in a Virtual Age). Early bird registration is available now through December 1, 2014. **For more information:** <http://www.childrenandnature.org/site/conference2015/>

Consider heading to San Diego, California October 14-18, 2015 for the 45th **North American Association for Environmental Education Conference & Research Symposium** with sessions on sustainability, biodiversity, agriculture, and climate change. Plenty of field trips, hands on experiences and luminaries from the field of environmental education. **For more information:** <http://www.naaee.net/conference/planning>

Advance your knowledge at the **Association for Experiential Education International Conference** in Portland, Oregon October 22-15, 2015 with a global, multi-sector attendance list and diverse education programs-many of them, you guessed it, experiential! **For more information:** <http://www.aee.org/international-conference>

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 December 2.

If you have news or an article to share, please send it to Brenda@nacpro.org by December 1.

Editor: Brenda Adams-Weyant

Tel: (814) 927-8212

Fax: (814) 927-6659

Email: brenda@nacpro.org

NACPRO
PO Box 74
Marienville, Pennsylvania 16239
US

[Read](#) the VerticalResponse marketing policy.

vertical DELIVERED BY
response
Try It Free Today!