



## News from NARRP

*This content is generated by members for members. Please send us your news, reports, job announcements, manuals and personal updates that may be of interest to other members.*

### The National Association of Recreation Resource Planners

#### Request from a Member

New York is in the process of updating the SCORP and is considering utilizing an outside source to conduct the General Citizen Survey instead doing it in-house, which was the method used for the past few SCORPs. I am looking for information from other states who have utilized consultant services. In particular:

1. Consultant (Firm, university, etc.)
  - a. Name
  - b. Address
  - c. Contact
  - d. Telephone
  - e. E-mail
2. Type of Survey
  - a. Telephone
  - b. Interview
  - c. Mail
  - d. Internet
3. Sample Size of Survey
4. Response Rate
5. Services Provided by Consultant
  - a. Follow-up to non respondents
  - b. Analysis of data
  - c. Other
6. Cost
7. Performance of Consultant
8. Comments

A sample of the survey utilized would be useful.

Other states may be interested in the results of this inquiry, so I'll summarize the results and make them available to all NARRP members.

Thanks,  
Bob Reinhardt  
New York State Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation  
518-474-0415  
robert.reinhardt@oprhp.state.ny.us

# Distance Learning for Natural Resources Professionals

## **Consensus and Natural Resources (FOR485/584)(Oregon State University)**

Dr. Anita Morzillo uses a working group approach for this class, available at both the graduate and undergraduate level. Students will select a natural resource topic, study the team process and interaction as a method of learning, explore the issue using systems practice, and strive for consensus on solutions to their issue.

Summer I quarter begins June 21.

For more information: <http://www.nrdlc.org/course.php?id=332>

## **American Wilderness Philosophy and Policy (FOR560)(University of Montana)**

This graduate course provides a broad perspective of what wilderness is and how the idea developed, and exposes the student to some of the differing values, ethics, and expectations of wilderness held by society. Students will examine the early history of wilderness preservation that ultimately led to federal protection in the Wilderness Act and subsequent legislation, including how each agency applies these laws. Legislation since 1964 and how each agency applies these laws are also discussed. An excellent course for managers and students interested in obtaining a firm academic foundation in wilderness philosophy and ethics.

University of Montana courses are offered using rolling registration.

For more information: <http://www.nrdlc.org/course.php?id=289>

## **Wetlands Restoration (FISH540)(University of Idaho)**

Graduate students will wade into wetland science, restoration ecology, freshwater restoration, coastal restoration, and monitoring/maintenance. The emphasis is on the science of wetland ecosystems and the applied ecology/practice of restoration, with additional consideration of cultural and socio-political contexts. Extensive readings, an assignment, and a study guide are required for each module. Students apply their learning in and contribute relevant professional experience to weekly online discussions. Students are also be responsible for obtaining documentation of at least one wetland restoration site in their region and conducting a site visit in order to evaluate the success of the restoration project.

Fall semester begins August 23.

For more information: <http://www.nrdlc.org/course.php?id=12>

## **Urban Ecology (NR5634)(Virginia Tech)**

Our planet is increasingly urban. Approximately 50% of the world's people now live in urban areas. In many regions of the world, the rate of urbanization is declining; however, individual cities, metropolitan regions, and urban areas continue to grow (in number, extent and population). In this context, urban ecology is an important approach to environmental science and sustainable development. Dr. David Robertson will lead students in an exploration of key questions: What is an urban ecosystem? Are cities sustainable environments? What are civic stakeholders, local communities, and global society doing to ensure that urban and urbanizing landscapes are healthy and desirable places for today's world?

Fall semester begins August 23.

For more information: <http://www.nrdlc.org/course.php?id=57>

## Call For Proposals – George Wright Society

Rethinking Protected Areas in a Changing World: The 2011 George Wright Society Conference on Parks, Protected Areas, and Cultural Sites

March 14-18, 2011 - New Orleans, Louisiana

Now accepting abstracts - Deadline: September 30, 2010

Conference website: <http://www.georgewright.org/gws2011>

We invite you to join us in New Orleans the week of March 14-18, 2011, for Rethinking Protected Areas in a Changing World, the biennial George Wright Society Conference on Parks, Protected Areas, and Cultural Sites. GWS2011 is all about reflection, reconnection, and renewal - a week of stimulating discussion about leading-edge research, innovative practices, and foundational values.

Every two years, the George Wright Society organizes the USA's premier interdisciplinary professional meeting on parks, protected areas, and cultural sites. By these three overlapping terms we mean a broad array of places, both cultural and natural, managed by different entities under a variety of designations:

- parks at all levels: federal, state/provincial, county, and city
- historic, archaeological, and other cultural sites; cultural landscapes; protected landscapes/seascapes
- research areas and designated wilderness within national and state forests; other designated protected natural areas
- grasslands, wildlife refuges, and other protected public lands
- areas and sites administered by tribal nations and/or indigenous people; community-conserved areas; sacred natural sites
- marine protected areas; estuarine, freshwater, and other aquatic sanctuaries
- private land-trust reserves

The GWS is unique among professional organizations because our mission is to encourage dialogue and information exchange among all the people needed for protected area conservation, across all disciplines. In recent years, 800-1,000 people have attended.

Want to share your work, your ideas, your ideals with the larger parks community? The GWS conference is the place to do it. We welcome abstracts from people who would like to:

Organize a Session of Invited Papers

- Organize a Panel Discussion
- Organize a Day-Capper
- Organize a Sharing Circle
- Organize a Workshop

- Organize an Affinity Meeting
- Organize a Business Meeting
- Present a Paper
- Present a Poster
- Present an Exhibit

To submit an abstract, go to <http://www.georgewright.org/gws2011> and follow the links. The deadline for abstracts is September 30.

GWS2011 is your chance to catch up with old friends and colleagues, make important new contacts, discuss the latest innovations in park management, stay current with research findings in your field, and connect with people who share your core values. Plan to join us in New Orleans!

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## **Urban Green, by Peter Harnik**

*Courtesy of the Trust for Public Land*

Ever seen a park over a freeway? On a rooftop? In a cemetery? What about replacing an old railroad track -- or even supplanting an old airport? In *Urban Green: Innovative Parks for Resurgent Cities*, TPL's Peter Harnik shows that there's room for parks even in America's most "built-out" urban centers -- you just need to know where to look. He also discusses the pitfalls of relying on traditional "planning standards" to determine how much parkland a city should have. Harnik draws on his experience as director of the Center for City Park Excellence to explore the frontier of urban park design and advocacy.

To order: [http://www.tpl.org/tier3\\_cd.cfm?content\\_item\\_id=23509&folder\\_id=188](http://www.tpl.org/tier3_cd.cfm?content_item_id=23509&folder_id=188)

## **President Obama and State Governors Proclaim June as Great Outdoors Month**

*Courtesy of American Recreation Coalition*

Washington, D.C. – President Barack Obama and nearly all of America's governors have proclaimed June as Great Outdoors Month. The proclamations, requested by a coalition of outdoor recreation and conservation organizations, celebrate the many special events held during June, including National Trails Day®, National Fishing and Boating Week, National Get Outdoors Day, National Marina Day and the Great American Backyard Campout, and the benefits of time outdoors to the health of Americans, young and old.

President Obama's proclamation states, "America's vast and varied outdoor spaces are a

source of great national pride, and we have long strived to protect them for future generations. Our lands provide countless opportunities for exploration, recreation, and reflection, whether in solitude or with family and friends. During Great Outdoors Month, we renew our enduring commitment to protect our natural landscapes, to enjoy them and to promote active lifestyles for ourselves and our children.” Referring to America’s great outdoor spaces, the proclamation goes on to say, “These places are especially important today, as an increasing number of Americans, especially children, fall into unhealthy sedentary lifestyles.”

The proclamation highlights current Administration efforts to get Americans healthier through outdoor activity, like the recently launched America’s Great Outdoors Initiative to protect natural landscapes and reconnect Americans to the outdoors, and the First Lady’s Let’s Move effort to help children eat more nutritious foods, lead healthier lives, and increase their physical activity. More information on these initiatives is available at: [www.DOI.gov/AmericasGreatOutdoors](http://www.DOI.gov/AmericasGreatOutdoors) and [www.LetsMove.gov](http://www.LetsMove.gov).

The gubernatorial Great Outdoors Month proclamations began four years ago, although 2010 marks the greatest number of proclamations ever issued. While the state proclamations vary in emphasis and reflect key state features, most praise volunteerism, the power of outdoor recreation to contribute to happier, healthier lifestyles, and the legacy of parks and public lands and waters.

## **Parks, Playgrounds and Physical Activity**

*Courtesy of [planetizen.com](http://planetizen.com)*

By Tim Halbur

Do parks succeed in making people more active? What works and what doesn't when designing and maintaining a park? A recent study by Active Living Research pulls together all the available research. Tim Halbur talks with the man behind the study, Andrew J. Mowen.

The 'synthesis', titled Parks, Playgrounds, and Active Living, was commissioned by Active Living Research, a national program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Andrew J. Mowen, associate professor at the Pennsylvania State University in the Dept. of Recreation, Park and Tourism Management, explained the purpose of the project. Managing Editor Tim Halbur talked with Mowen in May 2010.

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**MOWEN:** What they were looking for was a summary of the evidence base that have examined the relationship/impact of parks and playgrounds on physical activity. There has been a movement to understand the health role of parks, or re-understanding that because we've always understood that even at the inception of the parks movement in the late 19th century. But there's a revived interest in this issue with the obesity epidemic, with the majority of Americans being physically inactive. So they wanted to understand, what do we really know about parks and physical activity?

**TH:** Are parks that are shaped for certain activities – trails, tennis courts, soccer fields – more likely to result in people getting exercise? Or are the more Olmsted-inspired open space just as likely to inspire activity?

**MOWEN:** If you look at raw levels of physical activity – that is, energy expenditures – yes, parks

that have more features such as trails, trail connectors to get to the parks, playground features, sport courts, etc., those do tend to result in higher levels of energy expenditure in them. However, those other parks, what we would consider "passive parks" that are more about reflection and contemplation, are also resulting in healthy activities. The activity levels may be moderate, certainly studies have shown that just being outdoors, as opposed to being indoors, corresponds with activity levels. So the simple act of going to a park that's passive, or may be more nature-focused, is still a net positive. Particularly if a larger percentage of the population uses those parks.

TH: You mentioned "trail connectors." That's something I feel like I don't see all that often in urban settings, except in term of Rails to Trails parks, or some of the Olmsted plans.

MOWEN: Trail connectors are becoming a little more common, which is great, because studies show that transportation to parks is a real constraint on park usage, particularly with low-income and minority families. When people have to drive to get to a park, they're less likely to use it. So pedestrian/bicycle connectors is one strategy to get people to parks, and the side benefit of that is that if you're walking 10-15 minutes through your neighborhood to get to a park, that adds to your recommended level of physical activity. You don't even have to be active in that park, it could be a place that you go to meet friends or contemplate. So there has been a lot of promotion of the idea of building more travel routes and trail connectors in these areas.

You take a city such as Cleveland, which is where I used to live. They're working on building trail connectors to their urban parks so it is easier for different neighborhoods to access them. They're calling it an infill strategy, but basically they're reusing land that has been underused and they're converting those into trails and paths.

TH: Cities have been aware for a very long time that there is a lack of park space in low-income neighborhoods. Has that improved at all?

MOWEN: I don't have any definitive evidence that it has improved. My perception is that it has improved because of the amount of focus that non-profit and public sector organizations have been placing on revitalizing city parks. For example, the Trust for Public Land has a program called The Center for City Park Excellence. They're doing a lot to increase capacity in these urban areas not only of park land but the amount of open space/recreational facilities that are accessible to anyone.

For example, in New York City, school grounds are locked after hours. You can't use school grounds for any purpose, including playgrounds. Mayor Bloomberg has pushed this effort called PlayNYC to unlock those school grounds for public use, which benefits low-income neighborhoods and families near those schools and provides a quicker way of getting access to recreational facilities.

TH: You also talk about how safety and aesthetics encourage greater use.

MOWEN: Well, the early evidence that we have isn't showing a strong connection between safety and the number of visitors. Although if you ask people about place that they feel are safe and whether they use them, there's a high correspondence there. It just seems intuitive that you wouldn't be using a place that you don't perceive as safe.

As far as aesthetics, a lot of that gets to the condition of the facilities, and here's where I see the real disparity in terms of lower-income communities and their use of parks. Not only are there

fewer parks for this population, but the condition of those parks seems to be more challenging. It really takes a lot of support from local organizations, whether it's neighborhood associations or volunteers or the actual maintenance staff, to keep these parks maintained.

TH: The report says that the size of the park doesn't have a significant impact on the physical activity levels. Is that right?

MOWEN: Yes, one study found that large parks are no more likely than small parks to be used for physical activity. And I think it really depends on the activity opportunities that you have at these places. If you have a large regional park that is more of a nature preserve/open space and you don't have active features like a trail network in there, then it may not attract high levels of moderate-to-vigorous activity. Nor does it necessarily mean it's going to attract a larger number of visitors. It's really the opportunities present at the park that can drive that visitation level, that can drive that activity level. But by no means am I against large regional conservation parks, they serve their own purpose and have a strong ecological/environmental role to play, which is a different side of public health.

TH: What's your favorite park, and why?

MOWEN: Well, I'll stay local to my community. There is a park I prefer in my home town here, and it's called Circleville Park. It's a regional park, and what I like about it is that it has a trail network that goes through the entire park. I think it's about 20-30 acres. And there are sports fields, pavilions, playgrounds, softball courts, there's even a disc golf course that goes through it. And there are places for reflection, and there are a lot agricultural fields surrounding the park. So you can go to different parts of the park and have totally different experiences, plus you can see the different types of park goes as you're walking around the trail. It's just a great little place to go and easy to get to.

## **Deal Reached to Reopen Closed State Parks**

By Andy Newman

Just in time for the ritual lighting of the grills this weekend, the governor and the Legislature reached an agreement to reopen the 58 state parks and historic sites that closed last week, casualties of the state's budget crisis.

Gov. David A. Paterson told a WOR-AM radio host, John Gambling, Thursday morning that the staff members "worked until about 4 o'clock in the morning" and appear to have resolved the issues about the state parks." The Legislature still needs to approve the measure, but Austin Shafran, a spokesman for the State Senate Democratic leader, John L. Sampson, said at 4 p.m. that the Senate had received the draft of the legislation and was reviewing it.

"We have the framework of the agreement in place to reopen the parks this weekend and for the remainder of the year," Mr. Shafran said. "Our conference is reviewing the specific details and are hopeful to pass the legislation shortly" – possibly as soon as Thursday evening. A spokeswoman for the Assembly leadership said that legislation was "close."

Wednesday night's marathon horse-trading session, the governor's staff said, involved the Legislature agreeing to an overall \$77 million reduction in the budget's Environmental Protection

Fund, which pays for a host of outdoors-related programs. The fund's budget for land acquisition, for example, which was \$59 million last year, is zero under the agreement, an official in the governor's office said.

The deal, reported Thursday by The Daily News, freed up \$11 million needed to reopen closed parks, including Bayswater Point State Park in the Rockaways, and restore slashed programs at other parks, including at Riverbank State Park on the Hudson River in Harlem.

## **Report: 15 National Parks, Other Natural Areas Most At Risk From Bp Oil Blowout Identified**

*Courtesy of americasstateparks.com*

by Rocky Mountain Climate Organization (RMCO) and the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)

WASHINGTON, D.C. From Padre Island National Seashore in Texas to the Everglades National Park in Florida, the 15 national parks, wildlife refuges and state parks in Gulf states most threatened by the ongoing BP oil blowout are identified in a new report from the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) and the Rocky Mountain Climate Organization (RMCO).

The new NRDC/RMCO report, "Special Places at Risk in the Gulf: Effects of the BP Oil Catastrophe," lists the following 15 top national and state parks and wildlife areas at risk to contamination because of the BP oil blowout:

1. Aransas National Wildlife Refuge, Texas
2. Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge, Alabama
3. Breton National Wildlife Refuge, Louisiana
4. Delta National Wildlife Refuge, Louisiana
5. Dry Tortugas National Park, Florida
6. Everglades National Park, Florida
7. Lower Suwannee National Wildlife Refuge, Florida
8. Grand Bay National Wildlife Refuge, Mississippi and Alabama
9. Gulf Islands National Seashore, Mississippi and Florida
10. John Pennkamp Coral Reef State Park, Florida
11. Key West National Wildlife Refuge, Florida
12. Padre Island National Seashore, Texas
13. Pass a Loutre Wildlife Management Area, Louisiana
14. Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge, Louisiana
15. St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge, Florida

Theo Spencer, senior advocate, Climate Center, Natural Resources Defense Council, said: "This could become America's greatest environmental disaster. Oil contamination from the explosion of BP's drilling rig threatens precious natural resources and livelihoods across the Gulf of Mexico and beyond. By highlighting special places that belong to all Americans, this report sheds light on one stark aspect of the BP disaster: our country's dangerous over-dependence on fossil fuels. That dependence threatens part of America's "Best Idea", some National Parks and other protected places with unique natural resources in a region of great natural value."

Stephen Saunders, president, Rocky Mountain Climate Organization, said: "The 15 special places highlighted in our report were chosen to include the best examples of the full range of both the protected public areas and the resources within them that are vulnerable to contamination by the BP disaster. Because the potential reach of this catastrophe is so broad, our list certainly cannot include more than a tiny fraction of what is at stake as oil continues to gush into and spread around the Gulf."

Julie Wraithmell, wildlife policy coordinator, Florida Audubon, said: "For Gulf Coast states, our coastal areas are our lifeblood, ecologically and economically. Blindingly white sand beaches where marine turtles and diminutive snowy plovers nest; vast seagrass meadows flush with redfish and trout; mangrove islands blanketed with nesting pelicans; vibrant coral reefs and cool, clear coastal springs; oyster bars and vast marshes, nurseries for the seafood that feeds a nation. These habitats were already under tremendous pressure when the Deepwater Horizon accident brought oil to our shores. It is our job now to do all we can to protect and restore our coastal wealth, and find a way forward with renewable energy policies so that as Americans we can all tell our children, "Never again," and know we can keep our promise."

Enid Sisskin, PhD, University of West Florida and board member of several local and regional environmental organizations, including the Gulf Coast Environmental Defense, the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy, and the Florida Conservation Alliance, said: "For years, the fear of the environmental catastrophe such as we are now seeing, has united Floridians in opposition to drilling near our coasts. Now we all realize that there is no place far enough away that we can be certain that the pollution and other environmentally damaging effects of drilling will spare our shores. This disaster will affect our environment and economy for many years to come."

Captain Louis Skrmetta, of Gulfport, Mississippi, a third generation ferry pilot and CEO of Ship Island Excursions, the official passenger ferry service for the National Park Service and Gulf Islands National Seashore in Mississippi, said, "Gulf Islands National Seashore is the Yosemite, Canyonlands, and Grand Teton of the Central Gulf Coast region. These resilient white sand islands have experienced more than a hundred major hurricanes, and each time the eco-system endured. The BP catastrophe is occurring approximately 40 miles south of the Mississippi islands, and for the first time our national seashore and its magnificent natural resources are truly endangered and could be transformed into a "dead zone". We need a miracle."

For the full report, go to [www.rockymountainclimate.org](http://www.rockymountainclimate.org) on the Web.

## **Padlocking the Gates to the Great Outdoors**

*Courtesy of nytimes.com*

In these hard economic times, when much of the country could use a walk in the woods or a night in the mountains or a wade in the river or a picnic by the lake, states across the country seem to be creating obstacles to the great outdoors.

Seeking to streamline their budgets, states have made their parks easy targets. Campgrounds are closing, fees are increasing, employees have been laid off.

In Colorado, some parks are down to one lone ranger. In Massachusetts, a few swimming ponds are closed for lack of lifeguards. Washington has started asking motorists to donate to state parks when they register their cars; Michigan will do so this fall.

Georgia is considering corporate sponsorships for its parks. In Idaho, a motorcycle group offered to mow the grass at a state park on the Snake River where it holds an annual reunion.

Some see a silver lining with the rising volunteerism and the public outcry that have helped keep parks open in many states. Others wonder what will come by next Memorial Day.

“Right now,” said Virginia Painter, a spokeswoman for Washington State Parks, which has seen revenue from the new vehicle registration donations fail to meet projections, “we’re hanging on.”

## **Job Announcement – USDA Forest Service**

### **Trails Technician**

The Calcasieu Ranger District of the Kisatchie National Forest is currently advertising a GS-4/5 Forestry Technician, Trails Technician, position.

This position is responsible for trail maintenance and inventory of the trail system on the Calcasieu Ranger District. The District maintains over 200 miles of trails, of which 110 miles are motorized and approximately 90 miles non-motorized. The position works as part of the District Recreation Team and reports to the District Recreation Program Manager.

The Kisatchie National Forest is an exciting and rewarding place to work. Its personnel are committed to ecosystem restoration with the fire-maintained longleaf pine ecosystem being a top priority. The Calcasieu Ranger District has a large recreation program, ranging from highly developed recreation areas to dispersed recreation opportunities

The duty station for this position will be the Evangeline Work-center located outside Alexandria, LA. The Alexandria/Pineville area is a full service community with a population of 50,000+. Housing is plentiful in the area with both rental and purchase options available. Apartment units start at \$550 per month, single unit rental housing starts around \$800 per month. Average home prices are in the mid \$90 to \$120M range.

If you are interested in applying for this position please click on the following link and it will take you to USAJOBS where you can find a copy of the vacancy announcement and follow the instruction on how to apply for this job. Your application must be submitted by June 14, 2010.

[http://jobview.usajobs.gov/GetJob.aspx?JobID=88115612&JobTitle=Forestry+Technician+\(Trails\)&where=Alexandria%2c+LA&brd=3876&vw=b&FedEmp=N&FedPub=Y&x=118&y=9&jbf574=AG\\*&AVSDM=2010-05-17+00%3a03%3a00](http://jobview.usajobs.gov/GetJob.aspx?JobID=88115612&JobTitle=Forestry+Technician+(Trails)&where=Alexandria%2c+LA&brd=3876&vw=b&FedEmp=N&FedPub=Y&x=118&y=9&jbf574=AG*&AVSDM=2010-05-17+00%3a03%3a00)

**For more information:** Jennifer Heisey, District ORA, 318-793-9427

## **Job Announcement – USDA Forest Service**

### **Natural Resources Specialist (Recreation)**

Salary Range: 38,790.00 - 61,678.00 USD /year

Open Period: Friday, May 28, 2010 to Friday, June 11, 2010  
Series & Grade: GS-0401-07/09  
Position Information: Full Time Permanent - No time limit  
Promotion Potential: 09  
Duty Locations: 1 vacancy - Russellville, AR  
Who May Be Considered: US citizens - US Citizens  
Job Announcement Number: ADS10-R08OSFNF-1877DP (P-PM)

**Job Summary:**

Applications for this position are being processed through an on-line applicant assessment system that has been specifically configured for USDA Forest Service applicants. Even if you have already developed a resume in USAJOBS, you will need to access this on-line system to complete the application process. To obtain information about this position and TO APPLY, please click on <http://www.avuecentral.com/vacancy.html?ref=EZPZR>.

**Duties:**

Plans and administers recreation program activities.

Participates in, coordinates, and/or manages natural resources programs and projects.

Participates in the development of natural resource plans and policies for the organization.

**For more information:**

[http://jobview.usajobs.gov/GetJob.aspx?JobID=88395287&aid=90127670-1610&WT.mc\\_n=125](http://jobview.usajobs.gov/GetJob.aspx?JobID=88395287&aid=90127670-1610&WT.mc_n=125)