



News from NARRP

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The National Association of Recreation Resource Planners

New Planning Resource

<http://www.kidstoconservation.org/>

When young people are substantially and actively involved in shaping the future, they are empowered to be the next generation of stewards of the natural world and they understand the importance of their role in preserving it. Learn how to involve youth in conservation of our natural resources through community planning, environmental education, service learning, outdoor recreation, restoration projects and more!

CPPW Park Accessibility Roundtable

Atlanta, GA - August 2, 2011
Hyatt Regency Atlanta

In many communities, lack of safe and affordable public transportation, environmental safety concerns and poorly maintained facilities stand in the way of community members using their parks and other outdoor spaces. Join national experts to discuss policies and strategies that provide varying populations equal access to parks and physical activity in your community. You will have the opportunity to:

- Engage and learn from national experts and community practitioners on effective strategies for creating environments that support physical activity and healthy living as the norm for all community members.
- Pose specific questions to national expert representatives from CDC, University of Georgia, Virginia Tech, Recreation Accessibility Consultants LLC, and Miami-Dade Parks and Recreation Department.
- Participate in dialogues around strategies to enhance equitable access to parks, trails, open spaces and other aspects of the built environment.
- Share your experiences including successes and challenges in regards to improving equitable distribution, access to and maintenance of healthy outdoor environments.
- Develop new ideas to move forward effectively in your own community in developing parks

and open space systems.

- Gain tools and resources in support of your continued engagement and learning around access to parks.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

<http://www.nrpa.org/parks-access-regional-policy-roundtable/>

Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center announces inaugural Walk Friendly Communities

Courtesy of walkfriendly.org

CHAPEL HILL, NC — The Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center (PBIC) is excited to announce the inaugural round of Walk Friendly Communities (WFC). After evaluating applicant communities in several categories related to walking, including safety, mobility, access and comfort, PBIC has recognized the following 11 communities for their commitment to improving walkability and pedestrian safety.

PLATINUM LEVEL

Seattle, Washington

GOLD LEVEL

Ann Arbor, Michigan

Arlington, Virginia

Hoboken, New Jersey

Santa Barbara, California

SILVER LEVEL

Charlottesville, Virginia

Decatur, Georgia

BRONZE LEVEL

Austin, Texas

Charlotte, North Carolina

Flagstaff, Arizona

Wilsonville, Oregon

"The WFC designation recognizes communities that help set the bar in fostering and accommodating walking," said Carl Sundstrom, WFC program manager. "We were pleased with the response we received for the first round of this new program and are very excited to see communities use this program to further their pedestrian efforts."

Pedestrian injuries and fatalities remain alarmingly high in the U.S. at the same time that there is an increasing groundswell of support for active transportation across the country. Communities are channeling this support for livability and taking advantage of the many benefits of walking — improved safety, environmental and personal health, reduced traffic congestion, enhanced quality of life, and economic rewards.

In an effort not only to recognize but to motivate walk friendly communities, applicants learn best

practices through participating in the application process. Applicants use a web-based program that asks a comprehensive set of questions and provides communities with feedback and ideas for promoting pedestrian safety and activity. The questions examine engineering, education, encouragement, enforcement, evaluation and planning. Officially launched in October 2010, the WFC program is funded by FedEx and the U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration.

"The Walk Friendly Communities program empowers communities to make a long-lasting social impact. It does this by providing the tools for communities to assess their own walkability and create plans for change," said Rose Flenorl, Manager of FedEx Global Citizenship. "Every day, more than 80,000 FedEx vehicles are on the road, sharing the streets with pedestrians. FedEx has developed highly advanced safe driving practices over the past 35 years, but it is not enough. By supporting Walk Friendly Communities, FedEx helps communities create access to safer, more walkable roadways. We are proud to be a sponsor of the Walk Friendly Communities program."

The program will begin accepting applications for its second round on May 1, 2011 with the deadline for submission on June 15, 2011. Interested communities are encouraged to visit www.walkfriendly.org to learn more about the program and review the community assessment tool.

LWCF Bill Moves Forward in the House at Lowest Funding Level Ever

Courtesy of the Outdoor Industry Association

Last Wednesday, a day Interior Secretary Salazar called "a sad day for conservation," a bill gutting the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) passed the U.S. House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee. Passed along partisan lines, the bill calls for a total of \$61.833 million, the lowest level of funding in LWCF's 45-year history.

In a bittersweet report released by the House Committee on Appropriations, the various programs funded by LWCF were recognized for the value they serve for outdoor recreation and conservation, but also that "the cuts proposed in this bill are less about the merits of these programs and more about the larger issue of deficit spending and addressing more pressing priorities."

Yesterday, the bill — which is also rife with riders that target EPA funding, test the Endangered Species Act, attempt to block a number of environmental regulations, etc. — moved to the full House Appropriations Committee. At press time, no amendments were added that would further weaken or cut LWCF.

The bill will move to a House floor debate in the coming weeks.

While LWCF's future is bleak in the House, there is hope in the Senate. Sen. Jeff Bingaman (NM) introduced the Senate's version of LWCF in S. 1265, the Land and Water Conservation Funding and Authorization Act of 2011. S. 1265 is cosponsored by Sens. Max Baucus (MT), Jon Tester (MT), Mark Udall (CO), and Ron Wyden (OR) and calls for full and dedicated funding of LWCF at \$900 million and includes a provision to help open more public land to hunters and anglers.

Revitalizing City Communities with Parks

Courtesy of planetforward.org

Many U.S. cities don't offer equal access to green space. For example, Los Angeles has 23,000 acres of parks, which puts the city in the top 15 in terms of total green space, but much of this parkland is near the mountains so most of the city's low-income, inner-city communities don't have any parks at all. Peter Harnik, director of the Center for City Park Excellence at the Trust for Public Land, says in reality 3.8 million residents of L.A. are too far from "a park to use one easily, conveniently, or frequently." Similarly, in New York City, high-quality parkland is found in greater abundance in wealthier districts, while low-income communities don't enjoy the same access. More than half of the city's 59 community board districts were found to have less than 1.5 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents. A University of Chicago study found that communities with lower incomes, higher poverty rates, and higher proportions of racial and ethnic minorities also had the "fewest opportunities for community-level physical activity." Lack of green space is then not just about unfairness, it's about health. Low-income communities may have higher rates of health problems like obesity and asthma in large part because they don't have parks. (Source: "Urban Green: Innovative Parks for Resurgent Cities," Peter Harnik, Island Press, 2010 and "Healthy Parks, Healthy Communities: Addressing Health Disparities and Park Inequalities through Public Financing of Playgrounds, and Other Physical Activity Settings," Trust for Public Land, Policy Brief, November 2005)

New parks can sprout up in the unlikeliest places. Low-income, inner-city communities are characterized by hardscapes – asphalt surfaces. When a community organizes and creates a plan for a new park, local governments can respond and purchase asphalt-covered areas like parking lots and transform them into public community parks. The average neighborhood park can run into the millions, but including a park budget in the initial master plan helps ensure local governments will finance it, and even partner with developers, local foundations, or conservancies to get it built. These types of projects can also come about if they are part of broader public-private urban redevelopment schemes aimed at providing housing, improving access to transit, and investing in the local environment. Transportation infrastructure like boulevards, rail lines, and trails can be expanded, greened, and designed to become easily-accessible parks. In addition, even landfills, rooftops, reservoirs, and cemeteries can be turned into parks. (Source: "Urban Green: Innovative Parks for Resurgent Cities," Peter Harnik, Island Press, 2010)

Park design needs to be compelling so people visit and forge community ties there. Parks that are designed for local residents and include them in the design process often do the best. New York City's famed Central Park, designed by ASLA founder Frederick Law Olmsted, and Bryant Park, designed by Laurie Olin of FASLA are two examples of great community parks designed for people. The 843-acre Central Park has many "functional areas," including game fields, gardens, skating rinks, a boating lake, and winding paths that offer "dozens and dozens of different kinds and moments of experience " says Sarah Goldhagen, architecture critic for The New Republic. Bryant Park's movable café table and chairs set under a rich tree canopy and spread around a central lawn enable people to easily form groups or stay on their own. The park is now viewed as a model for how public places can facilitate human interaction. Human interaction isn't just needed to make a popular and sustainable park, new research demonstrates that people with strong community ties also live longer healthier lives. Parks provide the space for communities to form.

(Source: "Goldhagen: 'Democracies need physical spaces,' The Dirt and "Bowling Alone," Robert Putnam)

Hiking rewards at Fox, Metea parks

Courtesy of journalgazette.net

By Patrick Svitek

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA – Allen County parks unveiled Wednesday a new hiking initiative modeled after a similar project in Ohio.

The Allen County Trailblazers program will designate 15 mile-long trails in Fox Island and Metea parks starting Sept. 1, and program participants who trek at least 10 of the listed paths will receive a specialized reward.

Bob Dispenza, Allen County Parks and Recreation Department education manager, said he hopes to replicate the long-term success of the 48-year-old Fall Hiking Spree in Summit County, Ohio, where more than 12,000 residents crossed the trail threshold last year. As a naturalist at Summit Metro Parks from 1990 to 2000, Dispenza witnessed the program's benefits for local exposure and engagement.

"It's working well for them," he said. "It's kind of becoming a family institution."

Nathan Eppink, a spokesman at Summit Metro Parks, said the program pays huge dividends: Summit Metro Parks has experienced increased visitation rates over the past eight years and surpassed 5 million annual visits for the first time last year.

Allen County's foray into collective hiking is already poised for a smooth run, Eppink said. He attributed his initiative's milestones to not charging participation fees, a feat made possible by the parks district's ability to collect a local property tax.

\$2 WALKING STICKS

The Trailblazers outline calls for \$2 from any hiker who wishes to buy a walking stick on which program awards can be mounted.

Dispenza said because Allen County parks are not a political division of the state, as is the Summit County urban land unit, he must rely on sponsors to fund the Trailblazers operation.

Friends of Metea, a Leo-Cedarville-based organization that advocates for the preservation and development of Metea Park, has contributed \$500 of seed money to Allen County Trailblazers along with the Fox Island Alliance.

Allen County Trailblazers kicks off Sept. 1 and runs through Nov. 30, with the last awards being distributed Jan. 30.

Walking sticks and other awards, including bronze medallions that can be affixed to the walking sticks, can be redeemed at the Metea or Fox Island nature centers, the New Haven parks office

or the Fort Wayne parks office.

Kampgrounds of America (KOA) Sets July 4th Holiday Record

TOTAL HOLIDAY CHECK-INS SETS SINGLE DAY MARK IN KOA'S 49-YEAR HISTORY

Billings, Mont. (July 11, 2011) – Despite the plethora of challenges that faced outdoor enthusiasts this spring – from record rain and flooding to tornados – campers still visited KOA campgrounds in record numbers to celebrate the Fourth of July holiday weekend.

Total KOA camper check-ins on Friday, July 1st were up 3.4 percent from the previous single-day record set on Friday, July 2, 2010 at the 475 KOA campgrounds in North America.

“When you put current economic challenges together with the terrible weather we’ve all experienced this spring, I think our strong results for this Fourth of July weekend bodes well for healthy camping activity for the rest of this summer,” said KOA President Pat Hittmeier.

“A month ago, our advanced reservations for the holiday weekend indicated we were down about 2.7 percent from last year,” Hittmeier said. “A large number of campers delayed making their plans until the week before the Fourth of July weekend. But - in the end - they decided to spend their holiday weekend at a KOA.”

With 35 KOA campgrounds in Canada, the annual July 1st Canada Day celebration is also an important holiday for the Kampgrounds of America system. KOA camper check-ins at Canadian KOAs for the July 1st Canada Day holiday weekend were up 13 percent compared to 2010 results.

The accommodations category – which includes KOA’s full-service luxury Lodges – continued to be a bright spot during the July Fourth weekend. Camper registrations for KOA Kabins and Lodges grew more than 23 percent over 2010 Fourth of July results.

“Our advanced reservations for the rest of the summer season are also trending in the right direction,” said Hittmeier. “Strong results like we experienced last weekend prove that camping is still one of the most popular and affordable vacation options. We are the largest campground network in North America, so KOA serves as a good barometer for the camping sector of outdoor recreation.”

ABOUT KAMPGROUNDS OF AMERICA

Kampgrounds of America was founded on the banks of the Yellowstone River in Billings, Montana more than 49 years ago. KOA has 475 locations in the United States and Canada with more than 70,000 sites for recreational vehicles and tents, as well as roofed accommodations. For more information on Kampgrounds of America, go to www.KOA.com.

Florida DEP Applies Brakes to State Park Plan

Courtesy of RVBusiness.com

Florida's top environmental official said Friday (July 8) the state will put the brakes on an expedited plan to build new family campgrounds in 56 Florida state Parks, according to a report in the Dayton Beach News Journal.

In a letter to 14 Florida legislators, Herschel Vinyard, secretary of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), said the state will not recommend going forward with a plan to add camping at Honeymoon Island State Park, a barrier island near Dunedin.

Additionally, Vinyard wrote the department "will be evaluating how to proceed" at DeLeon Springs, Fanning Springs, Edward Ball Wakulla Springs and any other park initially considered for new campgrounds.

Hundreds of opponents turned out at public meetings this week to discuss camping at each of the four parks, with nearly 50 people attending a meeting in DeLeon Springs and almost 1,000 trying to get into a meeting in Dunedin.

"The Department recognizes that adding amenities in state parks should be a citizen-supported effort and should not appear rushed," Vinyard wrote. "Going forward, we will be taking a different approach and I have asked staff to meet with local communities, state park citizen support organizations and other park stakeholders before formally proposing the addition of amenities or services, including family camping, at any of our state parks."

Arnette Sherman, co-president of the West Volusia Audubon Society, had expressed concerns about the environmental impacts of adding 70 campsites at DeLeon Springs.

"That's great, just super," said Sherman when told of Vinyard's letter on Friday evening. "It does show that people speaking up can make a difference."

The park service had just received approval in early June to expedite the process for adding camping at state parks, and then quickly announced public meetings to discuss adding camping at Honeymoon Island, DeLeon Springs, Wakulla Springs and Fanning Springs. Of the 160 existing state parks, 53 already have camping.

"The fact that many of our park campgrounds are often fully occupied tells us that Florida's citizens enjoy being outdoors with their families in a tent, a pop-up trailer or an RV," stated Vinyard.

"One of the most frequent requests our park rangers receive is for additional camping opportunities in state parks. Indeed, due to the popularity of some sites during holidays or peak camping season, campers have found it difficult to book a camping spot without making reservations months in advance."

However, Vinyard wrote, the department's desire to meet the demand was "overshadowed by the timing of the process."

Vinyard's letter was addressed to Sen. Mike Fasano, R-New Port Richey, and copied to 13 other senators and representatives, including Rep. Dwayne Taylor, D-Daytona Beach. Taylor spoke out against the proposal at the meeting in DeLeon Springs on Tuesday night.

Taylor was disappointed Vinyard's letter didn't nix camping at DeLeon Springs and said Friday he's not sure what else the department needs to evaluate at DeLeon Springs.

The community has already spoken and “does not want camping” at DeLeon Springs, Taylor said.

Job Announcement – Bureau of Land Management

OUTDOOR RECREATION PLANNER

SALARY RANGE: \$39,572.00 - \$51,447.00 /year

OPEN PERIOD: Friday, July 08, 2011 to Thursday, July 14, 2011

SERIES & GRADE: GS-0023-07

POSITION INFORMATION: Full Time Career/Career Conditional

PROMOTION POTENTIAL: 09

DUTY LOCATIONS: Few vacancies - Fairbanks, AK

WHO MAY BE CONSIDERED: US Citizens and Status Candidates

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT NUMBER: FS-500724-MQ11

JOB SUMMARY:

The BLM manages more land – 245 million acres – than any other Federal agency. This land, known as the National System of Public Lands, is primarily located in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The Bureau, with a budget of about \$1 billion, also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estates throughout the nation. The BLM's multiple-use mission is to sustain the health and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.

This position is located in the Eastern Interior Field Office in Fairbanks, Alaska. The Outdoor Recreation Planner provides for visitor services, planning, development, operation of recreation facilities, and resource protection within the Geographic Area.

In addition to the base salary range and locality rate as previously stated, you will receive a 10.56% cost of living allowance for Fairbanks. This allowance is subject to annual review, adjustment and gradual decrease.

This is a permanent career-seasonal subject to furlough position. A permanent career-seasonal position includes all benefits of permanent employment, but does not provide for employment on a full-time year-round basis. It is expected that the incumbent will work at least 6 months per year, but not more than 50 weeks or 25 pay periods on a full-time basis.

More than one vacancy may be filled through this announcement should the need arise.

Full Performance Level is GS-09

DUTIES:

Major duties at the full performance level include, but are not limited to:

- Develop, review, and implement Resource Management Plans and Recreation Activity Management Plans.
- Process, issue, and assure compliance with the terms of recreation use permits.
- Investigate and inventory existing and potential recreation resources and analyze population distribution.

- Assess needs for recreation lands and facilities and examine relationships of needs to growth and mobility of the population and to the economy.
- Record and track recreation facilities and prepare reports to document maintenance needs and performance.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

http://jobview.usajobs.gov/getjob.aspx?JobID=100720063&aid=90127670-12711&WT.mc_n=125

Job Announcement – National Park Service

SUPERVISORY OUTDOOR RECREATION PLANNER

SALARY RANGE: \$85,500.00 - \$111,148.00 /year

OPEN PERIOD: Thursday, July 07, 2011 to Thursday, July 21, 2011

SERIES & GRADE: GS-0023-13

POSITION INFORMATION: Full Time Career/Career Conditional

PROMOTION POTENTIAL: 13

DUTY LOCATIONS: 1 vacancy - Atlanta, GA

WHO MAY BE CONSIDERED: Government Wide within the local commuting area

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT NUMBER: SESO-488785

JOB SUMMARY:

Current and Former federal employees within the local commuting area

Experience Your America and build a fulfilling career by joining the National Park Service. The National Park Service preserves unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the national park system for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations.

The employees of the National Park Service care for the special places that are the heritage of all Americans. Since its inception in 1916, the National Park Service has been dedicated to the preservation and management of this country's outstanding natural, historical, and recreational resources.

This is a Career/Career Conditional full-time appointment.

Number of Vacancies: We expect to fill one vacancy at this time; however, this announcement may be used to fill additional similar vacancies.

Full Performance Level: 13

Please read the entire announcement before you apply. To view the entire announcement, select "Print Preview" at the right hand side of this screen.

DUTIES:

The incumbent serves as a Supervisory Outdoor Recreation Planner and as the Chief of the Recreation Programs Branch within the Partnerships Division, Southeast Region (SER). The incumbent is responsible for the effective management and administration of the Stateside Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Program, the Urban Parks and Recreation Recovery

(UPARR) Program, the Challenge Cost-Share Program (CCSP) for the Southeast Region and the supervision of the staff for these programs. The Southeast region includes Puerto Rico; the U.S. Virgin Islands; and the states of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

http://jobview.usajobs.gov/getjob.aspx?JobID=100718052&aid=90127670-12711&WT.mc_n=125

Job Announcement – US Army Corps of Engineers

SUPERVISORY OUTDOOR RECREATION PLANNER

SALARY RANGE: \$57,408.00 - \$89,450.00 /year

OPEN PERIOD: Wednesday, July 06, 2011 to Wednesday, July 20, 2011

SERIES & GRADE: GS-0023-11/12

POSITION INFORMATION: Full Time Career/Career Conditional

PROMOTION POTENTIAL: 12

DUTY LOCATIONS: 1 vacancy - Southeastern Missouri, MO

WHO MAY BE CONSIDERED: Status Candidates (Merit Promotion Eligibles)

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT NUMBER: SWHB11119130-494949

JOB SUMMARY:

Civilian employees serve a vital role in supporting the Army mission. They provide the skills that are not readily available in the military, but crucial to support military operations. The Army integrates the talents and skills of its military and civilian members to form a Total Army.

ABOUT THE POSITION:

Actual Duty location of position is Piedmont MO

Who May Apply: Click here for more information:

https://vabselfrom.cpol.army.mil/help/VAB/step5_exp.html

Current Permanent Career or Career Conditional USACE employees. Permanent Career or Career-Conditional Department of the Army employees will also be given consideration.

DUTIES:

You will serve as an assistant to the Project Manager and as a Park Manager for a large geographical area. Duties will include; the development and implementation of a variety of complex and sometimes controversial natural resource management and protection programs that include fish and wildlife management, soil conservation, forestry and vegetation management, fire protection, cultural resources protection, flood damage reduction and resolution of encroachments on public lands. Supervises implementation/coordination of mitigation plans and land management plans, operational controls, and procedures governing conservation and use of project resources. Review requests for leases, licenses, and special use permits, recommends appropriate courses of action to Real Estate Division. Oversee the continuing program of land and water patrols/inspections to prevent unauthorized use, trespass or destruction of property, and ensure visitor compliance with usage rules and regulations. Implements water safety, physical security, and fire protection programs. Coordinate and

manage operation and management of recreation facilities, including campground, picnic areas, boat launching ramps, marinas, historical sites, overlooks and visitor/information centers. Responsible for coordination of plans for the management, operation and maintenance of natural resources, parks, recreation sites and facilities. Develop budgets, obligations and expenditure schedules and cost estimates. Supervise all aspects of the work of the organization, responsible for all personnel engaged in the management, operation and maintenance of lands and water. Assign work to employees based on priorities, difficulty of the assignment and the capabilities. Sets performance standards and evaluates employee performance. Interviews candidates for vacant positions, and works with employees to resolve complaints and grievances. Attend public meetings to discuss pertinent regulations, laws, and policies governing the use of land, water, and facilities. Work with Project Manager in all aspects of the organization's mission, regulations, policies, reports and requests from supervisor and other District elements involved in the organization's mission.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

http://jobview.usajobs.gov/getjob.aspx?JobID=100712116&aid=90127670-12711&WT.mc_n=125