



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 recreation planning professionals.

The National Association of Recreation Resource Planners

Results from the NARRP Member Survey

NARRP asked members to complete a survey this last August to help the Board of Directors understand what members value about their membership and to seek information to help improve membership benefits and services.

Sixty-seven members responded. The results were instrumental in guiding the committee work plans for 2011-12 and helping inform the strategic plan revision that the board completed at their mid-year meeting last month.

The results affirmed that NARRP largely meets the expectations of the membership and serves a valuable role in the professional development of its members.

NARRP prepared a report that summarizes what we learned and what action the board took as a result of the data.

Visit the NARRP Reports page to view the report:

<http://www.narrp.org/clubportal/ClubStatic.cfm?clubID=1431&pubmenuoptID=36166>

Chat live with Secretary Salazar about America's Great Outdoors Thursday at 1:00 pm ET

Today is truly an historic day for America as President Obama is announcing the establishment of Fort Monroe National Monument -- a historic fort in Virginia's Tidewater region that was integral role to the history of slavery, the Civil War, and the U.S. military -- as the 396th unit of the National Park System.

With the strong support of the people of Virginia, from the congressional delegation to Governor McDonnell to Mayor Ward and the citizens of Hampton, President Obama has ensured that this historic fort, a symbol of the long struggle for freedom for African Americans, will be preserved as a national park for generations to come.

Fort Monroe is one of 101 projects that we have highlighted as part of the America's Great Outdoors initiative, representing what states believe are among the best investments in the nation to support a healthy, active population, conserve wildlife and working lands, and create travel, tourism and outdoor-recreation jobs across the country.

This Thursday at 1:00 pm ET, we will release the final 50-state report outlining some of the country's most promising ways to reconnect Americans to the great outdoors. As part of that launch, Secretary Salazar will participate in a live web chat, where he will answer your questions about the America's Great Outdoors initiative, Ft. Monroe National Monument, and how conservation and outdoor recreation initiatives are strong economic engines for our nation's economy. You can watch the chat live by going to www.doi.gov/live.

Send us your questions in advance to newmedia@ios.doi.gov or tweet them to me at #askken.

Free entry into National Parks on Veterans Day

In celebration of Veterans Day, there will be no admission fees at National Parks or at Bureau of Land Management areas from November 11-13, 2011.

This is a wonderful time of year to get out and see wildlife as it gets ready for the colder weather, enjoy places where the leaf colors are still changing, and enjoy the vistas and bird watching where the leaves have already fallen. So get out there and enjoy!

Find a participating National Park near you:

<http://www.nps.gov/findapark/feefreeparksbystate.htm>

CPTED Training – Basic and Advanced 2012

Basic Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design
Greenville, SC May 1-3, 2012. Sponsored by Hubbell Lighting. Course will be held at Hubbell Lighting Headquarters. Participants will tour the Lighting Solutions Center, receive updated information on new lighting technology / standards, and will tour the LEED Silver Hubbell Facility.

Visit www.cptedtraining.net for course information

Visit www.lightingsolutionscenter.com to tour the training site

Advanced Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design
Greenville, SC July 24-26, 2012. Sponsored by Hubbell Lighting. Course will be held at Hubbell Lighting Headquarters. As part of the class participants will conduct a CPTED Site Assessment of the LEED Silver Hubbell Facility.

Visit www.cptedtraining.net for course information

Visit www.lightingsolutionscenter.com to tour the training site

PBIC Announces Free Webinar on Applications for Pedestrian and Bicycle Planning

CHAPEL HILL, NC — The Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center (PBIC) announces the next free Webinar in its Livable Communities Webinar Series:

Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning? There's an App for That!

Thursday, November 10, 2011

3:00 p.m. — 4:30 p.m. EDT

Rising interest in bicycle and pedestrian travel, coupled with a boom in mobile and web devices and applications, creates ample motivation for leveraging these technologies for planning. Planners across the country are putting these technologies to use for data collection and encouragement activities. Guests from Washington, DC, San Francisco, and Minneapolis join us to describe the process of a technology they put to use, its strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities offered, and the results of incorporating it into their project.

To register, please visit <https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/323974674>.

PBIC offers free, public Webinars approximately every other month. To register for upcoming Webinars and to access archived presentations, please visit www.walkinginfo.org/webinars.

Content from the PBIC Livable Communities Webinar series is drawn from the PBIC's in-person trainings focused on pedestrian safety and creating livable communities. The trainings provide in-depth technical assistance, allow hands-on work with the experts, and generate detailed action plans. Complete information on these trainings can be found on the PBIC training Web site at www.walkinginfo.org/training.

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 prior to submitting your proposal.

We are accepting proposals for concurrent sessions, which take place in 1.25 hours, 2.25 hours and 3.25 hours time blocks. You must submit session proposals through the online submission form.

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

Share your knowledge on trail training needs!

"National Trails Training User Satisfaction Survey"

Responses needed by: November 30, 2011

The National Trails Training Partnership (NTTP) is conducting research on training needs and satisfaction. Our goal is to improve the quality and availability of trail-related skills. American Trails is conducting the online survey and will be compiling and interpreting the data with NTTP member groups and agencies.

Click here to take the online survey: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/YRLH5L3>

Anyone involved in trails as an employee, volunteer, or supporter may take the survey. We'd like

to know your experience and ideas, such as:

- What types of training and delivery methods do you feel are effective?
- What important skills do you think are lacking in your agency or organization?
- What good examples of training are you acquainted with?

The "National Trails Training User Satisfaction Survey" was requested by the Federal Interagency Council on Trails (a partnership of the Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, Forest Service, Army Corps of Engineers, and the Federal Highway Administration). The intent of the survey is to "determine the level of service and customer satisfaction of national training related to trails. The information obtained from the survey would be used to evaluate current trail training programs, partnerships, and training delivery and processes; to ask for input on trail training needed, quality, providers, and availability; and to initiate training improvements."

The survey is conducted by American Trails in cooperation with the National Trails Training Partnership with funding through a contract with the Federal Highway Administration. NTTP is a nationwide partnership of organizations, agencies, States, and businesses committed to improving trail-related training and skills.

Michigan State Parks Capture Top National Award

Nov. 2, 2011

The Department of Natural Resources announced today that Michigan state parks and recreation areas have won the 2011 National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) Gold Medal for the top state park system in the nation. The DNR was notified today by the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration and NRPA.

Michigan was named one of four finalists in May, and beat North Carolina, Florida and Missouri for the top honor.

"This award is a credit to the people of Michigan," said Michigan Governor Rick Snyder, who recently appointed a blue-ribbon panel to guide the parks system into the future. "For more than 90 years, Michiganders have realized that these unique areas are an integral part of the cultural enhancement, economic enrichment and overall quality of life that we value. Our parks are what we make of them and the people of this state clearly prize these treasures. I commend the DNR for its outstanding stewardship of these resources and look forward to working with all stakeholders so that we have a parks system that serves our state and its visitors for generations to come."

The Gold Medal Award honors communities throughout the United States that demonstrate excellence in long-range planning, resource management, and agency recognition. Each agency is judged on its ability to address the needs of those it serves through the collective energies of citizens, staff, and elected officials.

"We are very proud to receive this award, and I want to recognize the employees of the Parks and Recreation Division who have worked hard to make sure our 99 state parks and recreation areas remain excellent places for our citizens and visitors to experience Michigan's abundant

and amazing natural resources," said DNR Director Rodney Stokes. "This is the result of teamwork, talent and vision that is aimed at protecting our special places, and also making sure that visitors have an enjoyable, high quality experience."

In its winning application, the DNR focused on innovation, such as the Recreation Passport, which is the new funding model for state parks and outdoor recreation in Michigan. The \$10 optional fee that Michigan residents can pay when renewing their vehicle registration at the Secretary of State gives them annual access to all Michigan state parks and boating access sites and also supports state forest recreation programs. A portion of the funding also supports a grant program for local parks.

"This achievement is indicative of the tremendous staff who works in the Parks and Recreation Division, who strive for excellent customer service every day to provide a positive experience for our customers," said DNR Parks and Recreation Chief Ron Olson.

Michigan is home to 99 state parks and recreation areas, offering visitors more than 13,000 campsites, trails, access to inland lakes, rivers and the Great Lakes.

For more information on state parks in Michigan, go to www.michigan.gov/stateparks.

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources is committed to the conservation, protection, management, use and enjoyment of the state's natural and cultural resources for current and future generations. For more information, go to www.michigan.gov/dnr.

Victory! 49 Million Roadless Acres Remain Protected for Outdoor Recreation

Courtesy of the Outdoor Industry Association

In a long-awaited ruling – and huge victory for the outdoor industry and backcountry recreation – the U.S. 10th Circuit Court of Appeals reinstated federal roadless area status for 49 million acres of Forest Service land across the U.S. With exceptions for fire management and emergencies, the revived 2001 Clinton-era rule limits road building, pipeline and power transmission corridors; and bans most extractive uses – timber, mining, oil & gas – in roadless areas.

"Our customers seek and demand access to a spectrum of recreation venues and opportunities – whether a local bike path or a remote hunting area," said OIA Director of Recreation Policy Craig Mackey. "Protecting our remaining roadless areas is critical to providing pristine backcountry, quality recreation and habitat."

Court challenges to the Clinton rule equated federal roadless area protection with Wilderness designation. Under the Wilderness Act of 1964, only Congress can designate federal Wilderness areas. Wilderness areas offer the highest level of protection in the federal system – generally banning motors, permanent structures and mechanized travel. Roadless areas allow motorized uses such as motorcycles/ATVs on designated trails and mechanized uses such as mountain bikes and game carts for hunting.

While the 10th Circuit opinion was unanimous – decreasing odds U.S. Supreme Court will consider an appeal – the Clinton rule continues to face court challenges in Alaska and attempts

to eliminate roadless areas by the Congress.

Support roadless area protection. Contact your members of Congress and tell them you support roadless areas and the recreational opportunities they provide your customers.

New Federal Fiscal Year Begins; FY 2012 Budget Still Unclear

Courtesy of the Trust for Public Land

With the new federal fiscal year having begun on October 1, it's a good time to take a look at the status of congressional actions on the federal FY 2012 budget.

After the flurry of negotiations and deal-making related to the debt ceiling extension and the deficit in late July, Congress left town for its six-week August recess and returned soon after Labor Day. The focus since then has been squarely on the economy, the President's jobs package, and the work of the so-called "Supercommittee," which was established as part of the debt ceiling agreement. The debt ceiling agreement set the overall parameters for the FY 2012 budget, leaving FY 2013 and beyond to the Supercommittee, which must report its recommendations by November 23. The debt limit agreement forged in early August laid out overall funding levels for federal FY 2012.

Click here to read the rest of the story: <http://www.tpl.org/publications/e-newsletters/washington-watch/washington-watch-2011/washington-watch-10282011.html#approps>

LWCF and Conservation Funding Needs Your Support

Courtesy of the Trust for Public Land

As reported in the FY 2012 update on land conservation programs, Congress is working on the FY2012 budget, including the Interior appropriations bill, and has begun deliberations on long-term budgeting decisions through the "super committee" process. Therefore, this is a critical moment to tell your Members of Congress to oppose cuts that would cripple funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and hurt jobs and local economies.

This letter from TPL President Will Rogers urges people to raise their collective voices at this critical juncture in support of conservation funding. Will Rogers and Board Chair Page Knudsen Cowles have been working together with other national conservation leaders to amplify this LWCF/conservation funding message in Congress.

Despite the current budget climate, many key members of Congress understand the broad bipartisan support behind the LWCF program, but we need to generate even more support. Your voices from across the country are very important to raise the volume on this issue.

As recapped above, the House Interior Appropriations Committee approved a bill in July with drastic cuts that threaten to dismantle the LWCF program. Let your district Congressman know that these cuts are unacceptable and harmful to conservation and the vitality of our communities. Tell your Senator to carry the message to Interior appropriations Chairman Jack Reed (RI) and ranking member, Senator Lisa Murkowski (AK) to defend and restore LWCF funding in the FY 2012 Interior appropriations bill.

Transportation Enhancements Fight Growing More Intense

Courtesy of the National Recreation and Park Association

As Capitol Hill continues battles over budget priorities and how to best balance transportation priorities with the currently unsustainable Highway Trust Fund, Transportation Enhancements (TE) are already center stage in the debate. TE recently came under attack in the Senate when Senator Tom Coburn (R-OK) offered an amendment to prohibit the use of these funds for certain projects during a recent Senate floor debate on the current continuing resolution. Fortunately, Coburn's amendment did not pass. Senator Rand Paul (R-KY) has been cleared to offer an amendment to eliminate the program during the upcoming Senate floor vote on the first round of combined appropriations bills (called mini-buses) when the Senate returns October 31.

On the other side of the Capitol, House Transportation and Infrastructure Chairman John Mica (R-FL) has pledged to eliminate the current 10 percent set aside for TE and House Majority Leader Eric Cantor (R-VA) has repeatedly singled out TE as funding that should go to more pressing infrastructure needs. Others in opposition to continuing the program ask why states should be mandated to spend federal dollars on bike trails and landscaping when the nation is in an undisputable transportation crisis with crumbling roadways and collapsing bridges.

Conversely, the Administration's U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood, a former Republican House Member, has cited on his blog the benefits of bicycle infrastructure, noting studies that argue pedestrian and bicycle projects create more jobs than road upgrades or resurfacing and the CDC's report that 67 percent of Americans support street design that increases physical activity. He went on to say that these investments increase mobility and generate economic growth.

What some call bike paths, others are calling begonias. A treasured pedestrian walkway is being characterized as nothing more than roadside wildflowers. Proponents speak to the mere two percent of the highway budget actually spent on the program in Fiscal Year 2011, so elimination doesn't really save anything or create any new huge pot of revenue to solve the nation's transportation funding problems. Furthermore, advocates note the program's contribution to a balanced transportation system that adds the additional benefits of safety, congestion mitigation, air quality, erosion control, physical activity and reducing dependence on foreign oil, just to name a few.

At a time when our nation needs to maximize our federal dollars, reduce obesity, minimize traffic congestion, and reduce our carbon footprint, while also creating jobs, how can we afford to not invest in trails? Have you posed this question to your member of Congress?

City needs up to \$17M to comply with ADA

Courtesy of the Arizona Daily Star

The city of Tucson may have to find an estimated \$17 million to bring many of its facilities into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Under a 2005 settlement agreement with the U.S. Justice Department, the city spent the past two years completing a self-audit of 150 of its facilities to identify any shortcomings under the

law, passed in 1992.

The city found more than 2,800 problems, with the bulk centered in parks facilities, said Liana Perez, director of the city's equal opportunity office.

The new findings come as the city is wrapping up making corrections to 48 facilities the Justice Department determined were out of compliance when an audit was done in 2005. Those fixes so far have cost \$3.4 million.

Three facilities remain undone from the old audit, and the city is in negotiations now about how and when to fix them. There are architectural challenges with two of them, a police substation and a fire station. The third, the Tucson Convention Center, is in flux. Some of the fixes were made, but others weren't because the city didn't want to make the changes and then waste the money if a new arena came on line - a prospect that is looking increasingly doubtful.

The price tag on those three outstanding projects alone is \$1.3 million, but "we've run out of money," Perez said.

The original batch was completed using general fund money. There's no general fund money to spread around now, leaving the City Council to figure out how to pay for the repairs.

The most positive take, Perez said, is that the 48 facilities in the original audit, combined with the recent 150, would bring the city 100 percent into compliance with the act.

If there's any other good news, it's that there isn't a deadline specified to get everything done. The city just has to have a plan showing how it will make the fixes, identifying the priorities and the funding sources.

There's also a wrinkle. The federal standards were changed in the past year, which means the city will have to go back through and see if any of those on the list might have changed in the interim.

The city rarely gets complaints about the accessibility of its facilities, Perez said, estimating the complaints at about five a year.

But that's not the point, she said.

"It's the law," Perez said, adding that the federal government can withhold funding until the city comes into compliance. About 13 percent of the city's \$1.3 billion in revenue comes from federal grants.

Lawrence Carter-Long, a public affairs specialist with the National Council on Disability, a federal agency, agreed that taxpayers should get past the sticker shock.

"Disability, to my mind, is the only minority anyone can join in an instant," Carter-Long said, noting 80 percent of the disabled population was not born with the condition. Over time, faculties such as knees, vision and hearing all become vulnerable, he said.

"If we don't make our cities and municipal buildings accessible, then we're missing out on the experience, on the insight, on the value, that people with disabilities can bring to the table," he said.

Carter-Long said just because there aren't complaints, it doesn't mean there isn't a problem. "Inaccessibility becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy. If people learn they aren't going to get the accommodation, then they don't go."

While City Councilwoman Shirley Scott suggested the department look for grants or other funding sources to offset the costs, Perez said the department hasn't been able to find money other than small, short-term grants for employee training.

Councilwoman Regina Romero said she would like the city to consider piggybacking on any upcoming bond election Pima County may pursue.

"It really is very scary to have potential federal funding at risk moving forward," she said.

City Manager Richard Miranda said he will begin the process of triaging the items to find funding for the highest priorities.