



Nashville Parks Tour Planned

A special professional parks tour will be presented in Nashville in conjunction with the NACo and NACPRO annual meetings in July. The tour, hosted by the Metropolitan Board of Parks and Recreation for Nashville and Davidson County, will be on Sunday, July 26th. The tour bus will board at the Holiday Inn Select-Vanderbilt Downtown Nashville 2613 West End Ave. at 8:30 a.m. and drop off at the same location at 4:30 p.m.

The tour will include visits to:

1) Centennial Park

(Parthenon, Centennial Arts Activities Center, Centennial Dog Park, Metro Park Police Complex, Metro Parks Administration & Maintenance Complex)

2) Centennial Sportsplex

(tennis center, ice rink, and pool complex)

3) Ft. Negley Visitors Cen-

NACPRO Board and Annual Membership Meetings, Education Programs Scheduled For Nashville

In mid July thousands of county elected officials and appointed staff will descend on Nashville, TN to attend the National Association of Counties (NACo) 2009 Annual Conference & Exposition.

Among the throng will be many professional park and recreation managers, in town to attend meetings

NACPRO Banquet Will Celebrate 2009 Parks Excellence Awards

The annual NACPRO Awards Banquet will be held in the evening of Sunday July 26, at the Holiday Inn Select-Vanderbilt. A cocktail reception begins at 5:30 pm and dinner begins

shortly after 6:00 pm. Following the meal, the NACPRO Awards of Excellence will be announced and new board members and officers will be installed. To register, see page 3.



The NACPRO Nashville/ Davidson County parks tour will visit the Fort Negley Civil War Visitors Center to learn how the Union Army captured Nashville in 1862.

ter (see above)

4) Coleman Regional

Community Center

5) Two Rivers Park

[Wave Country, skate

park, golf course, and walk to new pedestrian bridge.]

Each year the National Association of County Park and Recreation Officials holds its annual meetings and education programs in conjunction with the NACo annual conference and plans are already being laid for this July.

NACPRO activities will kick off on Saturday, July 25 with the NACPRO Board Meeting at 1:00 pm at Holiday Inn Select-Vanderbilt Downtown

park, golf course, and walk to new pedestrian bridge.]

6) Shelby Bottoms Nature Center

To register see page 3.

Nashville 2613 West End Ave. All members are welcome to be present. The Board meeting will be followed at about 2:00 pm by the General Membership Meeting at which new Board members will be selected, by-laws reviewed and other organizational matters handled.

Education programs are scheduled for Monday Morning July 26th. More details on program topic and registration will be available at: www.nacpro.org.

Volume 20, Issue 1

April 2009 Web Edition

Upcoming NACPRO Meetings:

- ◆ **Nashville**—
July 25-27, 2009
- ◆ **Salt Lake City**—Oct. 2009
- ◆ **Reno, NV**—July 2010
- ◆ **Minneapolis**—Oct. 2010
- ◆ **Portland, OR**—July 2011
- ◆ **Atlanta, GA**—Nov. 2011
- ◆ **Pittsburgh, PA**—July 2012
- ◆ **Anaheim, CA**—Oct. 2012

Inside This Issue

President's Message	2
Stimulus Package News	3
Conference Tips for Nashville	7
Focus on Davidson County Parks	8-9
County Park News Roundup	10-11
Playground Safety Week	12
About NACPRO	16

NACPRO NEWS

NACPRO News is the official newsletter of the National Association of County Parks and Recreation Officials and is produced by its Executive Director, R. Dan Gooch.

NACPRO News is published quarterly—spring, summer, fall and winter. All issues are posted on NACPRO’s website. The winter issue is also mailed to NACPRO members, NACo and NRPA park affiliates and to our sponsors. Hard copy circulation is approximately 700 copies. Web circulation exceeds 1000 viewers.

Advertising Rates:

- Full Page.....\$500
- Half Page.....\$300
- 1/4 Page.....\$200
- Business Cards.....\$125
- Inserts, per single sheet\$250

NACPRO News will accept articles from professional members on current recreation, conservation and park related issues. Articles may include photos (preferably in JPG format) accompanied by a cover letter with the author’s name address and telephone number. They may be mailed to:

NACPRO News
16w284 97th St.
Burr Ridge, IL 60527
or faxed to 630-920-0333
or e-mailed to rdangooch@aol.com

Officers

- President.....Mark Thornton
- President Elect.....Margie Walz
- 1st Vice President....Steve Madewell
- 2nd Vice President John Buck
- NACo Representative.Andy Kimmel
- NACo Liaison.....Carrie Clinghan

Letter from the NACPRO President

“May you live in interesting times”. While the origin as an ancient Chinese curse may be debatable, it certainly can be said we are living in a time of unprecedented change. For those of us who have lived and worked through recessions before of the early 70’s, proposition 13 in California in ‘79, the Texas oil crash in the ‘80’s, the recession in ‘92, 9/11, etc, we have also been a part of booming growth along with increased support for parks and recreation through the country. We’ve been through this before and we will survive once more.



It seems that the challenges that face many of us are almost unimaginable. I have had the opportunity to talk with many of our colleagues around the country and find that the economy - budget reductions reaching as high as 30% and employee layoffs in the hundreds, is the main topic of discussion. How we address these issues as professionals will be our ‘Test’. Looking back at history, some of the greatest changes to our profession came directly from these tests of our dedication and commitment to parks and recreation and to those we serve.

I believe when the storm clouds have cleared, we will find that we will emerge with a stronger voice politically, have more public support than ever for the valued facilities and programs we provide. We will have the comfort knowing that during this economic crisis, people turned to parks to find themselves, rest their minds, re-energize and forget about the negative for awhile. This is what we as professionals have always known and it is why we do what we do.

On a positive note, we are moving forward with plans for the annual conference in Nashville-Davidson County Tennessee in July. President-Elect Margie Walz is planning a great conference and is working with staff from the local parks and recreation department to put together a wonderful tour. John Buck is working on the annual awards program as we recognize your accomplishments this past year. All The details are provided elsewhere in this newsletter.

Have a great spring and see you in Nashville in July!

Mark Thornton
NACPRO President for 2008-2009

National County Government Week is May 3-9

First celebrated in 1991, National County Government Week (NCGW) was created by the National Association of Counties to raise public awareness and understanding about the roles and responsibilities of the nation's 3,068 counties. The community outreach events held during the week will help residents better understand how counties serve the community.



Counties play an important role in protecting and enhancing the health, welfare and safety of their residents in sensible and cost-effective ways. Included in this responsibility is protecting the environment and wise use of our natu-

ral resources. That's why the theme for this year's National County Government Week (NCGW), May 3-9, is **"Greening Our Future."**

NACo has prepared a special Media Kit for counties to use in promoting and celebrating the week. It contains:

[Banners](#)
[Buttons](#)
[Flyers](#)
[Logos](#)
[Posters](#)
[Public Service Announcements for Radio](#)
[2009 NCGW Information Booklet](#)

Click on the links to access the material you want. Note: Several items, such as the banners, are very large files -- 10 MB or more.

How to Register for the NACPRO Parks Tour and Banquet in Nashville:

The county facilities Park Tour on Sunday, July 26 will leave the Holiday Inn Select Vanderbilt at 8:30 am. The tour will highlight properties operated by the Metropolitan Board of Parks and Recreation. Lunch will be served. The bus will return to the Holiday Inn Select around 4:30 pm. The tour will cost is \$65.

The annual NACPRO Awards Banquet will be held the evening of Sunday July 26, at the Holiday Inn Select-Vanderbilt. Cost is \$65.

Education programs will be held on Monday Morning July 27—more details and registration information to follow on the NACPRO web site.

To register for the tour and/or the banquet, fill out the form that follows this newsletter or go to the NACPRO website at <http://www.nacpro.org/> to find the form. It must be e-mailed with a credit card authorization or mailed with a check to NACPRO by June 30, 2009.

Stimulus package may have a little for parks

President Barack Obama signed the 1,027-page American Reinvestment and Recovery Act – the major economic stimulus package on Feb. 17.

The bill included a mix of tax reductions, and incentives and funding to reinvest in the nation's ailing infrastructure, health care systems, the environment and many other aspects of daily life.

Rural Community Facilities Program: \$130 million to support \$1.23 billion in grants and loans to rural areas for critical community facilities, such as day care, and community centers. Of this amount, \$63 million is for grants and \$1.17 billion is for direct loans.

Watershed Infrastructure: USDA's Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) receives \$290 million for the Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations Program and \$50 million for the Watershed Rehabilitation Program. Contact NRCS through your local USDA Service Center (<http://>

offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app) to inquire about these programs.

Help for the Municipal Bond Market: The bill contains a number of provisions geared towards increasing investment in municipal bonds: 1) interest earned on private activity bonds will be excluded from the alternative minimum tax; 2) the small issuer limitation will be increased from \$10 million to \$30 million, which will permit small issuers to place their debt directly with community banks and 3) banks will be able to deduct 80 percent of the cost of buying and carrying tax-exempt bonds as long as their investment does not exceed 2 percent of the bank's total assets. All three of these provisions will be in effect for two years.

Public Lands

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act includes funding for key public lands management agencies. Bureau of Land Management construction, land management and wildland fire was funded at \$320

million. Fish and Wildlife Service resource management and construction was funded at \$280 million. National Park Service operations and construction was funded at \$750 million.

USGS surveys, investigations and research was funded at \$140 million. USDA Forest Service capital improvement and maintenance received \$650 million. USDA Forest Service wildland fire management programs were funded at \$500 million. Bureau of Reclamation water project funding was listed at \$1 billion. Parts of some of these programs may leak to county parks.

The National Recreation and Park Association has claimed a major victory for parks in the negotiations over the economic stimulus bill. In the language agreed by House and Senator conferees, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act will allow communities to use funding from programs such as Community Development Block Grants, transportation infrastructure, and the Prevention and Wellness Trust Fund to support community parks.

Alliance for Youth Sports Promotes System for Coach Evaluation

County recreation departments around the country can now obtain comprehensive feedback on the quality of the coaching in their programs, thanks to the new coach rating system unveiled by the National Alliance for Youth Sports (NAYS). The system allows league administrators who are affiliated with NAYS to provide a digital link for parents to evaluate coaches anonymously. The link can either be placed within an email or posted directly on a league or organization's website. The questions hit all the key coaching areas, such as safety, sportsmanship and how well they teach skills, among others. The process is intended to be user friendly to both the coach and the parent completing the evaluation. It is made clear that individual comments will not be known by the coach. Coaches can log on and see how parents rated them. While the parents' answers are confidential,

coaches can see their average scores in each category.

The system will also be helpful for volunteers who often could go through an entire season without knowing what impact they were having on the kids. For example, through the new system coaches may find that they received high marks in every category except one, so armed with that information they can focus on improving their skills in that particular area. Or, receiving high marks in each category provides that valuable positive reinforcement that how they are handling their responsibilities is right on track.

Coaches also have access to other innovative sections on the new NAYS Web site, including a Skills and Drills section that features hundreds of animated drills, as well as those that can be printed out and taken to practice to use as a



The National Alliance for Youth Sports (NAYS) is America's leading advocate for positive and safe sports and activities for children. The non-profit 501(c)(3) organization is based in West Palm Beach, Florida.

<http://www.nays.org/index.cfm>

handy reference while working with players; and the Coaching Forum, where volunteers can tap into the expertise of more than 100,000 coaches to gain insight on a variety of issues that are typically encountered while coaching children.

Invasive species efforts are cut back, but still help

As a result of the budget cutbacks announced recently, The Nature Conservancy's Global Invasive Species Team is being disbanded and will close down much of its work over the next few weeks and months. Fortunately, their Forest Health work, focused on preventing and containing forest pests and pathogens, is fully funded and will continue.



***Rosa Multiflora* (Rambler Rose) is invasive in many parts of the country and has been shown to reduce vitality of adjacent native plants by competing successfully for nutrients.**

Photo by Leslie Mehrhoff

In addition, many TNC state and country program staff who work on invasive species and make up their extended Team will continue work. With the end of TNC support for GIST, they will no longer be supporting the continued development and updating of WIMS (TNC's Weeds Information Management System). As long as the GIST website (<http://tncinvasives.org>) remains up at the UC Davis server, the WIMS Access files and support documents will still be available, but there is no technical support for the use of these tools, outside that already provided in a few state chapter field offices. GIST is currently in talks with a few U.S. federal agencies about potentially hosting WIMS and providing technical support for users.

iMapInvasives

(<http://www.imapinvasives.org/>), the statewide invasive species aggregator database, will continue to

be developed and promoted through the partnership of the NY and FL Heritage Programs and NatureServe. For information on iMapInvasives please contact Meg Wilkinson at mwilkinson@tnc.org.



***Euonymus alatus* also known as Winged Spindle, Japanese Spindle, Winged Euonymus, Winged Wahoo, Burning Bush is becoming increasingly common in Connecticut, Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Illinois. These thickets can shade out native herbs and crowd out native shrubs.**

Photo by Leslie Mehrhoff

Inaugural International Healthy Parks Healthy People Congress 2010

With the increasing recognition of the value of nature to human health and wellbeing worldwide, Parks Victoria, in Australia will host the first International Healthy Parks Healthy People Congress in 2010 in Melbourne. This will be a unique opportunity to bring together delegates from all relevant sectors (i.e. planning, community development, physical and mental health, tourism, climate change, education, recreation, ecology and park management) to explore how nature significantly contributes to our wellbeing and broader societal benefits.

The Congress will raise awareness of recent research by highlighting case studies and facilitate discussion regarding the advantages of, and opportunities for, future collaboration across sectors at local through to global levels. It is planned to be a memorable event in all senses with inspirational speakers, innovative techniques to involve delegates, creative workshop and discussion ses-



sions, enjoyable networking opportunities and social activities. With the focus on nature some sessions will be in outdoor settings.

By reinforcing the connections between the health in communities and the health of parks, park operators can nurture a truly sustainable society, one which recognizes its dependence upon and place within the natural environment.

The Congress will be staged at the new Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre (a brand new 6 green-star rated facility), 11-16 April 2010.

The event already has the endorsement of IUCN, the UN World Tourism Organization, Natural England, the Australian Government, and Beyond-Blue (Australia's national depression initiative).

For more information go to: <http://www.healthyparkshealthypeoplecongress.org> or email John Senior, Manager Strategic Partnerships, Parks Victoria - jsenior@parks.vic.gov.au

Call for Papers

The 'Call for Proposals' for the Congress will open from **17 April and close on 19 June 2009**, at that time see:

http://www.healthyparkshealthypeoplecongress.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=48&Itemid=141

NACPRO is sharing share this information with colleagues and contacts widely, to encourage their interest.

The organizers have received a few offers to assist with the review (of proposals) process. If any others are willing to nominate themselves or a colleague for one of the abstract review group associated with the 4 prime themes, sub-themes and/or cross-cut themes please contact the organizers.

If you wish add your name to the mailing list for information on the congress, please provide email addresses, you can sign-up via the 'contact us' tab on the website www.healthyparkshealthypeoplecongress.org

CDC partners with NRPA to promote Healthy Communities

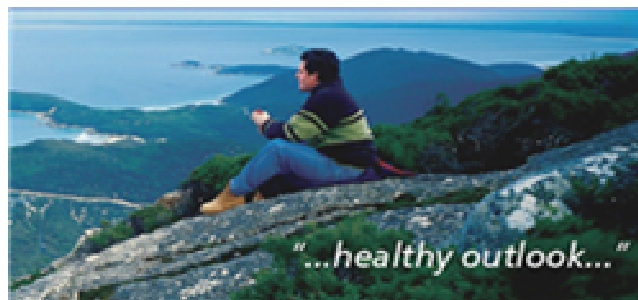
NRPA was selected as a national partner for chronic disease prevention and health promotion by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Part of the project will allow NRPA to fund 10 communities at \$30,000 to focus and advance chronic disease prevention locally.

The 2009 NRPA/ACHIEVE Healthy Communities Demonstration Sites includes Montgomery County Parks and Recreation, Montgomery, AL.

NRPA is one of four national organizations partnered together with

the CDC to promote the goals of ACHIEVE Healthy Communities at the local level. The 2009 NRPA/ACHIEVE Healthy Communities Demonstration Sites represent 10 of the 43 communities nationwide that were selected to receive funding.

The funding represents a three year commitment to help the 10 park and recreation agencies to affect significant change in their communities by working with local govern-



ment and community organizations to implement a coordinated chronic disease prevention and health and wellness plan through policy, systems and environmental change strategies.

Outdoor Planner Salary Study Released

On behalf of the National Association of Recreation Resource Planners (NARRP), the first-ever national salary study of outdoor recreation planners is now available at no cost.

This project focused on reported compensation of outdoor recreation planners in the United States in 2008, encompassing professionals employed by federal, state and local governments, as well as the private sector.

During the past two years, NARRP has been asked by employing agencies if it had any prevalent compensation data available to assist in establishing or adjusting salaries for their recreation resource planning professionals. Although several compensation studies in the recreation profession have been commissioned during the past several years, none of those studies included the "outdoor recreation planner" benchmark position.

Given this recognized need for recreation resource planning professionals and their employers, NARRP's Board of Directors authorized and created an ad-hoc committee to develop and conduct the first-known compensation study of outdoor recreation planners in the United States.

NARRP is an organization comprised of outdoor recreation professionals and others interested in recreation resource planning. It is a nationwide organization with members in nearly every state, representing professionals employed by state, federal, regional and local governmental agencies, consultants, non-profits and academic institutions. The mission of the Association is to advance the recreation resource planning profession.

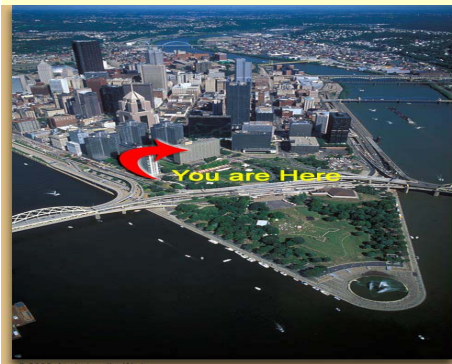
To learn more about NARRP, please visit www.narrp.org



To download a copy of the report, click here: [National Salary Study of Outdoor Recreation Planners](#)

NARRP Conference To be in Pittsburgh

The National Association of Recreation Resource Planners will be holding its 2009 Resource Planners' Conference to be held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania April 27 – May 1, 2009. The program for their 29th annual conference has been developed around theme of "Creating Sustainable Communities through Regional Recreation Planning." The conference will take place at the Hilton Gateway Center, in downtown Pittsburgh across from Point State Park. For more information and to register: www.narrp.org



New Park Practices Program Calls for Submissions

A new look at emerging concepts, trends and standards in Park and Recreation design, maintenance and management, and in related planning, development, construction and operations; a new on-line subscription program addressing today's issues for today's professionals.

If you were familiar with Trends, Grist and Design publications as a part of the revered but now defunct Park Practice Publications, you will certainly like the successor. At the urging of many former subscribers and interested professionals, the original concept is returning by early 2009 in the form of an electronic subscription package called the Park Practices Program. The American Academy of Park and Recreation Administrators is the sponsoring organization, partnering with Sagamore Publications of Illinois, Clemson University of South Carolina, and in cooperation with the

National Recreation and Park Association, to present this new series.

Papers that bridge the gap between

research, management, and practice for the conservation, stewardship, and preservation of natural resources within parks and recreation agencies are being solicited. Articles on park management practices, interpretation, natural and cultural resource protection, law enforcement, maintenance, visitor management, resource-based tourism, administration and other topics pertinent to the management of parks and recreation resources are encouraged. Contact the Editor: Brett Wright at wright@cleson.edu



NACPRO Encourages NACo Conference Attendance

The NACPRO meetings are held in conjunction with the annual National Association of Counties Congress. Below are details about the NACo meetings. Some of the information will also be useful for those traveling to Nashville for the NACPRO meetings only.

CONFERENCE LOCATION

All NACo events and sleeping rooms will be located at the Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center, 2800 Opryland Drive, Nashville, Tennessee 37214.

REGISTRATION FEES

All registration fees include the following:

- Educational Workshops
- General Sessions
- 2 Exhibit Hall Lunches
- Exhibit Hall Access
- Conference-Wide Event
- Inaugural Gala Reception



Registration fees do not include pre-conference seminars. Additional fees apply.

ATTIRE

The attire is business casual.

CAR RENTAL DISCOUNT

AVIS has joined NACo to provide discounted car rental rates for the 2009 NACo Annual Conference and Exposition. To reserve a car, contact Avis at (800) 331-1600 and reference Avis Worldwide Discount (AWD) number

Nashville

MUSIC CITY

National Association of Counties
2009 Annual Conference & Exposition
July 24-28, 2009
Gaylord Opryland Resort
& Convention Center
www.naco.org

Place only one call to Visitor Services for assistance in planning your trip to Music City and getting tickets for the best shows in town. Our expert resources offer the inside information on all the "must-see" places to visit in Nashville. Visitor Services may be contacted at the toll free # of 1-800-657-6910 Monday - Friday 8am-5pm CST or via email at nashcvb@visitmusiccity.com

J999101 or reserve online at www.avis.com. Also, a direct link for booking reservations under the NACo AWD number is available on the NACo web site. These rates include unlimited free mileage and are available one week prior to and after the conference.

GROUND TRANSPORTATION

Nashville International Airport (BNA) is the major airport servicing the Nashville, Tennessee area. The Gaylord Opryland Resort and Con-

vention Center is a 10 minute drive from the airport.

SuperShuttle

SuperShuttle's door-to-door service is available at The Nashville International Airport on a shared ride-on demand basis. NACo's SuperShuttle discounted rate from the airport to the Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center is \$12 one-way, \$20 round-trip per person. To make reservations using NACo's SuperShuttle discount, book online (www.supershuttle.com) and enter Group/Discount Code L9BAJ. You can also follow the link available on the NACo website to book directly using the NACo Group/Discount Code. For information or to make reservations via phone, call (800) BLUEVAN.

Taxi Information

Taxi cabs are available at the Nashville International Airport. Follow the posted signs to the taxi stands. Approximate fare from the airport to the Convention Center is \$22 one-way.

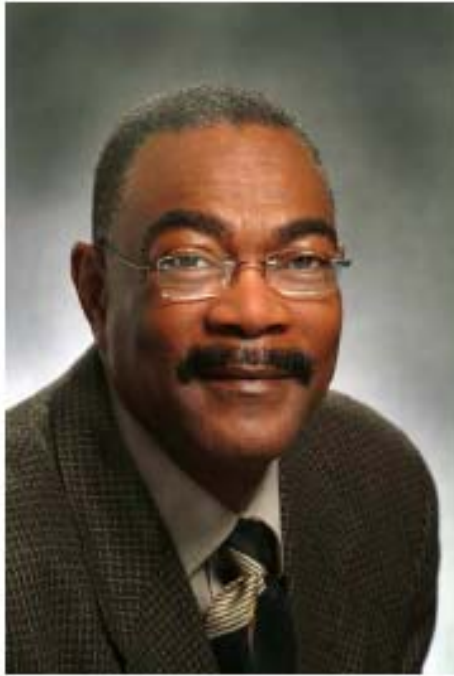
TOP 10 THINGS YOU CAN ONLY DO IN NASHVILLE

- 1 HEAR THE MUSIC WHERE MUSIC LIVES** — We're proud of the title "Music City" — nowhere else can you hear such diverse sounds as Americana, country, rockabilly, jazz, blues, classical, gospel and rock 'n' roll. Every honky tonk and club showcases a different songwriter waiting for the next big break.
- 2 HIT THE HALL** — Visit the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum. Choose from over 100 top hits and burn your own CD. Music prevails in Music City! You will see permanent and changing exhibits devoted to musical legends featuring original costumes, instruments, interactive exhibits, etc.
- 3 RIDE THE ROW** — Visit historic RCA Studio B by taking a trolley tour of Music Row to the famous recording studio where Elvis recorded over 200 songs. Roy Orbison, Dolly Parton, Eddy Arnold and many more recorded classic hits here. Not surprisingly, the heartbeat of Music City is driven by music — from country to classical.
- 4 VISIT THE HOME OF THE GREEK GODS** — In Nashville's Centennial Park, you'll find the world's only full-scale reproduction of the Parthenon in Athens, Greece. The Parthenon houses an art gallery and museum as well as Athena Pichon — at almost 42 feet in height, it's the tallest indoor sculpture in the Western world.
- 5 TAKE IN A SONGWRITERS-IN-THE-ROUNDSHOW** — It's simple. It's classic. It's uniquely Nashville. In a city of working musicians and songwriters there's no better way to hear the music. Typically called a "writers night," several singer/songwriters sit on stage accompanied only by a microphone, a guitar and their immense talent. These shows can be found in small, intimate clubs like the famed Bluebird Café.
- 6 KICK UP YOUR BOOTS** — At the Wildhorse Saloon, they serve up country that's kick! Take a break from line dancing to enjoy the famous B-a-B-Q. Daily lessons are free for those adventurous enough to scoot onto the dance floor. Country's brightest stars often perform here, too.
- 7 VISIT THE RYMAN AUDITORIUM** — Sure, it's the "Mother Church of Country Music," but artists such as Jon Bon Jovi and Tony Bennett regularly perform on its legendary stage. The world's greatest stars have performed at the Ryman, from Celine to Cash.
- 8 TAKE A TIMELESS JOURNEY** — The stars of the Grand Ole Opry perform every Friday and Saturday night. With over 80 years under its belt, the Opry shows no signs of slowing down. It's the world's longest-running broadcast.
- 9 SALUTE** — Three U.S. Presidents called Tennessee home — Andrew Jackson, James K. Polk and Andrew Johnson. You can revisit the past at The Hermitage, Home of President Andrew Jackson. Polk is buried on the grounds of the historic State Capitol building.
- 10 VISIT HONKY TONK HIGHWAY** — Tootsie's Orchid Lounge, Legends Come, Second Fiddle, The Stage, Bluegrass Inn and Robert's Western World are all experts at serving up cool longnecks and hot country music. You never know who you'll see in these Lower Broadway clubs in the shadow of the Ryman. Willie Nelson, Kris Kristofferson and Terri Clark all began their careers at Tootsie's.

Highlight: Nashville Parks Celebrating Davidson County

Nashville has a consolidated city-county government which includes seven smaller municipalities.

City/County parks are operated by the **Metropolitan Board of Parks and Recreation** whose mission is to provide every citizen of Nashville and Davidson County with an equal opportunity for safe recreational and cultural activities within a network of parks and greenways that preserves and protects the region's natural resources.



**Roy E. Wilson, Director
Metropolitan Board of
Parks and Recreation**

The Metro Parks and Recreation Department has a wide variety of facilities and programs to be enjoyed across Davidson County. Presently, there are 113 properties on over 10,570 acres, plus seven municipal golf courses. Offering something for everyone, including both passive and active recreation. Including senior programs, special population programs, cultural arts



classes, dog parks, a variety of trails, nature programs, sports leagues, art galleries.

There are 22 community centers across Davidson County with a wide array of activities and programs, including open gym play and special senior activities. Regional centers have indoor pools and fitness centers.

The greenways and trails that cross the county offer a retreat from the daily grind, and the four nature centers offer programs and interesting activities each week. Parks also offers a line-up of free concerts and dances throughout the summer.

The Metropolitan Parks and Greenways Master Plan was adopted in 2002, after a complete evaluation of the system, and a year of citizen input in all areas of Nashville. The plan recommended more than \$260 million of improvements to the park system, including a number of new initiatives and eliminating deferred maintenance to existing parks and facilities. To date, they have built new community centers at Hadley, East, Coleman, Parkwood, and



McFerrin parks, their Skate Park and renovated facilities at Wave Country, the Cumberland Pedestrian Bridge, and now have more than 36 miles of greenways open. In the spring of 2008, Metro Parks solicited public input for an update of the plan. The update is scheduled for adoption later this year.

The Nashville Riverfront Concept is a 20 year plan for the dramatic transformation of the downtown riverfront and the east banks of

Nashville. The plan calls for expanded parks, trails, water recreation, and environmental preservation, and provides for both residential and commercial opportunities in the heart of Nashville. The vision for the riverfront plans was greatly enhanced by the diverse views expressed in public meetings by residents from all over the county with interest in the environmental quality and quality of life for the citizens and visitors to Nashville.

Arts are a highlight

Metro Parks' Centennial Art Center located in Tennessee's historic Centennial Park – serves as headquarters for the Visual Arts Department of the larger Cultural Arts Division of Nashville's Metropolitan Board of Parks and Recreation. Originally built as a swimming complex in 1932, it closed in 1959 and was renovated in 1971, becoming the first Metro Nashville owned structure rehabilitated for "Adaptive Re-use."



Tucked within an attractive brick walled courtyard in back of Centennial Art Center's building, are outdoor areas that include performance, exhibition and workspace. The former pool is now a sculpture display garden and pond (where, on occasion, ducks from nearby Lake Watauga fly in to swim and nest), surrounded by an impressive herb garden created and maintained by The Herb Society of Nashville. The adjacent courtyard is furnished with tables and chairs, creating an area for picnics and gatherings. The Art Center is also the location of the Metro Parks' first Wi-Fi antenna, so visitors can enjoy the peace and quiet of the Center's courtyard while easily accessing free wireless internet via their laptops, PDAs and other wireless internet devices.



Sculpture Studio

Under the leadership of Brenda McSurley, Metro Park's Visual Arts Supervisor and Centennial Art Center's Director,

the Art Center has two art studio/classrooms where popular, affordable classes in drawing, painting, pottery and sculpture are taught by well-respected artists. Many area artists got started through the Center's classes, and both past and current students

consistently win awards in juried exhibitions. In addition to the Art Center's classes, the Visual Arts Department offers craft and fine art classes in numerous Metro Parks Community Centers throughout Nashville.

A mutually beneficial collaboration – involving over a dozen different Metro Parks' Community Centers – combines Parks' Visual Arts Department's teaching staff and the Frist Center for the Visual Arts' Art Trunk Community Outreach Program. Art Trunks – educational kits with different themes designed to enrich the appreciation and understanding of Frist Center exhibitions – include reproductions of artwork and guided lesson plans for children and Senior Citizens. The Frist Center provides Art Trunk training for Metro Parks' art teachers who then conduct the programs. To round out the students' educational and recreational experiences, the teachers accompany them on special visits to the Frist Center to view, in person, the works they have studied.

Centennial Art Center's main building also contains a gallery that hosts exhibits and sales of a variety of media by professional visual artists. Each exhibit opens with an



Artist's Reception, giving the public an opportunity to meet the artists and enjoy the



Autumn in the Catskills by Sanford Robinson Gifford- the Cowan Collection

Metro Parks has two locations that maintain gallery space with local and traveling artist's exhibits- the Parthenon and the Centennial Art Center. Click on these links for more information, including exhibit schedules. The Parthenon is also home to permanent collections, and the Art Center has a popular ongoing series of visual arts classes. Both facilities are located in Centennial Park.

camaraderie of fellow visual arts supporters. During the month of December, the popular Holiday Season Exhibition and Sale is held. Benefiting Arts in the Parks, a non profit organization, the exhibit features works by Cultural Arts' Staff and students.

Throughout the years, Metro Parks' Cultural Arts Division has been awarded numerous grants from public and private organizations that help enable the Visual Arts Division and others within Metro Parks to collaborate on special projects and events.

County Parks News Roundup

King County Connector Trail Now Open to the Public



King County, WA—The Marymoor Connector Trail (MCT) is now open for use. The MCT is the newest addition to the regional trails system and will ultimately connect the Sammamish River Trail to the East Lake Sammamish Trail via Marymoor Park, completing a 40-plus mile regional trail connection from Seattle to Issaquah and beyond. The grand opening of the full trail will be later this spring.

Pierce County, WA—Looking to trim \$8 million from the County budget, the Pierce County Council recently discussed transferring its parks to cities, local park district or school districts. Of course those agencies may be struggling too land may have little interest in taking on additional financial burdens.

Moffat County, CO—A company insuring Moffat County recently made a payment to settle a wrongful termination suit brought last summer in U. S. District court. The \$15,000 settlement was paid to a former county parks employee who had claimed being fired when she complained about “religious overtures” from her supervisor. The supervisor had acknowledged having a religious conversation but said it was not “harassment”. The County settlement was made without concession of wrongdoing.

Maricopa County, AZ—Maricopa County Parks and Recreation is participating in a program to increase the populations of two species of endangered fish. The Arizona Fish and Game department released Gila topminnow and desert pupfish were released into the agencies waters under a “Safe Harbor Agreement” which allows non-federal landowners to participate in conservation and recovery efforts of endangered species by providing habitat for establishing new populations.



Gila Topminnow

Los Angeles County, CA—The LA County Health department recently warned women not to eat bass from a lake in one Los Angeles County Park. Preliminary tests indicated amounts of mercury and polychlorinated biphenyls, to be above federal guidelines. Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation officials did not know the source of the contamination. The parks and recreation department stocks the lake with catfish. However it appeared that only bass, that the department had not stocked, were contaminated.

Los Angeles County, CA—About an acre and a half of marijuana plants were discovered by a park visitor recently growing in a remote Los Angeles County park. Suspected pot farmers eluded subsequent investigating officers in the dense brush. The crop was later destroyed.



Bergen County, NJ—Forty-eight years after it was first envisioned, the Overpeck County Park is scheduled to be opened in September. This Central Park-style development will feature picnic areas, soccer fields, trails and an amphitheater. The new park is situated on the former Meadowlands landfill. Recent editorials in the press have expressed concerns about potential environmental hazards owing to the fill and cover brought in by haulers with alleged mob ties and project oversight by an independent contractor rather than the department of health.

Rochester County, MN—A fifty mile loop trail is scheduled to begin construction this spring in southeastern Minnesota. When completed, the Whitewater Country Loop State Trail will connect Chester Wood County Park in Rochester county with eight towns (including the City of Rochester) and seven smaller municipalities in Rochester and Winona County.



Hennepin County, MN—Though many county park systems have been forced to cut back this year’s budget, the Three Rivers Park District has requested that Hennepin county fund a 6.9% increase in the District’s 2009 budget. The 32.7 million dollar budget would cost the owner of a \$250,000 home about \$60.70 for their year’s Three Rivers Parks services.

Douglas County, NV—Economic challenges have forced Douglas County Parks to raise several of its

County Parks News Roundup

user fees for 2009. New fees will be charged at two community centers, campgrounds hookup fees and senior passes are among the changes expected to yield \$25,000 for parks operation.

Franklin County, VA—A 2008 survey of county residents was released



that mirrored strong interest throughout the country to provide more open space parks. The survey indicated that 65% of the resi-

dents surveyed would like to see more county parks. The survey was done in connection with development of a comprehensive plan for development of facilities over the next 15 years.

Seventy-five percent of respondents wanted Franklin County to increase its offering of parks activities and programs in public parks. Eighty-two percent would like the county to be the primary conservators of natural resources and water access (as opposed to private developers). Eighty-five percent of respondents agree that parks and open spaces are important to future land use planning.

The county's department of parks and recreation operates eight parks, consisting of 680 acres. The operating budget is \$678,552 this year.

Hamilton County, OH—More Hamilton County residents used the county's parks in 2008 than in any other year in the past twenty, according to a recent survey by the

University of Cincinnati.

In surveys conducted last year, 96 percent of respondents said that they or a member of their family had visited a park in the Hamilton County Park District in the past year.

The survey also found that respondents were more satisfied with the way the parks operated than in previous years.



When it comes to activities, walking or hiking on the trails increased in popularity

from previous years and remained the top response. Picnicking was second.



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National Playground Safety Week is April 20-24

The National Program for Playground Safety (NPPS) has been asking others to celebrate National Playground Safety Week since 1996. During each year, the last full week of April is designated to celebrate this event. This year the dates are April 20-24, 2009.



This week was chosen with the idea that most states would be free from snow. Spring will have sprung, the snow will be gone and the playgrounds

will be safe for children to play on the equipment, and on the playground surfacing under and around the equipment.

In order to celebrate the opportunity to play safely, NPPS invites the governors of each state to write a proclamation that their own state will celebrate Playground Safety Week. The most states have cooperated in this effort, in one year, has been 45. We are always interested in trying to get all 50 states to participate. NPPS is asking County park agencies to encourage the governors of their own state to make the proclamation.

Each year, the NPPS suggests that each day celebrate a different emphasis. For example, a park agency might consider affirming the importance of Supervision on Monday, Age appropriate design on Tuesday, Fall surfacing on Wednesday, Equipment maintenance on Thursday, and combine all 4 on Friday to encourage the provision of a S.A.F.E. playground for children.

In order to actively involve children in the week, NPPS has developed Kid Checker, which children who are in second grade and above can use to check to see whether or not their playground is SAFE. It has 12 questions and an indicator of the safety of the play area on the checker page. It is available on the NPPS website.

There is a video available about playground safety for pre-school children. Last year, NPPS emphasized the idea of the physical education teacher teaching children how to fall and roll from equipment such as horizontal ladders.

This year, NPPS is suggesting that the adults consider emphasizing planning the play areas. A play area does not just emerge by itself. It needs careful planning to consider its appropriateness for the ages of the children, proper surfacing for the ages of the children and equipment maintenance that will be needed. After that, the planning group can consider fundraising, installation, and a supervision plan. All of these items are covered in an organized manner in a new NPPS planning guide.



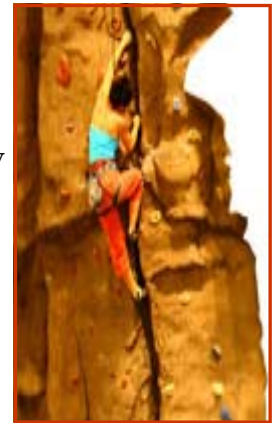
Playground Safety Week would be a good time to nominate someone who has done an outstanding job promoting playground safety for the Ahren's Playground Safety Award. In addition, it would be appropriate to nominate an organization that has done an outstanding job regarding playground safety for the John Preston Award.

For more information and criteria for the awards see the NPPS website: www.playgroundsafety.org.

CWA Offers Scholarship!

The Climbing Wall Association is pleased to announce that Stratus Insurance Services, Inc., of American Fork, Utah, has once again generously sponsored a scholarship program for the CWA Climbing Wall Summit! Stratus has offered to fund five scholarships to the conference for members to benefit from this professional development opportunity and who otherwise might not be able to attend the conference.

Awards are based on financial need, membership status, professional development considerations, and potential to affect the climbing public's safety. Any person employed by a current member is encouraged to apply. There will be one award per com-



pany/organization. If you received a conference scholarship last year, you are not eligible this year but are welcome to apply again in 2010.

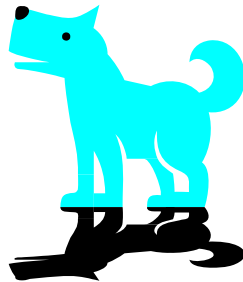
Scholarship applicants will be notified on a rolling basis until all awards have been granted. Scholarships will be awarded to cover the conference registration fee. Scholarships do not fund pre-conference workshops, travel, food, lodging, or other incidental expenses associated with attending the conference.

We encourage you to apply now! You can find the scholarship information and application here. The scholarship application deadline is April 3, 2009! And remember, the next conference registration deadline is April 17th!

For details, visit them at <http://www.climbingwallindustry.org/cwsmain09.php>.

More County Parks News Roundup

Osceola County, FL—Osceola County Celebrates Opening of its first County-Owned Dog Park! County Commissioners and the Osceola County Parks Division recently opened the park which consists of two fenced areas, one for large dogs and one for small dogs, located on one acre. Amenities include doggie water fountains, benches, shade trees and dog waste stations. The dog park was built by county Parks staff at a cost of \$45,712.



Animal Control staff was on hand to distribute information on pet adoptions.

Anoka County, MN—The Anoka County Parks and Recreation Department is hard at work implementing the Take Heart Anoka County- Sudden Cardiac Arrest Survival Initiative. Take Heart Anoka County is part of a national demonstration to increase awareness of the benefits of educating citizens with CPR/AED non-certification training. This is achieved by watching a 20 minute practice DVD and using a mini Anne manikin in conjunction with the CPR booklet. All are part



of the CPR Anytime Kit provided by Anoka County in conjunction with the Mercy & Unity Hospitals Foundations. This training effort will increase the chance of survival for sudden cardiac arrest victims.

Uintah County, UT—The Uintah Parks and Recreation Board announced in a press release the appointment of Robin O'Driscoll as new executive director of the Uintah Recrea-



tion District. O'Driscoll has been the backbone and heart of the District and the "face" for recreation in Uintah County since she began working for the District in 1992, according to the release. The public knows and trusts her very well. The board has every confidence she will be a very capable leader. She is well-respected by staff, the public and community leaders for her honesty and integrity. Her commitment to improving the quality of life of citizens in the Basin is unquestionable.

O'Driscoll expressed gratitude for the Board's confidence and stated she appreciates the opportunity to help the continued improvement of recreation programs and facilities in Uintah County. Laquita Peterson, Uintah Parks and Recreation Board chair, stated "Robin's understanding of the District is second to none. I have every confidence in her ability to lead the District; she is a shining star in our community and we are lucky to have her at the helm."

Collier County, FL— The Collier County Parks and Recreation Department held a Grand Opening Ceremony for the Port of the Islands Marina in March. The recently purchased Port of the Islands Marina is approximately five



acres of commercially zoned waterfront and upland property currently used for boat trailer and car parking as well as storage. The site already includes a 94 space parking facility. The marina building houses a ship store, bathrooms, offices and a Manatee and 10,000 Islands Education Center.

Funding for the purchase will be shared among the Parks and Recreation Department's Capital Improvement Fund and other entities.

A special *Thank You* to those corporations that support the NACPRO Annual Awards Program:





NACPRO

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The Newsletter of the National Association Of County Park and Recreation Officials is on the Web. Visit us at:
<http://www.nacpro.org/News/news.htm>

For additional copies, download and print this edition in **color**.

Become a NACPRO Professional or Corporate member For details log on to:

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The National Association of County Park and Recreation Officials is an independent non-profit organization with its own chartered constitution and is an affiliate of both the National Association of Counties (NACo) and the National Recreation and Park Association(NRPA). NACPRO represents counties and regional parks systems on federal legislative matters. Membership consists of county park professionals throughout the United States.

Its Goal is to advance official policies that promote county parks and recreation issues while providing members with opportunities to network, exchange resources and achieve professional development.

Help Keep the NACPRO Website Lively

Consider Submitting an Item for the NACPRO Web Site:

Would you like to offer your agency for the "Featured Agency?" It is time to replace Three Rivers.

It is simple. We just need a logo, maybe a photo or two, and a Word or PDF document highlighting your organization.

How about "County Park News?" Another simple opportunity to share something that is occurring in your agency. A new program, a new development, a new plan, special recognition.... etc.

Just fill out the form on the web site and send in.

It is healthy for our web site to change content regularly.

The screenshot shows the NACPRO website interface. At the top is the NACPRO logo and tagline: "The National Association of County Park and Recreation Officials". Below this is a navigation bar with links: Home, About Us, Officers & Directors, County Parks, Corporate Sponsors, Awards, and Membership. The main content area is divided into several sections:

- Announcements:** Features a news item titled "NRPA Gold Medal Award to Gwinnett County, GA" with a sub-headline "Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation has received the 2008 Gold Medal Award (Class 1 population 250,000-up category) for Excellence in Park and Recreation Management." It includes a "More Info" link and a "Submit Announcement" button.
- County Park News:** Features a news item titled "Even in Tough Economic Times - Public Shows Support for Parks, Recreation and Natural Resources" with a sub-headline "Around the country, November 4, 2008 election results exhibit continued public support for county park, recreation and natural resources initiatives. At least six major County Parks' referenda passed and Minnesota Citizens voted 'Yes' on a constitutional amendment which provides..."
- NACPRO Newsletter:** Features a section for the "2009 NACPRO Awards Program" with a sub-headline "December 31, 2008" and text: "Nominations are now being accepted for the 2009 NACPRO County Parks Excellence Awards. The application deadline is April 10th. Presentation of the awards will be made at an award banquet in conjunction with the NACo meeting to be held Sunday evening July 26, 2009 in Nashville, Tennessee." It includes a "More Info | Newsletter Archive" link and a photo of a farm with white silos.
- Featured Agency:** Features a section for "Three Rivers Park District" with a sub-headline "Three Rivers Park District is a natural resources-based park system located in the suburban Minneapolis/St. Paul metro area of Minnesota." It includes a "More Info" link and the Three Rivers Park District logo.
- Featured Sponsor:** Features a section titled "NACPRO Thanks 2008 Awards Program Corporate Sponsors" with text: "Special thanks to our corporate sponsors of the 2008 Awards Program. Financial contributions by these corporations help NACPRO to acknowledge excellence in the planning and delivery of county park and recreation programs, facilities and services throughout the country. Corporate sponsorship enables..." It includes a "Join" button.
- Latest Job Listings:** Features a section with two job listings: "Park Ranger Trainee/Park Ranger I - Sonoma County, Posted 2/27/09 - Open Until Filled" and "Park/Center Manager Veterans Memorial".



National Association of County Park and Recreation Officials
2009 Nashville, TN Conference
July 25-27

Board and Membership Meetings

Both meetings will be held on Saturday, July 25. The Board meeting will begin at 1:00 pm at the **Holiday Inn Select Nashville (Vanderbilt) 2613 West End Ave. Nashville, TN 37203**. The general membership meeting will begin about 2:00 pm. General members are welcome to sit in on the preceding Board meeting.

County Parks Tour

The county facilities Park Tour will be on Sunday, July 26. A bus will leave the Holiday Inn Select (Vanderbilt) at 8:30 am. Nashville has a consolidated city-county government which includes seven smaller municipalities, so our tour will highlight properties operated by the Metropolitan Board of Parks and Recreation that provides citizens of Nashville and Davidson County with recreational and cultural activities within a network of parks and greenways that preserve and protect the region's natural resources. The Metro Parks and Recreation Department has a wide variety of facilities and programs. Presently, there are 113 properties on over 10,570 acres, plus seven municipal golf courses. Riders will visit facilities and meet managers for a behind the scenes look especially for county and regional park professionals. The tour is being arranged by the Metropolitan Board of Parks and Recreation and Parks. Lunch will be served. The bus will return to the Holiday Inn Select around 4:30 pm. The tour will cost is \$65.

Education Programs

Education programs for NACPRO members featuring current issues will be offered on Monday morning July 27 ending between noon and 1:00 pm. Program information will be available at www.nacpro.org in mid-May.

Awards Banquet

The annual Awards Banquet will be held in the evening of Sunday July 26, at the **Holiday Inn Select Nashville (Vanderbilt) 2613 West End Ave. Nashville, TN 37203**. A cocktail reception begins at 5:30 pm (cash bar) and dinner begins after **6:00** pm. Following a bountiful meal, The NACPRO Awards of excellence will be announced and new board members and officers will be installed. The Banquet is **\$65.00/person**. (One complimentary ticket is provided to each Award Recipient or Agency).

Sponsors:



Hotels

NACPRO events will all be at the **Holiday Inn Select Nashville (Vanderbilt) 2613 West End Ave. Nashville, TN 37203**. NACPRO has **not** secured a block of rooms. We suggest you check on the web to get an idea of rates and locations of hotels. NACO does have a block of rooms so you may want to check their website if you are planning on attending the NACo Congress as well.

National Association of County Park and Recreation Officials
2009 Nashville Conference/Banquet
Registration Form

Name _____

Position/Title: _____

Organization: _____

Business
Address: _____

County: _____

Email Address: _____ **Registration Confirmation will be by e-mail**

Phone: _____

List Names of persons on tour (Please place "V" before name if choosing vegetarian lunch)

List names of person attending banquet (Please place "V" before name if choosing vegetarian dinner option)

Number of persons on tour _____ X \$65 = _____

Number of banquet meals _____ X \$65 = _____

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