



# NACPRO NEWS

*The Newsletter of the National Association of Park and Recreation Officials*

Affiliated with: National Association of Counties (NACo) and National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA)

## NACPRO will meet in Portland and tour area parks

In mid July thousands of county elected officials and appointed staff will descend on Multnomah County (Portland, Oregon) to attend the National Association of Counties (NACo) 2011 Annual Conference & Exposition.

Among the throng will be many professional county and regional park and recreation managers, in town to attend meetings geared toward their needs.

Each year the National Association of County Park and Recreation Officials holds its annual meetings in conjunction with the NACo annual conference and plans are well underway for this July.

NACPRO activities will kick off on Saturday, July 16 with the NACPRO professional park tour for park managers and elected officials. A motor coach will leave the Oregon Convention Center around 8:30 am. The tour will focus on interpretive and recreational features of Metro parks (regional parks serving the Portland area). A preview of Metro parks and operations appears elsewhere in this newsletter.) The bus will return by 5:00 pm.

The summer Board of Directors meeting for NACPRO will be held on Sunday, July, 17 at 1:00pm at the Multnomah County Central Library 801

Southwest 10th Avenue in Portland. The business meeting will be dealing with general operational issues of the organization including budgeting, policy development and program planning. A general member meeting will begin at about 2:30 at the same location. During this meeting new Board members will be selected, by-laws reviewed and other organizational matters handled.

The annual Awards Banquet will be held in the evening of Sunday July 17, at Portland's Irving Street Kitchen Restaurant (701 NW 13th at Irving Street). Following a bountiful meal featuring fresh local foods, the NACPRO Awards of Excellence in Parks will be announced and new NACPRO board members and officers will be installed.

On Monday July 18 several special parks oriented education sessions will be held by NACPRO for county and regional park professionals and elected officials interested in parks operations. They will be held in the David Douglas Room of the World Forestry Center's 5.5 acre campus. Sessions will include a presentation on the Economic Values of Parks and Open Space and another on Suburban Whitetail Deer Management.

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**Volume 22, Issue 2  
NACPRO News**

**June 2011  
Web Edition**

Upcoming NACPRO Meetings:

- Portland, OR—**  
July 2011
- ♦ **Atlanta, GA—**  
Nov. 2011
- ♦ **Pittsburgh, PA—**  
July 2012
- ♦ **Anaheim, CA—**  
Oct. 2012
- ♦ **Fort Worth, TX—**  
July 2013
- ♦ **New Orleans, La—**  
July 2014

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**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
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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 97<sup>th</sup> St.

Burr Ridge, IL 60527

or faxed to 630-920-0333

or e-mailed to [rdangooch@aol.com](mailto:rdangooch@aol.com)

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NACo Liaison.....Carrie Clingan

NRPA Rep.....Mark Thornton

**Letter from the NACPRO President**

The public generally regards the summer months as the busy time of year for parks and recreation. However professionals in the field know that throughout the year our workload is more like a low frequency roar accentuated with periods of fever pitched activity.

With the downturn of the nation's economy, the roar has grown louder as many of us are being challenged to do more with less and less support. As our agency budget numbers are being reduced, we are finding higher and higher levels of visitation. The idea of taking vacations close to home or "staycations" are increasingly popular. This may result in high regional park visitation and generally speaking, increased visitation means increased demands on our service. Increased service load equals increased cost in the face of budget reductions...there is something wrong with this equation.

Especially troubling is how public employees are often being targeted in the media as being exempt from forces affecting the private sector. It has been my experience with my colleagues and coworkers that they consider it a privilege to work in this field and they do not take this privilege lightly. We do not work solely for financial reward or the equity share of a business. Our equity and reward often comes from the simple joy of seeing people of all ages enjoying the facilities and open spaces of our agencies, witnessing a bit of nature or seeing something as simple as a sunset over a protected view-shed.

We recognize day in and day out that we have a profound impact on our communities and our region. We touch people daily giving them places to celebrate the joy of daily life with their families, marvel at and study the wonders of nature, recover physically and emotionally from tragedy and loss, recreate and exercise. We contribute to the stability of our communities' real estate values and the stability of the natural systems that enable and nourish life.

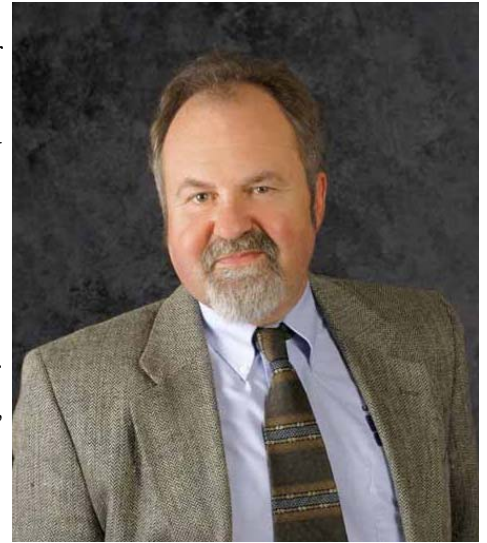
The work we do is important and the citizens of this nation know that. It is up to us to not only be good stewards of our park resources, but to also develop and maintain public support for our work.

We need to continue to educate ourselves on the value of our work and be prepared to address those who might choose to misrepresent this value. We must demonstrate our dedication to enhancing our communities and the contributions we make to the continued prosperity of this country.

In light of the challenges of continuing to do more with less and less, we have to remain committed to expanding our awareness of how we affect the world around us and we have to make our travel and educational efforts as meaningful as we possibly can.

With this in mind, I am happy to report that in addition to our NACPRO awards banquet and annual meeting, we have two exceptional educational sessions. The Trust for Public Land (TPL) will be providing a comprehensive session on the value of open space and parks and recreation. Long known as an important partner to conservation and recreation efforts, TPL recognized several years ago that it had to develop the ability to measure the economic benefits of its work. (Note: Andy Kimmel will be facilitating a similar presentation within the NACo conference.)

Every park system has natural resource management issues that can become costly and turn into a public relations nightmare. In addition to TPL, we will be



## .....Letter (from previous page)

hearing from representatives from the Johnson County (Kansas) Recreation and Parks Department on the development of its deer management program. Johnson County has exhibited a remarkable amount of due diligence in putting its management program and presentation together.

And finally, as in years past, we will also have a wonderful tour exploring the best-of-the-best regional park facilities in the area.

As the outgoing president of NACPRO, I express heartfelt gratitude to Executive Director Dan Gooch, the officers of the board, and all of the board members for their continued commitment to this organization and the field. It has been an honor and a pleasure to work with all of you.

**Steve Madewell**

**NACPRO President for 2010-2011**

**Director Lake MetroParks, Ohio**

## ....Continued from page 1—NACPRO will meet in Portland

In the spirit of environmental concern that is so prevalent in the Portland area, meeting locations have been all been selected so that they are convenient to the MAX light rail system. Attendees will be able to avail themselves of public transportation throughout their stay in the area. (MAX also serves the Portland airport so it is recommended that attendees select hotels served by public transporta-

tion as well in order to make their transportation seamless.)

More details including cost of tour, banquet and education sessions and about exact locations, travel on MAX and registration materials are posted on the NACPRO website at: <http://www.nacpro.org/>.

## Policies address trail accessibility rule on Power-Driven Mobility Devices

*By Stuart Macdonald, editor,  
American Trails Magazine*

March 15 was the date that Department of Justice (DOJ) regulations dealing with “other power-driven mobility devices” went into effect. The challenge for trail managers was to respond to a rule that would allow persons with mobility disabilities to drive virtually any vehicle on trails.

The new rule addresses “nondiscrimination on the basis of disability” under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Land managers— whether local, state, or nonprofit— are all affected by the rule.

American Trails Magazine has gathered quite a few of the new policies to determine how land managing agencies are responding to the new rule. (See the complete policies referenced in this sum-

mary at [www.AmericanTrails.org](http://www.AmericanTrails.org)). Not surprisingly, there is a lot of variation. Some of the key issues we found are:

### Use of motor vehicles

Since the DOJ does not rule out any vehicle types, policies need to specify which kinds of OPDMD could be operated safely.

- Internal combustion engines prohibited (Santa Monica Mountains)
- If powered by an internal combustion engine, the engine shall have a four-stroke cycle, be equipped with an approved spark arrestor muffler, and meet Clean Air standards in effect at the time of its manufacture. Two-stroke cycle engines are not allowed. (Illinois)

### Use of electric vehicles

The most common power-driven mobility device allowed by land managers is the class of “Electronic Personal Assistance Mobility De-

vices” (EPAMD) such as the Segway.

- OPDMD must be electric powered (Jefferson County)
- Any electric propulsion device that does not exceed 750 watts or 1-HP in power (West Penn)
- All-electric mobility devices that can access the trails from the trailheads (Puente Hills)
- EPAMD (e.g., Segways®), electric-assisted bicycles and the following electric-powered devices:

*.....Continued on page 4*

## NRPA's Research Papers

The National Recreation and Park Association has recently released a series of research papers in five different areas: youth, health, economics, the environment, and air quality through parks and trees. These papers can be found on their web site at [www.nrpa.org](http://www.nrpa.org)

## Best Practices in Recreation Resource Planning available for download

The National Association of Recreation Resource Planners (NARRP) has just posted Chapter 6, GIS Applications, on their NARRP website.

NARRP is continuing to work on the next set of chapters (7 through 15) for the best practices planning book.

Meanwhile, NARRP wants to remind recreation planners that they are currently soliciting authors willing to prepare original work, as well as existing written material for the chapters listed below. Any best practice that park managers would like to share does NOT need to be in final form. They do not expect written materials to be "publication ready". They have contracted with a technical editor to read all written materials and require all written materials submitted for publication to be evaluated by at least two peer reviewers.

NARRP has expressed appreciation

for the interest by the profession in this best practices planning book. Those that have an idea or practice to share should contact John Baas at (925) 947-4895, [jbaas@timberlineassoc.com](mailto:jbaas@timberlineassoc.com).

Chapters Requiring Authors and/or Content are: Managing the Outdoor Recreation Planning Process, Planning and Decision making, Plan Implementation, Emerging Issues and Case Studies.

**Publishing Schedule:**  
Dr. John Baas, the project manager for this effort, intends to finish all the book chapters during 2011.

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Foreward

1. Introduction
2. Principles of Planning
3. The General Planning Process
4. Scoping and Public Involvement

5. Recreation Resource Inventories and Studies

6. GIS Applications

7. Estimating Recreation Demand

8. Estimating Recreation Supply

9. Collaborative Planning and Public Outreach

10. Analyzing Alternatives

11. Managing the Recreation Planning Process

12. Planning and Decisionmaking

13. Plan Implementation

14. Emerging Issues

15. Case Studies

Visit [www.narrp.org](http://www.narrp.org) to learn more about the association and access other planning resources.

### .....Continued from page 3 trail accessibility rule

foot scooters, tracked mobility chairs or tricycles that are designed to transport a single individual with a disability as a substitute for walking may be used by a person with a mobility disability on all paved and aggregate surfaced trails (MN)

#### Speed limits

Most policies specify a maximum speed for accessibility devices:

- EPAMD must not exceed a speed of 5 miles per hour (Fort Collins)
- 5 mph when other users are present; 10 mph when other users are not present (Jefferson County)
- 5 miles per hour (Santa Monica Mountains)
- Typical walking speed, based on the particular soil type and existing environmental conditions, not to

exceed 5 miles per hour (Florida)

- 10 mph for fuel-driven devices or devices over 36" wide (COSCA)
- 10 mph for fuel-driven devices or devices over 36" wide; EPAMD 12 mph (Conejo Open Space)
- 15 miles per hour for electric personal assistive mobility devices
- 20 mph for all devices operated on the trail (West Penn)

#### Size and weight limits

Specifying dimensions is one way to determine the kinds of devices, such as ATVs, that would be excluded.

- OPDMD may be up to 32 inches wide, up to 6 feet long, and weigh up to 150 pounds (Jefferson County)
- No wider than 36 inches (West

Penn)

- On Single Track Trail, devices not to exceed 26" width and a maximum wheel width of 6"(Orange County)
- OPDMD "shall not typically exceed" 34" width, 62" length, and 550 pounds in weight (Florida)
- Combined width of the OPDMD, operator, and additional load does not exceed 45% of the surface width of the circulation path (Illinois)

#### Trail limitations

Some policies refer to specific measurements or characteristics of the trail.

- OPDMD may only be operated

....continued on page 11

## Special Park District Forum: registration available

The 2011 Special Park Districts Forum, which will be held in Northern Virginia from Sunday, September 25 (arrival) to Wednesday, September 28 is now online and registration is now available.

The Special Park Districts Forum is the annual gathering of park, recreation, and natural area special districts from the United States and Canada. This international conference began over 38 years ago as a way for dedicated professionals to share successes and challenges.

The conference provides a venue for elected representatives, appointed leaders and staff to exchange best practices information about managing regional-scale parks, trails, natural areas and related programs.

Over the years, the Forum has been hosted by premier open-space facilities throughout the United States and Canada. With its unique format, this gathering provides attendees the opportunity to tour the host agency's facilities, attend group meetings key to the specific aspects of their profession, along with special event and recreation opportunities.

The Forum website site may be visited by typing [http://www.regonline.com/special\\_park\\_districts\\_forum\\_2011](http://www.regonline.com/special_park_districts_forum_2011) into a browser.

The site includes information on the event's proposed schedule, a direct link to book rooms at the Forum's hotel, and an overview of the event.

Participants may also be able to directly register for the event using this site (credit cards and check only).

### A Look at the Forum Themes

The themes for the 2011 Special Park Districts Forum include Na-



## 2011 Special Park Districts Forum



ture/Environment, Organizational Issues, Park Management, History and Recreational Opportunities.

Here's a look at the class subjects being offered for each. During the online registration process, participants will be asked to choose the classes they prefer to take. This list is not binding, and may very well change between now and the actual event. By completing the agenda form, presenters will know what classes most interest participants and be able to tailor offerings accordingly.

#### Nature/Environment

- ▶ Connecting Children with Nature (Roving Naturalist Program & REI)
- ▶ Fertilizer/Pesticide Use Policy & Golf Course Certification
- ▶ LEED Certified Buildings
- ▶ Reducing the Carbon Footprint of your Agency

#### Organizational Issues

- ▶ Multi-Jurisdictional Opportunities and Challenges
- ▶ Trends in Public Sector Retirement Plans
- ▶ Public/Private Partnerships
- ▶ Repositioning Your Agency Towards Tourism
- ▶ Connecting your Budget to your Strategic Plan
- ▶ Park Agency Liability
- ▶ Cultural Partnerships Park Management
- ▶ Watertrail Management
- ▶ Aquatic Theming

- ▶ Campground Management
- ▶ Tours of 5 Regional Parks History
- ▶ Tour Manassas National Battlefield
- ▶ Tour Balls Bluff Battlefield
- ▶ Tour Mt. Vernon
- ▶ Tour Carlyle House
- ▶ Leadership Lessons from the Civil War

#### Recreational Opportunities

- ▶ Canoe the Marsh at Pohick Bay
- ▶ Temple Hall Corn MAiZE
- ▶ Guided Hike of Bull Run/Occoquan Trail
- ▶ Guided Hike of Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail
- ▶ Tour Udvar Hazy- Smithsonian Air & Space Museum
- ▶ Golf Outing at Brambleton



Forum participants can visit the historic Carlyle House, a reminder of Alexandria's prosperity and growth during the mid-eighteenth century. One of the founders and first landowners in Alexandria, John Carlyle and his first wife Sarah Fairfax, moved into their completed house on August 1, 1753.

# Metro provides regional park services for three counties

Regional park services in the Portland, Oregon area are primarily provided by Metro.

Metro is an Oregon innovation in policy and governance. It is the directly elected regional government that serves more than 1.5 million residents in Clackamas, Multnomah and Washington counties, and the 25 cities in the Portland, metropolitan area. This includes areas from the Columbia River to neighborhoods and parks along the Willamette River in Wilsonville, and from the foothills of the Coast

## **Metro serves 25 cities:**

**Beaverton  
Cornelius  
Damascus  
Durham  
Fairview  
Forest Grove  
Gladstone  
Gresham  
Happy Valley  
Hillsboro  
Johnson City  
King City  
Lake Oswego  
Maywood Park  
Milwaukie  
Oregon City  
Portland  
Rivergrove  
Sherwood  
Tigard  
Troutdale  
Tualatin  
West Linn  
Wilsonville**

Range near Forest Grove to the banks of the Sandy River at Troutdale.

Metro is a regional roundtable where leaders, experts and the people come together to shape the future of the region. The Metro Council includes a council president elected region-wide and six councilors elected by district.

## **Regional responsibilities**

As far back as the 1950s, Portland area civic leaders saw an unfilled need to provide region-wide planning and coordination to manage pressing growth, infrastructure, and development issues that cross

jurisdictional boundaries. They also saw a need to protect adjacent rural lands from urbanization and to provide particular services that are regional in nature. So, nearly 30 years ago, Metro was created to fill that void. Its charter was broad: to provide planning, policy making, and services to preserve and enhance the region's quality of life. Its earliest responsibilities included urban growth boundary management, transportation planning, waste disposal planning and management, – all of which remain in the Metro portfolio today.

Since then, Metro's duties have expanded as envisioned in its charter. Regional jurisdictions and leaders have regularly turned to Metro for region-wide solutions to other needs – solid waste management and recycling, preservation of natural areas, long-range planning, habitat restoration, and venues for conventions, exhibits, and performing arts. Today Metro is increasingly viewed as a regional resource, problem solver, and leader.

## **Park Planning and Operations**

As operators of the regional parks in the area Metro manages more than 12,000 acres of parks and natural areas including more than 100 miles of river and stream banks. From Oxbow Regional Park to Chinook Landing to Smith and Bybee Wetlands, Metro welcomes more than half a million visitors to its parks each year.

Metro acquires natural areas, pro-

jects and restores fish and wildlife habitat and plans the region-wide parks and trail systems. Two voter-approved bond measures to fund the Metro Natural Areas Program have preserved more than 11,000 acres across the Portland metropolitan area. These lands protect water quality and provide habitat to fish and wildlife.

Metro also operates the Oregon Zoo as well as the Oregon Convention Center, Portland Center for the Performing Arts and the Portland Metropolitan Exposition Center.

Among parks that are the pride of the system are:

## **Oxbow Regional Park**

Oxbow Regional Park, is a 1,200-acre natural area park located within the wild and scenic Sandy River Gorge. It offers access to many of the region's natural wonders while providing a variety of unique recreational opportunities. The river draws swimmers, rafters, kayakers and drift boats carrying anglers. Fifteen miles of trails invite exploration of an ancient forest with centuries-old trees and ridges and ravines carved by volcanic and glacial flows. The area's natural habitat makes it home for mink, beaver, raccoon, fox, deer, osprey, songbirds, salmon, elk, black bear, cougar and many others.

## **Smith and Bybee Wetlands**

Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area is a public park and nature reserve between the Columbia Slough and the Columbia River. At



# Metro...



about 2,000 acres), it is one of the largest urban freshwater wetlands in the United States.

Although surrounded by port terminals, warehouses, and commercial areas, Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area provides habitat for a wide variety of wildlife including beaver, Bald Eagles and Western painted turtles. An artificial water-control system helps keep the wetlands wet. Other systems collect methane and prevent leaching from a closed landfill near the south edge of the park.

A covered shelter, restrooms, a paved walkway, and a canoe launch lie on the north side of the natural area.

## Blue Lake Regional Park

Blue Lake Regional Park is a 101-acre recreational park, near the south shore of the Columbia River in Multnomah County. It includes many covered and uncovered picnic areas, playing fields for sports such as softball, and infrastructure related to lake recreation including swimming, boating, and fishing. Encompassing wooded areas, three ponds, and a wetland in addition to the lake, the park is frequented by migrating birds and other wildlife. Paved paths run through the park,



which is near the 40 Mile Loop hiking and biking trail. Park vegetation includes cottonwoods, willows, and other trees and shrubs as well as wetland plants such as cattails.

## Restoration highlights, Wildlife monitoring program, Native Plant Center

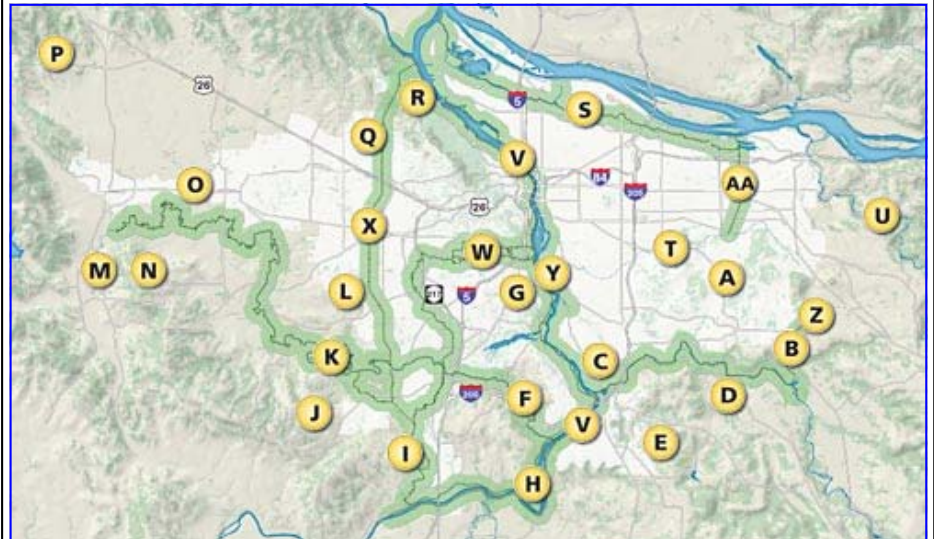
Metro's science and stewardship team is working to improve the re-

gion's valuable natural areas for fish, wildlife and people by bringing back the native plants and wildlife that once thrived in this region. Together with thousands of volunteers and dozens of partner organizations across the region they are reestablishing or mimicking historic conditions valuable habitat for red-legged frogs, Western bluebirds and other native animals.

## Network of protected natural areas grows

Since voters approved the 2006 Natural Areas bond measure, more than 2,400 acres of forested hills, stream corridors, wetlands and wildflower prairies have been permanently protected.

Each of the 27 natural areas and trail projects listed above have detailed plans and strategies adopted by the Metro Council in 2007.



## Regional target areas

- |   |                                       |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| A. East Buttes                          | M. Wapato Lake                        |
| B. Deep Creek and Tributaries           | N. Chehalem Ridgetop to Refuge        |
| C. Clackamas River Bluffs and Greenway  | O. Dairy and McKay Creeks Confluence  |
| D. Clear Creek                          | P. Killin Wetland                     |
| E. Abernethy and Newell Creeks          | Q. Rock Creek Headwaters and Greenway |
| F. Stafford Basin                       | R. Forest Park Connections            |
| G. Tryon Creek Linkages                 | S. Columbia Slough                    |
| H. Willamette Narrows and Canemah Bluff | T. Johnson Creek and Watershed        |
| I. Tonquin Geologic Area                | U. Sandy River Gorge                  |
| J. Lower Tualatin Headwaters            | V. Willamette River Greenway          |
| K. Tualatin River Greenway              | W. Fanno Creek Linkages               |
| L. Cooper Mountain                      | X. Westside Trail                     |
|   | Y. Springwater Corridor               |
|   | Z. Cazadero Trail                     |
|   | AA. Gresham-Fairview Trail            |

# Metro...

One example is how the Clackamas River channel is being brought back to life for salmon refuge. In the last hundred years, dams, urban development and agricultural practices have eliminated riverside channels and backwaters where young salmon rest, feed and grow a little bigger on their way to the ocean. Metro and its partners moved 40,000 cubic yards of earth and placed hundreds of huge logs and boulders to recreate an old side channel of the Clackamas River to provide vital habitat for young salmon.

Volunteer wildlife monitors help measure the success of Metro's restoration efforts by keeping an eye on key amphibian and bird species.

Metro's Native Plant Center pro-



vides an essential supply of rare native seeds and plant stock to support Metro's restoration projects.

## The Intertwine

The Metro Council is teaming up with governments, businesses, nonprofits and other nature lovers to create what they hope will become the world's best network of parks, trails and natural areas.

The Intertwine is an ever-growing network of integrated parks, trails and natural areas that may one day soon be the world's greatest system of its kind. The Intertwine provides opportunities to preserve natural areas, water and wildlife habitat. The Intertwine reflects the region's passion for quality of life by encouraging recreation, connection to nature and active transportation such as walking, running and biking.



Metro helped spark this movement by spearheading the Connecting Green Summit in 2007. Now, as a founding member of the Intertwine Alliance, Metro works with public and private partners - from Travel Portland to The Trust for Public Land, from Keen Footwear to Clean Water Services.

Metro not only manages a network of regional parks and natural areas - but also helps lead the Portland region's conversation about the outdoors. Here's how Metro is helping make The Intertwine a reality:

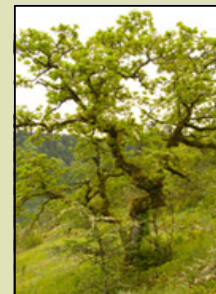
**Land acquisition—**  
Metro is taking action on the voter-approved 2006 natural areas bond measure. Local park providers are also buying and improving natural areas with Metro bond funds.

**Trails, greenways and active transportation—**  
Metro's Blue Ribbon Committee for Trails made a case in 2008 for spending more money on transportation projects that get people out of their cars - including a few trails that could be used as learning laboratories. Success, the committee says, will set the stage for future investment in trails across the Portland region.

Metro launched the Active Transportation Council, which is a coalition of business, government and nonprofit leaders working to implement the committee's recommendations. And Metro is always at work on a regional trails and greenways system.

**Environmental education—**  
Metro hosts sneak preview tours of new natural areas, leads paddling and bird-watching expeditions and rounds up volunteers to plant trees or pull weeds.

## Restoration Note



### Oregon white oak

Hundreds of years ago, the Willamette Valley was home to a rich diversity of habitats from oak woodlands to wetlands to conifer forests. As the valley was settled, oak woodlands were converted to other uses such as farms and housing. As the oaks disappeared, so did many of the wild animals that depend on them. Metro is working with volunteers to restore Oregon white oak habitat at places like the Graham Oaks natural area.

# While visiting the Portland area:

## Top Sights in Portland:

### International Rose Test Garden

Portland's International Rose Test Garden is the oldest official continuously operated public rose test garden in the United States.

### Lan Su Chinese Garden

The Lan Su Chinese Garden is an authentically built Ming Dynasty style garden. Covered walkways, bridges, pavilions and a richly planted landscape frame a picturesque lake in this urban oasis built by artisans from Portland's sister city of Suzhou.

### Oregon Museum of Science and Industry (OMSI)

One of the nation's leading science museums, OMSI is 219,000 square feet of brain-powered fun. Five enormous halls bring science to life with hundreds of interactive exhibits and displays.

### Oregon Zoo

The Oregon Zoo exhibits more than 2,000 animals from around the world, from agouti to zebra. This conservation zoo is renowned for its Asian elephant breeding program.

### Pittock Mansion

High in the West Hills of Portland, Pittock Mansion soars 1,000 feet above the city's skyline. A century-old symbol of Portland's dramatic transformation from a small lumber town to a bustling city, it's an architectural wonder.

### Portland Farmers Market

Widely considered one of the world's finest farmers' markets, the Portland Farmers Market operates six weekly markets, spring through fall. The flagship market is held on Saturdays in the South Park Blocks at Portland State University. On Mondays, the market comes to Pioneer Courthouse Square and Wednesday's market is held in the South Park Blocks of the Cultural District.

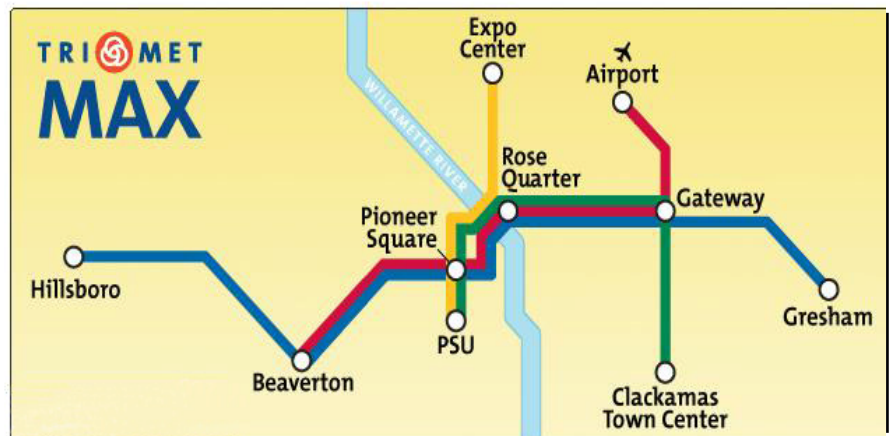
## While at the conference ride MAX!

**Parks Tour:** Oregon Convention Center 777 NE ML King Blvd. Portland, OR at 8:30 am. Take the MAX light rail Blue, Green or Red line to the Convention Center station.

**Board and Membership Meetings:** Multnomah County Central Library 801 Southwest 10th Avenue Portland. Take MAX light rail Blue and Red lines to the Library/Southwest 9th Avenue or Galleria/Southwest 10th Avenue stop. The Library/Southwest 9th Avenue stop is located on Yamhill Street and is used by eastbound trains; the Galleria/Southwest 10th Avenue is on Morrison Street and is used by westbound trains.

**NACPRO Education Programs:** World Forestry Center —Take Blue or Red MAX light rail line to the Washington Park stop. While it is the only completely underground station in the MAX system, at 260 feet below the surface it is the deepest transit station in North America. Exit the station to the west and walk across the street. The station also serves the Oregon Zoo to the east, and the Portland Children's Museum to the southwest.

**Awards Banquet:** Irving Street Kitchen Restaurant 701 NW 13th at Irving Street Portland Oregon. (Take northbound blue line MAX public transit line to the NW 10th & Johnson, walk one block south and 3 blocks west.)



MAX runs about every 15 minutes most of the day, every day. Service is less frequent in the early morning, mid-day and evening.

**Blue Line**  
Hillsboro/City Center/Gresham

**Red Line**  
Airport/City Center/Beaverton

**Green Line**  
Clackamas/City Center/PSU

**Yellow Line**  
Expo Center/City Center/PSU

# Update...Healthy Parks, Healthy People

It's been 12 months since the inaugural International Healthy Parks Healthy People (HPHP) Congress 2010 was held in Melbourne. Organizers have announced a number of key HPHP initiatives resulting from this successful first time event.

A key outcome of the 2010 International Healthy Parks Healthy People Congress was to create an independent entity that advocates the health benefits of contact with nature on a global scale.

Created in October 2010 Healthy Parks Healthy People Global (HPHP Global) is a not-for-profit social enterprise that champions the health benefits of contact with nature. It aims to be the leading 'enabler' around the world of health programs in parks that enrich the health of individuals and communities – physically, mentally, socially and economically – while protecting biodiversity.

HPHP Global will bring together program funders (initially in the health sector) and program delivery partners (primarily leading urban and protected park managers) to deliver health outcomes for communities through increasing their contact with nature. HPHP Global will enable excellence in research related to health and nature and its programs will be integral to this research.

To date, HPHP Global has established a founding Board of Directors with representatives from International Union for Conservation of Nature, Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy, Parks Victoria, Tourism Victoria. The U.S. National Parks Service is also playing a key role in the organization's development. The next step for HPHP Global is to secure donor funding and corporate sponsorship for delivery of HPHP Programs world-wide.

## Website

Building on the momentum of the Congress, the Healthy Parks Healthy People Central website was created to spread the HPHP message globally. HPHP Central is a place to access and share the latest international research, innovations and programs that focus on the health benefits of human contact with the natural world. The website allows users to: Upload articles, research and case studies; Advertise events on the central calendar; Connect with experts in the field; Comment on the information on the site; and, Subscribe to regular newsletters.

## Melbourne Communiqué

The Melbourne Communiqué is another key outcome of the International Healthy Parks Healthy People Congress, 2010. It is a call to action for leading government agencies and organizations around the world to further our understanding of and strengthen the connection between nature and people. To date over 200 endorsements have been received including 53 from organizations throughout the world.

## National Parks Service MOU

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between the US National Parks Service (NPS) and Australia's Parks Victoria (PV) in December 2010. The memorandum recognizes the mutual interests of both parties in the ongoing conservation, protection and management of national parks and their natural and cultural resources, for the purpose of conservation, recreation and public education.

Through the involvement of the NPS in the inaugural International Healthy Parks Healthy People Congress 2010, hosted by PV, it was decided that much could be gained by formalizing an agreement between the two organizations. Both organizations agree there are many

advantages to be gained from facilitating, coordinating and amplifying efforts in the management and development of natural and cultural resources in protecting areas of mutual interest. The exchange of information and informal education activities about the management and operation of national parks and other protected areas is also of great value to each organization.

Recently the US NPS convened a Healthy Parks Healthy People US 2011 meeting of innovators, experts and visionaries. The aim of the meeting was to forge new partnerships and strengthen the nexus between public lands and public health to advance the Healthy Parks Healthy People philosophy.

## BC to convene 'Healthy by Nature' event

A forum on the physical and mental health benefits of time spent in nature will be hosted by British Columbia Parks in Vancouver in September 2011.

The Healthy by Nature event aims to build on a number of events and initiatives that link human health, wellbeing and the natural world. The key aim of the forum will be to host a dialogue on the critical links between health, wellbeing, urban design, parks and nature.

## SCBD Biodiversity Initiatives

A two-year position was created in 2010 at the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD) in Montreal, Canada. The purpose of the role is to work on human health and biodiversity initiatives with world experts from organizations including the World Health Organization and the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

A key aim is to reinforce and encourage the synergies between hu-

man health, biodiversity and protected areas around the world by integrating the HPHP philosophy into international statements and policies. This will further demonstrate the connection between a healthy environment and a healthy society, while providing an international mandate for implementation of the HPHP philosophy globally.

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is an international treaty to sustain the rich diversity of life on earth and was signed at the Earth Summit in Brazil in 1992. Now consisting of 192 parties (member states) and the European Union, it is the first global agreement to cover all aspects of biological diversity: the conservation of biological diversity; the sustainable use of its components; and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources.

### County Parks Involvement

County parks in the US are encouraged to become involved in the worldwide effort to link parks with health particularly with the focus so many county park systems have adopted on issues of childhood obesity.

## Unique bridge is centerpiece of Iowa trail



One of the most impressive trail bridge designs we have seen was recently completed along a recreational trail in central Iowa. Towering 13 stories above the Des Moines River Valley, it is one of the largest foot bridges in the world.

The one-half mile long bridge spans the banks of the valley and serves as a link to 25 miles of paved High Trestle Trail winding its way through five Iowa communities and four Iowa counties. It is also the much anticipated link to 670 miles of trail systems connecting Des

Moines to other areas of Central Iowa.

Designed by RDG Planning (a NACPRO Corporate Partner) and led by artist David B. Dahlquist, the project concept links Iowa's railroad and coal mining history to its modern day artistic interpretation and recreation. With the direction of the Iowa National Heritage Foundation and its nine public partners, the High Trestle Bridge is sure to become a Central Iowa icon and destination for families, hikers and cyclists.

### Trail accessibility rule

#### .....Continued from page 4

on trails with grades (slopes) of 12% or less (Jefferson County)

- List of specific trails where "mobility devices over 36" wide may be used" (Conejo Open Space)
- Trails designated for hiking, interpretation, horseback-riding, cross-country skiing, biking, and mountain biking are open to individuals with mobility disabilities using wheelchairs, but not open to OPDMDs due to assessment factors (i), (ii), (iv) and (v). OPDMDs pose a legitimate safety threat to other individuals using the trails and they pose a substantial risk to the natural and cultural resources

associated with the trails, and by their nature they disturb the intended trail experience. (Illinois)

- ATVs, golf carts, or other power-driven mobility devices, except as described above, are not recognized an appropriate devices for park trails, bike paths and greenway trails for the following reasons:

The slope of the natural terrain, which may exceed 5%.

The congestion of foot traffic on the shared paths of the facility. Manufacturers recommendation for helmet and protective equipment for riders.

The unrealistic administrative burden of identifying FDA-approval or

speed, weight and safety features of each device upon entry, including any form of assessment of rider abilities; or managing pedestrian traffic throughout the facility for separated movement.

(Nashville Metro Parks)  
Other restrictions

- May only be used during regular operating hours on Mondays through Thursdays (no weekends or holidays) (Conejo Open Space)

Permits and permission

DOJ does not address the issue, but some agencies see permits as a way to ensure both safety and

....continued on page 15

## COUNTY PARK NEWS ROUNDUP

### Annual Report online

*Oakland County, MI* – Providing a snapshot of parks, programs and services it provides to 1.5 million local and regional visitors annually, the Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission announced that its Annual Reports will now appear online at DestinationOakland.com.

“We like to say we’re in the ‘fun business’, but Oakland County Parks and Recreation is a very real business,” Executive Officer Dan Stencil said. “We’re currently in the third year of a 10-year strategic master plan that guides planning efforts at all levels of the organization. The annual report will serve as an opportunity for Oakland County Parks and Recreation to ‘check in’ with the residents and leaders of Oakland County on its progress.”

The annual report is based on five initiatives developed to focus staff efforts and guide future direction. Highlighted in the report, the initiatives are: Urban Recreation; Rural Recreation; Natural Resources and Environment; Healthy Living; and Sustainability.

Additionally, the report highlights many of the parks system’s accomplishments in the past year by providing stories about specific programs and projects that make Oakland County Parks and Recreation a unique and innovative organization.

The Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission encompasses 6,700 acres at 13 parks including 68 miles of trails, three dog parks, two waterparks, five golf courses, two campgrounds and a nature center.

### Hillsborough to re-assess financial sustainability

*Hillsborough County, FL* is holding a series of public meetings to discuss a new strategic plan for the Parks, Recreation and Conservation

Department. This plan has been developed to provide long-term financial sustainability and efficiencies that would result in improvement of services and a cost savings.

Efficiency opportunities in this strategic plan being discussed include:

- Contracting park and athletic field maintenance to local businesses in the community
- Development of earned income opportunities including naming rights, sponsorships, and advertising
- Establishing additional partnerships with community organizations to extend limited resources
- Consolidation of smaller recreation centers into larger recreational facilities
- Improve technology to allow online registration, payments and easy access of information

The Department has evolved over the past 45 years from a department that was operated with mobile services for recreation, few small sports complexes, and a small conservation and natural resources area, to the current parks system with more than 70,000 acres of land, a conservation lands program, more than 50 sports complex facilities, more than 180 parks with a multitude of opportunities, and 42 staffed community centers.

As a result of declining budgets, PRC proactively implemented changes over the past 5 years. A major change was the implementation of fees. In some cases, the fees were accepted as a positive plan to maintain accessibility in areas such as the County’s Regional Parks

### Oakland holds course

*Oakland County, MI*—Despite a shrinking budget, Oakland County Parks and Recreation is pressing forward with improvements to many of the Oakland County Parks facilities.

2012 Capital Improvement Projects Include:

For 2012, \$2.3 million has been identified as active projects for design and construction including construction of a restroom/concession building, picnic pavilion, accessible parking and two playgrounds.

Other 2012 active projects include design/engineering for: golf course parking lot improvements; construction of a bike rental/waterslide facility; construction of a pavilion



with a retail/vending area; and design/construction of new double-flume waterslide at their water-park.

Currently the parks system improves, maintains and manages more than 200 facilities, buildings and structures within its 6,700 acres. A new 15-year maintenance plan forecasts upkeep and improvements, including roofing, pavement repair, structural inspections, building systems, land management, painting and replacement of windows, doors, carpeting and flooring.

“Across Michigan, public service entities continue to experience decreases in millage,” Parks and Recreation Executive Officer Dan Stencil said. “Property tax revenues fund the parks system by 50.4 percent. In 2012, we will see a decrease of \$.912 million because of a 7.8 percent decrease in property tax value in Oakland County. In this economic time, we are all being pressed to do more with less.”

“Using our 10-year Strategic Master Plan as a guide, we are postponing projects, reducing expenditures

## .....More County Park News

and creating efficiencies where possible,” Stencil said. “Our number one goal is providing high-quality recreation service. We are focusing on what residents tell us in surveys they want – trails, maintenance of existing facilities and preservation of green space.”

The 13-park system provides 68 miles of trails, day-use parks, campgrounds, dog parks, water-parks, golf courses and a nature center serving 1.5 million visitors annually. The parks system opened to the public in 1966.

### **DNR award to county park**

*Chester County, PA*—The Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources is recognizing Chester County Parks and Recreation with the second annual Green Park Award for its oversight of Black Rock Sanctuary in Phoenixville. The award honors excellence in both efforts to connect people to nature and in sustainable park practices.

Chester County's challenge when it purchased the 120-acre sanctuary was to convert a former wasteland basin into an educational environmental park. The award recognizes the county for meeting its goals for sustainability while creating a park where residents and visitors can play, learn and appreciate the natural world.

When Chester County acquired the sanctuary in 1997, the land contained significant quantities of coal silt dredged from the Schuylkill River. The county took the following steps:

- Restored disturbed floodplain habitats;
- Improved 47 acres of wetlands, approximately 15 acres of warm season grass meadows and four acres of wildflower meadows;
- Created a 0.8-mile highly interactive interpretive trail that helps visi-

tors understand the importance and critical environmental role of wetland habitats;

- Incorporated environmental education components that meet the Department of Education's goals for students K-12;
- Added kiosks that hold interpretive signage and interactive displays that are used for self-discovery experiences that reinforce environmental concepts and human/nature interaction;
- Limited alteration of the land during development;
- Reused existing site materials;
- Adapted sustainable storm water best management practices. The entire sanctuary is a closed system that captures and holds water from all incoming sources until the water is slowly absorbed by the soil or evaporated by the sun;
- Recycled unusable materials. Twelve thousand cubic yards of coal silt was sold to a manufacturer that makes charcoal briquettes;
- Used recycled products in construction, including decking materials and benches made from recycled plastics, roofing materials for kiosks made from recycled tires; and
- Created a butterfly garden that introduces visitors to the beauty of native plants and their ability to draw birds, small mammals and butterflies into the home landscape.

The award nominations were judged on their efforts to implement a number of green and sustainable park principles including minimizing disturbance of existing areas; natural landscaping principles; managing storm water naturally; connecting people to nature; and integrating energy conservation and green design and construction practices.

Black Rock Sanctuary is located along the Atlantic Coast Flyway, which provides breeding and nesting habitat for migratory waterfowl.

### **Park & Ride and Charge in County Park**

*Loudoun County, VA*—Five electric vehicle charging stations will be installed at Loudoun County Park and Recreation's Jenkins Memorial Park where a park and ride lot is under construction.

Siemens Energy, Inc., was selected to provide the multi-level charging stations, which were expected to be placed in the park by May. When the park and ride lot opens, it will accommodate 250 spaces for both commuters and recreational visitors to the park.

### **Reservations go online**

*Maricopa County, AZ*—The Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department, in April, unveiled its online system to reserve picnic and camping spots. The reservation system at [maricopacountyparks.org](http://maricopacountyparks.org) provides a virtual tour of the park system's facilities.

### **Anoka adds land, plans park development**

*Anoka County, MN*—Director of Anoka County Parks, John VonDeLinde announced that Anoka County will be adding a new park to be called Mississippi West Regional Park. This 273-acre property has remained largely undeveloped since it was acquired by the county over a period of about 20 years. Most of the land was donated to the county in the late 1970s by local residents who lived on the property until their death. With additional land purchases by the county, and the transfer of two islands in the river to Anoka County by the Minnesota DNR, the park acquisition was completed in 1995.

A boat launch and parking area of the park will begin this fall. Other planned improvements are a large group picnic shelter, bike and nature trails, interpretive center, youth play facilities, and observation areas along the river.

# People In Recent County Parks News.....

## Director Resigns



**Janet Baker**

*Sacramento County, CA*—In early June Janet Baker, Sacramento County's regional parks director, announced her resignation to be effective July 1. A message to

her employees explained that it had become for her "increasingly challenging to lead this organization.... On many issues, I no longer agree with decisions being made that have been taken out of my control." She made her announcement "with sadness and a sense of relief."

With more than 20 years of experience in the parks and recreation field, Janet Baker was appointed Director of the County Regional Parks Department on August 5, 2010.

Baker had been with the City of Sacramento, Department of Parks and Recreation since 1986, working her way up from Administrative Analyst to Planning, Design and Development Manager to Operations Manager.

Baker holds a Master of Business Administration (MBA) from California State University, Sacramento and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communication Studies from the University of Hawaii.

She is a member of the National Recreation and Park Association and California Park & Recreation Society.

## Schultz retires after 40 Years

*Santa Cruz County CA*—In April Joe Schultz retired as director of Santa Cruz County Parks after three and a half years there. His departure caps a 40 year career in parks and recreation in California



**Joe Schultz**

and Illinois. Schultz came to his position in Santa Cruz from Santa Clara County, where he was deputy director of operations and maintenance for its parks system. Prior to that he had retired as executive director of the Naperville, Illinois Park District. He had also been general manager of the Elk Grove, CA., Community Services District. He had also been with the City of Rancho Cucamonga, CA. and the Deerfield IL and Westmont IL park districts. Joe's wife retired her job at the same time.

## Finances force retirement

*Marion County, OH*—Karen Kelley, Marion County Park District Director, retired at the end of March citing the difficult financial condition of Marion County which caused a decrease in the District's operating budget.



**Karen Kelly**

Kelley was part-time and the sole employee of the park district.

Under Kelley's leadership as director she has helped secure over \$678,000 in funding for the park district through grants, matching funds, and other government programs.

The Board of Directors of the Park District issued the following statement regarding Kelley's retirement: "We deeply appreciate Karen Kelley's five years of service to the

Marion County Park District. During her tenure it has made exciting progress, including the opening of several beautiful parks and the beginnings of the county's first multi-purpose recreation trail. We fully intend, with the support of the community, to honor her by continuing to build upon this wonderful legacy."

## Retirement after 30 Years

*Madison County, OH*—After nearly 30 years as Director of the Madison County Recreation Department Dick Perpall will retire at the beginning of July.



**Dick Perpall**

Perpall joined Madison County's Recreation Department as the assistant director in 1979 after working at the Washington-Wilkes Parks and Recreation Department. He became the department's director in 1982 during which time the county's parks system grew from one park to several. Madison County Commission Chairman Anthony will supervise the department while a replacement director is sought.

## Plocek Retires

*Leon County, FL*—Leon County Division of Parks and Recreation. Director, Pat Plocek retired from his position in June. Pat took over department operation in July 2005. Leon County Parks & Recreation maintains parks in unincorporated Leon



**Pat Plocek**

County. The department manages 2,800 acres of community parks, boat landings, campgrounds and greenways. Pat has been a long-time NACPRO member and served on its board.

**Clackamas gets new manager**

Clackamas County, OR—Jeroen Kok has been hired as the new manager of County Parks and Forest, Clackamas County. The position was formerly held by Mike McLees who retired.



Kok has comprehensive experience in planning, project management and natural resource management and comes to Clackamas County from Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation, where he served as the senior planner. In his role there, he led efforts to secure state and federal grant funding for 55 acquisition and development projects.

He was also responsible for the development and maintenance of more than 70 partnership projects that resulted in new and improved facilities and programs. Kok also acquired more than 2,000 acres or park and greenway property, and played a key role in securing more than 3,000 acres of federal surplus property and more than 1,000 acres of state surplus property for future regional parks, at no cost to local taxpayers.

Jeroen has a Bachelor of Science degree in Geology from Stephen F. Austin State University; and a Master's degree in Urban and Regional

Planning from Portland State University.

Jeroen is a native of The Netherlands. He immigrated to the United

States at the age of five.

Kok began his new position on March 28.

**Trail accessibility rule**

.....Continued from page 11

legality of vehicle use.

- For safety purposes, individuals seeking to use fuel-driven mobility devices or mobility devices over 36" must obtain a permit from the COSCA Rangers...
- "The permit identifies the individual responsible for the [OPDMD]. It also gathers contact information, describes the stated use, defines time frame for access, confirms the motorized device is for use because of a disability, requires proof of vehicular insurance, and sets guidelines for safety precautions including for fire as it pertains to devices with fuel powered engines" (Puente Hills)
- Upon arriving at the site, individuals with mobility disabilities using OPDMDs must check in at the site office prior to use of the OPDMD on a trail or roadway to ensure its use is acceptable at that site. (Illinois)

**Interim policies**

Some agencies have recognized that they may need to modify policies as they gain experience with visitors' needs as well as the new uses on the trails.

- "Special access requests will be processed on a case-by-case basis until the time in which an assessment of all public trails managed by the Authority has been conducted in accordance with federal guidelines" (Puente Hills)
- "While these evaluations are in progress, we invite persons with mobility disabilities to contact us about use of devices that are currently prohibited to other park users (i.e., motorized OPDMDs) but may provide you with better access in a safe manner, considerate of natural resources. ... We are also in communication with state agencies and community park and recreation systems to develop a plan that may be consistently applied throughout the state." (Three Rivers Park District)

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





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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.***

## .....Continued from page 15 trail accessibility rule

- “As technology advances and new devices are developed, public use patterns change, and impacts to natural and cultural resources are reevaluated. OC Parks may modify the type of OPDMD permissible within specific facilities on specific trails as necessary. Please check this site regularly for updates to these guidelines.” (Orange County)

- County may issue a permit to use an OPDMD in areas prohibited if it determines that a unique situation applies and special conditions can be placed on the use that would make it safe to operate the OPDMD or prevent serious harm to the environment or natural or cultural resources. In these situations, special circumstances permission should be requested 7

days in advance of arrival date (Anoka County)

See the Accessible Trails index for many resources on the DOJ rule for use of “power-driven mobility devices,” including a free, on-demand webinar, sample poli-

cies, background from DOJ, and questions and answers

See the complete policies referenced in this summary at [www.AmericanTrails.org](http://www.AmericanTrails.org)

***Segway vehicles can potentially be used for trail mobility for people with disabilities.***

