



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 Board to Meet in Utah, Professional Parks Tour Scheduled

The Fall Board of Directors meeting for NACPRO will be held on Friday, October 17 at 10:30 in conference room L-1 in the Salt Lake City Library. The business meeting will be dealing with general operational issues of the organization including budgeting, policy development and program planning. General members and even prospective NACPRO members are welcome to attend.

The Library is located at 210 East 400 South in Salt Lake City, UT.

NACPRO events are held following the NRPA Congress also scheduled for Salt Lake City.

An educational tour of Salt Lake County area parks will be presented



Salt Lake City will host NACPRO Fall Events

for park professionals and elected officials on Saturday October 17. Participants will be picked up at the Salt Palace at 9:30 am and return around 3:30pm. A box lunch will be provided. More details of the tour are found on page 5 of this newsletter.

County Parks Programs Featured at NRPA Congress

Sixteen sessions planned for presentation at the Annual National Recreation and Park Association Congress will be of special interest to county park professionals.

See page 3 for a listing.

NACPRO EXCELLENCE AWARDS TO 18

The National Association of County Park and Recreation Officials (NACPRO) announced its 2009 NACPRO Awards at a special Awards Banquet in Nashville, TN on July 26th. The awards program is designed not only to compliment outstanding agency efforts

but also to share these exemplary projects with other park professionals.

The highest honor for the NACPRO Board is to recognize its members throughout the United States for the many successful parks and recreation facilities, programs, and staff and volunteers.

Winners were chosen in 18 award categories. Descriptions of awards and of park agencies that won them will be covered in full in the upcoming Winter issue of NACPRO News. Individuals winning 2009 awards are highlighted on our website: nacpro.org.

Volume 20, Issue 3

**September 2009
Web Edition**

Upcoming NACPRO Meetings:

- ♦ **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

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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
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

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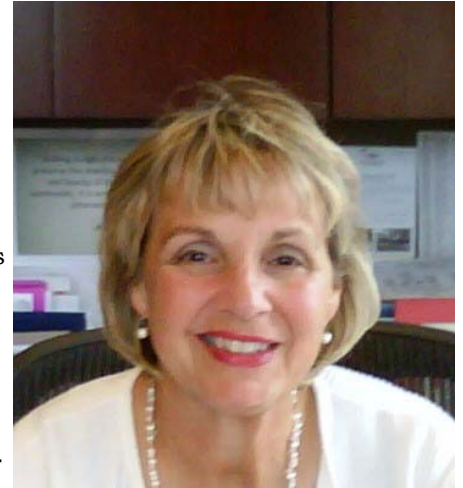
NACo Representative..Andy Kimmel

NACo Liaison.....Carrie Clingan

NRPA Rep.....Mark Thornton

Letter from the NACPRO President

Your 2009-10 NACPRO Board is excited and ready to serve. We have added a few new members and are working on plans to ensure that NACPRO is relevant to your professional development, provide valuable opportunities for networking and the sharing of best practices, and advocates for the needs of our agencies. Please check out www.nacpro.org and meet your Board and feel free to contact them with your concerns and ideas.



The importance of NACPRO in representing the interests of county and special park and recreation agencies is becoming more prominent.

At our July annual meeting held in conjunction with NACo in Nashville we were joined by NRPA President Jodie Adams and President Elect – Liz Kessler. Jodie and Liz also spent time talking with NACo Officials about the needs of our county/regional parks and recreation agencies. Jodie and Liz are not only NRPA representatives, but also members of NACPRO and county park and recreation directors. Mark Thornton, Hillsborough County will continue to serve as our NRPA liaison and Andy Kimmel, Lake Forest Park Reserve, will our liaison to NACo.

Congratulations to all the 2009 NACPRO award winners. There are many great ideas that are being shared across the country. Be sure to take the time to learn about the people and projects honored by NACPRO. Our website has a listing, photos, and contact information for all winning initiatives.

A common theme we are hearing from our members is that our ability to serve increasing numbers of users of our park systems is being stressed by reductions in staffing and funding. The good news is that people recognize the value of local park and recreation services and are coming to parks in record numbers. This is the double edged sword; more demand, less funding. The NACPRO Board recognizes that these challenging financial times are negatively affecting the citizens we serve and our professional staff. We will work to keep you connected through our web site and email. We will keep our membership fees in check and look for ways to economically encourage your participation in NACPRO activities and will strive to express your needs to both NACo and NRPA, so they can lobby for legislative initiatives that will help us better serve our public and protect natural resources.

Margie Walz
NACPRO President for 2009-2010

County Parks Programs To Be Featured at NRPA Congress in SLC

The following is a listing of County related programs that will be featured at the NRPA Congress October 13-16 in Salt Lake City:

- Wayfinding and Signage: Guide to Planning and Design and Implementation - Miami-Dade County

- Tailoring to Diversity- Minneapolis Park Board

- The Nashville Collaborative: Building Healthy Families and Nurturing Neighborhoods Nashville Metro Parks

- Great marketing includes both your employees and your customers - San Diego County

- Non-Traditional Sports and your



Agency - Mecklenburg County

- Pavement Management Programs and trail user surveys: Gauging the Bumps -Three Rivers Park District

- Youth Sports Parent Education Program - Clayton County, GA

- Frijoles, Pupas, Tortillas: Programming for the Latino/ Hispanic Community Maryland National Capital Parks and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC)

- 100% Natural Web-cams: Attract Visitors with Peeks into Parks - Five Rivers Metro Parks Dayton, Ohio

- Keeping Your Agency off the chopping block - Charleston County, SC

- Preserving, Protecting, and Playing: Is Geo-caching in your Parks -

Fairfax County, VA

- Strip (Strategically Track and Remove Invasive Plants) - Dekalb County, GA

- Wiki to Work: Using Web 2.0 to improve your workplace - Arlington County, VA

- Bringing in the Bucks: Fundraising for Senior Programs - Johnson County, KS

- What are they worth? The true Value of Nature Preserves - Mecklenburg County, NC

- Securing Two-Thirds Voter Support for Funding in a Depressed Economy - East Bay Regional Park District, CA

- Segways + Nature + Success - Mecklenburg County, NC

Please check the NRPA Congress Session Catalog for session dates and times.

National County Government Week expands to a month

More counties will have the opportunity to participate in National County Government Week activities in 2010, when the observance expands from a single week in April to the entire month — henceforth to be known as National County Government Month.

NACo's Executive Committee decided to expand National County Government Week to a month to give counties more options to schedule activities that raise public awareness and understanding of county government.

National County Government Month (NCGM) will be held in April in 2010 and future years.

"By designating each April as National County Government Month, counties will have greater flexibility to plan and schedule their own county government activities," said NACo President Valerie Brown. "Counties aren't expected to hold

public awareness activities throughout the month, but can schedule activities any time during the month."

Previously, a county government week with fixed dates fell at an inconvenient time for some counties, according to feedback the Executive Committee received.

First celebrated in 1991, National County Government Week (now National County Government Month) was created by NACo to raise public awareness and understanding about the roles and responsibilities of the nation's 3,068 counties. The community outreach events help residents and busi-

nesses better understand how counties serve the community.

A booklet of ideas and suggestions on how to celebrate NCGM will be available early next year. It will also

provide helpful information about media outreach strategies and NACo's online NCGM Media Resources Kit.

MONTH

Mark your calendars: National County Government Month — April 2010.

For more information about NCGM, visit the "Public Awareness Campaigns" section of the NACo Web site or contact Tom Goodman at 202/942-4222 or tgoodman@naco.org.



NRPA embraces ethic on environmental stewardship

The NRPA Board of Directors recently approved a National Ethic on Environmental Stewardship for parks and recreation. The document was developed over the past year, starting with the 2008 National Summit on Environmental Stewardship.

NRPA's National Environmental Stewardship Ethic was created through the collaborative efforts of NRPA staff and members, with the National Society for Park Resources (NSPR) taking a lead role in the development. The Ethic was adopted by the NRPA Board of Trustees as a policy statement on May 15, 2009. Environmental Stewardship is a fundamental component of parks and recreation and holds an important place in NRPA's mission, values and vision.

The National Recreation and Park Association, through its national network of park and recreation agencies, professionals, partners and engaged citizens, seeks to serve as a national leader for a revitalized national environmental stewardship ethic. Embodiment of this ethic includes adhering to the following principles and practices.

Principles —We believe:

Parks and public lands contain many of our communities' best natural, cultural, historic and recreational resources and thereby preserve our heritage.

As national leaders, we have the responsibility to create and continuously promote an enhanced awareness of the critical role parks and public lands play in protecting our global environment and cultural heritage, as well as their value as living laboratories for educating the citizens of this nation, particularly our children.

Parks of all sizes build and enhance a sense of community cohesion and social bonding; as such, park lands

must be accessible as amenities and common space for all.

Public policy must focus on promoting parks, green space and outdoor recreation lands and services that make communities more livable and desirable and serve as a primary



driver of effective economic development strategies in that they attract businesses, tourists and the creative workforce.

As engaged agencies, organizations and citizens, we must advocate for adequate funding and support to protect, restore and expand these resources and establish innovative strategies for developing a new generation of environmental stewards.

We have the responsibility to develop sustainable practices in land use and facility design, maintenance, and management that serve as models for other organizations and individuals.

Practices

We are resolved that park and recreation professionals, citizen volunteers, supporters, advocates and community leaders must work collaboratively to:

Practice 1: Promote Sustainable Landscapes

Protect open space, public lands, wildlife habitat, air and water quality, and provide special protections to ecologically and culturally sensitive land and water resources.

Develop and promote healthy outdoor recreation activities that build a sense of personal responsibility on the part of those individuals using and enjoying our natural and cultural resources.

Ensure that as stewards of our public lands and parks we uphold the responsibility for measuring and monitoring the health and heritage of these resources and ensuring their long-term sustainability.

Monitor parks and recreation lands so decision makers and the general public are knowledgeable of when there is a need for expansion or modifications to protect resource values, safety and enjoyment of participants, and quality of life.

Practice 2: Foster the Next Generation of Stewards

Make connecting to nature possible for citizens of all ages and abilities by providing safe access to public lands, parks, and conservation areas close-to-home.

Help eliminate the "nature deficit" condition in America's youth through programs and nature discovery opportunities in parks.

Provide the resources and knowledge to parents and guardians that will enable them to help their children connect with and enjoy the natural world.

Provide leadership and mentoring for youth to instill in them a sense of hope and joy, a love of nature, and a commitment to stewardship.

Teach outdoor ethics, recreation skills and practices to reduce impacts to natural, cultural and scenic resources.

Work collaboratively with young people and educators to determine and implement new environmental stewardship practices.

NACPRO Salt Lake County Professional Parks Tour offered following NRPA Congress

The NACPRO fall Professional Parks Tour will be presented on October 17, 2009 in Salt Lake County following the National Recreation and Parks Congress.

The bus will leave the Salt Palace Convention Center at 9:30 and return at 3:30. Our hosts and guides are from the Salt Lake County Parks and Recreation Department.

- **Millcreek Canyon** - hike and discussion on fee demonstration areas and the Partnership with the US Forest Service.
- **Wheeler Historic Farm** (www.wheelerfarm.com) - a very unique facility located right in the heart of the Salt Lake Valley. In 1969 Salt Lake County purchased the

75 acres which comprise today's farm. Wheeler Historic Farm was placed on both the Utah State and National register of Historic Places in 1976. The Farm is a restoration of the turn-of-the-century dairy farm of Henry J. Wheeler. Maintaining the farm presents to the public the history of Utah family agriculture. It is a representation of the rural lifestyle in Salt Lake County from 1890-1920 and presents the best farming methods of the Progressive Era. Wheeler Historic Farm is also an outdoor classroom that promotes discovery and inquiry into the world around us. The Farm is a part of the outdoor space you require to provide your food, air, and water. "The Farm" is a fun place to visit.

- **Box lunch at the Farm.**
- **Salt Lake City Sports Complex** (www.recreation.slco.org/slc_sports) - The Salt Lake City Sports Complex and Steiner Aquatic Center were an official training venue for the 2002 Olympics. They now provide a world-class experience as a magnificent cross training center. The facility has two state of the art Olympic Ice Sheets, two Olympic-sized pools, and fitness center. It is a great facility in design and operation. It is a joint partnership with SL County and Salt Lake City.

The cost for the tour is \$65, including lunch. To register log on to the NACPRO Website at: <http://www.nacpro.org/>

The tour will visit scenic Millcreek Canyon



Continued.....ethic on environmental stewardship

Involve local communities, including children and teenagers, in the planning and design of new parks.

Recruit people of all ages, but especially the younger generation, to volunteer in parks.

Practice 3: Provide Leadership for Sustainable Communities

Advance sustainability goals beyond parks, recreation and public lands, by modeling sustainable practices

in land use, facility design, maintenance, and management, and by engaging with other government, civic, business and education organizations.

Build new and non-traditional partnerships to foster sustainable lifestyles, responsible energy use, and innovative solutions for community support networks and infrastructure.

Support the adoption of policies at all levels of government that will

advance environmental stewardship and sustainability.

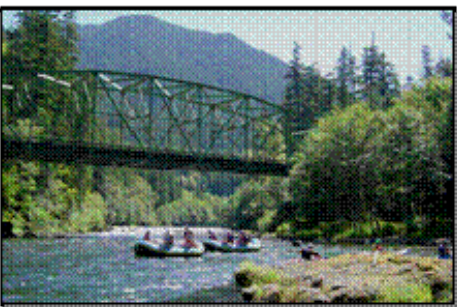
Use outdoor recreation programs to teach gardening, recycling, food preservation and other sustainable, lifestyle practices that build, support and enhance a personal environmental ethic.

Support, undertake and apply rigorous scientific research in order to advance our understanding of social, environmental and ecological systems.

Symposium Planned to Bridge Conservation and Recreation

The River Management Society (RMS) and the National Association of Recreation Resource Planners (NARRP) are planning a May 2010 international symposium in Portland for natural resource professionals on research and management in river and other water-based settings. Recognizing resource protection as a core value, the symposium will explore how scientists, planners, and managers are maintaining or restoring ecosystem sustainability while providing opportunities for high quality recreation experiences on rivers, lakes, and reservoirs.

Participants at the symposium will interact with regional and national leaders in river conservation and recreation management through a diverse program that includes three days of plenary sessions, panels, papers, interactive break-out sessions, posters, and field trips to some of the Columbia Basin's finest rivers, parks, and other natural areas. The symposium theme recognizes that resource professionals too often become narrowly focused in their specialties, but that effective long-term management usually requires broader cross-disciplinary solutions.



A Call for Papers

The symposium invites county parks professionals to share their expertise, insights, and ideas about

managing natural resources and people in water-based settings. Symposium planners have initially identified several potential session topics under four "umbrella" tracks: Managing Public Use and Recreation, Integrating Conservation and Recreation, Conservation and Restoration, and Partnerships and Professional Development.

Selection criteria will include topic significance, national applicability, integration across fields, quality of abstract, and the potential to generate interest among symposium attendees. The program will involve a mix of presentation formats, so consider submitting abstracts describing traditional presentations, hands-on work sessions, interactive panel discussions, posters, or field trips. There are many ways to learn and share information at a symposium, and our goal is to offer a diverse selection. Abstracts are due by November 15, 2009.

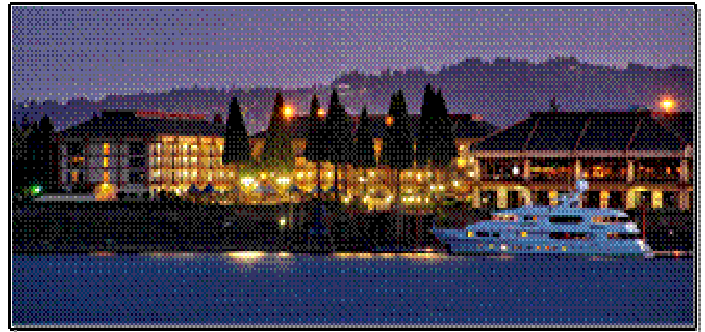
Symposium Topics

A few potential symposium topics include:

- Managing visitor impacts: Issues and case studies
- Controversy and confrontation: Understanding and managing user conflicts
- Outfitter and guide management: Issues and positions
- Economic value of river use: A review and case studies
- Recreation and invasive species: What can we get people to do?
- Dam removal successes and challenges
- Riparian grazing management

and restoration

- The river was different back then: Roles for environmental history in river management
- It's just a small stream: The impacts of micro-hydroelectric development
- Hydrokinetics: Issues and research needs



- Defining sustainability in river restoration
- Communicating with users, the public, and the media.
- Interagency watershed planning and management
- Developing "green" facilities
- Urban waterway clean-ups: Best practices

Partners

Several agencies and organizations are helping organize or supporting the symposium, including:

- American Whitewater
- American Rivers
- Army Corps of Engineers
- Bureau of Land Management
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Hydro Reform Coalition
- National Park Service
- Oregon State Parks
- River Restoration Northwest
- U.S.D.A. Forest Service
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Washington State Parks

COUNTY PARK NEWS ROUNDUP

Editor's note: In preparing for each edition of NACPRO News, the editor reviews many press releases, park reports and clippings—sometimes nearly 400. A trend has been developing the last several months, likely due to the extension of the national economic downturn. Based on recent reviews, it appears that crime in county parks may be down some. Visitation seems to be up, possibly because local citizens are not venturing farther. Dog park developments continue and there seems to be some minor emphasis on developing horse amenities.

Otherwise, fewer new parks or new facilities seem to be opening. Cuts in park operation and programming seem to be increasing due to funding shortages. Some park systems are going directly to voters to ask for funding support. The synopsis of stories below captures some of these trends and reports on other interesting issues.

Broome County, NY—A coolant leak in 2005 had closed the indoor Broome County Parks ice rink but it opens this summer with a new use. A \$560,000 expenditure has turned the pavilion building into a BMX track!



Gripen Park BMX, had contracted with the county to build and operate a bicycle motor cross (BMX) track to replace the ice rink. According to the agreement, the

BMX group will pay the county a minimum of \$4,000 a year, plus a percentage of profits.

Santa Barbara County CA—Cuts by the county have forced the county parks department to look for alternative funding. An agreement with a local trailer rental firm allows

it to deliver RVs to users in the park campground. The scheme is expected to generate an estimated \$25,000 annually for the county, said Dan Hernandez, director of the Parks Department. Meanwhile the Santa Barbara County Park Foundation has cranked up its efforts to seek donations for park operation. In the end, fee increases for park users are likely to be increased next year.

Miami County, Ohio—Miami County Park District Director Jerry Eldred reports an unusual up-tick in park visitation visitors during these tight economic times. Costs are not being supported by the current levy that was approved by voters in 2001 and intended to remain in force until 2011. His board has agreed to place a proposal before voters in the fall to adjust the levy to yield about \$200,000 more each year.



Oakland County, MI—The Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission will be postponing a number of maintenance and capital improvements this fall due to reduced property tax revenue. It plans to not open its celebrated refrigerated toboggan run this coming winter to save costs.

Adams County, WA—Adams County Park and Recreation District #4 is proposing a levy increase of \$85,000 to cover costs at its water park resulting from unexpected expenses due to the age of the facility, upgrades and changes in law.

Two other Adams County park and recreation districts – Districts No. 2 and 3 will seek voter approval for levies in the fall general election.

Kitsap County, WA—County Commissioners recently amended its visitor rules to remove a



ban on carrying firearms in its county parks. Although the rule had been in effect for many years, it did not comply with the Washington State Constitution. The change was prompted by recent citizen pro gun demonstrations in the parks. Reportedly the rules had never been enforced.

Lapeer County, MI—County Parks and Recreation Director Ken Elwert has closed two of the county's water parks during weekdays while the county commission lays a longer term plan for their future operation. Unusually cool summer weather along with the difficult economy had apparently kept many users from the parks reducing revenue below a reasonable operating level. Elwert estimates a revenue shortage of \$75,000 to \$100,000 this year. Closing the facilities will affect about 25 employees.

Allegan County, MI—In his annual report, county Parks Director Kevin Ricco said the Allegan County Parks Commission plans to establish more equestrian-camping sites.

Pierce County, WA—Pierce County sheriff's deputies arrested 28 men at county parks here for lewd behavior, public indecency and indecent exposure.



An investigation in early September was launched due to complaints by visiting families. Meeting locations were apparently promoted by offenders on several web sites, including Craigslist.

COUNTY PARK NEWS ROUNDUP.....Continued

Morris County, NJ—There has been a recent outbreak of burglaries from cars parked near county park pathways here according to Morris County Park Police.

Montgomery, MD—Planning is now underway for a not-so-typical wedding expo this November, as the Montgomery County Department of Parks challenges area wedding vendors to form teams and plan a “Not-So-Big” wedding at one of the county’s four park event centers. Naturally, the Department hopes to promote use of its facilities in the process.



“The Not-So-Big Wedding Boutique

will celebrate the marriage of elegance and economy,” said Department of Parks Event Centers Marketing Specialist Laura Gosse. “The challenge we’re posing to wedding vendors is to form teams of not more than 5 and plan a not-so-big wedding for \$15K or less.”

Each team will create a wedding package for a ceremony and reception of 65 guests. Wedding packages



Montgomery County’s Brookside Gardens is one of the venues being promoted as part of the “Not so Big” Expo.

must include catering, floral arrangements, music, photography and a Montgomery Parks event center rental. The team entry fee is \$500.

Then, in November at Rockwood Manor in Potomac, the teams will showcase their not-so-big wedding packages for brides and grooms-to-be, their families and other attendees during the Not-So-Big-Wedding Boutique.

During the Not-So-Big Wedding Boutique, the Department of Parks will display the not-so-big wedding packages of 20 teams, award one team the grand prize, offer “Wedding Wisdom” talks from experts and showcase the event centers in the county’s parks system.

Monroe County, NY—Monroe County Parks officials are calling this the worst park vandalism they have ever seen. A local contractor with land adjacent to Durand-Eastman Park allegedly hired men with chainsaws, and a bulldozer to clear a 10 foot wide thoroughfare for three quarters of a mile through the park apparently to “improve” an existing footpath. The offender is to appear in court in October.

McDowell County, NC—A fifteen year old program of using minimum security inmates in a community work program throughout North Carolina was suspended in August because of the state’s continuing budget crisis. The cut reportedly will significantly affect local county park and recreation departments that had relied on the program to assist in construction and maintenance projects.

Otsego County, MI—Arnie Quay, assistant manager of Otsego Lake County Park, reported increased visitor numbers which saw increased traffic of local campers over past years. He said that campers are also staying longer rather than

taking long or more frequent road trips.

Monmouth County, NJ—

Oceanfront parks in this county have seen considerable increase in use this season, posting record use. However, increased public use along with frequent riptides has made for a busy rescue season as well.



Seven Presidents Park has seen lots of rescue action this summer.

Tulsa County, OK—A Tulsa County park was the scene of a light plane crash in early September killing the pilot and four passengers and damaging park property. The pilot may not have been rated for the instrument flight required for that day’s weather when his plane hit a radio tower guy wire and tumbled into Chandler Park.

Tulsa County, OK—Tulsa County Park Administration Director Richard Bales reported that he plans to use \$250,000 in federal stimulus funds to install wind turbines and solar panels at three county parks to help offset his cost for electricity in the parks.

Yakima County WA—A 50-acre park, serving about 25,000 visitors annually, northwest of Yakima, may be given to another agency (if one can be found) or sold in order to help reduce the county’s budget gap from \$3.4 million to \$2.2 million. County Commissioners hope closing Eschbach Park would save \$50,000 in annual operating costs. The county has transferred three other major parks since 2003. Nearby King County is reportedly considering closing or transferring several of its parks next year as well.

People In Recent County Parks News.....

Porter County, IN--Porter County Parks Superintendent **Ed Melendez** resigned his post in early September, to spend more time with his family and to pursue other opportunities and challenges.

Melendez had spent 10 years with the Porter County Parks Department as the second park superintendent in the department's history.



Ed Melendez

Park Board members commended Melendez for his years of service citing his role in pursuing land acquisition for the county parks, particularly at a time of increasing development in the county.

Melendez resignation letter stated that said he leaves the park department "well positioned to fulfill its mission and contribute significantly to the quality of life in Porter County." He agreed to continue working as superintendent and help in the transition.

Greene County, MO—The U.S. Tennis Association (USTA) 2009 President's Award was presented to the director of the Springfield-Greene County in early September. **Jodie Adams** received the award during the U.S. Open in New York.



Jodie Adams

traordinary service to the sport of tennis in the public interest.

A news release announcing the award said the annual award recognizes individuals who have given unusual and ex-

The release went on to quote USTA President Lucy S. Garvin who said "Jodie has been a major presence in our sport for more than three decades and one of the true driving forces behind the growth of the game."

Adams, who is a NACPRO member and current President of the National Recreation and Park Association, has won more than 400 junior and adult tennis tournament titles over the past 40 years.

She also was part of USTA's efforts to create a partnership with the National Park and Recreation Association, resulting in the Tennis in the Parks program.

Vigo County, IN--**Kara S. Kish** became the new assistant superintendent for Vigo County Park and Recreation Department in September following the resignation of **Darlene M. Norman** who had served in that position for 20 years.

The assistant superintendent is in charge of the park budget, buying equipment, supplies and seeking grants.

After leaving the County, Norman will continue as an adjunct faculty member for political science at St. Mary-of-the-Woods College until the end of the year.

Kish moves to her new position from the Brownsburg Park and Recreation Department.

Kish, who serves on the board of directors and the executive committee of the Indiana Park and Recreation Association, graduated with a bachelor's degree in recreation and sport management in 2005 from Indiana State University and is finishing her master's in public affairs at Indiana University-Purdue.

Phoenix Arizona—NACPRO News missed reporting in its summer edi-

tion that former NACPRO board member **Renee Bahl** was named in May as Director of Parks for the State of Arizona by The Arizona State Parks Board.



Renee Bahl

Before moving to her new position, Bahl had served as Director of San Diego County Parks and Recreation, where she directed the rebuild and stabilization of 15,000 acres of parkland and 21 facilities after the 2003 Cedar and Paradise wildfires.

During her time in this position, she acquired more than 8,000 acres with 60% funded through grants since fiscal year 2003. She also expanded the department and services to the public through completion and opening of a number of new parks. She currently serves as board member of the California Association of Regional Park and Open Space Administrators and has been Southern Regional Director since 2007, and is board member of the National Association of County Park and Recreation Officials, serving as Treasurer and Legislative Affairs Committee Chair since 2008.

Prior to her time with San Diego County Parks and Recreation, Bahl served as Assistant Director of Arizona State Parks from March 1996-May 2002.



NACPRO

NACPRO News
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The Newsletter of the National Association Of County Park and Recreation Officials

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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.

County officials optimistic despite sagging economy

By Dan Miller
NACo STAFF WRITER

According to a new survey, county officials are happy the economy is not getting worse. Richard L. Clark, co-author of the study, says that the nation's county officials believe that while the economy may currently be have hit bottom, things are beginning to look up.

Clark and fellow author Charles J. Beacham Jr. conducted the poll on behalf of the Carl Vinson Institute of Government in cooperation with NACo.

A full two-thirds of all respondents listed the economy and jobs as the most important problem facing the nation. Clark noted that the respondents' focus on the economy, particularly during the open-ended question portion of the survey, is

uncommon except for in the aftermath of major world events like 9/11.

County officials' optimism extended beyond the economy. On the topic of the country's welfare, the percentage of officials who thought that the country was headed in the right direction (48 percent) exceeded the percentage that thought the country was on the wrong track (41 percent). This is the first time since 2005 that the percentage of optimistic respondents has exceeded the pessimistic ones.

Clark said that this finding was one of the most remarkable in the study.

In a curious finding, precisely half of the respondents rated the national economy as poor, while only 23 percent stated that economic conditions in their county were poor. However, Clark said this sort of phenomenon

isn't unheard of.

"People get antsy reacting to bigger trends that don't touch them," he said. "As people look around their counties they say 'things aren't great but we haven't imploded.'"

In terms of partisan differences, Clark said that respondents identifying with the party in power usually tend to have a more optimistic picture of current events. This finding held true in his survey with two-thirds of Republicans believing the country was on the wrong track (compared to 13 percent of Democrats). Meanwhile, 79 percent of Democrats believed the country was on the right track (compared with 21 percent of Republicans).

The survey polled a random sample of 500 county elected officials between April 27 and May 19.