



NACPRO NEWS

The Newsletter of the National Association of County Park and Recreation

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

NACPRO TO MEET IN KANSAS CITY

In mid July thousands of county elected officials and appointed staff will descend on Jackson County (Kansas City, Missouri) to attend the National Association of Counties (NACo) 2008 Annual Conference & Exposition.

Among the throng will be many professional 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 already being laid for this July.

NACPRO activities will kick off on Saturday, July 12 with the NACPRO Board Meeting at 1:00 pm at the National WWI Museum 100 W. 26th Street, Kansas City, MO. All members are welcome to be present.



The Board meeting will be followed at about 2:00 pm by the General Membership Meeting at which new Board members will be selected, by-laws reviewed and other organizational matters handled. The NACPRO county facilities park tour will be on Sunday, July 13. A bus will leave



The "City of Fountains" will play host to both the National Association of Counties and its affiliated Park and Recreation Officials.

the Convention Center around 8:00 am. The tour will focus on interpretive and recreational features of the nearby Johnson County, Kansas Department of Parks and Recreation. (A preview of Johnson County facilities and operations appears elsewhere in this newsletter.) The bus will return by 5:00 pm.

Educational Sessions for county park professionals are planned for Monday, July 14. The annual Awards Banquet

will be held in the evening of Monday July 14, at Kansas City's Hereford House Restaurant. Following a bountiful meal, The NACPRO Awards of excellence will be announced and new board members and officers will be installed.

More details including cost

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Upcoming NACPRO Meetings:

- *Kansas City—July 2008*
- *Baltimore—October 2008*
- *Nashville—July 2009*
- *Salt Lake City—Fall 2009*
- *Minneapolis—October 2010*
- *Portland, OR—July 2011*
- *Atlanta, GA—November 2011*
- *Pittsburgh, PA— July 2012*

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and locations and registration materials will be posted Mid-May on the NACPRO website at: <http://www.nacpro.org/>.

All members that provided e-mail addresses on their membership applications will be sent an announcement about the meeting.

It is suggested that those planning on attending the meeting begin to make travel and lodging arrangements now.

NACPRO NEWS

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

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

Advertising Rates:

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

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

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

Officers

- President.....John VonDeLinde
- President Elect.....Mark Thornton
- 1st Vice President.....Margie Walz
- 2nd Vice President .Steve Madewell
- NACo Representative .Andy Kimmel
- NACo Liaison.....Abigail Friedman

Letter from the NACPRO President

Greetings from the National Association of County Park and Recreation Officials! I hope that your spring is off to a great start and that preparations are going well for a busy summer season ahead in your parks and recreation agency.

With summer on the way, that means our July NACPRO conference is just around the corner. President-elect Mark Thornton is putting together a great educational and social event for county parks and professionals. The conference will take place from Saturday July 12th through Monday July 14th in Kansas City. On July 13th, we will have a fabulous bus tour of the Johnson County Park System, showcasing a host of best practices and innovative projects. Be sure not to miss it.



On Monday July 14th, NACPRO conferees will gather at the National WWI Museum, hosted by the Kansas City Parks and Recreation Department. A variety of informative and timely topics will be presented affecting county parks administration. Then, join us for the annual Awards Banquet being held that evening at the Hereford House. The banquet is a great way to socialize and congratulate award winners on outstanding agency and member achievements. More information on the conference is included in this issue.

And speaking of members, I want to give you a quick update on some of the goals our board had put forward at last summers conference. In our 2008 membership drive we have increased our corporate memberships by 47% and now stand at 28. On the professional/agency side we have just eclipsed the 147 mark, reflecting a 17% increase over 2007. A special thanks to Membership Chairman Ron Benson for his determined efforts to increase membership.

Another member services goal that is sailing along is the redesign and rollout of our new website. Thanks to the efforts of board member Margie Walz (Three Rivers Park District) I am happy to report that the website overhaul is now in the hands of a capable webmaster (Ryan Reid) who is planning to have the new site launched by September 30th.

The goal of restructuring and expanding our awards program is also now complete. Awards Chair, Margie Walz, has been instrumental in "cleaning up" the program by clarifying the awards process and introducing several new categories. Awards are coming in steady and final selections will be made by the Committee in the near future.

Other notable developments of late include the adoption by the NACo Board of our legislative platform "No Child Left Inside" resolution (thanks to Andy Kimmel); an upcoming organizational audit of NACPRO (arranged by Bob Nickovich); and improved communications with NRPA (thanks to Bill Beckner, Andy Kimmel, and others).

Overall, it's been a good year for NACPRO thanks to the help of many. I look forward to seeing you in K.C. for some great ribs.....blues....and...oh yah, the conference.

John VonDeLinde, President

NACo Adopts Resolution

At the 2008 National Association of Counties (NACo) Legislative Conference, a set of legislative policy proposals came before the NACo Board for adoption seeking, in many cases, to ease the negative impact of existing federal law or encourage legislation that would help local leaders to better serve their communities.

At the urging of NACPRO members a resolution was placed before the NACo Environment, Energy and Land Use Steering Committee for addition to the NACo platform. After some word smithing, the resolution was proposed to the NACo Board.

The NACo Board passed the **resolution in support of federal legislation to promote environmental education**. NACPRO and the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) worked with the No Child Left Inside Coalition to introduce the resolution to NACo. NACo represents elected county officials from through the United States, and is an effective voice on federal legislative issues.

“No Child Left Inside”

The language of the adopted policy states that “ NACo supports federal legislation that provides federal funding opportunities for environmental



Lake County (Illinois) Forest Preserve District Commissioner Pam Newton and Forest Preserve Deputy Executive Director Andy Kimmel, speaking on behalf of the No Child Left Inside Resolution at the recent National Association of Counties (NACo) Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C..

educational programs. Such programs and grants shall not create unfunded mandates.”

Andy Kimmel who is Deputy Executive Director at Lake County Illinois Forest Preserve worked with Lake County Forest Preserve District Commissioner Pam Newton on behalf of the No Child Left Inside Resolution.

Newton is a NACo Board Member and is former President of the Illinois Association of Park Districts and of the Illinois Association of Conservation and Forest Preserve Districts. Kimmel is the National Association of County Park and Recreation Officials (NACPRO) representative to the NACo Board.

NACo Legislative Conference Highlights Partnership efforts

By Jim Philipps NACo MEDIA RELATIONS MANAGER

More than 2,000 elected and appointed county officials brought the concerns of America’s counties to the nation’s capital as part of the National Association of Counties’ (NACo) 2008 Legislative Conference March 1-5 in Washington, D.C. The theme of this year’s conference was “Restore the Partnership.”

For decades, county and federal governments have worked together to answer the challenges facing the nation. But in recent years, that partnership has begun to wane. To combat this, NACo has launched the 2008 Presidential Election Project to get each candidate to commit to restoring the federal-county partnership and to address the problems facing counties and their residents.

During the five-day conference, NACo members discussed legislative issues and programs important to counties and communities, met with members of Congress, attended professional development and educational workshops, and heard from nationally prominent political leaders and commentators.

More NACo Legislative Conference..... continued page 7

NACo expands Green Government Initiative with launch of “green counties” database

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Through the National Association of Counties (NACo) Green Government Initiative, the association has launched a “green counties” searchable database of counties implementing pro-environment and energy efficient practices, policies and programs.

The database contains copies of county policies, program descriptions, case studies, job descriptions, resolutions and more. Users can search by keyword, state, county size, type of document or issue areas such as climate change, green buildings, renewable energy, land use, purchasing and waste management to learn about their programs and initiatives.

“America’s counties are at the forefront laying the groundwork for more environmentally friendly ways of delivering critical services to residents and implementing more energy-efficient ways of doing business,” said NACo Executive Director Larry E. Naake. “Our green counties database is where you will find the most up-to-date information on what counties are doing.”

Through the database, for example, a user would learn that Maricopa County, Ariz. is replacing its county fleet of 2,000 vehicles with hybrids and fuel-efficient vehicles. A user would also learn that San Bernardino County, Calif. waives building permit fees where solar panels, wind turbines or tankless water heaters are installed and gives priority planning review to builders meeting the state’s green builder standards.

Naake said NACo will continue to solicit updated green government information from its member counties and incorporate the information into the database.

Launched in 2007, the NACo Green Government Initiative provides comprehensive resources for local governments on all things green, including energy, air quality, transportation, water quality, land use, purchasing and recycling. NACo serves as a catalyst between local governments and the private sector to facilitate green government best practices, products and policies that result in financial and environmental savings.

“Since its launch last year, NACo’s Green Government Initia-

tive has witnessed exceptional growth among counties and businesses,” Naake said. “Today, 17 companies and organizations have partnered with NACo as sponsors of the initiative, including IBM, General Motors, Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. and Office Depot.” A full list of partners is available [here](#).

Through the Green Government Initiative, NACo is increasing education and outreach on all things green; helping educate counties and helping them educate the public; promoting environmentally-preferable purchasing practices and facilitating open dialogues with the private sector.

Various green policies and programs benefit communities through lower energy bills, open space preservation, air quality improvements, reduced traffic congestion, improved transportation choices, and economic development and job creation through energy conservation and new technologies.



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NRPA Series Aims to Improve Access for People With Disabilities

Ashburn, Va.--The National Recreation and Park Association has announced the launch of its Inclusive Recreation Training Series, courses designed to educate park and recreation employees on the opportunities and requirements for enhancing accessibility to recreation. The courses are now available for purchase online at www.nrpa.org/inclusion.

The Inclusive Recreation Training Series offers two levels of education: Introduction to Inclusive Recreation (two hours) Appropriate for any recreation staff, this fundamental overview covers basics, best practices, terminology, and sensitivity and includes a great introduction to effective behavior management practices. This course is ideal for support staff and seasonal employees or as a prerequisite to the second course—Developing Inclusive Recreation (four hours). Geared toward more experienced recreation professionals, this course provides a more detailed response to questions

regarding requirements, funding, process, models, and training. It even includes a section on basic program adaptation to help participants understand how adaptation works.

Lonny Zimmerman, M.A., CLP, manager of the Adaptive Recreation Division for the city of Las Vegas Department of Leisure Services and a co-creator of the new program, says, "Park and recreation agencies can't risk operating without a staff-wide understanding of the basic principles of inclusion and implementation. It's also really expensive to send their frontline staff to conferences. The Inclusive Recreation Training Series was designed to help agencies offer affordable learning opportunities that can advance the key concepts and practices of inclusive recreation."

For more information or to register for the courses, visit the NRPA Web site, or call 800.626.6772.

NRPA Presents A National Summit on Environmental Stewardship For People, Parks and Public Lands

The National Recreation and Park Association is embarking on an aggressive effort to equip park and recreation leaders to be a voice for advancing environmental stewardship in local communities. From May 4 - 7, 2008 NRPA will present A National Summit on Environmental Stewardship For People, Parks and Public Lands at the Portland, Oregon Downtown Waterfront.

This event will bring leaders in the park and recreation community and allied organizations together in an active learning environment to discover how they can lead and uphold efforts to: promote sustainable landscapes, foster the next generation of stewards, and provide leadership for sustainable communities.

The first two domains will help participants to gain awareness of the opportunities for parks and recreation in changing what is within our control: the maintenance and management of parks, open spaces, and public lands; and the provision of services and experiences that connect children and youth with nature and inspire them to embrace conservation as a core principle.

The third domain will focus on preparing park and recreation leaders to grow beyond what is within our control and encourage others to replicate our knowledge and experience – be it local and state governments, schools, civic organizations, or businesses.

By preparing participants to do something about the environment and then set examples for others, this event is designed to chart a course for enhancing the value of parks and recreation in our communities and across the nation.

Grants and other items of use to County Park Agencies

Federal Grants Available

DOI
Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
"Stay The Trail" Responsible Recreation Campaign
Grant
<http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&flag2006=true&opId=17265DOI>

Department of the Interior
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Analyses of seasonal wetlands, water quality, management practices and waterbird use Grant
<http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?mode=VIEW&opId=41066>

US EPA Great Lakes Earth Day Challenge

For Earth Day 2008 (April 22, 2008), the US EPA is challenging residents and communities around the Great Lake to collect and recycle electronic waste and to properly dispose of unwanted medicines during Earth Week April 19-27. The Challenge is to collect a million pounds of e-waste for proper management and a million pounds of unwanted medicines for responsible disposal during Earth Week.

For more information about how you can participate in the challenge and more details about e-waste and unwanted medicines, see:
<http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/earthday2008/index.html>

Download the "Using GIS with GPS Best Practices" Booklet

In this GIS Best Practices booklet, you will learn how positioning information from Global Positioning System (GPS) units is being integrated into GIS applications and workflows. GIS Best Practices booklets are available on a variety of other topics such as public works, law enforcement, and customer and market analytics. For a complete list of booklets currently available, visit the [GIS Best Practices showcase](http://www.esri.com/showcase/best-practices/index.html) - <http://www.esri.com/showcase/best-practices/index.html>.

Receive the Latest Data and Maps

ArcGIS users can now request the ESRI Data & Maps 2007 Data Update. This update is delivered on two DVDs and includes updates to more than 80 datasets and all of the

U.S. Tele Atlas and European basemap data as well as minor corrections and enhancements. The update also includes StreetMap Pro, which provides 2003 Tele Atlas streets for North America with complete routing and geocoding capabilities. <http://www.esri.com/data/data-maps/overview.html>

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Useful URLs

*ATLAS-Based Land Cover and Land Use Classifications - <http://www.ghcc.msfc.nasa.gov/land/ncrst/atlasclass.html>

*Evaluating the urban forest and ordinance performance. <http://www.phytosphere.com/treeord/ordprt3a.htm>

*Guidelines for Developing and Evaluating Tree Ordinances. <http://www.phytosphere.com/treeord/index.htm>

Fourth Annual County Land Conservation Awards Announced

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Trust for Public Land (TPL) and the National Association of Counties (NACo) recently announced five winning programs for the fourth annual County Leadership in Conservation Awards, which recognizes leadership, innovation, and excellence on local land conservation and park creation initiatives by county leaders across America.

The winners:

- Landscapes 21st Century Preservation Program, Chester County, Pennsylvania
- Harris County Flood Control District, Harris County, Texas
- Parks and Conservation Lands, Martin County, Florida
- South Park Heritage Area, Park County Land & Water Trust Fund, Park County, Colorado
- Open Space Acquisition Policy Plan, Suffolk County, New York

The winning county programs were honored at the annual NACo Legislative Conference in Washington D.C. In addition to the national recognition, each county receives a travel scholarship to promote countywide land conservation programs as effective solutions to thoughtful regional growth issues.

Since 1996, 151 counties have prioritized land conservation with new or reconsidered conservation programs. In that time these counties have passed 260 ballot measures, generating \$14.3 billion for open space, parks, watersheds, recreational lands, and wildlife preserves. Over 77 percent of all county conservation ballot measures in the last decade have won voter approval.

Three or more awards will be presented each year to officials (elected or appointed) from NACo-member counties. Awards are made in three population categories. **The awards were presented in partnership with the National Association of County Planners and the National Association of County Parks and Recreation Officials.**

"As America grows, counties are leading the way with setting aside the places that matter most," said Will Rogers. "The Trust for Public Land's partnership with counties-and with the National Association of Counties in particular-shows how creating parks and conserving open space are at the heart of making communities great places to live, work, and play."

Information on each of this years award winners may be found by clicking on: [Award Winner Information](#)



Open Space Acquisition Policy Plan

Suffolk County, New York was a Large County Winner

The County initiated the Save Open Space program to quickly acquire open space, farmland development rights, hamlet greens, and parks as well as enhance public spaces in downtown areas. With foresight and streamlined purchasing and land management, Suffolk County has created a green infrastructure ideally suited to accommodate future development demands.

.....NACo Legislative Conference continued from page 3

NACo's Board of Directors adopted more than 30 new policy positions at its March 3 meeting, as recommended by the association's steering committees. (See page 3.) The board also accepted a series of recommendations from the Blue Ribbon Elections Committee, formed to review the process for electing NACo's second vice president. Coleman created the committee in the aftermath of the contentious 2007 election.

Among the committee's recommendations were: reordering the agenda at the annual business meeting to allow for at least 30 minutes to pass between the vote and the announcement of the election results so that delegates who wish to may lodge challenges to the vote, and giving second vice presidential candidates an opportunity to address delegates at the opening general session of the Legislative, WIR and Annual conferences.

Conference participants heard from several guest speakers including U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Ed Schafer, U.S. Commerce Secretary Carlos M. Gutierrez. Political analysts Paul Begala and Pat Buchanan, Tom Siebel of the Meth Project, and Rep. James Clyburn (D-S.C), House majority whip, also addressed conference participants.

Meanwhile, conference educational sessions dealt with such high-profile topics as immigration and voting reform, climate change and sexual exploitation of children.

Focus on Johnson County Parks

The Johnson County Park and Recreation District, for nearly 50 years, has been enhancing the lives of the citizens of Johnson County, Kansas through its parks, quality of programs, professionalism, and response to developing trends.

The District's contributions to the personal lives of Johnson County's citizens have earned the District local appreciation and national acclaim.



Each year, the District records more than 7 million park visitors and nearly 1.5 million recreation participations in over 4000 programs.

Philosophy

The District's Philosophy is to offer the best recreation experience by providing quality parks, programs and instruction, always listening to its patrons, and by responding in a professional, timely, and knowledgeable manner and serving without discrimination

Mission

Its stated mission is to enhance the quality of life in Johnson County by providing high-quality parks, services, and recreation programs.

Vision

The District maintains a vision to be the leader in park management and recreation services, to be responsive to its community and the people it serves. To impact the character of its community in a positive manner, to serve as a catalyst for program and land use innovation, and to function as a responsive steward of all its resources.

JOHNSON COUNTY PARK AND RECREATION DISTRICT HISTORY

In the early 1950s, Johnson County's population of approximately 65,000 was concentrated in the small suburban cities in its northeast section, adjacent to metropolitan Kansas City. Farsighted community leaders correctly identified the County, with the room

to grow south and west, as the area of principal future growth in the expanding metropolis. Led by members of the Shawnee Mission Sertoma Club, and its women's auxiliary, the LaSertoma Club, a group of civic-minded individuals fulfilled the need for forward-looking planning in Johnson County.

A community leader's vision.

One of the most important community leaders in the development of the Johnson County Park and Recreation District was John Barkley. Barkley was the first superintendent of the Shawnee Mission Park District, later named the Johnson County Park and Recreation District. He served the district from its inception in 1956 until his retirement in 1963.



Founding Director-John Barkley

Following his military duty, in World War I, he was a farmer and landowner living in Mission, KS. Due to his love for nature and his desire to preserve a part of Johnson County's open area, he toured the undeveloped countryside and personally negotiated an acquisition of the 1,250 acres for the Shawnee Mission Park at a very reasonable price.

The early years:

The pressing civic projects were establishing sewer and road systems, central county services, and the planning for a park district and the creation of a recreation association (later known as the Northeast Johnson County Recreation Association). The Kansas Legislature assisted and enabled legislation for the formation of a Park District. In 1955, acting within the legislative authority and on a petition from citizens, the Board of County Commissioners appointed the first Park Board for the new Shawnee Mission Park District.

Moving forward:

In 1956 the park board put a successful bond issue on the ballot for purchase and initial development of land for three park properties within the new Park District. Also, in 1956, the Shawnee Mission Park District Board met with members of the Northeast Johnson County Recreation Association and the two groups commissioned a Master Plan Study for Parks and Recreation for the Shawnee Mission Park District.

The two groups continued to work closely and complement each other and, in 1967, the park district's original governing statutes were amended to include the provision of any type of indoor and outdoor recreational and cultural programs, and to deliver services to the entire County. The District's name was officially changed in 1967 to the "Johnson County Park and Recreation District".

The growing years:

Throughout the 1970s, the District developed Shawnee Mission Park and was able to acquire other properties including the 80-acre site for Thomas S. Stoll Park and the 250-acre Tomahawk Hills Golf Club. In 1979, the voters of Johnson County approved the purchase of 1,160 acres for Heritage Park, with additional funds for initial development of Heritage Park and Stoll Park. Lacking indoor facilities, the focus to offer recreational programs continued to be in space leased from area cities and businesses.

By 1980 the County's population was 270,269. The need for outdoor recreational facilities dominated the master planning for Heritage Park beyond the initial development approved in the 1979 bond issue. The District developed Heritage Park Sports Complex in a partnership with the Football and Cheerleading Club of Johnson County and the Heritage Park Soccer Park in a similar agreement with the Heartland Soccer Club.



1980 Heritage Park Ground Breaking

The District received capital funding in 1984 for the construction of the first phase of the only nature center in Johnson County, the Ernie Miller Nature Center. The indoor space enabled the District to expand interpretive programming and outreach programs for schools.

In 1986, voters again backed the District on a land issue, approving a one-half mill levy for establishing a Streamway Parks System, the basis today for the countywide program to connect municipal parks and

trails. The District also entered into a lease-purchase agreement with The Parks and Recreation Foundation of Johnson County for the pristine Oakridge Farm adjoining the northern boundary of Shawnee Mission Park.

By the mid-1990s the utilization of revenue bonds, the support of citizens for land acquisition and development, partnerships with youth and adult sports groups, and working with the private sector to offer public recreational programs in leased space during a time of rapid population growth in the County and an economic slowdown in government overall, gained the District the recognition of park and recreation bodies. Nationally, other park and recreation agencies began to benchmark by the District's standards for community achievement, and the District established itself as one of the premier park and recreation agencies in the country. In 1995 the National Gold Medal Award was presented to JCPRD for Best Park and Recreation Agency in the Country Award.

In 1998 County citizens approved \$6 million in General Obligation Bonds to acquire land for a fourth regional park.

An emphasis on the future:

As the District enters its second half-century, nine regional and community parks, and four future park sites comprise over 8,000 acres. The District Board and the Johnson County Commission know planning for parks and recreational services must remain versatile and proactive to be a vital quality which makes Johnson County a great place to live and work.

In 1999, the District Board contracted with nationally recognized consultants which resulted in a 20-year Master Action Plan, MAP 2020. The Plan projects acreage acquisition standards and a schedule for operational funding for the park and recreation district to stay abreast of growth.

The current Board and staff of the Johnson County Park and Recreation District recognize it was involvement of the community in 1955 which initiated the organization of the District. MAP 2020, the development of a Friends for Parks and Recreation organization in 2005, and future funding initiatives are further instances where public support and involvement will be needed to preserve open space, create parks and playgrounds, and professionally staff recreational offerings for the next 50 years.

Focus on Johnson County Parks

Homeowner's Property Taxes

The amount of property tax an individual Johnson County homeowner pays depends on the budgets set by the taxing units where the property is located. Examples of taxing units are schools, cities, the county, and the state. Property taxes, or ad valorem taxes, in Johnson County for the 2006 budget year were \$792,286,988. The District's share of those taxes in 2006 was 2.07 percent, or \$16,410,015.

ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET

District Distribution of Tax Monies Within the Total Operation Budget

For a home valued at \$200,000 (in 2006) the District's share of property tax would be \$52.58 (2.286 mills).

The Johnson County Park and Recreation District receives approximately only two percent of the property taxes paid by Johnson County homeowners each year.

Virtually all of the District's recreational programs and classes are funded exclusively through user fees and other non-tax sources. Each year less than one half of the District's operating budget is funded by tax dollars.

The limited amount of tax support the District does receive must be stretched to cover land acquisition, development and maintenance costs, as well as District administration and safety expenses. It also must help fund the Theatre in the Park, Special Populations and 50+ programming.

View / Downloadables:

- [2005 JCPRD Combined Enterprise General Fund Budgets](#) [52KB]
- [2006 JCPRD Annual Report](#) [500KB]

District Tidbits

The District is governed by a seven-member Board of Park and Recreation Commissioners who are appointed for three-year terms by the Johnson County Commission. The District Board is the public authority responsible for the District's policy-making functions.



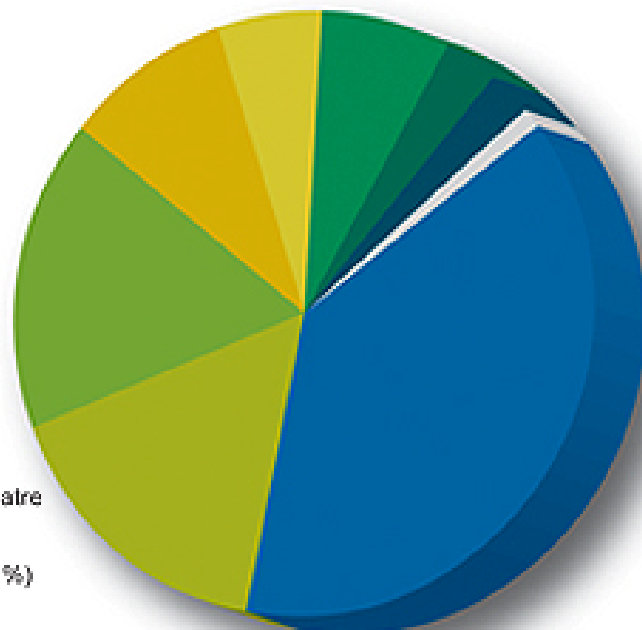
Under a new fee structure which took effect with the Winter 2002 ACTIVITIES catalog, Fees for Johnson County residents are discounted by approximately 10 percent from those of non-residents to reflect tax support for employee benefits. As listed in its programs catalog, the one price is the rate for Johnson County Residents, while the second price is for non-residents.

The Park & Recreation District has a division known as "The Picnic Program" that can arrange catering, chair rental, etc. for gatherings.

JCPRD has four off-leash dog areas in Johnson County. Each off-leash area has an enclosed fenced area.

Shawnee Mission Park offers several horseback trails. No rentals are available. The District does offer youth and adult English Horseback Riding classes at off-site stables.

■ \$7,051,315	Capital Outlay (38.57%)
■ \$2,952,318	Employee Benefits Fund (16.15%)
■ \$3,037,015	Parks – Maintenance & Parks Personnel (16.61%)
■ \$1,681,179	Administration – Human Resources, Payroll, Community Relations (9.2%)
■ \$1,045,488	Land Acquisition, Planning, Development (5.71%)
■ \$1,304,426	Park Police Services, Resource Protection, Risk Management, Environmental Program Administration (7.13%)
■ \$555,472	Special Populations, 50 Plus, The Theatre in the Park Administration (3.04%)
■ \$477,103	Bonded Indebtedness Payments (2.61%)
□ \$179,261	Equipment Replacement (0.98%)



JCPRD PARKS & FACILITIES JOHNSON COUNTY, KANSAS





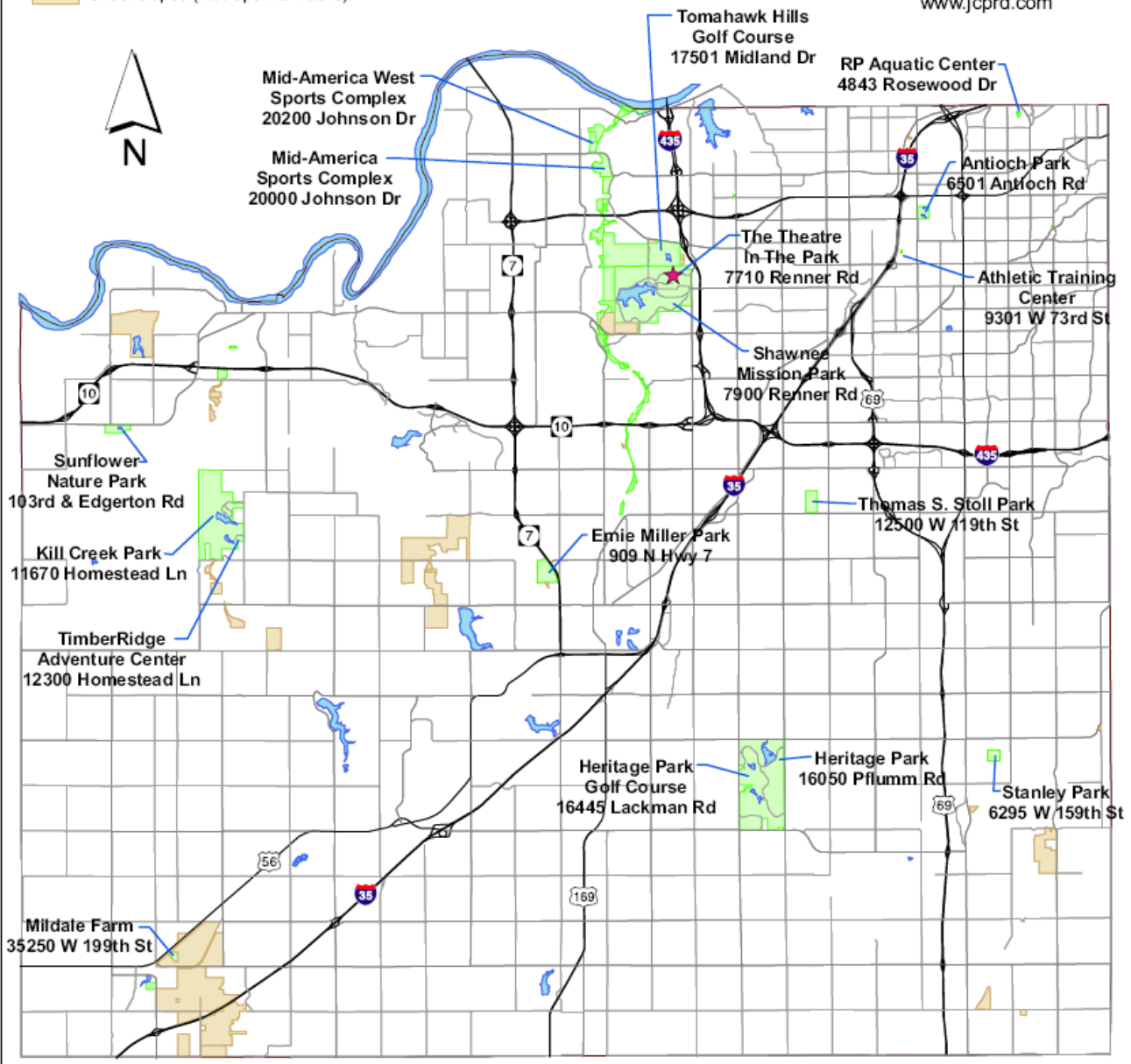
JOHNSON COUNTY
PARK & RECREATION
DISTRICT

www.jcprd.com

Legend

Park Status

-  Public Use (Open)
-  Undeveloped (Not Open to Public)



Non Profit Can Assist Government Purchase

The following note from a NACPRO member came across my desk this past month and I decided to do some research. Perhaps this can help your agency. *Ed*

"This is from today's issue of NACo E-news. I thought it would be of interest to NACPRO members. I'm sure someone from US Communities would be interested in giving more details on the program. Maybe during the annual conference this summer or fall? Let me know what you think. See you soon!"

Athletic turf company gets contract through U.S. Communities

U.S. Communities Government Purchasing Alliance announced that Fairfax County, Virginia Public Schools has awarded General Sports Venue/AstroTurf USA a contract for synthetic turf, athletic surfaces and related products. The contract became available for use through U.S. Communities on Feb. 1. Is your county taking advantage of the U.S Communities 16 product lines that save counties thousands to millions of dollars? Click [here](#).

Here is what I found out about U.S. Communities:

U.S. Communities Government Purchasing Alliance is a **nonprofit** instrumentality of government that assists local and state government agencies, school districts, higher education, and nonprofits in reducing the cost of purchased goods through pooling the purchasing power of public agencies nationwide. This is accomplished through competitively solicited contracts for quality products through lead public agencies.

Today more than 30,000 public agencies utilize U.S. Communities contracts and suppliers to procure 1 billion dollars in products and services annually. Each month more than 400 new public agencies register to participate. The continuing rapid growth of public agency participation is fueled by the program's proven track record of providing public agencies unparalleled value.

What are the advantages of participating in U.S. Communities?

- Competitively solicited contracts by a lead public agency
- Most favorable public agency pricing
- No cost to participate
- Nationally sponsored by leading associations and purchasing organizations
- Broad range of high quality products
- Aggregates purchasing power of public agencies nationwide
- Managed by public purchasing professionals

The Advisory Board members consist of public purchasing professionals from: 23 public agencies including the City and County of Denver, CO; Cobb County, GA; County of Allegheny, PA; Fairfax County, VA; Los Angeles County, CA; and Maricopa County, AZ.

Public agencies must register to participate. There are no restrictions on the amount or size of a public agency order.

There are no costs or fees to the local agency to participate.

How is U.S. Communities funded as a nonprofit instrumentality of government?

The supplier pays a minimum 1% administrative fee to participate and this pays for operating expenses and offsets costs incurred by national and state sponsors.

Products and services currently under contract include:

Office & School Supplies
Office Furniture
School Furniture
Office Machines
Electrical Products
Park & Playground
P.E. Supplies
Janitorial Supplies
Technology Products & Solutions
Telecommunications Supplies
Maintenance & Hardware Supplies
Security & Public Safety
Roofing Supplies & Services
Auto Parts & Accessories
Housing Compliance Services
Synthetic Turf & other Athletic Surfaces

It is Green Too!

U.S. Communities/Green is the one-stop source for public agency access to a broad line of environmentally certified products and services. From Energy Star to EcoLogo to Green Seal, U.S. Communities/Green has identified here those items in its contracts that meet third-party environmental certification standards to help public agencies meet their responsible procurement needs.



Headlines from County Parks

Sarasota Parks Experiencing Exotic Invasion

Sarasota County, FL—Iguanas and Nile monitor lizards are moving into area parks and reserves. While numbers still are small, their exploding populations and voracious appetites have Sarasota County staff on high alert since they pose a serious threat to endangered native species like the gopher tortoise, Florida Scrub-jay and sea turtle.

Breeding populations of black spiny-tailed iguanas already exist at several local parks, according to George Tatge, Manager of Beaches and Natural Areas for Sarasota County. They have been sighted in most south county parks and in a handful of neighborhoods as far north as Siesta Key. Two monitor lizards last year were removed from the one park area near the central county landfill.



*The Nile monitor, **Varanus niloticus**, grows to 6 feet.*

Sarasota County Project Scientist Kenya Leonard has been assisting with the tracking efforts. “Iguanas can exceed three feet, and adult Nile monitors easily approach seven feet,” Leonard said. “As a biologist you have to admire their ability to adapt and survive in this foreign environment. They are impressive diggers, agile climbers and graceful swimmers. Unfortunately, this makes them formidable predators that can cause serious ecological damage.”

“They’re wild and should never be mistaken for their more domesticated pet store cousins,” Leonard said. “Monitor lizards and black spiny-tailed iguanas may become aggressive toward pets or people if they feel threatened.”

Sarasota County has been tracking and removing large exotic lizards from public lands since 2004, when two iguanas showed up at Lemon Bay Park. It’s illegal to release or relocate one of these animals. County staff suspect the first two were pets that grew too large or dangerous for their owners. The rapid influx of the black spiny-tailed iguanas reproducing in Sarasota County probably are offspring of the population that has gained

such a stronghold on Gasparilla Island in Charlotte and Lee counties. Leonard says the monitor lizards inhabiting this area may have come from irresponsible pet owners but they also could indicate a northern progression of the wild breeding population in Lee County.

Sarasota County scientists are developing a plan to reduce or eradicate the invasive lizards. Population levels locally are still low enough to respond to a proactive approach that may prevent a repeat of the costly, ongoing battle being fought against these reptiles throughout southwest Florida.

Partnerships create successful clean-ups

Washoe County, NV—Each year Washoe County Park and Recreation organizes volunteers to sponsor a volunteer effort to help clear tons of trash from outdoor recreation areas. Volunteers choose a location when they sign-up. All volunteers receive a souvenir water bottle, and donuts from Krispy Kreme before the cleanup. Immediately following the cleanup and a thank-you lunch is provided by a local grocery chain and Pepsi at Washoe’s Rancho San Rafael Regional Park.

Last year, volunteers removed over 140 tons of trash from a variety of areas throughout the Truckee Meadows. Washoe County Parks and Recreation partners with Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful, the cities of Reno and Sparks, Reno-Sparks Indian Colony, U.S. Forest Service, BLM, Waste Management and other local organizations to target areas.



More News from the Counties

New Board Urges New Fees

Calaveras County, CA—At the urging of the Calaveras County Parks and Recreation Board, which was formed last year, the County Board, in January, approved an interim parks plan that would collect fees on new housing developments to be used towards acquiring park acreage. The county's General plan, which has been on the books for over 10 years had required the collection of either land or money, but the plan had not been enforced. The new plan sets a goal of creating 2.5 acres of public parkland for every additional 1,000 residents who move into new housing projects. Developers can either set aside land, pay a fee equal to the cost of an equivalent amount of land, or do a combination of both.

The county has no staff involved in parks operations. Currently, most parks in Calaveras County are run by private clubs or nonprofit groups. This has prevented the county from receiving its share of state park construction dollars.

Plans for Turbines in Parks Dropped

St. Lucie County, FL--Public pressure apparently caused Florida Light and Power Company in January to reconsider its plan to put wind turbines on county-operated beach access areas at 22.7 acre John Brooks and 13.7 acre Frederick Douglass public beaches. The towers were to have been 400 feet tall. At issue were aesthetics, noise and potential effects on wildlife.



Current view at Frederick Douglass public beach may have been marred by wind turbines.

Walk raises substantial funds for operations

Westmoreland County, PA—A special fundraising event netted \$52,000 in March to help subsidize operations of the county parks system. The "Walk for the Parks" event had 475 participants who helped raise money for a program called, "Keep Westmoreland County Green."

Money raised from previous walks has been used to expand and redesign the parks, construct trails, and purchase land. This year's event exceeded previous fundraising records by more than \$10,000.

Recent Park Death and Attempt Told

Clackamas County, OR--A person walking their dog found a dead body in North Clackamas Park. Authorities reported that the death was not from natural causes. The incident remains under investigation.

St Louis County, MO—It appears that a man who was found seriously injured in early April in Cliff Cave County Park may have attempted to kill himself by jumping from a cliff along the Mississippi River. The man was removed to a local hospital in serious condition after having been discovered at the base of the cliff by hikers.

New Park Property Purchased

Stearns County, MN-- another 265 acres was added to the county park system this past November. Stearns County staff closed on a piece of lakeshore property on Kraemer Lake in St. Joseph that will be the site of a new County park.

There is approximately ¾ of a mile of lake frontage on this property. In the future, possibly 2010, plans are to use this lakeshore property for swimming, a fishing pier and the trail.

The site also contains Stearns County's only commercial maple syrup operation. The County intends to allow a local family to continue the operation with future interpretive classes provided.

Purchase price for this property was \$2.4 million. Stearns County received \$1.1 million in state grants, from both the Environmental Trust Fund and the DNR Regional Grant Program.

The land is in a relatively natural state and is on the Minnesota County Biological Survey for its remnant woods. Only 1.6% of the entire land mass in Stearns County is on the Minnesota County Biological Survey. Acquisition of this property by the County guarantees this land will be kept for public and recreational use; it's required in the deed.

The park is closed to the public at this point, except to cross country skiers, until facility planning can occur and grant development funds are procured. Stearns County will be seeking funding for planning purposes, which they hope will take place in 2009.



More News from the Counties

Incident of Aluminum Theft from Park

Anne Arundel County, MD—Two persons were charged in early January with stealing aluminum bleacher seats from three Anne Arundel County parks and selling the metal for recycling.

The seats, valued at about \$700 each had apparently been removed using hand tools. Fourteen of the stolen benches were recovered at a local recycling facility when their sale was attempted. The county recreation department has removed and stored those seats remaining at local sports facilities. They will be replaced when spring events resume.

Anoka County Parks Receives \$300,000 Gift

Anoka Co. MN—The Anoka County Parks and Recreation Department has received a \$300,000 gift from the estate of Edith P. Wargo. The funds will be used to maintain and make improvements to the Wargo Nature Center in Lino Lakes. The nature center was named for the late Joseph E. Wargo, who was Edith's husband and a former Anoka County judge. The Wargos provided financial support to build the nature center in 1993. Edith P. Wargo died at age 92. She was a 1938 graduate of the University of Minnesota Law School and worked as an executive for Minneapolis-based Powers department store.



Linda Workman, Wargo estate co-personal representative, is presented with a special plaque in appreciation for the \$300,000 gift. From left: Bill Huefner, legal counsel for the estate; Tony Palumbo, Anoka County Attorney's Office; Anoka County Commissioners Dick Lang and Dennis Berg; Workman; Bob Guzy, Wargo estate co-personal representative; Deb Gallop and Lisa Gilliland, Wargo Nature Center staff; and Anoka County Parks and Recreation Director John VonDeLinde.

Front Range Cougar-Human Interactions Pilot Study

Boulder County, CO--Boulder County Parks and Open Space is cooperating with the Colorado Division of Wildlife on a study that looks at the behaviors of cougars whose range lies near urban development. The study began in 2007.



Large wildcats and park visitors may encounter one another in scenic Boulder County Parks

Parks and Open Space staff has been actively involved in the capture and tracking of these cougars and supports the CDOW request.

The pilot study was initiated by CDOW in January 2007 to test the practicality of a long-term cougar research study. POSAC and the BOCC first approved the pilot study in April 2007. CDOW has made considerable positive progress in this study. This is particularly evident in their success at capturing cougars and equipping them with GPS radio collars. They are already beginning to achieve the basic objectives identified in the pilot study plan.

Volunteers Create Bird Festival in Parks

Ramsey County, MN—Ramsey County Parks hosts an annual volunteer-run festival that highlights the many birds found in St. Paul and suburbs. The third such event is scheduled for May. It is a free celebration of springtime birds designed to attract families and others to birding, America's most popular outdoor activity. Fourteen separate events over three days feature walks, displays, demonstrations and viewings.



Headlines from County Parks

King Approves Levy

King County, WA—With the new year here, King County Parks Director **Keven Brown** reviewed some recent accomplishments. None could be more important than the support of King County voters in renewing the parks operations levy.

In September 2007, King County voters overwhelmingly passed both a six-year, 5-cent operations levy, as well as a 5-cent expansion levy. These levies not only allow Parks to continue our base operations for the next six years, but will result in higher levels of maintenance in parks, open spaces and trails. Well-maintained parks, natural areas free of noxious weeds, and trails with better signage, surfacing, and site lines will ensure a higher quality experience for parks users.



King County Parks
Director Keven Brown

The expansion levy will help King County Parks acquire and develop key trail connections and links to our 175-mile trail system, as well as acquire and protect critical open space and natural areas.

Camper numbers have commercial tie

Jefferson County, IA—A December report to the Jefferson County Conservation board indicated a trend which other county campground operators may wish to look for.

Since 1983, revenue from Jefferson County Park's campground has mostly been increasing. From July 1, 2006, to June 30, 2007, the park's campground brought in \$21,031.

The figure was up from \$16,668 the previous year - and from \$2,915 in 1983. Fees have not increased, but, according to

Jefferson County Conservation Board Director **Dennis Lewiston**, the rise in 2007 can be attributed in part to a number of contractors staying at the campsite.

Farm Park Opened

Greene County, MO—In December the Springfield-Greene County Park Board opened a new farm themed park. The 207-acre Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park contains a visitors' center, gift shop, offices, a barn, a veterinarian clinic, chicken coop and a mile long greenway trail. Visitors can view sheep, goats, pigs and horses, enjoy hayrides, and fish in a farm style pond. The farm park also offers crop demonstrations and educational programs.

Yet to be completed are community gardens, a milk barn, picnic and pavilion areas and a farm-themed playground. The 2.6 million dollars funding the development came from a 1/4 cent parks sales tax approved by voters in 2001.

The Springfield-Greene County Park Board studied



nearly two dozen living history and visitor farms around the country in planning.

County Mulls City Park Operation

Marion County, FL—A draft agreement written by Marion County would require the city of Ocala, Florida pay 5 million dollars for the first years operation of the city's 33 parks. The arrangement reduces each succeeding years payment by 10% annually for the 5 year life of the contract. Action on the agreement would dissolve the city's parks department and turn out its employees.

The consolidation talk started during a September workshop between the County Commission and Ocala City Council.

Rational for the proposed action includes cost savings and recognition of the use of Ocala parks by non-city county residents.

Park Employee Faces Federal Charges

Hillsborough County, FL—A Hillsborough County parks manager pleaded guilty in December to federal charges of downloading child pornography on his home computer.

A co-worker alerted authorities after finding child pornography on a work laptop.

The 25 year employee was suspended from his job without pay during investigation of termination.

Man Offends Again

Jackson County, MS—A naked man was arrested and charged with misdemeanor indecent exposure after a 14 year old boy called the sheriff to report seeing the man at Lum Cumbest Park in the East Central community of northeast Jackson County. The man is a registered sex offender from Alabama who was reported to have practiced similar behavior at parks in George County, Alabama.

Success Breeds More Dog Parks

Dakota County, MN—A trial off-leash dog area was declared a success due in part to volunteers that helped set up the area and maintain it. As a result, the board will be considering installation of similar areas. County Parks Director **Steve Sullivan** said more areas will be considered this year and public input sought as individual park comprehensive plans are updated.



Names in County Park News

Broome County, NY—David Cody, 55, of Binghamton, retired recently after three years as Broome county's parks and recreation commissioner and 26 years in the City of Binghamton's parks department. Cody's career with the city began in 1970 when he worked as a life-guard at one of the city's swimming pools.



Seneca County, OH—In December, the Seneca County Park Board honored Director **Roland Zimmerman** Wednesday by changing the name of Willow Creek Nature Preserve to Zimmerman Nature Preserve.

He received a plaque and thanks from the board.

Johnson County, KS - Melissa Wyckoff became the new Fine and Cultural Arts Manager for the Johnson County Park and Recreation District in January.

She brings experience in business, as an arts executive, and as a performer.

She holds a bachelor of arts in dance from the University of Missouri. Her work experience includes serving as: chief executive officer of the Walla Walla Symphony in Walla Walla, Wash.; executive director of The Florida Chautauqua Center in DeFuniak Springs, Fla.; marketing and public relations director for the Southwest Florida Symphony in Fort Myers, Fla; and as marketing and public relations director of the J. Howard Wood Theatre in Sanibel Island, Fla.

Wyckoff hopes to seek new sponsors, build additional partnerships, and implement new marketing ideas during her first year on the job.

Wyckoff was selected for the position from more than 30 applicants. She succeeds Michael Musick, who left the park district in September.

Baker County, OR-- Karen Spencer became the new director of Baker County Parks and Recreation in December. Spencer, moves to the post after an 11-year career as an Oregon State Parks ranger at the Sumpter Valley Dredge.

Her new job encompasses both office and field activities. She will be working with Idaho Power to develop a boat ramp along Brownlee Reservoir. Another project is completion of a multi phase development of Holcomb Memorial Park.

The \$320,200 Phase II will add bathrooms and showers. Phase III, which is not yet funded, will bring campsites and landscaping, which will supplement the 39 campsites at the nearby Hewitt Park.



Clark County, WA—Gerald (Jerry) Staley who had served 17 years as superintendent of the Clark County Parks and Recreation, died this past January at age 87. Before working with the county, Staley enjoyed a noted baseball career. His skills as a knuckleballer helped win 88 games in 7 seasons with the St. Louis Cardinals. He was a stand-out in the bullpen for the 1959 American League pennant winning Chicago White Sox. Staley had retired from the county in 1982.



Sandusky County, OH—The Sandusky County Park District Board of Park Commissioners recently announced the hiring of two new employees.

Tim Sypherd was appointed Operations Supervisor, overseeing all maintenance and construction projects in park district facilities. He had been managing Pymatuning State Park in Northeast Ohio.

Sypherd is filling the position vacated when long time operations supervisor Doug Haubert accepted the new position of Farm Park Manager/Land Steward.

Ken Frost has been appointed Safety

Service Coordinator, overseeing all Law Enforcement and Safety Operations. Frost served as a Fremont City Police Officer for the last ten years. He also has experience as a Port Security Specialist with the U.S. Coast Guard. Frost is filling the position made available when former Coordinator **Todd Nofzinger** left to take a similar position with the Wood County Park District.

The Sandusky County Park District manages approximately 1,800 acres in nine facilities throughout the

Schreiner Leaves County Parks

Grand Traverse County, MI—Tim Schreiner parks and recreation director since 1988 at the Grand Traverse County has left county parks and moved to Traverse City State Park.

Schreiner becomes a unit supervisor for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. In his new role Schreiner will oversee Traverse City and Leelanau state parks.



Schreiner, 48, initially retired from the county in 2005, when he took a one-time early retirement option that allowed employees to retire, take their pension, and be rehired by the county on a contract basis.

He has been a member of the NACPRO Board and is a past president.



NACPRO

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The Newsletter of the National Association
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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.

New Director for Missouri County

Gratiot County, MI-- It appears that 61-year-old Missouri native **Harold Sanderson** will be hired as the county's new parks director.

Sanderson, who currently lives in in Virginia was chosen over 17 other applicants to replace **Jerry Jaloszynski**, who left in March for a new job in Clinton County.

After earning a bachelor's degree in parks and recreation administration at the University of Missouri, he spent much of his career as a civilian employee of the military managing various recreation and community programs for nearly every branch of the service at bases in California, Texas, Arkansas and Virginia.



Since leaving his federal government job in 2005, Sanderson has been a parks supervisor for York County Parks and Recreation, manager of the Vint Hill Village Green Community Center and director of the Warrenton Parks and Recreation Department, all in Virginia.

NACPRO President Receives Award

In January, Anoka County Parks and Recreation Director **John VonDeLinde** was named recipient of the Clifton E. French Distinguished Service Award given annually by the Minnesota Recreation and Park Association (MRPA). It is the highest professional award given by MRPA and honors professionals who have provided "long and outstanding service to the



VonDeLinde

parks and recreation field." VonDeLinde, who has been the county's parks and recreation director since 1994, was formally recognized for his achievement at the January 22 Anoka County board meeting.

Since becoming director, VonDeLinde has overseen the acquisition of more than 1,500 acres of parkland, administered the planning and establishment of a regional trail system in Anoka County, secured \$25 million in grant-related park and trail improvements and \$6 million in enterprise fund improvements, introduced a natural resources management program, and coordinated two comprehensive park and open spaces system updates and 15 park master plan updates.