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October 2018

Parks & Environmental Services



INSIDE:

Turf Rail

Integrated planning for environmental investments

Parks programming strengthens community



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In two minutes, technicians can shift from working on a piece of outdoor power equipment to a truck using the Turf Rail system. While improving shop efficiency, the system also increases safety and conserves space within the shop. Learn more about how Turf Rail can make your technicians' lives easier on page 10.



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Parks the uniter



Sarah Wright | Editor

IF THERE WERE A CHARISMATIC MEGA-fauna—to borrow a term from conservationists—within city government, it would be the parks and recreation department. While it might not receive giant panda-level funding within city budgets, it is the department most residents connect with on a personal level and actually love.

In fact, the National Recreation and Park Association found in a recent survey Americans' top summer staycation activities include parks and trails. Its study stated 48 percent of respondents attend a neighborhood festival or event; 47 percent visit a local park; and 47 percent go for a walk or run on

the local trail. It's not surprising; I know my staycations revolve around visits to the local community center's free gym space, which is operated by the parks department, and my local parks.

People are also willing to volunteer to ensure parks are maintained and cared for—park officials only need to get the word out and cultivate that passion. In September Roseville, Minn., created two small community parks in part due to passionate residents in an underserved part of the city who wanted nearby parks. According to the StarTribune, these residents set up the playground equipment and planted trees, grass and pollinator gardens themselves. Getting the word out can bring incredible things—something highlighted in this issue through the experiences of Bloomington and Carmel, both located in Indiana.

Additionally, we are looking at parks departments that are connecting with constituents in creative ways. Outdoor gyms are popping up all over the nation, and they are no longer confined to states blessed with

warmer climates. These not only promote healthy living, but they also remind people of the opportunities available in their local parks. Events are another method of reminding people. In the Halloween spirit, we will be showing three parks departments that connect with residents and visitors alike through “frightful” events.

On the environmental services side of things, we are spotlighting Springfield, Mo.'s, integrated plan, which takes into account community priorities while embracing a holistic approach to environmental investments needed to meet federal requirements.

Finally, we will be looking at Lee County, Fla.'s, efforts to clear 1,472 tons of dead fish from its beaches and sea following the perfect storm of a red tide and blue-green algae bloom. Rather than hide in their homes, many community members volunteered to speed along the efforts, joining county workers as they cleaned the beaches.

Volunteers like those who turned out in Lee County are special people—people who value their community so much, they are willing to complete a horrendous, smelly task to better it. Does your community have those kind of people? Very likely yes. It's just a matter of finding them and making opportunities known. **M**





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With six different Challenger lifts being compatible with Turf Rail, shops can easily find the right one to fit their needs. (Photo provided)

Go from working on an OPE to a truck in two minutes

by SARAH WRIGHT | The Municipal

With the Turf Rail System, fleet and equipment managers can transition from working on outdoor power equipment to a truck in a matter of two minutes.

There are six different Challenger lifts that Turf Rail can fit, ranging from capacities of 9,000 to 12,000 pounds; however, the 12,000-pound capacity lift and 10,000-pound capacity lift are its most popular options. The Turf Rail attachment itself has a capacity of 7,000 pounds regardless of which two-post lift it is installed upon."

Shane Tatom, owner of Indiana Automotive Equipment and creator of the Turf Rail System, said, "The Turf Rail system is built

right in central Indiana and has the ability to fit many manufacturers two post automotive lifts that have a symmetric design with both two stage and three stage arms. I built the Turf Rail to fit the Challenger Lift from the factory, but we offer special adapters to fit other lift models."

Tatom had designed Turf Rail after seeing a need in parks departments, golf courses, airports and the turf industry; however, it offers benefits to any shop where space is at

a premium and workers handle a variety of equipment.

"You can lift and work on a car or truck and then work on other (smaller) pieces of equipment," Tatom said. "The attachment was created specifically for a parks department in Ohio that was struggling with finding one piece of lifting equipment that would not only lift its turf equipment for easy access for service and repairs, but also lift the wide range of cars and trucks it uses for the multiple parks and golf courses it maintains."

He created a prototype and then took it to the parks department in Ohio's shop. After a month of use, the park district critiqued



Turf Rail allows technicians to work comfortable and easily shift from a piece of outdoor power equipment to a truck in minutes. (Photo provided)

Turf Rail, allowing Tatom to take that information and make changes, resulting in three different prototypes.

“After seeing the excitement of the employees that tested my product and the ability of the Turf Rail to lift a wide range of equipment, I filed my patent paperwork and began to critique my design to have the best product I could produce for the safe and effective lifting (in) both the outdoor and automotive industries,” Tatom said.

Turf Rail’s use of surface mounted two-post lifts takes up less space than four-post systems — a major plus in a shop where space is critical. Tatom noted, “The Turf Rail, when combined with a two-post automotive lift, will allow maintenance and repair facilities the ability to lift small equipment with wheelbase ranges from 26 inches up to 116 inches and capacities up to 7,000 pounds.”


Unlike other similar systems that might take hours to install, Turf Rail only takes between a minute or two.

“You can literally go from working on a mower or a Bobcat to working on a car, truck, or van,” Tatom said. “Shops would have to buy two lifts to cover the range of product we can with one lift.”

And most importantly, Turf Rail increases safety in the shop, with Tatom commenting, “(Technicians) have never been able to work so safely.”

Rather than laying on the ground or kneeling in awkward positions, technicians can work standing beneath the vehicle or piece of equipment, with service height ranging from zero to 70 inches.

According to the equipment service manager for a midwest international airport, “After using the Turf Rail System for a while, I was asked what I thought of the product, and the first word that came to my mind was ‘safe.’ My men love it. They work on a wide range of equipment, and to not have to lay on the ground or try using a crane to lift partially has changed the way we service our equipment.”

A month after launching his website, Tatom said he was contacted by Challenger Lift, a Snap On Equipment Company, and is now selling Turf Rail to Challenger. “They just released the product across the USA, Mexico and Canada. You can now find the Turf Rail available in NAPA, Pep Boys, O’Reilly Auto Parts, Advance Auto Parts, Auto Zone and Myers Tire Supply.” 

For information, call (800) 359-2974 or visit www.turfrail.com.

TURF RAIL
Can the Turf Rail lift it?

This graphic highlights the range of equipment that can be worked on using Turf Rail. (Photo provided)



(Photos provided by the Lincoln County Historical Museum in North Platte, Neb.)

Canteen North Platte, Neb.

by RAY BALOGH | The Municipal

The most endearing American love story of World War II started out as a mistake.

On a cold winter evening 10 days after the attack on Pearl Harbor, a group of townsfolk laden with food, homebaked goodies and Christmas gifts gathered on the platform of the Union Pacific Depot in North Platte, Neb.

They were eagerly awaiting the train transporting their hometown sons, brothers and beaus in National Guard Company D.

When the train arrived for its 10-minute refueling stop, the troops disembarked and encountered the anxious group.

But the National Guard unit was Company D of Kansas, not Nebraska. Not a familiar face was found in the confused assemblage.

After a brief awkward greeting of mutual befuddled stares, one local woman, Rae Wilson, stepped forward and handed out her treasures to the young soldiers. The others followed her lead.

Stunned and grateful, the soldiers returned to the train. The looks on their faces kept Wilson awake that night. "What if," she thought, "we could greet every train like that?"

Rae Wilson, a North Platte native whose idea sparked the 54-month run of the canteen, is honored with a bronze statue at the town's veterans memorial.

LEFT: Two soldiers enjoy coffee and magazines available at the North Platte Canteen, which also gave candy, cigarettes and other gifts.



Young women, 16 and older, served as “platform girls” who would greet the soldiers debarking from the troop trains during brief refueling stops.

On Dec. 25, 1941, the North Platte Canteen opened, providing a few scant minutes of heaven to the young men and women en route to the hell of war. The canteen turned on the lights at 5 a.m. every day, seven days a week, for 54 months, and stayed open until the last train passed through, often after midnight.

By the time it closed April 1, 1946, the canteen’s 55,000 volunteers had served up to 24 trains a day, blessing more than 6 million American native sons and daughters going to or returning from combat.

The volunteers came from 125 towns, some 200 miles away, and included all ages and occupations. Young women, 16 and older, served as “platform girls,” standing outside to greet their guests with smiles and gifts. They gave popcorn balls containing their home addresses and became pen pals for many of the soldiers. At least one marriage resulted from the romance germinated during a brief stop at the canteen.

Rationing and price controls only served to heighten the volunteers’ sacrificial spirit. They donated their sugar, flour and coffee



The isolated plains town of North Platte boasted about 12,000 residents during World War II. Approximately 55,000 volunteers from 125 towns worked at the canteen during the war.

ration stamps to the canteen. Farmers gave eggs, milk, crops and other foodstuffs from their land.

Local boy Gene Slattery, then 9 years old, literally gave the shirt off his back—hundreds of times—to help with the costs of running the canteen.

He sold goats at a weekly livestock auction and a family friend jested he should sell his shirt, too. He promptly took off his shirt, sold it and gave the money to the North Platte Canteen.

Word of his selfless efforts spread, and for the next four years, he traveled around central Nebraska, auctioning off shirts donated by North Platte clothing store owners, yielding many thousands of dollars. At one war bond drive, he received \$1,700 for his shirt.

Wilson and her administrative successors scarcely thought to count the material blessings the canteen dispensed, but an effort was made in 1945 to count the food items distributed to the troops.

That month’s total:

- 40,161 cookies
- 30,679 hard-boiled eggs
- 6,547 doughnuts
- 6,939 cakes, including an average of 20 birthday cakes a day
- 2,845 pounds of sandwich meat
- Untold gallons of coffee, served in ceramic cups deposited at the next train station down the line, to be retrieved by volunteers and reused at the canteen

After the war ended, rail traffic dwindled and the decision was made to close the

canteen. The day after it closed, several volunteers arrived to clean up for the last time and share one final pot of coffee.

One last troop train arrived. Not surprisingly, the angels of mercy gave the soldiers their coffee.

In his 2002 book, “Once Upon a Town: The Miracle of the North Platte Canteen,” noted journalist and author Bob Greene lauds the spirit of the canteen, which he hopes can somehow be retrieved by a troubled nation.

“What happened in that town speaks of an America we once truly had—or at least our parents did, and their parents before them.

“We’re always talking about what it is we want the country to become, about how we can save ourselves as a people. We speak as if the elusive answer is out there in the mists, off in the indeterminate future, waiting to be magically discovered, like a new constellation, and plucked from the surrounding stars.

“But maybe the answer is not somewhere out in the future distance; maybe the answer is one we already had, but somehow threw away. Maybe, as we as a nation try to make things better, the answer is hidden off somewhere, locked in storage, waiting to be retrieved.”

The depot is gone, but the canteen is commemorated with an exhibit at the Lincoln County Historical Museum, 2403 N. Buffalo Bill Ave., North Platte. **M**

For more information, call (308) 534-5640 or visit www.lincolncountymuseum.org.

Winooski, Vt.



The city seal of Winooski, Vt., celebrates its namesake: onions.

The once-abundant edible grew along the river running along the southern border of the city, whose name derives as far back as A.D. 750 from the Abenaki Indian word “wioskitegw,” meaning “land of the wild onion.”

The crop never amounted to a major industry in Winooski, that being reserved for the sawmills and wool processing factories that used the hydropower from the river’s waterfalls and rapids.

Winooski was settled in the early 1770s by Ira Allen, the younger brother of American Revolutionary War patriot Ethan Allen. Ira constructed a riverside blockhouse, which served as a fort, general store and office. After the war he dammed the river and built sawmills at either end.

In the late 1830s the Burlington Mill Company used the river’s power to manufacture yarns and cloth. The failing mill was purchased in 1901 by the American Woolen Company, which revived the local economy, and Winooski was incorporated March 7, 1922.

The Woolen and Champlain mills were shuttered in 1954, severely impacting the economy of the city. Winooski, however, experienced a renaissance in the 1980s by rehabilitating the mill buildings and revitalizing the downtown area.

The Woolen Mill now contains 163 apartments and condominiums, a health spa and 20,000 square feet of office space. The five-story Champlain Mill was converted into 175,000 square feet of retail space, restaurants and offices.

Future plans for downtown development include additional offices, stores and shops, restaurants, a fitness center, hotel, several hundred residential units and structured parking spaces.

But perhaps the city’s most ambitious plans were hatched in 1979 when city planners pitched the concept of building a dome over most of the 1.5-square-mile city, saving residents 90 percent of their annual \$18 million in heating costs during winters, which typically see temperatures of 20 degrees below zero and more than 75 inches of snow.

Huge fans would blow air into the 250-foot-high dome, maintaining an internal pressure to hold up the partly transparent, partly opaque structure. Inside, only electric vehicles and monorails would provide transportation.

The idea caught the imagination of federal government officials and enthusiasts from around the world, including Buckminster Fuller, inventor of the geodesic dome, who visited Winooski for the International Dome Symposium held in March 1980. The Department of Housing and Urban Development, however, denied a request for funding and the dream never materialized. ❏



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Focus on: Parks & Environmental Services

\$200 million

Springfield, Mo., has a 10-year commitment to spend \$200 million in environmental investments.



Learn more about Springfield's use of integrated planning to meet federal wastewater, stormwater and solid waste requirements on page 18.

10,000

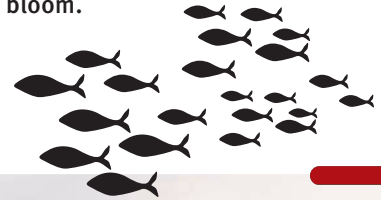


The number of hours volunteers from the community and Indiana University have poured into the Bloomington, Ind.'s parks.

Discover why Bloomington's parks system continually catches notice on page 22.

1,472 tons

As of press time, Lee County, Fla., has collected this many tons of dead fish from the beach and sea following the combination of a red tide and blue-green algae bloom.



Read about the county's effort to clean its beaches on page 24.

4,000

Over 4,000 cities and schools have partnered with the National Fitness Campaign to convert public spaces into community fitness hubs.



Visit page 26 to see why cities are embracing outdoor gyms.

12 years

Pickerington, Ohio's, parks department has been holding the Haunted Village for 12 years now. The annual two-hour event is free and brings in about 4,000 visitors.



See how parks departments are tapping into Halloween to draw in visitors while giving residents lifelong memories on page 28.

97

The number of so-called "zombie" raccoons captured by rangers in Central Park in New York City since late June. These raccoons have a virus called canine distemper, which is contagious to other animals.



Source: <https://www.wsj.com/articles/the-latest-scourge-of-central-park-zombie-raccoons-1534006800>

\$100,000

The investment made by the community of Olive Branch, Miss., to bring a dog park to town. With Olive Branch's accelerated growth of up to 800 families moving in each year, the construction of a dog park was seen as a worthwhile investment to meet demand.

Source: http://www.desototimes.com/news/dog-parks-add-to-overall-desoto-quality-of-life/article_ce6cf042-aa52-11e8-8528-1fcc244e7175.html



Common sense conservation with integrated planning

By DENISE FEDOROW | The Municipal

It's probably safe to assume that most city officials desire to preserve their community's resources – environmental and fiscal – in order to provide the best quality of life for residents. It's probably also safe to assume that at the same time those same officials have likely experienced some levels of frustration due to unfunded federal mandates and struggled to come up with the resources needed to comply with those regulations.

City officials in Springfield, Mo., have found a workable common sense approach to this situation by utilizing the Environmental Protection Agency's approved integrated planning approach.

Many of the federal regulations dealt with today were first instituted in the 1970s when the EPA realized the negative impact human actions were having on the environment and that steps were needed to correct and protect our natural resources for the future. The Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act and Resource Conservation and Protection Act were signed into law during that time period.

According to the Springfield Director of Environmental Services Errin Kemper, those were all good things. "Enforcement started to really ramp up the last 10 years and communities were struggling to meet the requirements of the Clean Water Act, for example."

Many wastewater, stormwater and solid waste issues are interrelated but are assigned to different regulatory departments and are under different legislation, and often, regulators don't talk to each other, according to Springfield's officials. This has created burdens on the community's financial resources and has caused, in many cases, sewer rates and drinking water costs to escalate.

However, the monies needed to fund these projects come from the same source — one municipality and its residents in the form of either increased utility bills, increased taxes or fees.

So, according to Kemper, around 2012 after a public outcry, the EPA realized the burden this was creating and because of the Stoner Memo approved integrated planning.

The Stoner Memo was named for Nancy Stoner, at the time acting assistant administrator of the office of water, and co-authored by Cynthia Gibb, assistant administrator of the office of enforcement and compliance. It states, in part, "In embracing an integrated approach to waste and stormwater management, we are not



In order to develop an integrated plan for the city that ensures its limited financial resources are being used wisely, an important component was creating an "environmental priorities task force." The members, some shown here during a planning session, examined all the environmental issues the city was facing. (Photo provided)

suggesting that existing regulatory or permitting standards that protect public health and water on which communities depend be lowered. Rather, we are simply suggesting that such an approach will help municipalities responsibly meet their CWA obligations by maximizing their infrastructure improvement dollars through the appropriate sequencing of work."

By definition an integrated development plan is a super plan for an area that gives an overall framework for development. Its purpose is to coordinate the work of local and other government entities and to offer a coherent plan to improve quality of life for people in the area. Like most cities, federal and state regulations were requiring Springfield to devote increasingly large amounts of money and resources toward protecting the environment while at the same time they were dealing with increased demand for public spending and growing levels of poverty among its residents.

Kemper said that, generally, most communities developing integrated planning focus on combining stormwater, sanitary and wastewater, "but Springfield decided to go one step further and include air quality and drinking water."

The city partnered with city utilities — including water, gas and electric — and Greene County to develop its integrated plan.

"We decided to take a citizen-based approach," Kemper said.

That approach, according to Kemper, was to develop a framework over the last five years, investing a lot of money and man hours to

Springfield, Mo.'s, Director of Environmental Services Errin Kemper was promoted to that position April 1 of this year after former director Steve Meyer retired. Kemper was assistant director since 2013 and worked for the city as an engineer for 10 years prior to that. Kemper has been instrumental in developing the city's integrated planning approach. (Photo provided)



prioritize a plan that would do the most good and be the most cost effective. Officials involved the public via a task force, a survey and the city website, and they came up with this "decision-making matrix."

In 2014-15 they put together a task force called the environmental priorities task force made up of about 30 citizens to look at what the community most needed and where environmental fixes would be most effective for their residents.

Kemper gave the example if there were two streams in town and everybody uses one to swim and fish while nobody uses the other, it makes the most sense to invest in the one that everybody uses — but that's not necessarily the way the EPA would've looked at it.

According to City Manager Greg Burris in a presentation given about the integrated plan, the federal government takes the siloed approach. One week the stormwater people may come to town and say this is what needs fixed and this is what you have to spend, and the next week the wastewater people come to town with the same message. So they created a timeline of federal regulations that the city would be required to comply with over the next 15 years beginning in 2009, and he said it was "frightening." The timeline showed that Springfield, a community with

a reputation of being a good environmental steward, was going to need to spend \$1.6 billion dollars over that time period.

Burris said city officials created an impact on poverty commission and determined the median income was \$32,333, and more than 25 percent of residents were below that income. The EPA has determined that 2 percent of median income is affordable to spend on environmental issues, but when looking at those living at poverty level that 6 percent — 2 percent for stormwater, 2 percent for wastewater and 2 percent for air quality — it is no longer affordable.

Springfield based its integrated plan for the environment on the question, "If we only had \$1 to spend, how do we invest in what matters most to the community while addressing the most significant problems using the most effective solutions in a way that's affordable to our citizens?"

To identify the most significant problems, a team of experts conducted an 18-month study to determine every significant source of pollution and the type of pollutants produced to determine which would be the most helpful.

"We had an epiphany — we discovered that sewer runoff was a low priority as a pollutant source, occurring only occasionally, while urban runoff was a high priority and had a bigger variety of pollutants and impacted everyone," Kemper said.

Next officials took a look at how to address the pollutants, and finally, they assessed financial liability and they received some guidance from experts.

Four lenses

The four key elements or lenses that they looked at when making decisions about environmental spending are:

1.) Community priorities — The newly created environmental task force sought to answer two questions: What are the most important resources and where should we focus our efforts? A survey was sent out to residents to get feedback.

2.) Prioritize sources of pollutants — Segmenting the environment into land

resources, aquatic life in streams, recreation and air quality, the city looked at all the pollutants and the source of those pollutants and asked, "If you could wave a magic wand and remove one pollutant, what would it be?"

3.) Prioritize solutions — Determine the sustainable return on investment environmentally, economically and socially for each solution. For example, if water quality in the stream is a priority and two solutions would be a new treatment plant or creating a rain garden to deal with stormwater runoff, which would be most affordable and do the most good?

4.) Financial capability — If 2 percent of the median household income is the benchmark provided by the EPA, how do any decisions made impact low-income families, the region's ability to attract new businesses and the city's ability to fund other critical projects?

"Every time we go to address an environmental mandate we make sure any decisions we make line up with all of those lenses," Kemper said, adding that the three entities have pooled their resources; the city paid for one study, the utilities another and the county another. "We all just work together."

And at the root, he said, "We have to make sure that we don't spend more money than our community can afford."

Success stories

Kemper said while this is still in the early stages, the city has been seeing results. One way in which having the integrated planning has helped the city is by having a consent decree amended. In 1995 a judgment was issued to the city for being in violation of the Clean Water Act. That was amended in May of 2015 because of having the integrated plan in place showing that improvements would be made. The city has a 10-year commitment to spend \$200 million in investments. Burris said in a press release, "We believe if not for our unique integrated planning approach our plan would be considerably more expensive, up to \$600 million more than we're required to spend now." ▶

Springfield by the Numbers

Springfield is the third largest city in Missouri. The population is 160,000 by night, 300,000 by day. There are 48,000 college students. The city is also home to two large medical centers and is one of five communities to receive an EPA grant.

Kemper also said that the state of Missouri is willing to work with the city on getting its total maximum daily load impairment on the streams down as long as it continues to address the issue. In all, the TMDL numbers have gone down.

The city has been issued several awards, including peak performance awards from the National Association of Clean Water Agencies and the Missouri Water Environment Federation for both wastewater treatment plants, plus awards from the American Public Works Association. The former director of environmental services, Steve Meyer, testified before the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and the Subcommittee on Water Resources and the Environment in July 2014, and city representatives have given over 100 presentations across the country about their integrated planning approach.

The city was one of five cities to receive an EPA Integrated Planning Assessment grant.

Kemper pointed out that the integrated plan is “not a project list” like a master plan, for example, but the integrated plan could be used along with a project list. He also said because officials view things differently now, it’s allowed for better management practices, too. For example, on the stormwater side if a need exists, officials are able to get workers out in the field to fix the problem that day.

“There’s not as much of a question as to ‘what should we do?’ Our staff has a better idea of what to do,” he said.



Director of Environmental Services Errin Kemper is shown standing on the right—wearing a blue shirt and red tie—listening to a member of the environmental priorities task force during one of the planning sessions to develop the city’s integrated plan for environmental issues. (Photo provided)

For communities considering an integrated planning approach, he said, “The number one thing I always recommend is if they do nothing else, get the people together to talk.”

He suggested pulling together stormwater, air quality and solid waste people to think things through because there is a lot of overlap. “When you look at things objectively and subjectively you get a lot more traction.”

He added, “This (plan) is always going to be in progress.” **M**



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Services and programming keeps Bloomington parks well loved



By **BARB SIEMINSKI** | The Municipal

On occasion when one encounters greatness, one can only stand back and marvel at what all it took to achieve the pinnacle, flag in hand.

Such an epitome of excellence has quietly been going on for years in the Bloomington, Ind.'s, parks and recreation department resulting in a slew of honors, awards and nationwide tributes for its — drum roll, please — continuing hard work and high standards.

According to Julie Ramey, community relations manager of the parks and recreation department, the city is again in line for yet another chance at recognition — the Gold Medal Award. The winner of this award was announced Sept. 25, after The Municipal's deadline.

"The Bloomington Parks and Recreation Department was named a Gold Medal finalist in Category III by the National Recreation and Park Association in 1999, 2002,

2003, 2004 and 2006. The department won the National Gold Medal Award in 2007," said Ramey, who has been working for the city since September 2002.

Briefly, the Commission for Accreditation of Park & Recreation Agencies accredits park and recreation agencies for excellence in operation and service. The American Academy for Park & Recreation Administration, partnering with NRPA, announced the news to Bloomington last May. The 1965-founded Gold Medal Awards program honors U.S. communities that demonstrate through long-range planning, resource management, volunteerism, environmental stewardship, program development, professional development and agency recognition. Applications are separated into

population-driven classes and a final part of the application is a five-minute video, published online. Bloomington Parks and Recreation's video showcases its programs. Parks departments are also required to meet other requirements that display how their communities are positively impacted by their services and programming.

The Bloomington Parks and Recreation Department, since winning the prestigious award in 2007, has made substantial improvements since then, including the completion of phase two of the B-Line Trail and the beginning of construction on Switchyard Park.

Currently, there are three other finalists in Bloomington's division: Evanston, Ill.; Greeley, Colo.; and Lawrence, Kan.

Ramey supervises three employees in the community relations area: a graphic designer; a sponsorship and volunteer coordinator; and a social media specialist, all of whose combined talents make the

LEFT: *Young residents participate in Bloomington's Kids Triathlon at Bryan Park. (Photo provided)*

parcs and recreation department the success it is today.

"The Bloomington Parks and Recreation Department is accredited by CAPRA," said Ramey.

"We were first accredited in 2001 and have maintained our standards of excellence to be successfully reaccredited every five years since. We also have a current master plan, developed with a significant amount of input from city residents and facility users. The master plan guides the department's goals and priorities to match those of the community."

If other parks and recreation departments are considering applying for accreditation, Ramey's description of her city's makeup may offer an insight as to why, in part, Bloomington has been a winner so often, and not just in the field of recreation.

"The Bloomington Parks and Recreation Department is an integral part of an innovative and vibrant community," said Ramey. "The department has dozens of formal partnerships with local businesses, not-for-profits and service organizations that allow us to maximize outreach and serve community members effectively, without duplicating efforts. Our residents, and students, faculty and staff from Indiana University, show their passion for parks and commitment to service by contributing nearly 10,000 hours of volunteer service to our department every year."

Bloomington's parks department has been recognized with other awards and honors, too.

"The city of Bloomington has been named a Playful City USA by KaBOOM! since 2008," began Ramey. "Bloomington was Indiana's first Tree City USA, a designation awarded by the National Arbor Day Foundation first in 1984 and every year since. Bloomington was named a Bird Town Indiana in 2017 and has been a Gold Level Bicycle-Friendly Community since 2014.

"Bloomington Parks and Recreation facilities and projects have received numerous local, regional, state and national awards as well. The Goat Farm Prairie project — a project to create a native prairie in a fescue



Kids enjoy a Slip 'N Foam slide, which had been set up at Reverend Ernest D. Butler Park. (Photo provided)

field at a local park — received the Clark Ketchum Conservation Award from the Indiana Park and Recreation Association in 2018, and the department's B-Line Trail, a 3.1-mile former rail corridor through the heart of the city, received a Brownfields Redevelopment Award from the U.S. Environment Protection Agency in 2018 in recognition of superior mitigation and facility development efforts."

The park also offers a variety of winter sports, including indoor ice skating; lunar — moonlight — skating; house hockey; and a variety of other hockey sign-ups. Cross-country skiing is popular when it snows in the parks and natural areas.

It is also notable that Bloomington offers inclusive recreation services with reasonable accommodations and instructions on how to request them. These include not only accessible facilities for all ages and abilities, but also equipment such as wheelchair-accessible surfacing on playgrounds, in shelters and on trails; modified swings with back and armrests for children with disabilities; and zero-depth entry areas and chair lets at both of the parks department's outdoor pools for patrons who require assistance to enter the water.

Ramey summed up the essence of the city's parks with a heartfelt tribute from a parent concert-goer.



Bloomington's performing arts series has been a popular addition to its summer, allowing locals of all ages and college students from Indiana University to enjoy a variety of musical and theatrical performances. (Photo provided)



In the summer, young sluggers get to participate in T-Birds Tee Ball at Cascades Park in Bloomington. (Photo provided)

"The Bloomington Parks and Recreation Department, with considerable support from local businesses, hosts a summer performing arts series of free musical and theatrical performances in city parks every year," said Ramey.

"The performing arts series is a community staple that showcases the best local and regional actors, bands and musicians and is thoroughly enjoyed by a huge variety of people, from college students to retirees to parents with young families. One concertgoer told us, 'Our family loves these concerts! Some of our best memories with our kiddos and community of friends have been formed there. Every year we look forward to them. Thank you so much for organizing and keeping them going. These concerts are one of the top reasons we love living in Bloomington. Thank you so much!'" **M**

In August, workers travelled Fort Myers Beach in Lee County, Fla., using golf carts to clean up dead fish that washed up due to the toxic red tide. Workers wore surgical masks while performing the task. (Jillian Cain Photography/Shutterstock.com)



Lee County handles fishy situation

By ANDREW MENTOCK | The Municipal

This summer, tons and tons of dead fish and other species of sea life piled up on a portion of Florida’s west coast. This included a 400-pound goliath grouper the size of a small motor vehicle, small bait fish and several different types of crab.

This is all due to a combination of red tide, a common term for a harmful algae bloom, and what is being called a blue-green algae, a different type of harmful bloom. Red tide is common in this part of Florida, and it usually causes some dead fish but nothing close to this magnitude.

In response, several area municipalities acted swiftly, including parks and recreation and solid waste departments.

“A few weeks ago we were out on the water and we even saw a few dead, floating sharks, which apparently is a really bad sign because the sharks are usually able to fend for themselves pretty well,” said Molly Schweers, a communications specialist with Lee County’s solid waste division. “There’s even been a couple of dolphins and a sea turtle.”

The fish were so sick that even seagulls would not eat them. This left the disposal process up to the community.

“This is Florida and people come down here for our beautiful beaches and they’re not beautiful when they’re covered with dead fish,” Schweers said. “That’s the problem.”

It got so bad, that the area was in a state of emergency, and all hands were on deck. Even local residents chipped in to pick up dead fish. One of the first things the solid waste division did was put dumpsters in a variety of locations throughout the beach. That way residents had a place to throw dead fish since the average garbage can did not stand a chance.

In total at the time of press, she said that her department received 1,472 tons from collected dead fish from the beach and sea. This included sand, which was often scooped up



Since sand is noncombustible, Lee County opted to take fish that were collected with a significant amount of sand to the landfill. This was done so as not to wreck its burner unit. (Photo provided)

by front-end loaders picking up fish. Whether or not sand was collected with the fish determined how the solid waste department could dispose of it.

The ideal disposal method for the inordinate amount of dead fish that washed up on Lee County's shore was to burn it, Schweers said. This allowed the fish to be taken care of quickly while also producing energy through the county's waste-energy equipment.

"The only decision for us was what is the most practical disposal method," she said. "When they were coming in with a bunch of sand — sand is a noncombustible — so of course they don't want to gunk up our burner unit."

When loads of dead fish were collected with a significant amount of sand, it was taken to a landfill, where the fish would quickly decompose. If there was not much sand, the fish was added to flammable trash in order to increase its burn value.

In order to limit the amount of sand that was collected, on Aug. 16 Lee County purchased two surf rakes, which is a piece of equipment designed to comb through the beach and pick up unwanted material. Each machine cost the county \$60,000. The surf rakes were then used

by the parks and recreation department to pick up as much dead fish as possible.

"Our parks and recreation department has been very involved in identifying where the collection needs to happen next and getting both workers and volunteers out there," Schweers said.

For as bad as the problem was, her department does not intend for it to happen again next year.

"The last instance was 30 years ago," she said. "It's the summer, we have to prepare for hurricanes. It's just a different kind of situation here."

Instead, the department's goal was to solve the problem as quickly as possible, so that the residents could move on from it.

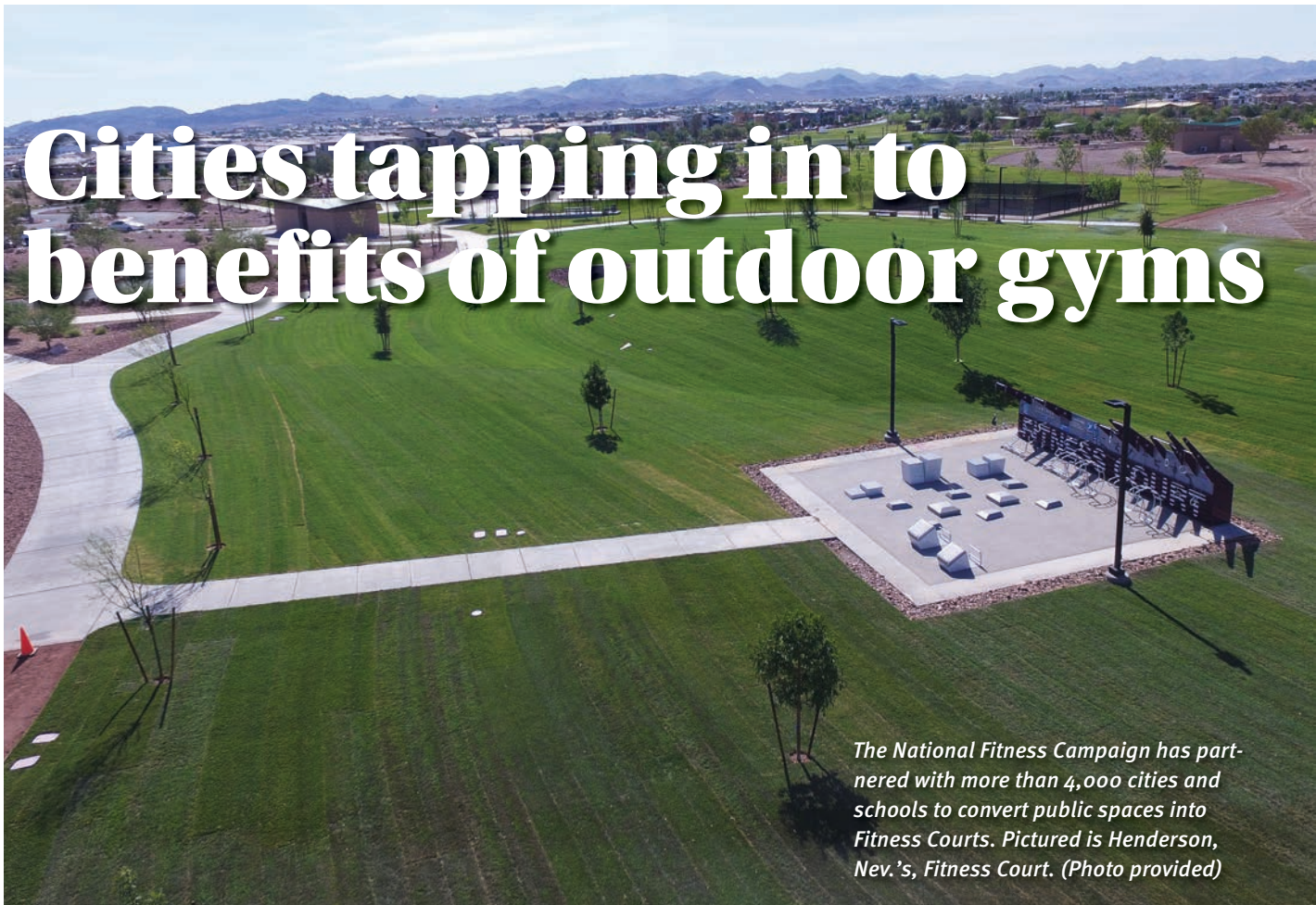
"This perfect storm with the red tide and the blue-green algae at the same time is not common in these parts," Schweers said. "Pretty quickly it became apparent that it was going to take an extraordinary response effort."

Thanks to county municipal workers and beach residents, the dead fish problem was taken care of in a few weeks, and the area returned to normal — with enough time to focus on more common natural phenomena. **M**



Lee County alone received approximately 1,472 tons of dead fish, which were collected from the beach and sea. (Photo provided)

Cities tapping in to benefits of outdoor gyms



The National Fitness Campaign has partnered with more than 4,000 cities and schools to convert public spaces into Fitness Courts. Pictured is Henderson, Nev.'s, Fitness Court. (Photo provided)

By CATEY TRAYLOR | The Municipal

Taking steps toward physical fitness can happen anywhere, and cities across the nation are capitalizing on that notion. Gone are the days of having to get an expensive gym membership or learn to use confusing equipment — residents are able to work out in their own backyards, with outdoor fitness facilities in parks, along trails and at other community-centered spaces.

Once reserved for year-round warm states, outdoor fitness equipment is now a trend sweeping across America regardless of climate and accessible to people regardless of ability. A driving force behind this widespread implementation of outdoor fitness facilities is the National Fitness Campaign.

Founded nearly 40 years ago on the premise of helping people across the country lead more healthy and active lives, the NFC has since partnered with more than 4,000 cities

and schools to convert public spaces into community fitness hubs anchored by the company's Fitness Court.

Through partnerships with local governments and colleges across the nation, the Fitness Court is not only an opportunity to exercise more, it's a social experience that can be enjoyed by all.

"Our campaign is designed to empower cities to take action and get community members active and healthy by bringing our

Fitness Courts to public spaces to make fitness fun, free and accessible to all," said NFC Founder Mitch Menaged.

Following a mantra of "7 minutes, 7 movements" fitness, the courts are designed to allow users to navigate the system themselves, to host group fitness classes or to use an app to follow along. The equipment is designed to be inclusive to all regardless of ability, and the design of the court is mirrored across the country. NFC works with local changemakers to choose locations.

"Our main task is to identify leadership in cities and colleges that see fitness as a priority and support them," Menaged said. "We work almost exclusively with mayors, city managers, parks directors, coaches and the likes to build partnerships with governmental organizations and colleges to bring health and fitness to communities everywhere."



In northern Indiana, people make use of Mishawaka's Fitness Court. (Photo provided)

Leaders of communities across the nation see the value in physical fitness, and some have begun implementing their own versions of Fitness Courts in their neighborhoods.

Kim Lehto, coordinator of Healthy St. Pete in St. Petersburg, Fla., said the city long ago started encouraging outdoor fitness with fitness stations featuring single pieces of equipment situated along walking paths — that is, until recently.

“In our park system, we saw the exercise pieces were linear and spread out along a trail. It was very disjointed and we found that people didn’t utilize them,” she said. “They felt unsafe, they wanted more direction and they expressed interest in having a centralized area to do all their exercising in one place.”

After gathering that feedback, Lehto’s team went to work. The city now boasts multiple exercise zones, featuring a variety of weight-bearing equipment in public spaces across neighborhoods.

“We found that once we started creating denoted fitness areas, more people were using them than they were previously. They would then cap off their workout with a walk or run along the trails or in the park,” Lehto said.

The exercise zones are strategically placed in high traffic areas that already lend themselves to community gatherings and family activities. Often found in neighborhood parks and along popular trails, Lehto said the placement of the zones has been a hit.

“We tend to place the zones near playgrounds so we get joint use of the land and there’s something there for all members of the family,” she said. “The community loves them and we get requests for more in parks that don’t yet have them. When I drive by the one nearest my house, I see it in use regardless of the time of day.”

Healthy St. Pete has leveraged the creation of the exercise zones to bring community members together — volunteer trainers from local gyms host classes to show people how to use the equipment to build a comprehensive workout, and to demonstrate the modifications for people of all abilities and fitness levels.

In the future, the city has plans to expand its exercise zones to include hydration stations.

The impact of the exercise zones has been threefold, according to Lehto.



No matter the climate, outdoor gyms are making an appearance from coast to coast as cities look for means to encourage healthy living among their citizens. Pictured is one of Saint Petersburg, Fla.’s, exercise zones. (Photo provided)



St. Petersburg’s outdoor exercise equipment can be used by people of all abilities and fitness levels. (Photo provided)

“For minimal cost and low maintenance and overhead, you’re able to implement a change in a neighborhood that not only promotes physical fitness, but increases the social culture of that neighborhood. People are meeting friends and family, being healthy and getting outdoors,” she said. “The crossover effect we’ve seen has been amazing. Getting people outside also highlights the wonderful opportunities the local parks have to offer and builds a culture of health for the city that will continue on.” **M**

Parks departments summon 'macabre' events to lure visitors



By ELISA WALKER | The Municipal

Things that go bump in the night fascinate and frighten a wide demographic, resulting in several parks and recreation departments crafting events that revolve around the paranormal. Some don't even have to try, thanks to local folklore and historic landmarks. Others create their own authentic Halloween events and programs for their communities.

No matter the case, such programs are sure to bring in new and diverse visitors to the area.

Haunted Village of Pickerington

For the towns and cities who have no ghosts—or ones that they know of—there's still opportunity to attract people outside the local area. Towns like Pickerington, Ohio, still bring in thousands of visitors for their one-night-a-year event on Halloween and get the whole town in on the fun.

Despite having no local folklore or legends, Pickerington created the Haunted Village to share the history of the town through ghost stories all over the Olde Pickerington Village. The stories were written by a former employee several years ago and are told on the ghost tours, which take groups to an old haunted house, then the Olde Train Depot and finally the cemetery.

The ghost tours introduce visitors to the city of Pickerington, which may lead them to

ABOVE: Pictured is the Big House in Opelika, Ala. Legend says that Penn Yonge was stabbed to death on the spiral staircase and died on the 13th step. Visitors are often told to avoid the 13th step. (Photo provided)

visit during daylight hours when ghosts can't attack.

The event also brings together local organizations, churches and businesses to work on different activities such as pumpkin decorating, carnival games, opportunities for trick-or-treating and haunted houses. The historical society will transform the Carnegie library into a haunted museum while a local photographer creates a haunted house out of his shop.

"This is a fun way to showcase our city during the Halloween festivities," commented Rebecca Medinger, parks and recreation director of Pickerington. "It provides a safe

place for everyone to enjoy. Even on cold rainy nights, we still get people who come just for the experience. We get tons of calls from people leading up to the event so they can come and participate in it.”

Through the help of others, the Haunted Village has had great success for the past 12 years. The two-hour event sees about 4,000 visitors and it’s all free. In the future new ideas and features are planned, such as having local bands perform live so the community has the chance to support one another.

Ghost Train in Chesapeake

In Chesapeake, Va., the Ghost Train at Northwest River Park has been around for over 20 years and has evolved over time. Every year, the event puts volunteers to work creating a theme, constructing a haunted maze and decorating the “haunted woods” that the train goes through. It’s more about having a good time than a frightening one.

“People come for a date or a lot bring their kids because it’s fun,” stated Kevin Kaul, parks manager. “Because we’re the city, we have to draw a fine line between gory, nasty and family friendly.”

The event relies heavily on volunteers, sending out flyers for volunteers as early as August so the planning can begin. With the Chesapeake parks department supporting them, the volunteers make it successful and an enjoyable family-friendly event.

Skits are performed in the forest as the ride makes its way through the woods, each one building up to the major skit at the end that ties everything together — leading to an end that forces the train to get out of there at a hectic pace toward safety.

As far as Kaul knows, the Ghost Train is one of the only handicap accessible hayrides in the area, which has received positive feedback from visitors.

One of the things that makes the ride appealing to the public is the way it’s set up to serve visitors. Rather than having to wait an unknown amount of time for the next ride, visitors can buy tickets for specific times. It has been a good model for Chesapeake and attracts people from the seven cities area. Since the city is located close to the state line, it isn’t uncommon to see people travel from North Carolina for a good time.

“People come back year after year and bring their kids,” Kaul said when asked how the event has impacted the community. “It’s been going on so long, we’ve had people bring their grandkids. It’s become a tradition for some people.”

On the last night of the event, volunteers let their hair down, change up the skits, bring music to play songs like “Thriller” and dance around to celebrate the end. As volunteer-fueled activities can cause a lot of stress, this serves as a way for them to blow off steam and go out with a bang.

“We’re an outdoor event. One of the biggest challenges is the weather and attracting dedicated volunteers. We go on, rain or shine, unless it’s really bad,” he explained. “Volunteers have to stand in and endure that rain, so they really have to want to be there. Because we’re so dependent on volunteers, we don’t do a rain date. They’ve already committed for a certain amount of days.”

Legends in Opelika

A legend surrounding the “Big House” in Spring Villa Park in Opelika, Ala., is that in 1878 a plantation owner named Penn Yonge was stabbed to death. The story goes to say that despite Yonge having been



It doesn't look as scary during the day, but at night most of the props in the haunted woods are animatronic ... or so they say. (Photo provided)

respected in the community, he was vicious to slaves and that ultimately led to his death.

Visitors are able to stay in the house overnight, which ultimately attracts paranormal groups that are interested in visiting locally haunted areas to see what they can find.

While the existence of the paranormal is up for debate, the local community, visitors and a few individuals from the Opelika parks department have witnessed some strange unexplainable happenings that cannot be countered with logic.

Despite local legends, the parks department decided not to capitalize on that aspect and just leave it for paranormal enthusiasts to discover. Instead, they took the route that made such an impression on the community and visitors, they still receive calls a decade later.

It was no normal hayride that once took place on the Spring Villa property. It was a hayride that went on over the course of four days and brought in 8,000 to 10,000 visitors. The line went past the Big House, which had spooky things going on inside to entertain people as they waited.

The ride itself was beyond ordinary as the trail had detailed decorations made by the parks department staff. There were also people zip lining out of the woods for jump scares, spiderwebs made from fishing lines that would brush the skin just enough to invoke goose bumps ▶

and it was an economical event that didn't charge an arm and leg for a bit of fun.

To the horror of the community, the famous hayride was discontinued due to staffing constraints — one of the challenges of having such a large facility but a small city.

"We still get phone calls to this day, asking if we're doing the hayride," Public Relations Coordinator Laura Leigh Chesser said. "We did it really well. People enjoyed it and used to travel from all over to come to it.

"Our motto is that if we're going to do something, we're going to be the best at it and that's what we did for the hayride. We miss out on the visitors who would've come for that event. Because the hayride was so popular, there was a whole grieving process."

The parks department then implemented a Halloween event in place of the hayride a few years later by partnering with the local bicycle advisory committee, which was looking into setting up a bicycle event. Decorations from the hayride then found use in the Tour de Fright and haunted house.

With eerie, glowing pumpkins, creepy mannequins and a graveyard scene lining the way, locals jumped on the chance to partake in another Halloween outlet. The ride brings in about 200 kids a year and also welcomes parents who can accompany them or push strollers around.

"My advice would be make your event economical," Chesser recommended. "Make people really enjoy it and want to come out to it. The



The Ghost Train in Chesapeake, Va., has hosted themes from zombies to pirates. Be sure to follow the rules, or you may never come out of the woods. (Photo provided)

haunted house is only \$5 and the Tour de Fright is free. It's just a way for people to get out and enjoy everything as a community during that time of year." **M**

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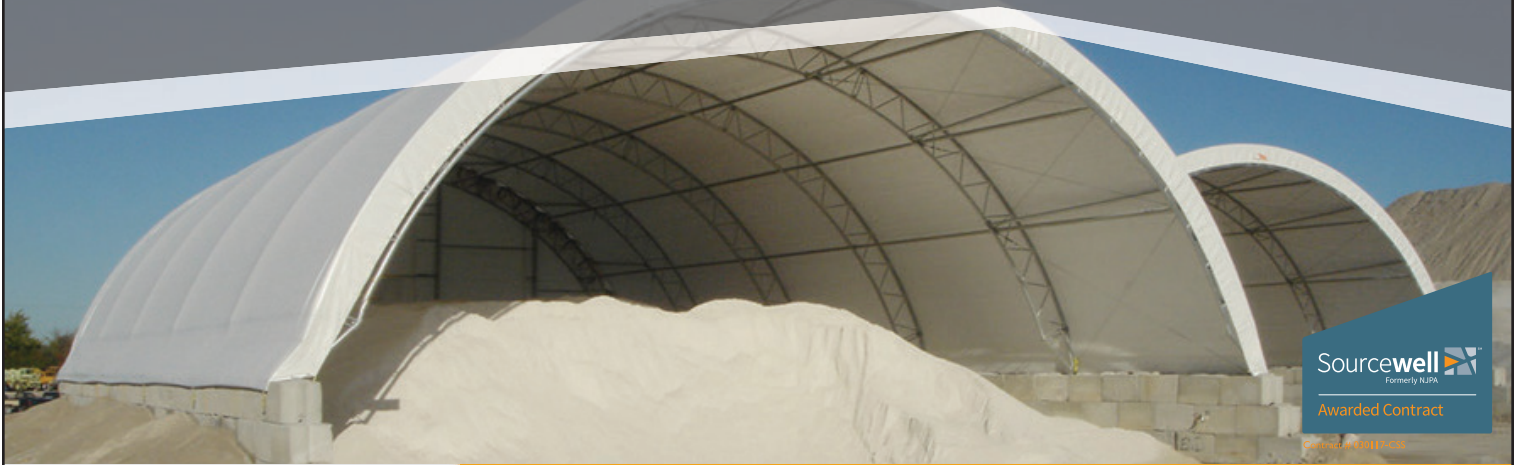


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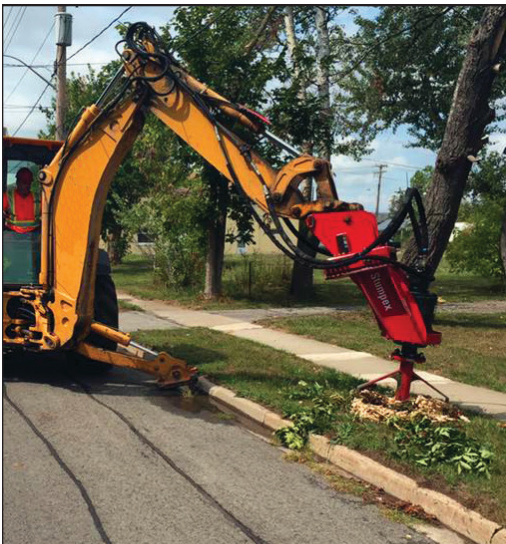


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Sustainable playing fields for cities and towns

by **DOUG WOOD** | Associate Director of Grassroots Environmental Education

As open space continues to be developed and metropolitan areas creep ever outward from big cities, there is a lot of talk about “smart growth.” Land management is a key component of this “smart growth” process; planning where development should or should not go, working to integrate public transportation into those plans, and adopting policies that promote walkable town centers, bicycle-friendly neighborhoods and recreational areas are all part of creating livable communities.



Doug Wood

But there are also important public health concerns impacted by land management decisions, and as scientists and medical professionals identify possible environmental health risks, municipal officials and planners are beginning to reexamine long-standing policies and popular assumptions. Here are two of those issues.

The growing use of synthetic turf fields

The increasing demand for sports field access by student athletes and community sports teams is pushing many communities to abandon their natural grass playing fields and make the switch to synthetic turf. These turf fields have the advantage of practically year-round 24/7 playtime, but they come with significant financial, environmental and public health concerns that require serious consideration.

First, these multi-million dollar fields, manufactured from tons of plastic and ground-up rubber vehicle tires, are replacing natural grass fields, which are living ecosystems capable of sequestering carbon in their biomass, recharging and filtering rainwater and pollutants and cooling ambient temperatures. The biology of a natural grass field can process and render harmless the body fluids that result from athletic play while synthetic fields need to be regularly disinfected with pesticides.



Many communities are moving from natural grass playing fields to synthetic turf fields; however, these often come with significant financial, environmental and public health costs. (Photo provided)

To cushion the synthetic turf field, rubber from recycled tires — “crumb rubber” — is used to infill spaces between plastic grass blades. Heavy metals and chemical toxins, including known carcinogens, are ubiquitous in recycled tires, and over time, rain and snowmelt can carry these toxins into the surrounding environment. A greater concern is that dust and tiny particles from the crumb rubber can be inhaled deep into the lungs of young athletes, resulting in a potential health hazard for life.

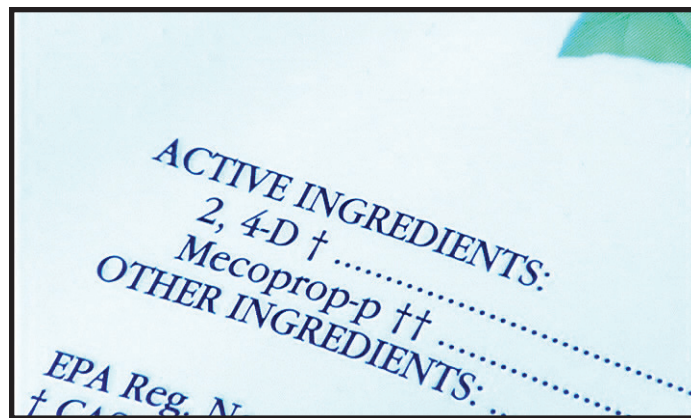
If you’ve ever looked at an aerial photo of a synthetic turf field, you’ll notice that

the field is mostly black. That’s because the crumb rubber, which absorbs, rather than reflects sunlight, causes synthetic turf field surfaces to reach temperatures of 180 degrees Fahrenheit or higher on hot days. This can create unsafe playing conditions, limit field availability and require large amounts of water and special equipment to cool playing surfaces.

And finally, there is just no way a giant football field of plastic and toxic rubber can be responsibly recycled. Old fields need to be cut up and transported to landfills that will accept them, and the cost can be significant. The result? Up to a hundred tons of



Pictured is a playing field in Cheshire, Conn., that is maintained without chemical pesticides. (Photo provided)



Some lawn care products contain ingredients like 2,4-Dichlorophenoxyacetic acid — one of two chemicals that make up Agent Orange. (Photo provided)

nonbiodegradable toxic material added to the environmental legacy we leave behind.

Grass fields, even those in the poorest condition, can be rehabilitated into lush, sturdy and resilient fields for a fraction of the cost of a synthetic turf field. Municipalities thinking of replacing natural grass fields with synthetic turf fields should consider all factors in their decision, including not only the astronomical financial cost, but the potential environmental and human health impacts as well.

Using chemical pesticides on municipal property

It's important to remember that up until the 1950s, all the parks, estates and sports fields in the world were maintained without any chemical pesticides. Municipal property managers understood soil biology and used proven horticultural methods to discourage weeds and to grow grass. Those principles haven't changed.

Relentless marketing by pesticide companies has created the impression that using their toxic products is the only way to ensure a green lawn. Unfortunately, chemicals typically found in lawn care products, such as 2,4-Dichlorophenoxyacetic acid, one of two chemicals that made up the infamous defoliant Agent Orange in Vietnam, have been associated with increased risks of cancer, neurological problems and birth defects.

Lawsuits over Agent Orange have not stopped pesticide and fertilizer manufacturers from continuing to use this dangerous chemical in their products, and powerful industry interests have prevented government agencies from banning them.

Many localities also use products such as Roundup to control weeds. Most scientists believe that the widespread use of the chemical glyphosate, the active ingredient in Roundup, is responsible for the global decline in pollinator populations. The recent multi-million dollar court decision against Monsanto for injury caused by Roundup is convincing many municipalities to consider alternative methods of dealing with weeds.

Recent advances in product technology and biological research, as well as a resurgence in time-tested horticultural practices such as high mowing, over-seeding and aeration, have made natural or "organic" landscaping the preferred method of maintaining fields. Once developed and properly implemented, a natural turf program



Synthetic turf often uses "crumb rubber" to infill spaces between plastic grass blades. This filler can have negative impacts on health and the environment. (Photo provided)

actually costs significantly less than a chemical program, has far fewer pest infestation problems and is virtually indistinguishable from its nonorganic competition.

Synthetic turf and chemical pesticides are just two of the issues covered in a new online program called "How Green is My Town?" Fifty questions, based on criteria originally developed by the Department of the Interior and updated with the latest emerging science from public health experts around the world, provide not only a helpful checklist for every municipality that aspires to be truly green, but links to government programs, sample policies and financial incentives that can help achieve real, sustainable outcomes. [M](#)

[The author is the associate director of Grassroots Environmental Education, a nonprofit environmental health organization based in New York.](#)

Stacie Anaya harbors passion for public places

By **JULIE YOUNG** | The Municipal

Stacie Anaya may have little in common with actress Amy Poehler, but as the director of parks and recreation for Lewisville, Texas, she does feel a certain kinship to the comedienne's former role.

"In some ways, you could say that I am the real life Leslie Knope," she said with a laugh.

A self-described "park kid," Anaya fell into her career not long after receiving her degree in public administration from Texas State University. In two decades, she has amassed an impressive resume that includes stints at Eagle Pass and Corpus Christi along with several professional affiliations that help her perform her duties in her current position. Anaya is a committed professional who not only believes in the power of play, but also in the important role parks play within the community, which requires them to be the best they can be.

"When I first started, I was on the finance side of things, helping issue permits, monitoring grand programs, performance measures and budgets. In that role I got a global view of what the parks department does and how the intricacies of the different areas of the department work together," she said. "It's an industry that has really changed over the years."

One of those changes has been in the way technology has impacted the field. Anaya said electronic algorithms enable personnel to collect data and measure efficiencies more effectively while websites and social media offer parks a broader spectrum of outlets in which to deliver their message to the public.

"Naturally we are aware that people are often distracted by their personal electronic devices, and we certainly want them to look up every once in a while to take in the world around them, but we feel there is a way to link all of those things and draw more people to the park," she said.

It's all about balance, which is something the department has been striving for over the years and something Anaya is constantly working on. When she was a kid, she remembers that her neighborhood's parks were places where families could enjoy a little downtime and kids could create their own fun. However, in the early 2000s, many parks shifted focus to more structured programming while self-engagement seemed to go by the wayside.

"Today though, we are seeing a trend back toward self-directed fun," she said. "We still offer programming, of course, but we also have skateboarding/extreme sports facilities, hiking trails and playground equipment so that guests can create their own experience as well."



Anaya connects with a young park goer. Lewisville Parks and Recreation Department has been working with the National Recreation and Park Association, the Trust for Public Land and the Urban Land Institute to ensure that there is a great park within a 10-minute walk of every person. (Photo provided)

Anaya is a firm believer that parks should not be a sometimes experience, but an all-the-time experience. Local parks are just as important as those at the state and federal level and those who work at local parks play a big role in the grand scheme of things. She said she often impresses upon the grounds crew that they create a safe place for families and kids to go, and if they miss the opportunity to connect them to the natural environment, then it is a break in a longer line of connection.

"They may be the grounds crew, but they are helping to save the world just by doing what they do," she said.

Anaya has worked with a number of state boards and commissions to ensure that her parks are the best that they can be, and she has collaborated with a number of organizations and entities to identify best practices, trade ideas and locate partners who may be able to offer something special to the park experience. She said unlike other industries where competition causes departments to keep their cards close to the vest, those in the parks and recreation field are open



LEFT: Anaya poses with other parks and recreation professionals at a past Texas Recreation and Park Society event. At the event she received the Past President's Award. (Photo provided)

to sharing information because they believe everyone should have access to great parks.

"Everyone opens their doors to let folks see the behind the scenes work and that helps me as a professional give back to the industry I love," she said.

Some of her collaborations include work with the Lewisville Lake Environmental Learning Area and the Army Corps of Engineers. Anaya said she is currently working on a partnership with the Audubon Society's vice president of the Central Flyway to create new programming about diverse marsh and wetland habitats, which birds rely on for their annual migration journey. Her department is in the process of building an 85,000-square-foot, multi-generational rec center called Thrive, and she is also working with the National Recreation and Park Association, the Trust for Public Land and the Urban Land Institute to ensure that there is a great park within a 10-minute walk of every person, in every neighborhood and in every city across the nation.

"Not every person will get their park experience at Yosemite, but for some kids, their local park is Yosemite and that's why it has to be accessible and the best it can be. If they have the benefit of exploring a habitat, even at the local level, then they have an investment in the continuum of parks that goes up to the federal level. When they do that, then perhaps they will learn how they can



ABOVE: Anaya poses with a statue of Barbara Jordan, which is located on the University of Texas at Austin campus. (Photo provided)

positively impact those systems and ultimately the world," she said.

Anaya said parks connect people in ways few can imagine and she is proud to be a part of them. When her father came to visit her office for the first time, he commented that he and Anaya's mother used to play co-ed softball on the diamond just beyond her window.

"He even broke a window here at some point," she said. "I thought it was interesting how a park that impacted him in the past now impacts me in the present. Who knows how it will impact folks in the future?" **M**



ABOVE: Stacie Anaya, director of parks and recreation for Lewisville, Texas, meets with the big man himself, Santa Claus, during a parks event. (Photo provided)



Ballistic protection growing in leaps and bounds

By SARAH WRIGHT | The Municipal

The world has never been a safe place, but nowadays, threats are emerging in places that decades ago would have been unthought of: schools, movie theaters, clubs, boardwalks, malls and anywhere people gather. Law enforcement officers have also found themselves targeted.

From Jan. 1-Aug. 21, 38 officers—including K-9s—have been killed in 34 states, according to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund website. It is an already 23 percent increase over 2017's firearms-related casualties during the same time frame. Ambushes have also grown in prevalence. In 2016, USA Today reported the

number of ambush-style killings of police rose 167 percent.

In the midst of this uptick, Keith Brown—who has more than 30 years of experience in EMS and law enforcement, serving as a Cedar Rapids, Iowa, police officer for 11 of those years before retiring—considered ways to improve the safety of officers not only in their patrol cars, but

also when they leave them. “I started in late 2015 trying to come up with something. I was working in the law enforcement equipment field at the time, and I wanted to come up with something that officers could quickly access for protection.” The end result? “I came up with a floor mat made of ballistic material.”

While pitching the floor mat, which pairs ballistic material with WeatherTech, Brown noted he received some skepticism; after all, shooters likely aren't going to be shooting up through the floorboard. But Brown's creation doesn't have to stay in the vehicle, rather it goes with officers when responding to a variety of incidents, from suspect

LEFT: The militarization of police has been a heated topic for some time, with a recent study finding more militarized departments did not receive as much support from the public as those that weren't. Improvements in ballistic-resistant technology are better protecting officers while also looking less militaristic. (Shutterstock.com)



ABOVE: Keith Brown holds his invention, Attack Mats, which is a floor mat that doubles as a light-weight ballistic shield. Still functional as floor mat, it is easily accessible should an officer need it while responding to a call. (Photo provided)

pullover to active shooters, as the floor mat doubles as a ballistic shield.

"It's right there under their feet," Brown said, noting Attack Mats features integrated handles that offer stability when the mat is used as a shield. "It's very light weight, less than 7 pounds. They can grab it by the handles, and they can run seven blocks if needed."

Despite its light weight, the Attack Mat can stop bullets fired from .45 caliber to .40 caliber weapons, plus 9 mm bullets and .12 gauge slugs, living up to its tagline, "Protecting those who serve worldwide."

Ballistic resistant materials, in general, are getting thinner and smarter, with innovation having been stoked by experiences gain in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Military knowledge coming home

"War is terrible, but a brutal teacher," George Tunis, owner of Hardwire LLC, said.



The armor blends in to this New York City Police Department squad car, with most of the general public being unaware of its existence. Its presence, however, provides security for officers using the vehicle. (Photo provided by Hardwire)

Hardwire specializes in armors and has served as a military contractor, experiencing the first surge into Afghanistan during which it worked on mine-resistant ambush protected military vehicles, adapting to protect soldiers from enemy combatant's tactics. At the height of the surge, Tunis said the company was armoring 125 big trucks a week. When the war cycled back down, Hardwire saw the opportunity to apply its ballistic knowledge back at home. This has included body armor plates, bulletproof clipboards, tactical ticket book inserts, tactical shields, molded vehicle door armor and transparent armor window inserts for law enforcement agencies.

Much has been written about the militarization of police, particularly about the negative impact such efforts can have on the relationships between a department and its community. A recent study published by Jonathan Mummolo, an assistant professor of politics and public affairs at Princeton University, in August gave participants a fictitious news article where a police chief argues his department deserves a larger budget. The article was paired with one of four photos, featuring different groups of police officers. The photo with a military-style armored vehicle "caused support for police funding in the United States to fall by roughly four points in the (online) survey, and two points in the SSI (Survey Sampling International) survey."

Mummolo also found in the latter survey the same image brought "a 3.2 point drop in respondents' desire for more police patrols in their own neighborhoods."

But, Tunis is quick to state, "We don't want to militarize the police."

Rather, Hardwire's focus has been on blending armor into vehicles and other equipment to the point most people wouldn't even know it was there, which can alleviate tension.

Armor benefits officers by providing them with a sense of security and a calmer state of mind. "Slower reactions are safer for the police officer and safer for the public," Tunis said, noting police know they are protected and their armor can take the first round, the second round, and so on. "You can better assess the situation: Was that a stray bullet? Was that intended for me? It allows officers to be better at their job — 99 percent of the job is to help if something happens."

Tunis added, "It's not just an illusion of security, so they can act differently."

Without that security, an officer can get nervous, leading to a weapon being discharged when unnecessary. "As an engineer, I want to subtract bullets from the situation," Tunis said. "If there are fewer bullets, there are fewer wounded people on both sides."

Both New York City and Philadelphia police departments utilize armor in their vehicles, with Tunis noting it is neat ▶

seeing his company's product in the numerous squad cars posted at Times Square — something most people don't even know; however, it is there protecting officers against ambush-style attacks.

Tunis said, "There is no reason why any police officer should not have ballistic window inserts — no reason."

Not just the public safety sector

According to a Cision PR Newswire article, titled "The Global Body Armor and Personal Protection Market 2018-2028," the global body armor and personal protection market is expected to grow at a compound annual growth rate of 4.55 percent to the value of \$3.5 billion by 2028. The cumulative market for global expenditure on military body armor and personal protection will reach \$30.6 billion during the forecast period.

The same article notes, "The demand for body armor and personal protection equipment is expected to be driven by modernization initiatives undertaken by various defense forces and law enforcement agencies across the world, and internal security threats, such as terrorism, insurgency and organized crime."

Tunis said, "Body armor has gotten so thin, it's going to make it to the consumer level." He added it is becoming wearable to the point people might even struggle to tell whether someone is wearing it or not. Comfort is also factoring in. "It will come down to the human body."

In addition to becoming form fitting, he forecasted body armor will become more affordable, possibly reaching the same price as a pair of new sneakers.

Tunis' daughter, who is going off to college, has shown an interest in consumer armor, particularly in an armored pea coat. "She said, 'Dad, this is cool.' When your daughter says (what you're doing) might be cool, it just might be cool — normally, what dad is working on isn't cool."

Body armor is just one form where ballistic material is being applied in the consumer market. There are now ballistic backpacks, briefcases and computer bags. And much like Brown's Attack Mats, there are everyday items now doubling as ballistic shields, such as whiteboards in the classroom — something Hardwire would like to get into every school across the U.S.

"The Sandy Hook shooting happened and we looked at the speed in which it happened — three minutes," Tunis said. "If teachers didn't have armor right there, they couldn't get to it."

Like a fire extinguisher, the shield needed to be right there in the classroom, which is how the whiteboard ballistic shield came into being — serving a practical use in the classroom most days while being ready to save lives in a worst-case scenario that you hope never happens.

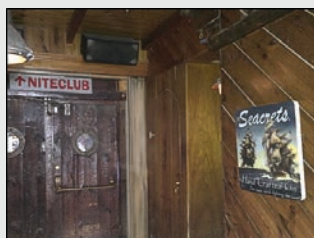
"It took off," Tunis said, noting they are receiving calls from all 50 states. "It's something that is becoming much more mainstream."

Teachers with the whiteboards in their classrooms have repeatedly responded they feel empowered. "We've heard it in Alaska, Minnesota and the Carolinas," Tunis said. "An empowered teacher is a better teacher."

Similarly hidden ballistic shields are making their ways into other public spaces concealed as informational signs or even artwork — some are marked as emergency response shields. Tunis noted a night club has put 25 such shields throughout its complex, with waitresses and waiters knowing their locations.



With the increase in ambush-style shootings of police officers, transparent armor window inserts allow officers to work in their squad cars safely, whether on patrol or completing paperwork. (Photo provided by Hardwire)



Much like a fire extinguisher, an emergency response shield can be placed in a building in case of an active shooter. They can be labeled

as such, above right, or concealed as artwork or an advertisement, like this "Seacrets Hand-Crafted Gin" sign, above left. (Photo provided by Hardwire)

Taking a lesson learned from a four-star general in the Army, Tunis stated, "Armor is really about making it harder for the enemy; it makes it easier for interdiction."

In terms of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, better armoring soldiers and military vehicles forced enemy combatants to shift to bigger bombs and weapons, which increased the odds they would be spotted by drones before they could complete their objectives. The same principle applies at home. Armor will require would-be shooters to adopt longer guns, which will be more easily spotted.

"My job as an engineer is to solve this problem," Tunis said, noting as personal protection gets more pervasive and makes it harder, America will become safer. "This problem is epidemic — it's pandemic at this time — and it's all over the world." **M**

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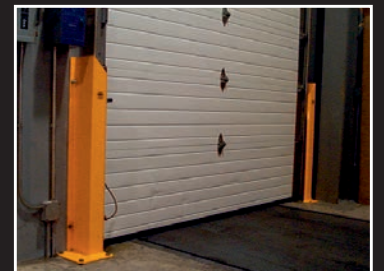
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A ribbon-cutting-style ceremony was held on March 29, 2017, at the Grennan Heights Gym, 8255 N. Oketo, Niles, Ill. The traditional scissors and ribbon were replaced with a ceremonial “Throwing of the Mops into the Trash,” an act symbolic of the hundreds of homeowners that would experience mitigated flooding risk as a result of the largest infrastructure project in village history. (Photo provided)



MWRD President Mariyana Spyropoulos and village of Niles Mayor Andrew Przybylo stand before some of the giant storm sewer infrastructure that was installed to provide flood relief to Niles. (Photo provided)

Niles and MWRD recognized for flood relief project

By CATEY TRAYLOR | The Municipal

The village of Niles, Ill., and the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago earned the Public Works Project of the Year award through the American Public Works Association Chicago Metro Chapter for their partnership on the Cleveland Corridor sewer project.

The APWA Public Works Project of the Year Award was established to promote excellence in the management and administration of public works projects by recognizing the alliance between the managing agency, the consultant, architect or engineer and the contractor who, working together, complete public works projects.

Awards are given in four divisions, depending on the price point of the project, and five categories: structures; transportation; environment; historical restoration or preservation; and disaster or emergency construction or repair.

As part of the MWRD’s 2014 public call for communities to submit project ideas pertaining to local flooding issues, Niles submitted the sewer on Cleveland Street.

“When the project was submitted, the design of the solution had already been created, so MWRD became a funding partner for the village,” Allison Fore, with the Public and Intergovernmental Affairs Office of MWRD, said. “After the project was selected, MWRD reviewed the design to ensure it was fulfilling the intended storm-water benefits and inspected the project at its completion.”

The Cleveland Corridor project involved the installation of a new storm sewer with a 72-foot main line along Cleveland Street, branching out to adjacent side streets. The project also included the installation of a relief sewer to capture stormwater runoff and convey it to a new outfall to the North Branch Chicago River. In total,



Niles Village Engineer Tom Powers holds the Public Works Project of the Year award. He is pictured with, from left, Doug Abbey of Bolder Contractors; Niles resident engineer Tim O'Brien; Bolder Contractors President Bob Gwiasda; Hey & Associates engineer Jeff Wickenkamp; Niles Public Services Director Mary Anderson; MWRD senior civil engineer Holly Sauter; and Jeremie Lukowicz, president of the American Public Works Association Chicago Metro Chapter Suburban Branch. (Photo provided)



A worker oversees the placement of one component for Niles' updated Cleveland Street storm sewer system. (Photo provided)

approximately 11,200 feet of new storm sewer was installed, according to the village of Niles' community website.

The project totaled about \$9 million, and costs were covered by \$2 million from MWRD in addition to utilizing low-interest Illinois Environmental Protection Agency loans to reduce the project costs.

The project was ultimately selected, Fore said, due to the scope of the impact it would have on the community and the goals of the MWRD.

"The MWRD strives to provide as much flood protection as possible based on criteria such as number of structures receiving benefits and total construction dollars and funding amount requested," she said. "This project provided direct flood relief benefits to approximately 140 structures."

Most of the construction was completed by November 2016, with minor additions continuing through the end of the year. The project reduced surface water flooding, which has led to repeated overland flooding in this area, and damages while also greatly improving the village's drainage conditions.


As part of the partnership between the village and MWRD, basic maintenance and annual inspections are required.

"The village of Niles is required to complete an annual inspection signed by a professional engineer licensed in the state of Illinois and provide that to the MWRD," Fore said. "We can also complete our own inspection if necessary."

According to MWRD President Mariyana Spyropoulos, earning the Public Works Project of the Year award is an honor and a privilege and could not have happened without a number of key players and partnerships.

"We are happy to receive this recognition, and we look forward to a more resilient future thanks to this award-winning project," she said in an emailed statement relayed by Fore. "I would like to commend Mayor (Andrew) Przybylo, the Niles Board of Trustees, Chairman Joe LoVerde and the Niles Stormwater Commission, the IEPA, Cook County Forest Preserve District and our stormwater engineers at the MWRD for their collaboration on this project and their urgency in preparing for the next storm. It's partnerships like these with Niles that we treasure as we work toward solutions to flooding all across Cook County."

While the completion of the Cleveland Sewer project in itself is a win for both the village and the overall Chicagoland area, the MWRD has more work to do. In terms of future plans, Fore said the MWRD has strong and impactful partnerships across Chicago and the surrounding area, and a number of projects are in the works.

"The MWRD provides stormwater management services to over 125 communities across Cook County," she said. "We're actively partnering with dozens of municipalities and other local governmental organizations on projects similar to the village of Niles' Cleveland Street sewer project to provide flood relief to residents throughout the Chicagoland region." 



Making salmon migration simpler

By **BARB SIEMINSKI** | The Municipal

Life is about to get a lot easier for migrating salmon in Whatcom County, Wash., thanks to the U.S. Supreme Court's tied ruling last June, which means that a 2013 lower court ruling that favors the Northwest tribes in a dispute will stand.

Salmon is big business and the court's ruling will affect culverts — buried edifices that allow water to flow under a road, railroad, trail or similar barrier from one side to the other — that carry water under state roads and highways that cross city and county rivers and streams bearing salmon. This will enable the spawning salmon from ocean waters to complete their upstream freshwater journey “home.”

Two cities — Bellingham and Lynden — along the Nooksack River have begun working on their culverts to allow fish passage.



*Steve Banham,
Lynden, Wash.,
public works
director*

According to Steve Banham, P.E., Lynden public works director, there are no salmon ladders required in any of his projects because the area is fairly flat, and for the same reason no dams were built or removed.

“The fish restrictions were the narrowness of the culverts and the material in the bottom of the culvert, which are not considered by

Fish and Wildlife to be conducive to fish migrations,” said Banham, who began work with the city in 2011 and has been public works director for six and a half years.

“They require that bridges and box culverts be 1 1/2 times the full bank width of the stream. The wider bridges are also much less subject to damage from high flows, and ours were old and deteriorated so, when we replaced them, we had to meet the new standards to get the needed permits. The state department of transportation challenged these requirements in a case (‘the Culvert Case’) that went to the state supreme court, which upheld the requirements and dictated removal of older smaller culverts on state routes considered to be fish passage barriers.”

Lynden has replaced three culverts in the past 10 years and is working with the Washington State Department of Transportation on the Badger Road — SR 546 — culverts on Double Ditch, which are planned to be replaced in 2024.

“We have a major project in the area of town between Double Ditch Road and Benson Road that will involve the replacement of those roadside ditches with Pepin Creek halfway between,” said Banham. “This work is being done in part in anticipation of

a state department of transportation culvert replacement at the intersection of Double Ditch and Badger Road (SR 546). An emergency culvert replacement on Eighth Street in 2017 involved this same drainage basin, and we ended up replacing a 36-inch culvert with a larger (more fish-friendly) 66-inch culvert with appropriate material in the bottom of the culvert.

“Pepin Creek is what we are naming the new creek within city limits,” said Banham, adding that that was the name given to the same creek at its headwaters in Canada.

“Historically in the U.S., these waters came to be known as ‘Double Ditch’ because the water was flowing in roadside ditches on both sides of Double Ditch Road, which runs north for 4 miles to the U.S.-Canadian border. Double Ditch flows into Fishtrap Creek within the city limits and this area is a beautiful forested area in the middle of the city.”

Lynden has found itself planning around the fish.

“Because these are fish passage corridors we have to work within established ‘fish windows’ — periods when the fish are not migrating,” said Banham, adding that the city’s replacement of bridges and culverts includes natural materials in the bottoms, as specified by the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife.

The Lynden Christian School maintains a small fish hatchery on Fishtrap Creek, according to Banham. Among its fish, there are six types of salmon: steelhead, fall



The natural material used in the bottoms of the updated culverts were all specified by the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife. (Photo provided)



ABOVE & BELOW: *An old culvert is cleared out in Lynden, Wash., allowing a new channel to be created. (Photo provided)*

Chinook, chum, coho, pink and cutthroat. Other fish species found in Fishtrap Creek include bull trout, lamprey, dace and sculpin.

Banham has been in contact with other Whatcom County cities located along the Nooksack River, saying his department has also talked with Whatcom County about city plans for work within the Pepin Creek Basin and the WSDOT planned culvert replacement.

“Also, our project funding requires notification of the tribes,” said Banham. “We have discussed the Pepin Creek project more extensively with the Lummi Nation as it has expressed interest in the benefits to fish and to water quality associated with this project.

“The city has also had volunteers from the Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Organization who have planted vegetation along our creeks, but the work on bridges and culvert, including vegetation, has generally been done by contractors.”

Clare Fogelsong, environmental policy manager of the city of Bellingham, is working to remove a diversion dam.

In the early 1960s, Bellingham constructed a diversion dam and tunnel on the Middle Fork Nooksack River to reroute water for the city’s municipal supply. Fish passage was not required at that time, which split habitat connectivity and reduced habitat for several threatened fish species.

“While the city has two recently completed culvert removal restoration projects that have gained significant praise and recognition, we are now working on a fish passage project on the Middle Fork Nooksack River, the site of the city’s water supply diversion dam, which augments Lake Whatcom, our primary water supply reservoir,” said Fogelsong, who has worked for the city 20 years.

“The Middle Fork project is in 60 percent design phase as we seek final funding from the state for construction in 2019. The concept is to remove the existing diversion dam blocking fish passage and replace the dam’s function diverting water into Lake Whatcom with a simpler structure that won’t impede fish passage. Commitment to the project wasn’t influenced by the recent supreme court culvert decision.”

This project has been a high-priority fish passage project for several years, during which time challenges have included concept acceptance; building partnerships; several design iterations; agency support; permitting complexity; and most of all, funding.

Asked if he had any volunteer help, Fogelsong said only project partner-in-kind contributions and that the Lummi Nation and the



Nooksack Tribe, as well as the Department of Fish and Wildlife, are all original project partners.

According to a fact sheet of the Middle Fort Nooksack Fish Passage project, this will “re-establish access to as many as 16 miles of spawning and rearing habitat for the Endangered Species Act, listed spring Chinook salmon, Puget Sound Steelhead, and Bull Trout while maintaining municipal water supply ... the project has secured \$680,000 for project design and permitting, and \$4.4 million for implementation from Paul G. Allen Philanthropies and the City of Bellingham.”

Additionally, the project benefits include 14 miles of historic Chinook habitat regained; 45 percent historic steelhead habitat regained; 16 miles of historic bull trout habitat regained; 31 percent increase in abundance; 48 percent increase in diversity; and 223 jobs created.

The project will remove the dam, said Fogelsong, adding that his department has been working on overcoming the design and funding challenges since 2005, well before the recent court decision.

“No other cities in the basin have dams; they all either utilize ground water or withdraw directly from the river. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife has been a partner along with the tribes,” concluded Fogelsong.

More information may be obtained by emailing Fogelsong at cfo-gelsong@cob.org and Banham at BanhamS@lyndenwa.org. 

You agree a Bronze Monument is a great idea, but what's the next step?



Arkansas Firefighters' Memorial, Photo Courtesy of the Arkansas Secretary of State — Staff photographer Danny Harris.

STATUES THAT ARE SCULPTED AND CAST IN BRONZE CAN BE dated back to ancient times. The process, still utilized today, produces some of the most beautiful and unsurpassed bronze sculptures in the world. Below is an overview to guide your organization in creating one of these monuments.

Create A Committee

A committee is a constructive way to approach your monument project. A good cross-section of members or departments will lend vital direction and expertise through the decision making process. Assign roles and responsibilities within the committee and select a chairperson to keep the committee on task and moving forward.

Choosing Your Site

Establish a site first. You may not have any control over the location: However, if possible, choose one that will be accessible, appealing, and secure.

- Choose a location that will separate your statue from other nearby sculptures or city focal points.
- Determine how you want the public to visit the monument site. Is the area appropriate to host an annual community event, department honor guard ceremony, public safety education, press releases, or preferred to be an intimate reflecting area?
- Establish how many people the site will comfortably host and plan to make accommodations for convenient parking.
- Establish the closest utility access for potential lighting and or water features.
- Consider the overall topography such as trees, shrubbery, hills, and valleys because this will ultimately be your backdrop and may limit your site design.

Sculpture Design

Your bronze sculpture should be designed to convey a particular feeling such as remembrance or inspiration. The committee should have a consensus or rough design such as single statue, multiple statues, kneeling, standing, etc. It is productive to collect pictures, prints, drawings, and even examples of other sculptures, which will help the artist comprehend what the committee is envisioning.

Select an Artist

Select an art company that has experience in bronze monuments, can produce related artistic accomplishments, and is dedicated to making your monument experience a success. Examine their sculpting techniques and attention to detail. They should be willing to contribute their expertise and guidance to enhance your statue concept and coordinate with other vendors to

enhance the overall monument design. They should also line out the sculpting phases, molding, and casting schedule. Some may even offer standard monuments with specific customizable features to save on development costs and shorten the timeline.

Sculpture Size

Your budget will ultimately dictate the size of statue you will be able to commission however; larger is not always better. A statue should be in balance and complement the overall site. You neither want the statue to overpower the area nor have the statue get lost in it. The committee should imagine how the public might view the monument from several viewpoints such as walking paths, sitting on a bench, sitting on the ground, and even driving by.

There are four standard sizes for bronze monuments.

- Life size (6 foot)
- Heroic size (7 1/2 foot)
- Size and a half (9 1/2 foot)
- Twice-life size (12 foot)



Battle Cross — Warrenton, MO

Statue Base

Choosing an appropriate base for your monument is just as important as selecting the statue itself. Both need to complement each other and stay in balance within the site. Statues can be designed with an integrated bronze base that will automatically add height and allow for additional sculpting features or can be freestanding and directly mounted to stone or concrete.

A stone base of some type adds elevation, depth, color, and security to a statue. A smaller statue can seem larger just by elevating it, achieving more of a heroic feel.

The committee should decide how the base would affect the overall size and viewing of the monument. Do you want the patrons to be eye to eye or look up at the statue? Do you want them to be able to touch the statue or be at arms length?

It is also an added clever feature to construct the base from your state stone. A stone base can be etched to include historic information, dates, names, mission statement, or core values.

Landscape

A professional landscape company should be contracted to help with this portion of the design. You may also need to consult and coordinate any landscape alterations with the parks or forestry department. Some considerations to your site might include:

- Bench seats
- Walkways
 - Decorative concrete or bricks
 - Shrubs, trees and flowers
 - Lighting
 - Flagpoles
 - Signs
- Waste receptacles and trash disposal.
- Water features; lawn watering systems may need to be rerouted.
- Retaining or privacy walls

Timeline

Bronze monuments can range 3-12 months based on design concepts. Develop a timeline that the vendors can work within to assure that all work is completed before your dedication date.

*Facing the Fire—
O'fallon, MO*



Delivery and Setting the Statue

The artwork company will broker delivery of the statue. The contractor building the base or landscaper should set the statue in place. It may be necessary to coordinate additional services at your off-loading point such as a boom crane.

Depending on the status of the grounds and/or weather, it may be necessary to store the statue until it is ready to be set and or officially unveiled.



Fire Helmet Monument—Johnsonville, NY

Maintenance

Bronze statues are sealed with a durable coating to protect them; however, over time the elements will begin to oxidize the bronze, changing the color to a green patina similar to the Statue of Liberty. Some organizations welcome this traditional weathering, but you can preserve the original rich look of your statue by contracting to have the coating annually maintained. Ongoing landscape care and utility costs should also be estimated as perpetual costs

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Hood River reaches out to Latino residents

By LAUREN CAGGIANO | The Municipal

What does Hispanic outreach look like? If you ask Hood River, Ore., Mayor Paul Blackburn, it's a very active, engaged and dynamic activity.

Blackburn has seemed to crack the code when it comes to reaching this group in an effective and meaningful way. Last fall, the League of Oregon Cities presented its 2017 Helen and Alan Berg Good Governance award to the city of Hood River for its Latino outreach program. Created in 1998, the Good Governance award honors city programs that connect citizens within a community.

But why Hispanics? The numbers help frame the story. According to research from the Pew Research Center, “the Latino population in the United States has reached nearly 58 million in 2016 and has been the principal driver of U.S. demographic growth, accounting for half of national population growth since 2000.”

Those statistics especially hit home in northwest Oregon. The city of Hood River,

with a population of about 8,000, is made up of about one-third Latino families. According to Blackburn, this is because of the area’s agricultural roots and economic base. Many Hispanic families move or stay here to work in the fields.

“We produce about a half a million tons of fruit annually because of the (largely Hispanic) labor force,” he said.

This is juxtaposed with income from wind surfing tourists and Institutu, a division of Boeing that designs, develops and manufactures unmanned aerial systems with a presence in Hood River. Regarding the

LEFT: Agriculture plays a major role in Hood River's economy, with surrounding farms harvesting half a million tons of fruit annually with the aid of a largely Hispanic workforce. (Shutterstock.com)

Right: Hood River is also known as "the windsurfing capital of the world" thanks to its easy access to the Columbia River. (Shutterstock.com)

former, Blackburn said the region makes the most of its topography. The nearby Columbia River Gorge and easy accessibility from Hood River, Cascade Locks and other nearby towns makes them the "windsurfing capital of the world." In his words, the area has a "broad economic base."

But the numbers tell just part of the story. Blackburn, who is bilingual and has used Spanish in previous jobs, saw firsthand how language can either be a barrier or something that brings people together.

In the case of his Spanish-speaking residents, the effort to speak their first language and meet them where they are can yield significant dividends. That's why when Blackburn sought the mayor's office, he did so intentionally. He had been on the city council for 10 years before winning the mayor's office in 2014.

"The very first thing I did was speak some Spanish while on the (campaign) stump," he said.

That approach resonated well with voters and non-voters alike, and he pledged to continue to reach and engage Hispanics. To that end, he formed a Latino Advisory Council intended to "inform, empower and listen" to this minority group. Since then, participation in community affairs by the city's Latino population has increased significantly.

In Blackburn's estimation, it's nothing groundbreaking, but goes back to identifying low-hanging fruit. Listening and responding to families who feel disenfranchised can do wonders to boost morale and even voter participation. For example, when public meetings were held on the rezoning of public land for affordable housing, the Latino community responded with robust participation, including Spanish-language testimony.



Representatives from the city of Hood River, Ore., accept the League of Oregon Cities' 2017 Helen and Alan Berg Good Governance award. It received the award for its Latino outreach program. (Photo provided)

Another factor in his success is that connection can beget connection, too. In other words, constituents felt comfortable talking to him; their friends and family felt more open to communication. "So, it was kind of a snowball effect," he said.

Blackburn also makes it clear that showing up doesn't have to call for a great deal of advanced planning. In fact, it can be impromptu — and sometimes that comes across as more authentic.

"What I would do is just start showing up places," he said. "It's an open invitation (to talk to the mayor), whether it's a road crew or a PTA picnic. People appreciate the effort."

Blackburn suggests mayors and elected officials in other cities follow suit if they want to foster deeper understanding and trust. Sometimes that means finding an ally in the community who can make the introduction. For example, Blackburn had a friend who was a parishioner of a local Catholic church who proved to be a great resource in connecting with the Catholic Hispanic community. Internally, he has worked with city officials like the chief of police to help them understand issues facing immigrants.

Going forward, Blackburn said there's still work to be done in the form of issues like advocating for affordable housing in the community and alleviating fears related to the immigration debate. **M**



Anuvia's plant nutrients provide a sustainable way to grow grass and turf in parks and recreational areas. (Photo provided)

On field or off — **Anuvia Plant Nutrients meets sustainability challenges**

Article provided by Anuvia

ANUVIA PLANT NUTRIENTS IS THE catalyst that helps groundskeepers implement sustainable practices while, at the same time, improving and beautifying greenspaces. Our technology serves the unique operations of turf and lawn care management, enabling professionals to use a U.S. Department of Agriculture certified biobased plant nutrient product on their

managed greenspaces, creating healthy turf, soils and environment. We achieve this while also reducing greenhouse gases, nutrient run off and loss.

Our technology comes from decades of hard-won experience aimed at resolving the most challenging sustainability issues we face today. In recent years, Anuvia's technology has begun to turn the tide of environmental threats caused by nutrient

leaching, volatilization and greenhouse gas emissions. Anuvia's sustainable solutions will ensure parks and recreational areas continue to be special places to play and enjoy now and in the future.

Now more than ever, sustainable fertilizers play an important role in conserving natural resources and protecting our planet. In 2016, after years of research and in-field trials, Anuvia launched its first enhanced efficiency



LEFT: Anuvia products are 87 percent USDA certified biobased. Its products help ensure our natural resources grow, not diminish. (Photo provided)

slow release product. GreenTRX™ is a bio-based plant nutrient that raises the bar for sustainable fertilizer solutions.

Located in Zellwood, Fla., Anuvia produces more than 200 tons of product a day. The company takes a unique approach to creating its products. Anuvia's proprietary process reclaims organic waste, such as food, municipal and livestock waste, and converts this into a slow-release, high-efficiency plant food. This approach represents an environmentally and socially responsible solution for disposing of organic materials.

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Anuvia's proprietary approach binds charged amino acids from organic materials with the inorganic nutrients that plants need. This bonding creates a slow-release mechanism that delivers key nutrients, such as ammonium N, potassium, sulfate sulfur and ferrous iron, to plants. Each granule is homogenous, providing safe, uniform nutrient delivery.

More nutrients are available to the plant; less are lost to air and water. Anuvia's slow-release technology provides about 65 percent of the nutrients within two to three weeks of application to meet the substantial nutrient requirements turf grass. The remaining 35 percent of nutrients are released slowly over a six- to eight-week period to provide prolonged feeding and greening.

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Anuvia delivers an environmentally friendly clean technology that meets the challenges of building a sustainable tomorrow. Working with Anuvia, turf and lawn care professionals will find a company that has a vision to see the future and a partner who knows how to do it right.



At Anuvia, tomorrow starts today

Anuvia works now for a tomorrow where sustainability exists in all that we grow and nourish. We help ensure that parks and recreational areas are green and beautiful, and resources are growing, not diminishing. We work today for a tomorrow that is abundant, vibrant and alive. **M**

For more information, visit www.anuviaplantnutrients.com, or contact Hugh MacGillivray, chief commercial officer, at (352) 720-7070.

LEFT: Anuvia puts organic matter back into the soil, creating a nourishing environment for microbial activity. (Photo provided)



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OCTOBER

Oct. 2-3 Sustainable Communities 11th Annual Conference

Grand River Center, Dubuque, Iowa
gscdubuque.com

Oct. 2-4 Aim Ideas Summit

French Lick, Ind.
aimindiana.org/members/events/ideas-summit/

Oct. 3-4 Vermont League of Cities & Towns TownFair 2018

DoubleTree by Hilton Burlington, South Burlington, Vt.
vlct.org

Oct. 3-4 2018 Maine Municipal Association Convention

Augusta Civic Center, Augusta, Maine
memun.org

Oct. 4 Southeastern Wisconsin Fifth Annual Outdoor Public Works/Parks/Building and Grounds Expo

5151 W. Layton Ave., Greenfield, Wis.
ci.greenfield.wi.us/564/Public-Works-Expo

Oct. 4-6 Pennsylvania Municipal League Annual Summit

Pittsburgh Marriott North and RLA Learning and Conference Center, Cranberry Township, Pa.
pml.org/summit

Oct. 6-8 The League of Kansas Municipalities Annual League Conference

Capitol Plaza Hotel/Maner Conference Center & Kansas Expocentre, Topeka, Kan.
lkm.org/page/ConferenceInfo

Oct. 6-9 IACP Annual Conference and Exposition

Orlando, Fla.
theiacpconference.org

Oct. 8-11 Tennessee Recreation and Parks Association: Rock'n in Knox

Knoxville, Tenn.
trpa.net/conference

Oct. 10-12 Maryland Municipal League's Fall Conference

Annapolis, Md.
mdmunicipal.org

Oct. 17-19 GIE+Expo

Kentucky Exposition Center, Louisville, Ky.
gie-expo.com

Oct. 16-20 Firehouse Expo

Music City Center, Nashville, Tenn.
firehouseexpo.com

Oct. 18-19 Association of Washington Cities' Member Expo

Chelan, Wash.
<https://wacities.org/events-education/conferences>

Oct. 22-24 Fire Department Training Network Live-Fire Training Camp

Indianapolis, Ind.
fdtraining.com

Oct. 22-25 National Procurement Institute Annual Conference

Hilton Fort Worth, Fort Worth, Texas
npiconnection.org/development/conference.asp

Oct. 24-26 League of Wisconsin Municipalities' Annual Conference

Kalahari Resort, Wisconsin Dells, Wis.
lwm-info.org

Oct. 24-25 ARTBA Northeastern Regional Meeting

Grand Hyatt, Washington, D.C.
artba.org/training-events/

Oct. 27-Nov. 2 SFPE Annual Conference and Expo

Renaissance Nashville Hotel, Nashville, Tenn.
sfpe.org/page/UpcomingConferences

Oct. 29-30 ARTBA Southern Regional Meeting

Omni at the Battery, Atlanta, Ga.
artba.org/training-events/

Oct. 29-31 Fleet Safety Conference

M Resort, Spa and Casino, Henderson, Nev.
fleetsafetyconference.com

Oct. 29-Nov.1 ISSA Show North America 2018

Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center, Dallas, Texas
issa.com/trade-shows/issa-show-north-america-dallas-2018.html

Oct. 29-Nov. 2 EMS World Expo

Nashville, Tenn.
emsworldexpo.com

Oct. 30-31 Connecticut Conference of Municipalities

Foxwoods Resort Casino, Mashantucket, Conn.
ccm-ct.org/convention

Oct. 30-Nov. 2 SEMA Show

Las Vegas Convention Center, Las Vegas, Nev.
semashow.com

Oct. 31-Nov. 2 Ohio Municipal League Annual Conference

Renaissance Hotel, Columbus, Ohio
omlohio.org/240/Ohio-Municipal-League-Annual-Conference

NOVEMBER

Nov. 1-2 WJTA-IMCA Expo

Morial Convention Center, New Orleans, La.
wjtaimcaexpo.com

Nov. 4-8 American Water Resources Association Annual Conference

Marriott Inner Harbor at Camden Yards, Baltimore, Md.
awra.org

Nov. 5-8 Campus Fire Forum 2018

San Antonio, Texas
campusfiresafety.org

Nov. 7-8 ARTBA Central Regional Meeting

Omni Chicago, Chicago, Ill.
artba.org/training-events/

Nov. 7-10 National League of Cities' City Summit

Los Angeles, Calif.
citysummit.nlc.org

Nov. 13-15 New Jersey State League of Municipalities Conference 2018

Atlantic City Convention Center, Atlantic City, N.J.
njslom.org

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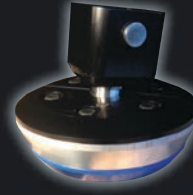
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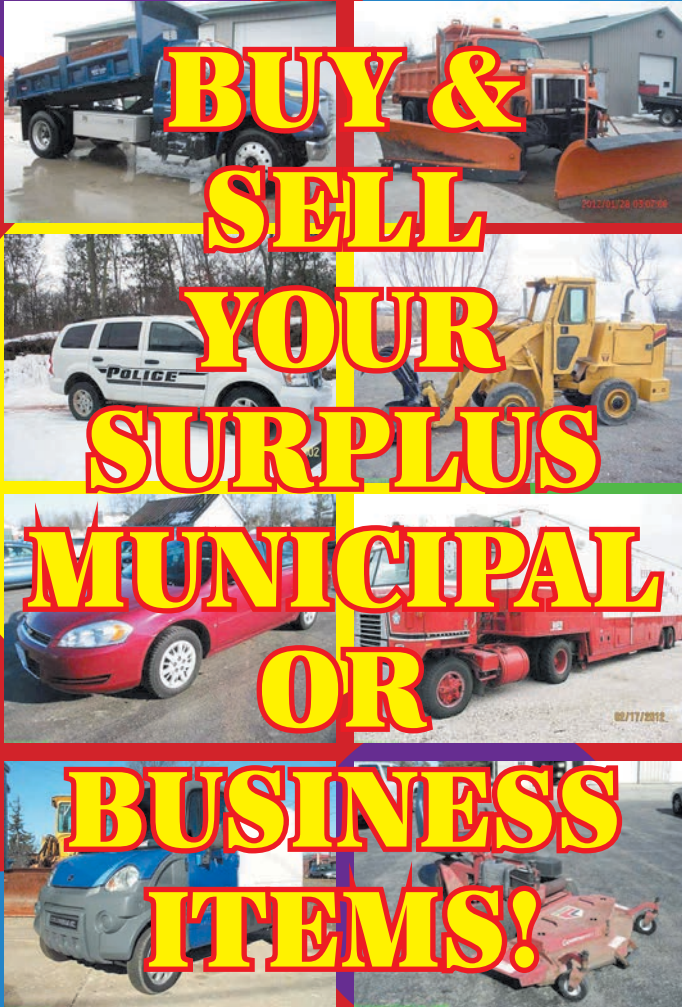
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Monster.com names NAFA's CAFM to top 10 certification ranking for salary increases

PRINCETON, N.J. — NAFA Fleet Management Association, the vehicle fleet industry's largest membership association, announces that employment resource Monster.com has named NAFA's Certified Automotive Fleet Manager as number nine in its rankings of the top 10 best certifications to receive to boost salaries.

The Monster report showcased that CAFM holders earn 27 percent more than those employees in fleet who have not received the certification. To compile the rankings, online salary database PayScale.com provided Monster with the best certifications and the difference in annual pay between the certification haves and have-nots.

"Earning the CAFM designation has opened doors for so many fleet professionals over the years by providing them the knowledge to excel within their fleet role, and by making it easier to work towards increased future earnings," said NAFA CEO Philip E. Russo, CAE. "Previous NAFA studies have shown similar results to Monster's report, but being recognized by a leading career service provides further proof that earning a CAFM delivers strong value to each student."

NAFA's certification program includes different options based on the job requirements of the industry's top fleet professionals. For fleet staff seeking to develop expertise in target areas, or begin the certification process, NAFA offers Fleet Discipline Certificates for those involved in just one or two aspects of fleet. The Certified Automotive Fleet Specialist designation is for those who are interested in four fleet disciplines. The flagship CAFM program covers all eight of the key fleet disciplines.

NAFA's education solutions provide ways for fleet, mobility and procurement professionals to earn more money and enhance career knowledge through the CAFM program. Visit www.nafa.org/f/Programs for more information.

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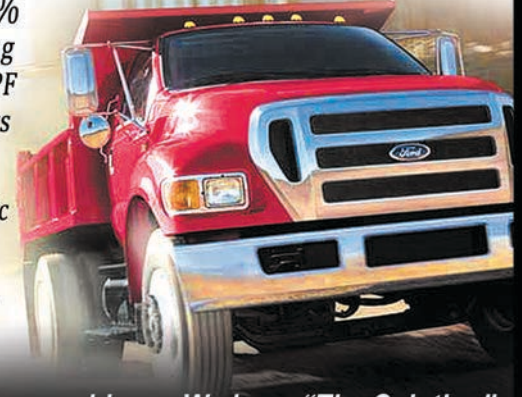
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The preserve-play relationship with nature:

Creating community opportunities in nature



By | **BRITTANY MCADAMS**,
Natural Resources Coordinator,
Carmel Clay Parks & Recreation
Carmel, Indiana

LAND MANAGEMENT IS ONE OF THOSE TERMS THAT CAUSES A bit of head-scratching from the general public, especially when the land being managed is considered “natural habitat.” Managing natural lands should be simple and straightforward — leave it alone, limit human disturbance and let nature take its course. But in a world where human population and natural habitat acreage are inversely related, the answer isn’t so simple. Land management in Indiana has become a necessity after years of cultivation and urbanization, and Carmel Clay Parks & Recreation is bringing these native habitats back to our community.

Our 17-park system at CCPR contains 360 unconsolidated acres of natural habitat, including restored prairies, climax forests and emergent wetlands. Ranging in size from 5 to 161 acres, all of our parks contain a recreation component whether it be a walking trail or a splash pad for the kids — and the kid-at-heart adults. When viewing these parks from a management perspective, each footstep taken on that walking trail has the opportunity to create a relationship between that person and nature; on the other hand, each step has the opportunity to carry in an invasive Canada thistle seed wedged in the groove of that person’s shoe. Both of these opportunities form the fundamental struggle of recreational land management — striking that preserve-play relationship with nature.

Creative solutions are key to finding our preserve-play balance at CCPR — and we are creating these solutions using our core mission statement of serving the community, developing existing resources and creating a sustainable future. These solutions involve an integrative approach that includes working with other parks and recreation districts, our internal staff and the greater Carmel, Ind., community. On a finer scale, we are integrating volunteer opportunities to include park stewardship programs. A great place to start is within your volunteer database, utilizing a group of people already willing to give their time and efforts to the parks. Additionally, creating a more diverse offering of volunteer opportunities will help us reach one of our core goals by engaging more people in nature at CCPR.

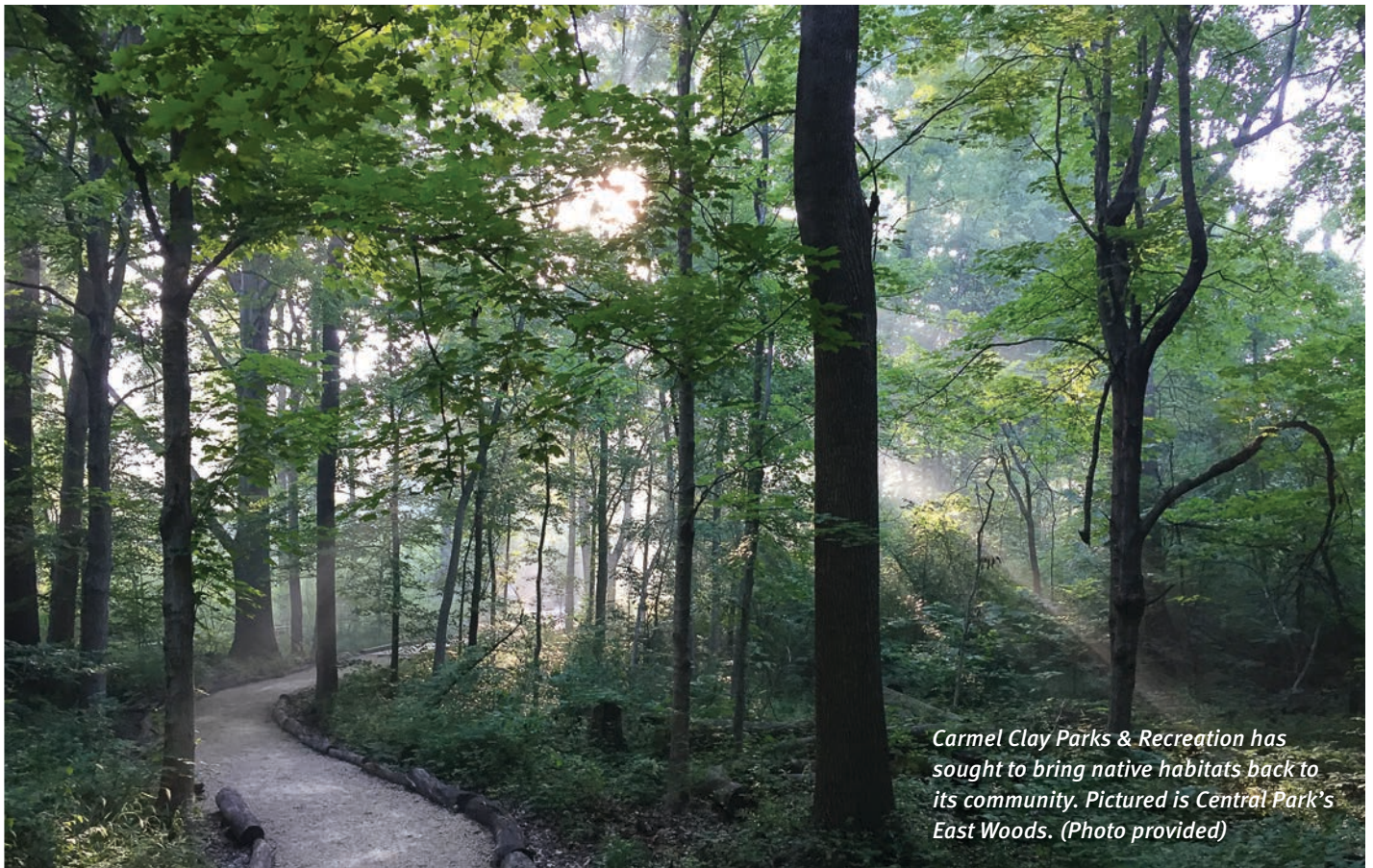
These efforts are focused into three main categories: free public programming, citizen science programs and park stewardship opportunities. In 2018 we kicked off our free public programs with our “My Park” Series:



Volunteers have helped CCPR address invasive plants, particularly garlic mustard. (Photo provided)

a series highlighting the natural habitat that make each one of our parks unique — and worth taking a hike in. The series began taking place May-September and will continue to be offered annually until each of our 17 parks have been visited — but the outreach doesn’t stop there. The ultimate goal of this series is to create an interpretive hike leadership program, aimed at the graduates of the Indiana Master Naturalist Class offered through CCPR. This gives them an opportunity to practice and apply all that they’ve learned in their class while satisfying their annual volunteer commitment — not to mention, advancing the knowledge of our great parks to the Carmel community to continuously work to preserve.

But anecdotal knowledge is just one piece of the puzzle — we as a park system want to gather data to consistently update our management strategies and sustain high-quality natural habitat for wildlife and the ecosystem services they provide to our city. Internal efforts will play a big role in developing and maintaining these strategies — but training and including the public in the data collection process will preserve these methods for the future. In order to successfully accomplish these long-term monitoring goals with the community, it is essential to have a solid data collection protocol. We are working with local and state organizations such as the Hoosier River Watch, Indiana Native Plant and Wildflower Society, and the Boone County Bluebird Society, to allow our community members to utilize their data not only with us but with outside organizations — thus contributing to the greater scientific knowledge on these subjects.



Carmel Clay Parks & Recreation has sought to bring native habitats back to its community. Pictured is Central Park's East Woods. (Photo provided)



CCPR has focused on free public programming, citizen science programs and park stewardship opportunities to educate the community while also reconnecting residents with the natural world. Pictured is a scene from its Central Park. (Photo provided)

Both our free public programs and citizen science opportunities fall under the umbrella of our park stewardship program. Our volunteer coordinator, Rachael Fleck, leads and designs all volunteer activities with a park stewardship component, from invasive garlic mustard removal to resurfacing multi-use trails in one of our highly utilized parks, the Central Park East Woods. We have seen great success in the past two years with her garlic mustard removal teams and plan to expand our public invasive species eradication efforts from mechanical removal to identification and mapping. Not only does this diversify our options for the public to help

with local invasive species, it will be a major help internally for our team to target priority areas for invasive species removal across all 360 acres of natural habitat.

The newest addition to our park stewardship programs is our “Adopt-a-Park” initiative, where local groups can adopt a park/greenway in our system with an initial time investment of one year. This opportunity is great for homeowners associations and businesses located along our 5.2-mile section of the Monon Greenway, a linear trail that spans a total of 26 miles in length from Indianapolis to Westfield, Ind. We’ve already found success in this program with a youth group that adopted and created pollinator gardens for our community, and anticipate this program to be one of our greatest connectors between the people of Carmel and CCPR.

I’ll leave you with the words of Margret Mead, “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world: indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.” Finding a willing group is just one step. Providing them with opportunities to engage with nature and to empower them through learning is our duty here at Carmel Clay Parks & Recreation. **M**

[Brittany McAdams is the natural resources coordinator for Carmel Clay Parks & Recreation, a Gold Medal and CAPRA accredited agency. Her role includes the coordination and development of park stewardship opportunities, including citizen science, long-term monitoring programs and guided park walks. Outcomes of her work will stem from monitoring, recording and mapping restoration efforts, including invasive species removal and treatment, natural area health and revegetation.](#)

Best parks of 2018

Each year the Trust for Public Land analyzes 100 of the largest U.S. cities to rank their park systems on its ParkScore website. The nonprofit uses mapping technology and demographic data to determine how well each city is meeting the need for parks and scores cities in four categories — acreage, investment, amenities and access. All of these categories go into a city's ParkScore, with a maximum score being 100.

For the sixth year in a row, Minneapolis, Minn., tops the list, followed by its neighbor St. Paul, Minn., in second place. This year Minneapolis scored a 84.2 ParkScore, maxing out the investment category at 40 points and nearly maxing out the access category with a very respectable 39.

The top 10 cities, with their overall ParkScores, are listed below.



Source: <http://parkscore.tpl.org/rankings.php#sm.00017abdijmoodbptkizc5wlkuitk>
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