



CALL FOR SESSION PROPOSALS

Proposals due by January 7, 2011

California Trails & Greenways Conference

April 11 through 13, 2011

(Monday through Wednesday)

San Ramon Marriott

In Contra Costa County

Dear Trail Advocates:

Planning for the 26th *California Trails & Greenways Conference* is well underway. We are now seeking session proposals on the full range of trail & greenway topics, and are requesting proposals on timely and relevant subjects about which you have proven expertise. Your contribution of knowledge and information will ensure that dedicated trail advocates like you continue to receive the high quality, up-to-date trail management guidance they have come to expect from the Trails & Greenways Conference. It is also an opportunity to contribute your own leadership, dedication and expertise to California's trails community.

Conference sessions are from 1 hour to 1 ¼ hours in length. Both expert and novice trail leaders attend the Trails Conference to learn basic skills as well as practical, cutting-edge techniques. Listed below are some trail & greenway topic ideas to assist your creative thinking. Also listed are general guidelines for planning a conference session. Many of the suggested trail topics and guidelines are the result of survey comments by last April's conference attendees. Sessions presented during past conferences can be reviewed at www.parks.ca.gov/trails/conference.

In order to keep the conference as affordable as possible, we are fortunate that historically presenters have provided their services without compensation. However, on the day of their presentation we do offer presenters complimentary access to all concurrent sessions and provide a complimentary breakfast or lunch.

To submit a session proposal simply complete the Session Proposal Form (pages 5 & 6), now formatted as a "fill and print" pdf document, and return via mail, email or fax as directed at the bottom of the form by January 7, 2011. The 2011 Conference will take place at the San Ramon Marriott, located at the base of Mt. Diablo in Contra Costa County, April 11 to April 13 (Monday through Wednesday). If you have any questions regarding your proposal, please contact me at 916-653-3545 or wbreece@parks.ca.gov.

I sincerely hope you will contribute to the success of the 26th California Trails & Greenways Conference by sharing your knowledge and expertise with California's trail advocates and professionals.

Sincerely,

Wayne Breece
Conference Co-Chair



26th California Trails & Greenways Conference

General Topics Requested By 2010 Conference Attendees

- **Trails in the 21st Century**
 - Successful trail programs that engage diverse audiences (i.e. race, age, ability, socio-economic, language, use)
 - Engaging youth
 - Green Trails
 - Trail designs to accommodate mobility-impaired
 - Trails, transit & regional transportation plans
 - Social networking, GPS/GIS mapping, today's technology & GeoCaching
 - Negotiating easements and acquisitions
 - Trail groups' role in minimizing and mitigating conflict
 - Trails and healthy communities = healthier citizens
- **Interpretation**
 - Keeping trails relevant & interesting -- enhancing the connection with nature, culture & history
 - "Telling the story" – informing users about unique habitats, histories & cultures
 - Integrating trail use and ecology education – appreciating the value and nuance of the natural environment
- **Finance**
 - Connecting with private philanthropy
 - Funding programs beyond the Recreational Trails Program
 - SAFETEA-LU reauthorization and its implications on trails
 - Cost management and cost avoidance
 - Grant writing skills
 - Trails as tools for community economic development
- **Community**
 - Safe Routes to School and other efforts to make urban areas safer
 - Health and the outdoors
 - Building public support
 - Partnerships for constructing and maintaining trails
 - Trail events
 - Issues and solutions to trails through residential areas
 - Volunteers – recruiting, managing, training and keeping them engaged
- **Sustainability and Resource Management**
 - Fire management and recovery
 - Enhancing trails' compatibility with nature
 - Linking long distance and other trails
 - Species protection & recreation
 - Managing and mitigating overuse
- **Trail & Greenway Planning, Construction & Maintenance**
 - Planning, lay-out and design
 - Construction and maintenance (basics and advanced)
 - Retaining walls and erosion control,
 - Small and large pedestrian bridges
 - Trail surface options
 - Case studies of reclamation, realignment, mitigation, design, etc. with existing or new trail development
 - Developing trail management plans
 - Wilderness trail techniques
 - What's new in trail building tools and equipment
 - Understanding CEQA, permits and other regulatory requirements
 - Water trails
 - Successful strategies for building trails in controversial areas



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Conference Session Guidelines

Following is general information about conference sessions. Additional questions regarding the sessions can be directed to Wayne Breece at 916.653.3545 or wbreece@parks.ca.gov. Questions regarding audio/visual and other technical needs can be directed to Barry Trute at 916.653.3495 or btrute@parks.ca.gov.

➤ **Audio/visual & other technical arrangements**

The following equipment is provided in each session room: PowerPoint projector, screen, remote control/pointer and laptop with a **Windows XP** operating system. Additional equipment **may** be provided **ONLY** by prior arrangement.

Barry Trute will contact each presenter to discuss audio/visual needs. It is essential to the success of any presentation utilizing audio/visual equipment that presenter needs and expectations are fully discussed with Barry at least **one month** prior to the conference.

Prior to arriving at the conference, **YOU ARE STRONGLY URGED** to schedule time at the conference to download and test your files. Colors and text sometimes look quite different projected on a large screen compared to a small computer screen. Audio/visual staff will be available Monday, April 11th, and two hours before the first concurrent session Tuesday and Wednesday (April 12 – 13) to download and test presentation files. Failure to do so will only add to the stress of your presentation.

- **Audience size:** Presenters should be prepared for a maximum of 60 for concurrent sessions and 250 for plenary sessions. If you are preparing handouts, please bring enough for your session. Any remaining copies will be made available to other conference attendees. For a greener conference, please consider recycled paper, double-sided copying and web citations instead of extensive text.

- **Handouts & electronic presentations:** We ask that your electronic presentation and handouts be made available to us prior or immediately following the conference so they may be posted on our website. Please include your contact information in the document.



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Tips for Successful Sessions

- Set clear learning outcomes for your presentation.
- Consider interactive discussions or activities to engage the group in problem solving.
- Define terminology and acronyms.
- PowerPoint tips:
 - Prior to the conference, schedule an appointment with Barry Trute either the day before or at least 3 hours before your presentation to download and test your electronic files. See details above.
 - Limit *the number of* slides and projected text, and do NOT read your PowerPoint presentation. A successful PowerPoint presentation augments your session, it does not dictate it.
 - Prior to the conference, test your PowerPoint presentation with a projector to ensure image clarity when slides are enlarged and projected in a fully lighted or dimly lighted room.
- Limit the size of panels to enable reasonable time for each panelist to present their segment of the session. *We suggest not more than three panel members for any of the 1 to 1¼ hour sessions.*
- Clarify panelists' roles and make sure they are fully informed about the time they have, the order of their presentation (for a structured rotation of panel presentations), and the particular expertise they bring to the discussion BEFORE the session begins.
- Stay on topic, provide relevant information about trails; and do NOT focus the presentation on yourself or your organization. *Emphasize teachable skills that will directly benefit your audience.*
- Allow *10 to 15 minutes* at the end of the session for questions and answers.



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SESSION PROPOSAL FORM
"Fill & Print" pdf Document

Proposals must be received by
January 7, 2011

[If needed, additional information can be provided on the page at the end of this document]

I. Session Title

[Limit title to 8 words.]

II. Session Description

[Limit session description to 100 words. A more detailed outline will be requested for selected sessions.]

III. Educational Objectives

[What will attendees learn from your presentation? List 2-3 specific points that will help them in their trails work.]

IV. Audience Level

[Will your session be geared toward a novice, intermediate or advanced trails audience?]

V. Session Structure

[Panel discussion, demonstration, audience interaction, etc. Describe.]

VI. Session Chair Information & Brief Bio

[Name, title, affiliation, address, phone, email, short 3-4 sentence biography that establishes credibility.]

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SESSION PROPOSAL FORM

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VII. Session Presenters' Information & Brief Bio

[Name, title, affiliation, address, phone, email, short 3-4 sentence biography that establishes credibility.]

Proposed Length of Session *[The longer sessions have fewer available times.]*

1 Hour 1 ¼ Hours

Please submit proposals by January 7, 2011 to:

Wayne Breece, Conference Co-Chair
California State Parks
Statewide Trails Section
P.O. Box 942896
Sacramento, CA 94296-0001
Phone: 916.653.3545
Fax: 916.653.4458

Or email to:

wbreece@parks.ca.gov

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SESSION PROPOSAL FORM

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~This page may be used for additional information~

{Please identify the number for each question(s)
for which you are providing additional information}