



CONCURRENT SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

In Presentation Order

3.6.12

THURSDAY, APRIL 19

8:30 - 9:45 AM

River Trail Planning & Design Process

The Santa Ana River Trail will stretch 100 miles from the San Bernardino Mountains to the Pacific Ocean. This session will cover: coordination of long-term planning among multiple stakeholders; incorporating local planning and access opportunities; and community, stakeholder and multi-use outreach. It will give practical advice on: how to structure committees of technical experts, resource professionals, agencies and political leaders; how to conduct outreach with multiple trail users, stakeholders and residents; and how agencies and nonprofits can partner to maximize participation in the planning process.

Greg Gauthier, State Coastal Conservancy, Project Development Analyst/Project Manager

Patricia Lock-Dawson, PLD Consulting, Land Use and Governmental Affairs

Susan Jackson-Harden, Director of Planning & Design, RBF Consulting

Dana Rochat, Acquisitions and Projects Manager, The Wildlands Conservancy

Trail User Group Harmony -- A Success Story

All but two of the Conejo Open Space Conservation Agency (COSCA)'s 140 miles of trails are shared by hikers, mountain bikers and equestrians with almost no conflict between user groups. This session will show how COSCA's Trail Advisory Committee, an 11-member committee with representatives from all user groups, facilitates this harmony. The Trails Advisory Committee meets monthly to address user conflicts, provides feedback on trail conditions, and reviews proposed policies and construction plans. It also coordinates eight robust volunteer programs. Attendees will learn how to structure a committee designed to build a shared sense of "trail user community" based around trail volunteer events and programs, and will receive written materials.

Kristin Foord, Manager, Conejo Open Space Conservation Agency

Ginny Bowers, long time member of Conejo Open Space Trails Advisory Committee

Elayne Haggan, founding member of Conejo Open Space Trails Advisory Committee

Mark Langton, founding member and Chair of Conejo Open Space Trails Advisory Committee

Bridging the Gap Between Local Schools & Parks

The Regional Occupational Program (ROP) is a collaborative endeavor of local schools and member districts to deliver quality career training to students. This session will explore how to transition local high school students into trails stewards while earning school credits. The Mountains Recreation & Conservation Authority provides over 100 students a year with opportunities to experience the ROP trail curriculum. Session participants will walk away with the step-by-step process for implementing an ROP program involving both parks and the local school districts.

David Updike, Fire Management Officer, Mountains Recreation & Conservation Authority

Designing Appealing & Sustainable Single Track Trails

Well designed single-track trails are sustainable by nature and require minimal upkeep, an important consideration in today's "new normal" of diminished funds and staff. While user experience is a crucial criterion in evaluating new trail routes, design guidelines that support sustainable trails also make trails

more engaging and easier to maintain. This session will explore how sustainability and the trail experience coincide, the basics of good single-track trail design, and how to layout trails in hilly areas.

John Eric Holloway, ASLA, LEED Green Associate, LCI, KTU+A Planning + Landscape Architecture
Mark Carpenter, ASLA, GISP, KTU+A Planning + Landscape Architecture

THURSDAY, APRIL 19
10:00 - 11:00 AM

Process & Benefits of Developing a Trails Manual

A comprehensive trails manual can provide far-reaching benefits to all levels of trails and transportation personnel; and greatly aid the public's enjoyment of trails and understanding of design criteria. Learn how Los Angeles County Parks & Recreation developed their recently released Trails Manual; how they secured participation from diverse community and regulatory stakeholders; and how they are now able to provide crucial guidance to County departments, developers and trail users engaged in trail planning, design and maintenance.

Stephen R. Copley, Facilities Planner II, Los Angeles County Parks & Recreation
Marie Campbell, Founder & Principal, Sapphos Environmental, Inc.
Frank Moreno, Facilities Planner II, Los Angeles County Parks & Recreation

Change Happens -- Make It Work for You

Explore the dynamics of change through group interactions designed to reveal common reactions to change, means of appreciating the value of conflict, and how to make change work for you. Learn how to lead others through the chaos that often comes with change, and how basic communication skills can be crucial to resolving conflict while moving forward.

Debbie Jackson, Strategic Planning Consultant, Brokaw Jackson Consulting
Elena Brokaw, Consultant, Brokaw Jackson Consulting

How to Make Partners Out of Public Agencies

When your home town is faced with municipal bankruptcy and the federal agency managing most of your trails is facing "...drastic budget cuts for the foreseeable future...", how do you get both agencies to the table and successfully establish a multi-jurisdictional trail system? Drawing from the experience of the Mammoth Lakes trail system with over 300 miles of existing trail facilities, this session will bring to life the theme of this year's conference, "Navigating Radical Change -- The New Normal," providing lessons learned and real life insights to help attendees find success in uniquely challenging times.

John Wentworth, CEO & Board Chair, Mammoth Lakes Trails & Public Access Foundation

Web-based Mapping & Public Engagement

The Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail's new web-based mapping applications will be featured, highlighting technology to engage partners in documenting, planning and managing trails. One map allows the public to explore the Anza Trail route, while the collaborative map engages partners, volunteers and service learning groups in planning and documenting trail activities. These applications provide valuable information to trail administrators while increasing public visibility and advocacy. The session will highlight the benefits of user adoption of the technology, and expanding service learning beyond traditional field work and physical labor.

Steven Ross, Outdoor Recreation Planner, Juan Bautista de Anza NHT, National Park Service
Patrick Johnston, Outdoor Recreation Planner, National Park Service
Larry Orman, Executive Director, Green Info Network
Emily Sheffield, Ph.D., Professor of Recreation & Parks Management, Chico State University

THURSDAY, APRIL 19
1:15 - 2:15 PM

Urban Trails in Underserved Communities

Urban trails can provide back-to-the-future precedents for walkable and bikeable community connections. These old trails, often forgotten and constructed in connection with rail transit, afford mobility for people from all walks of life and contribute to a unique sense of neighborhood. This session will illuminate the key elements of urban trails and demonstrate, through a case study, how in today's urban environment, it is possible to overcome multiple challenges, engage the community, secure the funding and deliver contemporary trail connections for health, safety and community building. The Case Study will track the Lake-Alameda neighborhood, one of Burbank's Focus Neighborhoods, highlighting a unique approach to serving communities of need and empowering local residents in the process.

Emily Gabel-Luddy, Lecturer, Graduate School of Architecture, University of Southern California
Ruth Davidson-Guerra, Assistant Community Development Director, City of Burbank

How to Obtain Federal Funding from Local Transportation Agencies & Council of Governments

Learn how various types of federal transportation grant funds are allocated to your local Transportation Agency ("TA") or Council of Governments ("COG") and strategies for accessing these funds for your local trail and land conservation projects. Ron DeCarli, the Executive Director of the San Luis Obispo COG, will explain how TAs/COGS function, how the allocation process works, and how he has managed to have significant funding directed to trail projects in his region. Tim Duff, a project manager with the Coastal Conservancy, will share his perspective on seeking funds from TAs/COGs, and how he has successfully navigated the technical and political obstacles necessary to secure trail and land acquisition funding.

Tim Duff, Project Manager, California State Coastal Commission
Ron DeCarli, Executive Director, San Luis Obispo Council of Governments

Trail Project Collaboration -- A Path to Success

This session will show how six public agencies and trail organizations collaborated to repair a significant trail problem in Annadel State Park, in Sonoma County. California State Parks, the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council, BackCountry Horsemen, REI, the Sonoma County Sheriff's helicopter crew and the Sonoma County Trails Council coordinated construction of a 36' puncheon to allow trail users to traverse a wetland. The combined skills enabled a permanent solution to a trail problem that was beyond the capability of the landowner, State Parks. Attendees will learn the logistics of coordinating multiple groups, the need to think "outside the box", and the requirement that they be able to "adjust and evolve."

Ken Wells, Executive Director, Sonoma County Trails Council
Thor Bodtker, President, North Bay Unit, Backcountry Horsemen of California

Design a Trail Worth Traveling To

It takes years to get a trail designed, approved, funded and constructed. But too often the finished product lacks or overlooks the elements necessary to take full advantage of the trail experience. Learn how to custom design and build a trail people will travel to and tell their friends about. This session will explore the macro and micro elements of trail design, such as: choosing the proper grade to a vista, how much undulation or meander will provide the best visual appeal.

Randy Martin, President, Trailscape, Inc.

THURSDAY, APRIL 19
2:30 - 3:30 PM

I've Seen Fire & I've Seen Rain

The September 2009 Station Fire was the largest wildfire in Los Angeles County history, burning more than 160,000 acres. Approximately 98% of the Deukmejian Wilderness Park in Glendale was destroyed. Resulting rains caused erosion, mud and debris flows, and destruction of the park's vegetation and trail

system. This session will describe how hundreds of enthusiastic volunteers donated thousands of hours towards the park's restoration. Attendees will learn about land restoration practices; reasons to retain and protect native habitat; the effects of fire on natural systems; and coordinating, building and promoting volunteer efforts.

Jeff Weinstein, Trails & Open Space Specialist, City of Glendale Community Services & Parks Department
Melanie Keeley, Restoration Horticulturist, National Park Service, Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks
Marc Stirdivant, Senior Administrative Analyst, City of Glendale's Community Services & Park Department

Developing Volunteer Programs To Steward Open Spaces

Discover the different volunteer programs three southern California non-profit groups are implementing to help steward open spaces. Volunteers are critical in propelling habitat restoration objectives, maintaining public trails, and monitoring access and ecosystem health. Panel presenters will share how their volunteer programs are designed, how volunteers are recruited, trained and motivated, as well as some of the lessons learned along the way. The panel will provide information and creative ideas on how to design a volunteer program to fit an organization's specific needs. Take-home educational points would include tips on the success of web-based reservation systems, training program design, and techniques for motivating volunteers.

Adrienne Bosler, Stewardship Associate of the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy
Dave Raetz, Deputy Director, Irvine Ranch Conservancy
Marcos Trinidad, Volunteer Coordinator and Project Manager, TreePeople

"Hybrid Vigor" -- Using Formalized Partnerships to Create & Manage Parks & Trails (Part 1 of 2)

Learn how to establish and utilize formal partnerships for nimbly and cost effectively achieving better parks and trails. This session will explain Joint Powers Agencies (JPA's) and other formalized partnerships that enable two or more government agencies to create a new entity that can pool resources and cost effectively accomplish mutual goals. Examples of highly successful Memoranda of Understandings and Cooperative Management Agreements will also be highlighted.

Rorie Skei, Chief Deputy Director, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy
Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Hon. ASLA, Executive Director, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy
Jim Friedl, General Manager, Conejo Recreation & Park District
Andrea Gullo, Executive Director, Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority

Adapting to Nature -- Moving Beyond Conventional Trail Design

This session will discuss how site specific plant and animal life, archeology, historical uses and ecological conditions shaped three innovative trail design and construction projects in the coastal bluffs of Northern California. It will describe visionary trail construction techniques, designed for sustainability and low environmental impact. The case studies will include: the Dias Ridge Trail, the Batteries to Bluffs Trail and the Presidio Coastal Trail. Attendees will learn why site and region specific archeological elements, soil conditions and wildlife are critical in design and construction, and how to apply these ideas to create sustainable trails. They will also learn how to adapt projects to the variable coastal bluff environment.

Barth Campbell, owner of Campbell Grading, Inc.
Liz Westbrook, Assistant Project Manager, Campbell Grading, Inc.

THURSDAY, APRIL 19

3:45 - 4:45 PM

Planning An Urban Multi-Use Regional Trail

This session will highlight the experience of envisioning, studying and planning the first 13-mile regional trail in urban Los Angeles County, called "Park to Playa". The planned multi-jurisdictional trail passes through eight park systems and comprises thirteen public agencies working together. With tremendous community and political support, construction is scheduled to begin in 2013. Agency staff members will

teach attendees about: public outreach and participation tools and techniques; working with partner agencies; strategies for trail access and easements; leveraging resources; mapping tools and techniques; establishing consensus for route and design; and strategies for organizing design and implementation.

Randy Anderson, Principal, Alta Planning + Design

Ana Petrljic, Project Manager, Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority

Karly Katona, Office of Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, County of Los Angeles

David McNeil, Baldwin Hills Conservancy

Finding & Utilizing Non-traditional Volunteers in Your Community

This will be an interactive panel discussion focused on those OTHER volunteers that are (with a little nudging) available to come out and lend a hand. It will show how, in the Orange County area, Trails4All has been successful at engaging local corporations, numerous faith-based groups (both adults and youths), after-school programs, and the often-overlooked Girl Scouts. Panelists representing these sectors will explain what they look for in a project that makes it worth their time and effort to choose a "trail" or "habitat" project, versus more traditional ones. Attendees will learn: where to look for these volunteers; how to frame the "ask"; what's in it for each of these groups; and important details that help ensure the group has a good experience, and will return.

Jim Meyer, Founder & Executive Director of Trails4All

"Hybrid Vigor" -- Using Formalized Partnerships to Create & Manage Parks & Trails (Part 2 of 2)

Learn how to establish and utilize formal partnerships for nimbly and cost effectively achieving better parks and trails. This session will explain Joint Powers Agencies (JPA's) and other formalized partnerships that enable two or more government agencies to create a new entity that can pool resources and cost effectively accomplish mutual goals. Examples of highly successful Memoranda of Understandings and Cooperative Management Agreements will also be highlighted.

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Navigating Radical Brush -- The Gas Brush Cutter

Limited resources require increased efficiency in trail management. The gas powered brush cutter allows a 2-3 person crew to accomplish tasks it would otherwise take a 15 person crew much longer to accomplish. Safer than chainsaws, and in some ways safer than hand tools, this session will explore the gas brush cutter, techniques, training, limitations, advantages and disadvantages of using this tool.

Ken Murray, MD, Trail Crew Leader & Instructor, High Sierra Volunteer Trail Crew

Beth Pfeiler, Trail Crew Leader & Packer, Backcountry Horsemen

FRIDAY, APRIL 20

8:30 - 9:30 AM

Waterworks Access -- Navigating from Closed to Open Waterworks Projects

Park agencies and other entities are transforming previously closed waterworks projects into public recreation opportunities. Though efforts have proven difficult due to assorted regulatory constraints and stakeholder expectations, as the successes of the Los Angeles River Project and Big Tujunga Canyon show, the achievement is very worthwhile. In this session, we will explore: the legal and liability issues regarding public "water trail" access and active recreation, the regulatory authorities with jurisdiction over various recreational activities, and the practical issues encountered when pursuing efforts to improve access to waterworks projects.

Walt Young, Chief Operations Officer/Park Ranger, Mountains Recreation & Conservation Authority

Developing Capacity & Building a Multi-jurisdiction Trail Based Organization

Coastwalk California and the National Park Service -- Rivers Trails & Conservation Assistance Program are establishing a collaborative of California Coastal Trail stakeholders, owners and operators. This session will focus on the relevance of this endeavor to other organizations, their efforts to build capacity and sustainable collaborative relationships; and will engage in small group activities that demonstrate how to solicit stakeholder buy-in and participation. A brief synopsis will be presented on other long distance trail-based organizations nationwide, the steps required to develop a collaborative organization, and exercises that can be used to solicit ideas and buy-in from potential partners.

Una Glass, Executive Director, Coastwalk California

Linda Stonie, Rivers, Trails & Conservation Assistance Program, National Heritage Area Program, National Park Service

Think Nationally, Act Locally to Build Public Awareness

Learn to build public awareness and enhance visibility through partnerships with national campaigns and events with allied missions. Participants will explore the benefactors of highlighted projects and how to secure their support and collaboration. This session will also show how to collect experiences and report best practices from organizations across the state directly to these campaigns.

Lyndie Bradshaw, Outreach Specialist, REI

Assessing Paved Trails for Compliance with Standards & Best Practices

This session will discuss key standards for the design of paved trails, including: National MUTCD (Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices), California MUTCD, HDM (Highway Design Manual); AASHTO (American Association of State Highway & Transportation Officials) and Accessibility Guidelines for Outdoor Developed Areas. The session will also review standards, guidelines and "best practices" used to address signing, striping, marking, rules and information, operations, maintenance and management practices. The session will show methods to inventory trails and intersections, and methods for creating construction documents and specifications for use by contractors or staff. Attendees will learn current references for standards and guidelines, what is left for interpretation, a process for assessing existing trail systems for compliance, and a method for specifying improvements.

Kristin Maravilla, Planner/Designer, Alta Planning + Design

Brian Burchfield, Designer, Alta Planning + Design

FRIDAY, APRIL 20

9:45 - 10:45 AM

Urban River Parkways: An Underutilized Tool for Improving Human Health

This fast-paced and thought-provoking session will review the health contributions of green spaces, specifically along urban river parkways. Physical, mental and community health, as well as environmental health and the overall economic well-being of the population will be reviewed. Participants will learn about design features associated with urban river parkways that lead to specific individual and public health benefits, and the health costs saved by utilizing trails near waterways.

Andrew Tsiu, Master of Public Health, UCLA School of Public Health

Stephanie Hopp, 4th year student, Union College

Bianca Shulaker, Researcher, Graduate Student, USC Price School of Public Policy

Benefits of Organizing Trek Events

The Santa Monica Mountains Backbone Trek is a public event that provides special hiking and camping opportunities for experiencing the Backbone Trail with robust logistical support from knowledgeable guides, meals and respect for natural resources. A partnership endeavor between the Santa Monica Mountains Trail Council, National Park Service and California State Parks, this event is an example of an

outreach program that effectively promotes the values of land conservation and support for trails. Learn what it takes to create events like this, and how it benefits communities and nonprofit organizations.

Ruth Gerson, President, Santa Monica Mountains Trail Council

Howard Cohen, Board Member, Santa Monica Mountains Trail Council

Back to School at the Pacific Crest Trail Association's Trail Skills College

The Pacific Crest Trail Association (PCTA) runs a Trail Skills College, which trains trail volunteers of all skill levels. The program teaches trail maintenance and reconstruction through a curriculum with over 20 "courses", targeting every aspect of trail work. Attendees will learn about a professionally designed program that can be adapted for use by any organization, and about how to create uniformity in trail work. They will also learn the value of sharing skills across organizations, and where to get internet access for all facets of the integrated documentation system for trail training.

Jennifer Tripp, Trail Operations Manager, Pacific Crest Trail Association

Ken Murray, High Sierra Volunteer Trail Crew, Pacific Crest Trail Association

Developing an Adopt-A-Trail Program

The session will cover how the Riverside County Parks & Open-Space District's Adopt-A-Trail program was developed, including preparation of: a handbook and field manual covering maintenance, first aid and safety; an application to develop an Adopt-a Trail program; work plans; volunteer reporting forms; liability waivers; a power point presentation; and record keeping techniques. Funding, approaching clubs for sponsorships and volunteers, and recognition awards will also be covered. In addition to the above, the session will cover timing of different aspects of the program and planning requirements. Attendees will be given ideas on what entities to contact, and suggested time commitments to run a program.

Susan Gilchrist, Riverside County Parks & Open-Space volunteer

Nani Ohlendorf, Riverside County Parks & Open-Space District Park Maintenance Worker and Adopt-A-Trails Field Coordinator