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Subject Colo. city to engage youths in skateboard park upgrades

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TOP STORY

Study: People living near green spaces may live longer

Research published in Science Advances found long-term exposure to green spaces may slow down biological age-related changes by about 2.5 years. The study, which examined molecular changes in the blood of over 900 people living in four US cities over 20 years, "shows that being near green space caused some biological or molecular changes that can be detected in our blood," principal investigator Lifang Hou said.

Full Story: [The Washington Post](#) (6/28)

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AROUND THE COUNTRY

Roanoke, Va., climbing tower to move around the city

A portable climbing tower has been purchased by the Roanoke, Va., Parks Foundation and will be used around the city in summer youth events after city parks personnel complete training in its

use. The city previously rented towers, and Recreation Manager Patrick Boas said that money will now be used for other projects.

Full Story: [WFXR-TV/WWCW-TV \(Roanoke, Va.\)](#) (6/28)

L.A. to add pocket park to underserved area

Los Angeles has secured \$1.3 million in state funding for a pocket park in the unincorporated area of Westmont, which has few parks. The new park will feature a playground, a therapeutic garden, activity space, public art and landscaping and will be located within a 10-minute walk of 5,700 residents.

Full Story: [Planetizen](#) (6/28)

Colo. city to engage youths in skateboard park upgrades

Pueblo, Colo.'s Parks and Recreation Department, with \$45,000 allocated to improve a trio of skateboard parks, will enlist youths for their input on the projects. Participants will be taught how to skate, if they haven't before, as well as skills including concrete design and geometry, and the projects are scheduled to start in the fall.

Full Story: [KRDO-TV \(Colorado Springs, Colo.\)](#) (6/28)

Juneau, Alaska, to get off-road vehicle park

Work will start in the coming weeks in Juneau, Alaska, on the city's first off-road vehicle riding park, to be managed by the Juneau Off-Road Vehicle Association. The first phase on 175 acres at an old logging camp will feature five miles of trails for dirt bikes, ATVs and Jeeps, as well as a mud pit.

Full Story: [Juneau County Star-Times \(Mauston, Wis.\)](#) (6/27)

Emerging capabilities for first responders

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HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Westport, Conn., bans smoking at parks, beaches

The Parks and Recreation Commission of Westport, Conn., has voted unanimously to ban smoking and vaping of tobacco and cannabis on beaches, playgrounds, ballfields and other town-owned properties with amenities. The vote came in response to complaints from the public about

secondhand smoke and a person smoking cannabis near a playground with children present.

Full Story: [Westport Journal \(Westport, Conn.\)](#) (6/22)

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CONSERVATION

Minn. considers mushroom, berry harvest limits in parks

(Pixabay)

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is considering putting a bag limit on mushroom harvesting in state parks and is considering a similar limit on berry picking. Mushroom hunters expressed concern that the state might consider an outright ban, but the department's Parks and Trails Director Ann Pierce said any regulations would affect only state parks, not other state lands and would be subject to a period of public comment.

Full Story: [Star Tribune \(Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minn.\)](#) (tiered subscription model) (6/28)

PUBLIC POLICY AND GRANTS

Bond sale to fund flood resilience in NYC community

Manhattan's Battery Park City Authority plans to sell \$744 million of tax-exempt and taxable bonds, with about half of the proceeds going toward projects to safeguard the community against storm surge from the Hudson River. Storm surge could pose a threat to half of the property in lower Manhattan, with about \$14 billion worth of property at risk, says a 2019 report from the New York City Economic Development Commission and the mayor's office.

Full Story: [BNN Bloomberg \(Canada\)](#) (6/28)

LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

Feeling disconnected? You need some relational hydration

(SurfUpVector/Getty Images)

Just as our bodies suffer when we haven't had enough water, our relationships are the same and need proper attention and "hydration" to thrive, writes Katharine P. Stallard, who recommends inviting others to lunch, looking for ways to help co-workers and being a good listener. "Increasing your intake of connection is less about quantity and more about the quality and the positive effect of the connection you have with others," Stallard writes.

Full Story: [Michael Lee Stallard blog](#) (6/20)

Using your influence: Justifying your trip to conference

Each year, NRPA provides its greatest learning and networking opportunity in the form of the NRPA Annual Conference -- the nation's largest convening of park and recreation professionals. However, we know that budgets can be tight, and it can be helpful to have information to justify the value of attending the NRPA Annual Conference. Check out [the key talking points](#) to use when presenting your justification for attending to leadership.

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One thrives on enthusiasm, curiosity, humility, in that if one stays humble, you don't have the baggage of expectation and entitlement.

[Julian Sands,](#)

actor
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