

AUGUST 7 2024

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Environmental Justice

COPAL NEWS

CPD Blitz in MN, Cumulative Impacts Working Session, upcoming events and more!

Hello,

Welcome to COPAL's Environmental Justice Newsletter where you can expect to find information about outdoor events, access to green spaces, forced migration, green jobs, pollution reduction, and an equitable transition to clean energy. We are excited for you to join us again!

If you have any news or events that you would like to add to next month's newsletter, reach out to info@copalmn.org.

CPD Blitz in MN & CMEJ's Environmental Justice Tour

Last month, the Center for Popular Democracy (CPD), along with COPAL, New Justice Project, and Take Action MN, hosted a climate organizing and leadership training Blitz in Minnesota. The training and field work included a combination of workshops, canvassing exercises, door knocking, and more! We were joined by several organizations and leaders from other states like California, New York, Virginia, Nevada, ect.

COPAL led one of the first days of the blitz with context setting of environmental issues and solutions in our state. Community Members for Environmental Justice (CMEJ) conducted an Environmental Justice Tour, where participants were able to learn about polluters in North Minneapolis, allowing them to draw connections to polluting projects in their own home states and communities. The tour emphasized that fossil fuel and toxic industries tend to concentrate in low-income and communities of color, resulting in health crises within our communities. We learned that this concentration isn't incidental, but rather, a deliberate outcome of policies that continue to cause harm to communities across the US and globally.

[If you are interested in experiencing a CMEJ Environmental Justice Tour, inquire about requesting a tour HERE.](#)





Group photos from the blitz training and the CMEJ Environmental Justice Tour

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency: Cumulative Impacts Working Session

In the 2023 legislative session, environmental justice areas were defined in Minnesota. These areas are neighborhoods in and around the Twin Cities, Duluth, and Rochester. A lot of these neighborhoods are where communities of color live.

The law states that when a new building is getting permission to be built in these neighborhoods, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) will be required to do an analysis of how much pollution the building will add to existing pollution in the area, or in other words, a cumulative impact analysis. Currently, the MPCA is creating the rules that will determine the strength of this law.

In July, the MPCA hosted their first working session in Saint Paul where they discussed what indicators and/or data could be used in a cumulative impact analysis, using input on community exposures and stressors.

On August 14th at 5:30 p.m., at the Lincoln Park Middle School cafeteria, the MPCA will host their second working session. This second session will focus on community benefits agreements. [Find the details of the meeting here!](#)

State Parks Becoming More Accessible: All-Terrain Track Chairs

There are currently all-terrain track chairs available at 13 Minnesota state parks, including Fort Snelling State Park. Track chairs are all-terrain, electric powered chairs that can be used on designated trails within the park. These chairs can help visitors explore areas of the state parks in new ways, often on trails that are not suitable for regular wheelchairs.

Track chairs are available year-round in some locations, and seasonally in others. Please call ahead to ensure a track chair will be available during your visit. [Find participating state parks and more information here.](#)

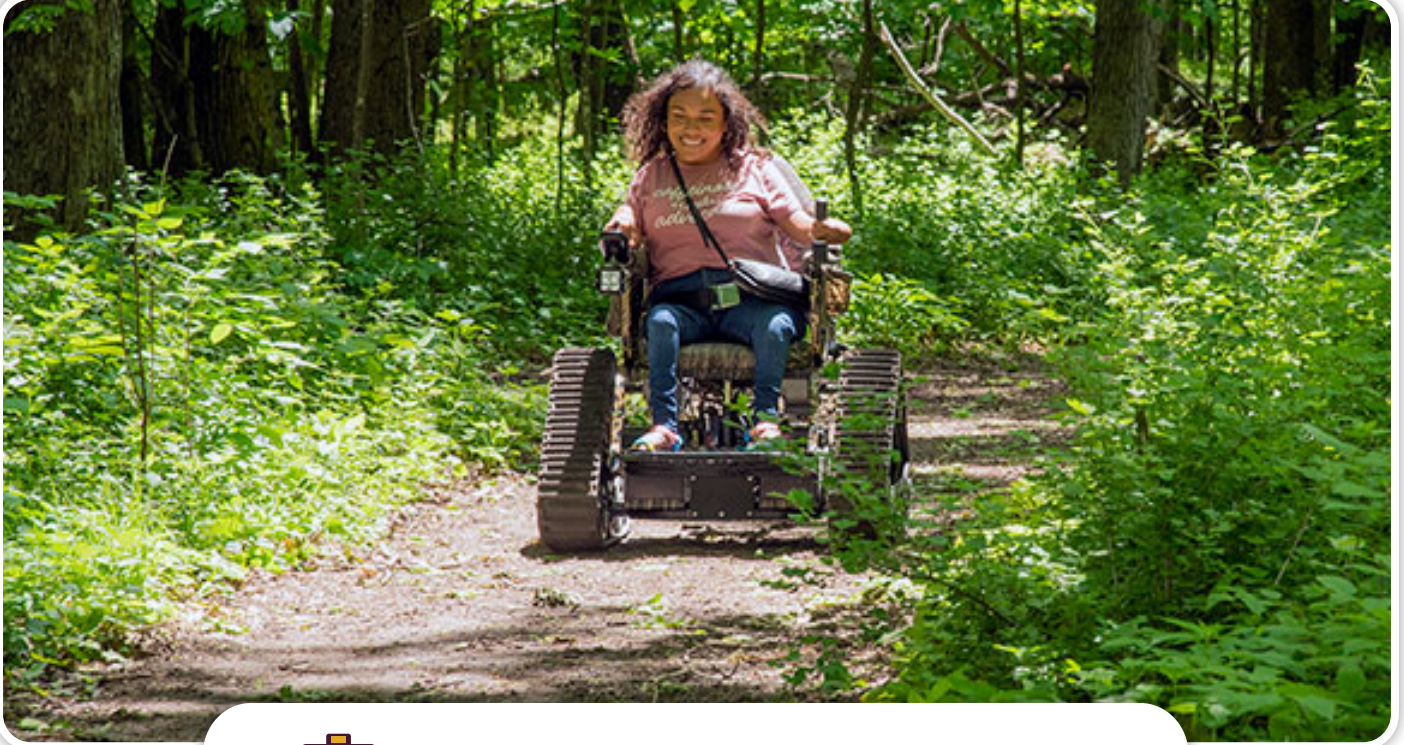


Image of a state park visitor using an all-terrain track chair.

Spill Paint Not Oil Community Fund Help Fund Art Making for Political Action

Spill Paint Not Oil is a community-driven art action collective that creates art to organize, build power, and support movements in and beyond the Twin Cities. They create space to build relationships and deepen organizing within and across movements, campaigns, and communities. While they primarily focus on abolition, anti-extraction, and justice movements in the Midwest, Spill Paint regularly acts in solidarity with other activist groups locally and around the country.

Spill Paint Not Oil grew out of the Stop Line 3 movement and has grown into a large collective of artists and organizers supporting a broad range of movements. They are currently raising funds to pay for their studio space and art supplies.

[Please, consider donating to Spill Paint Not Oil!](#)

Upcoming Outdoor Events

One aspect of COPAL's Environmental Justice work is connecting community members with outdoor activities. BIPOC Minnesotans are less likely to utilize and connect with Minnesota's outdoor spaces. COPAL recognizes the importance of connecting to nature to invest in efforts to preserve it. Therefore, we are always looking to host and promote outdoor events. If you have an outdoor event that you would like advertised in future newsletters, please email info@copalmn.org.

Upcoming COPAL outdoor events:



MN BLUFF TOUR AND SWIM!
¡EXCURSIÓN Y NATACIÓN EN
LOS ACANTILADOS DE MN!

AUG 10
SATURDAY SÁBADO
12PM-6PM
Whitewater State Park
19041 Highway 74, Altura, MN 55910

RSVP
REGÍSTRESE

Join COPAL for a scenic drive through Southern Minnesota's bluffs with a Whitewater State Park naturalist. Enjoy a free park tour and learn about the land's unique history. Afterward, we'll have a community picnic by the river with a chance to swim.

Únase a COPAL para un recorrido panorámico por los acantilados del sur de Minnesota con un naturalista del Parque Estatal Whitewater. Disfrute de una visita gratuita al parque y aprenda sobre la historia única de la tierra. Después, tendremos un picnic comunitario cerca del río con la oportunidad de nadar.

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MN Bluff Tour and Swim

August 10 | 12pm – 6pm
Whitewater State Park;
19041 MN-74, Altura
Cost: free



**FARM TOUR & DINNER:
DEEPENING ROOTS AND
BUILDING COMMUNITY**
VISITA A LA GRANJA Y CENA:
PROFUNDIZACIÓN DE RAÍCES
Y CONSTRUCCIÓN DE COMUNIDAD

SATURDAY SEP 14 3PM-8PM
SABADO
53504 173RD ST, AUSTIN, MN 55912

RSVP
REGÍSTRESE AQUÍ

Participate in a tour of the Jovaag family farm, dance to live music, and share a farm-to-table community meal.

Participe en un recorrido por la granja de la familia Jovaag, baile con música en vivo y comparta una comida comunitaria de la granja a la mesa.

Potluck style: bring a dish to share
Traiga su platillo favorito para compartir

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LAND STEWARDSHIP PROJECT
LAND STEWARDSHIP ACTION FUND

Farm Tour & Dinner

September 14 | 3pm – 8pm
53504 173rd St, Austin
Cost: free

Radio Jornalera MN

Radio Jornalera is COPAL's digital station that contributes to building community power and influencing processes of positive social change through popular education, debates on issues of interest, and the promotion of social values and our rights. It features weekly programming including our Environmental Justice program, What's Up Minnesota? ¿Qué onda Minnesota?, where we discuss environmental topics related to health, economy, forced migration, public policies, and much more.

Join us every Thursday from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. [Tune in here!](#)



LOCUTORA
**CAROLINA
ORTIZ**

JUEVES 5-6 PM

**RADIO
JORNALERA
COPAL MINNESOTA**

**¿QUÉ ONDA
MINNESOTA?**

