

# PROFILES IN SERVICE

## JONATHAN VLAMING

**NACo Board Member**

Associate Superintendent of Planning, Design and Technology at Three Rivers Park District Hennepin County, Minn.

**Number of years involved in NACo:**

This is my first year as the National Association of County Park and Recreation Officials (NACPRO) liaison to NACo.

**Years in public service:** 30

**Occupation:** Parks and natural resources planning and management

**Education:** BA in Geography and MS in Forestry from the University of Minnesota

**The hardest thing I've ever done:** Caregiving of a parent who refused help.

**Three people (living or dead) I'd invite to dinner:**

Isaac Asimov, Leonardo da Vinci and a translator since I don't speak Italian

**A dream I have is to:** Hike the Pacific Crest Trail from end to end in one trip.

**You'd be surprised to learn that:** I used to play in a punk rock band.

**The most adventurous thing I've ever done:**

Set up roadblocks on highways and hand out travel diaries to collect tourism data in Idaho. My partner and I fished all of the blue-ribbon streams in Idaho during our off-hours.

**My favorite way to relax is:** BBQ, beer, a fire, family and friends in the backyard.

**I'm most proud of:** My sons, my wife, my brother and the shed I built this summer. For work — a nature-based regional trail through four fully developed cities and my staff — they are great!

**Every morning I read:** The newspaper on my phone.



**Vlaming**

**My favorite meal is:** Hot dogs at a baseball game.

**My pet peeve is:** People who have no understanding of shopping cart etiquette in the grocery store.

**My motto is:** The best way to predict the future is to create it.

**The book I am currently reading:** The first book of the

Travis McGee series by John D. MacDonald. There are 21 books in the series, and they take place in southern Florida. Living this far north, you need this sort of thing to help get through the winter.

**My favorite music is:** Any live music.

**My favorite U.S. president is:** Teddy Roosevelt, for his conservation vision. Thank you, Teddy.

**NACPRO is a NACo member because:** Parks, health, the environment, the economy, quality of life are all more successful when packaged together. Counties are agile and adept at moving good ideas forward.

**My favorite movie is:**  
*Monty Python and the Holy Grail*