The Honorable Cornelius Amory Pugsley

2024 Awards

American Academy
for Park and Recreation
Administration

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A description of the Pugsley Award and biographies of past medal recipients are available at http://www.aapra.org

Sponsors of the Pugsley Award

American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration

The Academy was created in 1980 to advance knowledge related to the administration of recreation and parks; to encourage scholarly efforts by both practitioners and educators that would enhance the practice of park and recreation administration; to promote broader public understanding of the importance of parks and recreation to the public good; and to conduct research, publish scholarly papers, and to conduct research, publish scholarly papers and sponsor seminars related to the advancement of park and recreation administration.

Membership in the Academy is limited to 125 practicing professionals, of whom no more than 20% may be educators and 12 as politically appointed directors of communities of 500,000 population or more. Membership in the Academy is by member nomination. The Academy Board of Directors approves the nominations as recommended by the Membership Committee who carefully review each nomination. Once elected into the Academy as a Fellow, members may transition to Emeritus Fellow status after they retire. Membership qualifications include serving not less than 15 years in a high level of administration in a park and recreation agency and/or an institution of higher education. Members must demonstrate leadership and a desire to contribute to the advancement of parks and recreation through participation in the affairs of the Academy..

Prominent among its projects is the Academy's sponsorship of the *Journal of Park and Recreation Administration,* which is designed to bridge the gap between research and practice for administrators, educators, consultants, and researchers. The *Journal* provides a forum for the analysis of management and organization of the delivery of park, recreation, and leisure services. The Academy has established a videotape library of interviews with top professionals in the field. In addition to being of historical value, the tapes in the Legends of Parks and Recreation Library offer insight into the field from its recognized leaders. The Academy was instrumental in developing and launching an accreditation program for park and recreation agencies, which is now being administered in cooperation with the National Recreation and Park Association. The Academy is the sponsor of the National Gold Medal Award program given annually to the outstanding park and recreation agencies (local and state) and armed forces recreation.

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The American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration gratefully acknowledges The Davey Tree Expert Company for its continued support of the Cornelius A. Pugsley Award.

The Davey Tree Expert Company's more than 11,000 employees provide tree care, grounds maintenance, and environmental consulting services for the residential, utility, commercial, and government markets throughout the U.S. and Canada. Davey has provided Proven Solutions for a Growing World since 1880 and has been employee-owned since 1979. For more information, visit www.davey.com or call 866-459-7356.

Sponsors of the Pugsley Award

National Park Foundation™

For more than 50 years, the National Park Foundation has worked to protect wildlife and park lands; preserve history and culture; educate; engage youth; and connect people everywhere to the wonder of parks. We do it in collaboration with the National Park Service, the park partner community, and with the generous support of donors, without whom our work would not be possible.

Chartered by Congress in 1967 as the official nonprofit partner of the National Park Service, the National Park Foundation generates private support and builds strategic partnerships to protect and enhance America's national parks for present and future generations.

The Foundation raises private funds to help protect and preserve over 85 million acres of national parks by promoting programs and projects that protect precious landscapes and wilderness, historical sites, and places of cultural significance.

In concert with the American Scenic and Historic Preservation Society, the National Park Foundation has proudly supported the Pugsley Award since 1985. Today, the award remains an excellent example of a partnership for the betterment of parks and recreation across America.

> Throughout its history, the National Park Foundation (NPF) has played a leadership role in raising philanthropic support for priority projects and programs of the National Park Service. This model of public-private partnership underscores our belief that we all share in the responsibility to protect our parks as a living inheritance for future generations.

The National Park Foundation continues a legacy of support that began more than a century ago when private citizens took action to establish and protect our national parks. Today, that work continues with the generous support and contributions of individuals, corporations, and foundations, protecting America's treasures in perpetuity, and captivating the minds and imaginations of generations to come. Learn more about the National Park Foundation and how you can get involved at www.NationalParks.org.

Will Shafroth
President and CEO, National Park Foundation

The Honorable Cornelius Amory Pugsley

Cornelius Amory Pugsley was born in 1850 on a farm in Peekskill, Westchester County, New York. He attended public schools in Peekskill and lived his whole life in that community. He had an undergraduate degree from Harvard University and also attended Harvard Law School. From 1867 to 1870, he was a clerk and then assistant postmaster in Peekskill. In 1870, he started work at Westchester County National Bank.

At the bank, he was promoted to teller, cashier, vice-president, and in fall 1897, he was appointed president; a position which he held for the next 46 years. During his tenure as president, Westchester County National Bank became "one of the foremost in the United States in earning power and standing." According to the *New York Times*, "he accumulated several millions, only to be wiped out in 1933 by the Depression. This forced his bank to close its doors temporarily, pending reorganization."

In 1895, Pugsley was the first resident from New York State to be elected as a member of the Executive Council of the American Bankers Association. He was elected to three, three-year terms on the Council, and in 1913 was elected president of the New York State Bankers Association.

Pugsley was a commanding figure in the Democratic Party in Westchester County and New York State in the early years of the twentieth century. In 1901, he served a two-year term in the 57th Congress, where he was characterized by the Republican Speaker of the House as a "vigorous talker and thinker … perhaps the ablest Democrat in the House." Indeed, the Republicans seemed so impressed by Pugsley's talents that they devoted extensive resources to orchestrating his defeat after his first term. He was prominently mentioned as a candidate for the vice-presidency of the United States in the campaign of 1908 and as a candidate for New York State Governor in 1918, but declined to run for either office. In 1925, a historian reviewing Pugsley's career, commented:

> Few men of any community hold a higher place of honor and distinction in the regard of the people generally than does Cornelius Amory Pugsley of Peekskill, New York, whose life-long prominence in public affairs, as well as in professional circles, has made his utterances on many subjects of more than passing significance to the people.

Pugsley was a genuinely likeable and generous individual. His popularity in the community was exemplified by a widely reported incident in 1926 when he returned from a European trip. He was greeted with a bouquet thrown onto the deck of his ship from an airplane as the vessel steamed into New York Harbor. The plane bore a banner proclaiming in large letters "Greater Peekskill welcomes you home, 20,000 strong."

Pugsley was active in a large number of non-profit and charitable organizations. For example, in 1906, he was elected national president-general of the Sons of the American Revolution. His interest in parks was stimulated by his involvement as vice-president of the Westchester County Park Commission. The Commission was formed in 1923, making it one of the earliest local park systems in the U.S. Its early focus was on the development of parkways and it was a pioneer in this area. Pugsley was a member of the inaugural Commission and remained on it for a 10-year period. In the 1920s, he made several donations to the Peekskill community, including Pugsley Park and buildings for the YMCA, YWCA, and associated charities.

Evolution of the Pugsley Award

Cornelius Amory Pugsley's interest in parks was perpetuated by a medals program endowed with $7,000 by his son, Chester D. Pugsley in 1929. Chester Pugsley was a graduate of Harvard Law School, and like his father, was active in politics, seeking the Democratic nomination for governor of New York State in 1936 and 1938. The purpose of the medals was described by Chester Pugsley in his directions governing the Pugsley Medal Fund Indenture:

> *The income of this fund shall be applied annually for the maintenance of a gold medal award by the American Scenic and Historic Preservation Society for the most eminent public park service in the United States, a silver medal award for noteworthy public park work in the nation, and a bronze medal for a worthy contribution to public parks in the country, during the previous calendar year.*
>
> *These awards shall be known as the "Honorable Cornelius Amory Pugsley Medals," in recognition of the interest of my father in public parks as evidenced by his service since its organization as a member of the Westchester County Park Commission and his gift of a public park to the municipality of Peekskill.*
>
> *In witness Whereof, I have hereto set my hand and seal this 14th day of February 1929.*

Chester Pugsley's purpose statement indicated that the gold, silver, and bronze medals would reflect different magnitudes of contributions, analogous to finishing first, second, and third in a competitive event. The medals appear to have reflected this interpretation for the first 35 years or so in which they were made, and during this time period, honorees were almost all associated with National or State Parks. Indeed, in the early years, the medals were awarded at the annual meeting of the National Conference on State Parks. The indenture specified the medal should reflect contributions made "during the previous calendar year," but this appears never to have been interpreted literally. Rather, the criterion has been "lifetime" contributions.

In 1967, the following criteria were suggested to guide the selection of medal recipients:

1. They have preserved, enhanced, or created park values, which significantly enriched the lives of people.
2. They reflect originality, intelligent selectivity, courageous decisions and actions, dedication to the public weal, sensitivity to the feelings and interests of all concerned, and a sound philosophy of public service.
3. They significantly developed or refined techniques, which will advance the effectiveness of park programs.
4. Their recognition by conferring the award will give encouragement and inspiration to others.

In the 1940s, the George McAneny Historic Preservation Medal was introduced by the American Scenic and Historic Preservation Society to recognize contributions in the historic preservation area, so the Pugsley Medals became more narrowly focused on park and conservation contributions.

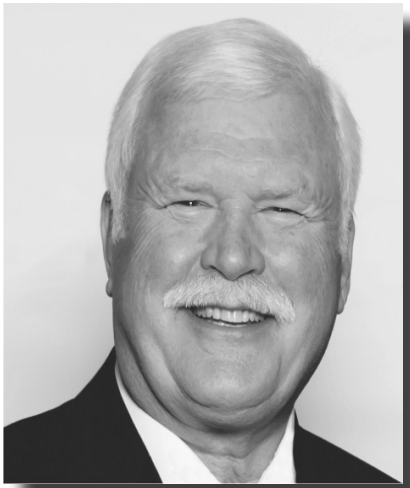
In 1953, a new pattern appeared to emerge of recognizing one individual at the national, state/regional, and local levels, who was awarded the gold, silver, and bronze medals, respectively. With a few exceptions, this general pattern has been retained since that time. Thus, the medal designations no longer attempt to recognize different magnitudes of contributions. Rather they recognize equally excellent contributions often at different levels of government. For this reason, all three medals are now gold.

The medals were awarded by the American Scenic and Historic Preservation Society, which was formed in 1895 by an act of the legislature of the State of New York. The Society was established for the protection of national scenery and the preservation of historic landmarks. Its office was in the historically notable Federal Hall in New York City and in the 1940s, '50s, '60s the annual luncheon at which recipients were presented with their medals was traditionally held in the great "Dome Room" of Federal Hall. In 1985, the National Park Foundation accepted responsibility for administering the awards on behalf of the Society, and in 1990 the entire resources of the Society were transferred to the Foundation, which is the official nonprofit partner of the National Park Service.

In the late 1980s, the president of the National Park Foundation, at the suggestion of former Director of the National Park Service, Conrad Wirth, requested assistance from the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration in identifying nominees for the medal. It was agreed that the Academy would identify worthy nominees and the National Park Foundation would make the final selection. In 1996, the Foundation invited the Academy to also make the final selections. The Foundation's role is now limited to producing the medals for the Academy with funds from the original Pugsley endowment. Out of respect for the impressive history of the Pugsley Medals, they are still cast from the original mold. They feature Mr. Pugsley's facial profile on one side, and the crest and name of the American Scenic and Historic Preservation Society together with the name of the recipient on the other.

2023–2024 Pugsley Awards Committee

Elizabeth Kessler – Chair, Illinois
Richard Ash, Missouri
Rénee Bahl, California
Lewis Ledford, North Carolina



Peter M. Murphy

Peter M. Murphy, President and CEO of the Illinois Association of Park Districts, is thriving in a 44-year career with the Association. His enthusiasm for leading the charge to protect open space and enhance recreational opportunities for all is contagious, and his life's work has enriched the lives of people in Illinois and throughout the nation.

One of his greatest career highlights includes working with the Illinois General Assembly, colleagues, and partners to establish a funding source for the Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development (OSLAD) program, which has provided more than $617 million in grants to Illinois park districts, forest preserves, conservation districts, and recreation agencies. Matched locally, this has resulted in more than $1.5 billion dollars being invested in the outdoor recreational infrastructure in communities throughout Illinois.

Peter is known for his tireless efforts to maintain the OSLAD program and prevent numerous threatened fund sweeps. In 2004, Peter led a campaign to protect the OSLAD fund and the Natural Areas Acquisition Fund from elimination. He was instrumental in forming *Partners for Parks and Wildlife*, a coalition of more than 130 park, environmental, and sportsmen's organizations. Thanks to this group's persistence, OSLAD and NAAF were reinstated in the state's budget as was funding to keep the state parks open.

Peter partnered with The Trust for Public Land to conduct research resulting in two reports titled: *Illinois Land at Risk*, an assessment of park and open space needs across the state. These reports highlighted the staggering need for state funding for open space.

He spearheaded research that produced *Parks & Forest Preserves Bring Value to Our Communities*, a study that demonstrated the value of parks, natural areas, and recreational services at a time when anti-property tax sentiment was growing.

Peter successfully advocated for the passage of the *Bicycle Path Grants Program*, creating a dedicated funding source for bike paths statewide, and the *Open Land Trust* to fund projects protecting nearly 10,000 acres of land for natural areas and parks.

He represented IAPD as a founding member of the Governor's *Partners in Conservation* coalition, which eventually became the *Conservation Congress*.

Peter secured a partnership with Living Lands & Waters, resulting in more than 126,000 trees planted by IAPD member agencies.

He established the *Friends of Illinois Parks* foundation to involve residents in preserving land and expanding recreational opportunities.

Peter worked diligently to pass legislation that created the Park District Youth License Plate program. Since this program's inception, more than $825,000 has been granted to park and recreation agencies throughout Illinois, benefiting more than 60,000 children with educational programs emphasizing health, fitness, and nutrition.

He has published the *Forest Preserve Law Handbook* and *Conservation Law Handbook*, as well as several versions of *The Park District Code*.

Nationally, Peter has supported action on federal legislation to protect the Land and Water Conservation Fund and the Urban Parks and Recreation Recovery Program Fund. He has been a member of NRPA's National Issues Action Committee, and he chaired the American Park and Recreation Society's Legislative Committee.

> His enthusiasm for leading the charge to protect open space and enhance recreational opportunities for all is contagious, and his life's work has enriched the lives of people in Illinois and throughout the nation.

In addition to his professional roles, Peter volunteered for 14 years as a youth baseball coach and eight years as a Cub Scout Pack Leader. He was president of the Springfield Park District's Thomas Rees Carillon Society for 30 years and was an active board member on the Springfield Parks Foundation. He served 10 years on the Springfield Lake Shore Improvement Association and is a member of the Springfield Watershed Resource Planning Committee.

In 2003, he was inducted into the American Academy for Park & Recreation Administration, and in 2024, he was inducted into the Illinois Conservation Foundation's Illinois Outdoor Hall of Fame.

Sara Parker Pauley

Nearly every position Sara Parker Pauley has held in her 30+ year career has been directly related to conservation and natural resource protection. She was the first woman to hold the position of director of the Missouri Department of Conservation (2016–2024), and the first person to have served in this role and as director of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (2010–2016). She has also served in other roles at these departments, as chief of staff to the Speaker of the Missouri House of Representatives, as director of conservation programs for the American National Fish & Wildlife Museum, and as a regional field supervisor for the National Wild Turkey Federation's Women in the Outdoors program. During her time as MDC Director, she also served as the first woman President of the national Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies in its 120+ year history.

During her tenure as director of MDNR, Sara was instrumental in the acquisition of key lands for Missouri State Parks, including adding new parks as well as securing additions to existing state parks. New parks include Echo Bluff, Ozark Mountain, Jay Nixon, Don Robinson, Eleven Point and Rock Island Trail, and additions were made to Johnson Shut Ins, Taum Sauk Mountain, Onondaga Cave, and Roaring River State Parks.

During tenure as MDC Director, the agency acquired 16,760 acres through purchase and donation. Key tracts include the Wah Kon' Tah, Linscomb, Don C. Bedell, and Berrier tracts. Wah Kon' Tah tract is a 320-acre grassland protecting a portion of the upper watershed of Little Clear Creek. The Don C. Bedell unit of Peck Ranch added 5,805 acres of newly conserved forest land with some of the most biologically important woodland habitat in the Midwest. This area is also important to the preservation of the federally endangered Ozark Hellbender and is the center of the elk restoration zone. The Dr. Harry and Lina Berrier Memorial Tract to Sons Creek Conservation Area added 160 acres adjacent to Penn-Sylvania Prairie, which is recognized with a world record for number of plant species in a 20x20 inch square.

Sara has long advocated and taken action to improve opportunities for underserved populations to experience the benefits of outdoor recreational opportunities, opening or overseeing urban outreach offices at both MDC and MDNR.

Sara led efforts to create the Boone County Nature School in Boone County, Missouri, a partnership between Columbia Public Schools, the MDC, and the surrounding community. At the school, 5th graders from all of Boone County visit BCNS for two weeks and engage in a variety of nature-based activities.

Sara has long understood the importance of partnerships and was instrumental in the creation of two research centers at the University of Missouri: the Center for Regenerative Agriculture and the Johnny Morris Institute of Fisheries, Wetlands & Aquatic Systems.

Sara is a strong role model not only for young women, but for all who aspire to lead a life of meaning and accomplishment.

Sara has long advocated and taken action to improve opportunities for underserved populations to experience the benefits of outdoor recreational opportunities.

Sara earned her bachelor of arts degree in journalism, juris doctorate from the University of Missouri, and additional graduate work at Sydney University in Australia. She resides in Boone County, Missouri, with her husband, Scott Pauley, and parents, Marilyn and John Parker.

Maria A. Whitehead

Dr. Maria A. Whitehead is an ornithologist, professor, and conservation professional. She has worked for almost 20 years in land and water resource protection in the Southeast and the interdisciplinary realm of recreation access, climate adaptation and community resilience. Her varied career path has included positions as a bird research scientist in Hawaii, Australia, and the Blue Ridge Mountains but eventually led back to her roots as a land conservation specialist with The Nature Conservancy in rural South Carolina.

Today, as Senior Vice President and Director of Land for the Southeast at Open Space Institute (OSI), she guides the strategic direction of land conservation to realize OSI's mission of protecting scenic, natural, and historic landscapes and making parks and other protected land more welcoming for all.

Raised in rural Back Swamp Community, SC, Dr. Whitehead's job aligns with her personal mission to protect the places that also uplift the people in a region her family has called home for more than two centuries. She serves as the lead on varied conservation projects and initiatives including landscape-scale conservation projects and comprehensive community engagement strategies. In eight years at OSI, she has assisted in the permanent protection of more than 75,000 acres of some of the most important and imperiled Southeast landscapes, all of which will become accessible to the public as new parks, wildlife areas, or preserves.

In recent years, Dr. Whitehead has worked with South Carolina State Parks, community leaders, and conservation professionals to establish three new state parks in South Carolina, including the visionary Black River State Park, the first state park in the state in over 20 years. The state park will serve as an anchor to the Black River Initiative, a 70-mile-long riverine network of 12 local, state, and private parks united by a recreational water trail along the Black River between the towns of Kingstree and Georgetown. This collaborative effort, originally envisioned by Whitehead, aims to reconnect rural Williamsburg and Georgetown County residents to the State Scenic Black River, provide critical flood mitigation, and boost local tourism.

These park projects seek a new paradigm for conservation in the Southeast. In addition to habitat and cultural resource protection, the parks focus on rural economic opportunity, improving access to nature-based recreation in underserved communities, and mitigating the impacts of climate change. These state parks have also provided a new template for how the conservation community can engage with tribal communities to secure important cultural resources, build trust, and collaborate meaningfully on management and access.

Whitehead also serves on the faculty of Clemson University's Masters of Wildlife and Fisheries Program where she teaches courses in landscape ecology, vertebrate biology, and land protection.

Most importantly, Whitehead is mother to three daughters, ages 21, 14, and 7, and wife to a wonderful partner who shares her passion for conservation and recreation. The Whitehead/Olson family reside in Brevard, North Carolina, where they enjoy exploring, running, biking, boating, and birding on the vast public lands surrounding the small mountain community.

Maria guides the strategic direction of land conservation to realize OSI's mission of protecting scenic, natural, and historic landscapes and making parks and other protected land more welcoming for all.

Whitehead received her BA in Biology from Davidson College, her MS from University of Georgia's Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources, and her PhD from Clemson University's Department of Forestry and Environmental Conservation. In addition to her current faculty position at Clemson, she has taught as an adjunct professor at Furman University, The Citadel, and the College of Charleston.

Past Recipients

1928
Gold Medal—Stephen T. Mather, Director and Founder of the National Park Service
Silver Medal—Duncan McDuffie, San Francisco, California member of the California State Parks Commission
Bronze Medal—Beatrice Ward Nelson, Charlottesville, Virginia, Secretary of the National Conference on State Parks

1929
Gold Medal—Mary Averell Harriman, Philanthropist
Silver Medal—Nathaniel Lord Britton, New York Botanical Garden
Bronze Medal—Thomas W. Hardison, Morristown, Arkansas

1930
Gold Medal—Horace M. Albright, Director, National Park Service
Silver Medal—Theodore Wirth, General Superintendent of the Park Commissioners of Minneapolis, Minnesota
Bronze Medal—Charles G. Sauers, Indiana Department of Conservation, Division of Lands and Waters and General Superintendent, Cook County Forest Preserve, Illinois

1931
Gold Medal—Richard Leiber, Director of the Indiana Conservation Department
Silver Medal—Albert M. Turner, Connecticut State Park and Forest Commission
Bronze Medal—Stella M. Leviston, San Francisco, California

1932
Gold Medal—Chauncey J. Hamlin, President of the Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences
Silver Medal—Peter Norbeck, United States Senator from South Dakota
Bronze Medal—Margo K. Frankel, Chair, Iowa Board of Conservation

1933
Gold Medal—William W. Niles, Chair, Taconic State Park Commission, New York
Silver Medal—Tom Wallace, Kentucky State Park Commission, Editor of the *Louisville Times*
Bronze Medal—David E. Colp, Chair, Texas State Parks Board

1934
Gold Medal—William A. Welch, General Manager and Chief Engineer, Palisades Interstate Park, New York and New Jersey
Silver Medal—William E. Carson, Riverside, Virginia, Director of the Virginia Department of Conservation
Bronze Medal—Philip W. Ayres, Chief Forester of the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests

1935
Gold Medal—Howard B. Bloomer, Chair, Michigan Conservation Department
Silver Medal—John McLaren, Park Superintendent, San Francisco
Bronze Medal—Will O. Doolittle, Superintendent of Parks, Tulsa, Oklahoma

1936
Gold Medal—Robert Moses, Commissioner of Parks for the City of New York
Silver Medal—Roger W.Toll, Superintendent of Yellowstone Park
Bronze Medal—George M. Wright, Founder and Chief of the Wildlife Division of the National Park Service

1937
Gold Medal—J. Horace McFarland, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, President of the American Civic Association
Silver Medal—Charles P. Wilber, State Forester and Director of Department of Conservation and Development of New Jersey
Bronze Medal—William H. Carr, Director of the Trailside Museums at Bear Mountain

1938 **Gold Medal—Arno B. Cammerer,** Director National Park Service, Washington, D.C.
Silver Medal—Raymond H. Torrey, Journalist and Secretary of the American Scenic and Historic Preservation Society
Bronze Medal—Alvin E. Reeves, Director of Division of State Parks, Oklahoma

1939 **Gold Medal—Robert Fechner,** Director of the Civilian Conservation Corps
Silver Medal—Charles C. Deam, Indiana State Parks
Bronze Medal—William P. Alexander, Buffalo, New York

1940 **Gold Medal—Hermon C. Bumpus,** President of Tufts University; Chair NPS Advisory Board
Silver Medal—Newton B. Drury, Secretary, Save the Redwoods League of California
Bronze Medal—William A. Stinchcomb, Director, Cleveland Metropolitan Park District

1941 **No medals were awarded**

1942 **Gold Medal—Harold L. Ickes,** Secretary of the Interior
Silver Medal—Arthur E. Demaray, Assistant Director, National Park Service
Bronze Medal—Harlean James, Executive Secretary of the American Planning and Civic Association

1943-1946 **Medal awards discontinued during World War II**

1947 **Gold Medal—Conrad L. Wirth,** National Park Service, Washington, D.C.
Silver Medal—Thomas J. Allen, Regional Director, National Park Service, Richmond, Virginia
Bronze Medal—Samuel H. Boardman, Oregon State Highway Commission, Salem, Oregon

1948 **Gold Medal—Percival P. Baxter,** Portland, Maine
Silver Medal—Minor R. Tillotson, Regional Director, National Park Service, Santa Fe, New Mexico
Bronze Medal—Ellwood B. Chapman, President, Pennsylvania Parks Assn., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

1949 **Gold Medal—Waldo G. Leland,** National Park Service Advisory Board
Silver Medal—Hillory A. Tolson, Assistant Director, National Park Service
Bronze Medal—Jay Downer, Chief Engineer, Westchester County, New York

1950 **Gold Medal—Newton B. Drury, Director,** National Park Service
Silver Medal—Frank A. Kittredge, Chief Engineer, National Park Service, Washington, D.C.
Bronze Medal—William N. G. Haynes, Stonington, Connecticut

1951 **Gold Medal—Arthur E. Demaray, Director,** National Park Service, Washington, D.C.
Silver Medal—Victor W. Flickinger, Chief, Division of Parks, Department of Natural Resources, Columbus, Ohio
Bronze Medal—Frank D. Quinn, Chairman, Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, Austin, Texas

1952 **Gold Medal—Harlean James,** Executive Secretary, American Planning and Civic Association and the National Conference on State Parks, Washington, D.C.
Silver Medal—Ronald F. Lee, Assistant Director, National Park Service and Secretary of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Washington, D.C.
Bronze Medal—Jerome C. Dretzka, Milwaukee County Commission, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

1953 **Gold Medal—Frederick L. Olmsted Jr.,** Palo Alto, California
Silver Medal—Edward J. Burns, Washington, D.C.
Bronze Medal—Olaus J. Murie, President, Wilderness Society, Moose, Wyoming

A Shift in Criteria for the Medals

By 1954, park facilities and services offered by local and state agencies were expanding dramatically. For many Americans, the most important parks were now those closest to their homes because they used those most frequently. Hence, the Pugsley Medals were reoriented to recognize their important role. The gold, silver, and bronze medals indicating different levels of meritorious contributions were replaced by recognition of outstanding service at the local, regional/state, and national levels. These contributions were recognized as being of equal merit. This interpretation was confirmed in a 1959 letter written by Conrad Wirth, Director of the National Park Service, in which he stated, "The gold medal is usually awarded to someone in the national field of park development; the silver is someone in the state field of park development; the bronze is someone in the metropolitan or city field of park development. While they are in gold, silver, and bronze, they all have equal value in their respective spheres of influence." While this general framework has been retained, in many cases, Pugsley Medal recipients made contributions at multiple levels, so the practice of formally associating them with a single level was abandoned.

1954
Adrian D. Barnes, Dade County Park Department, Miami, Florida
Russell Reid, Superintendent, State Historical Society of North Dakota, Bismark, North Dakota
Harold C. Bryant, Assistant Director, National Park Service, Ovinda, California

1955
Loring McMellan, Vice-President Statten Island Historical Society, New York
Ruth E. Peeler, Vice Chair, State Parks and Research Commission, Des Moines, Washington
Thomas C. Vint, Chief Design and Construction, National Park Service, Washington, D.C.

1956
Harold S. Wagner, Metropolitan Park System, Akron, Ohio
James F. Evans, Director New York State Park System, Albany, New York
Gilbert H. Grosvenor, Chairman, National Geographic Society, Washington, D.C.

1957
Charles E. Doell, Superintendent, Board of Park Commissioners, Minneapolis, Minnesota
Kenneth R. Cougill, Division of State Parks, Anderson, Indiana
Ben H. Thompson Division of Recreation Resource Planning, NPS, Glen Echo, Maryland

1958
Walter W. Wirth, Salem Parks and Recreation Department, Oregon
Thomas W. Morse, Superintendent, State Parks, Raleigh, North Carolina
Eivind T. Scoyen, Associate Director, NPS, Washington, D.C.

1959
Homer W. Fish, Superintendent of Parks, Wheeling, West Virginia
George L. Collins, Regional Chief of Recreation Resource Planning, National Park Service, San Anselmo, California
Alfred A. Knopf, Publisher, Federal Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings and Monuments, New York, New York

1960
Louis B. Houston, Director, Dallas Parks and Recreation Department, Texas
Harold W. Lathrop, Director of Colorado State Parks and Recreation, Denver, Colorado
Edmund B. Rogers, Superintendent of Rocky Mountain National Park and of Yellowstone National Park, Denver, Colorado

1961
Frank G. McInnis, Director, Detroit Zoological Park, Royal Oak, Michigan
Charles A. De Turk, Director, Department of Parks and Recreation, Sacramento, California
Allen T. Edmunds, Recreation Resource Planning, Regional Chief, National Park Service, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

1962 **Elo J. Urbanovsky,** Texas Technological College, Department of Park Management, Lubbock, Texas
Sidney S. Kennedy, Division Cooperative Services, Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, NPS, Washington, D.C.
Freeman Tilden, Author, Warner, New Hampshire

1963 **Thomas S. Jett,** Regional Director, National Capital Parks, Washington, D.C.
Edward J. Meeman, Conservation Editor, Scripps-Howard Newspapers
Conrad L. Wirth, Director National Park Service, Washington, D.C.

1964 **Daniel L. Flaherty,** General Superintendent of Chicago Park District, Chicago, Illinois
U.W. Hella, Director, Division of State Parks, Department of Conservation, St. Paul, Minnesota
Harold P. Fabian, Attorney for Jackson Hole Preserve, Salt Lake City, Utah

1965 **Frank C. Vaydik,** Superintendent, Board of Park Commissioners, Kansas City, Missouri
Russell B. Tobey, Director, Division of Parks, Concord, New Hampshire
Elbert Cox, Regional Director, National Park Service, Richmond, Virginia

1966 **Norman S. Johnson,** Superintendent of Parks, Los Angeles, California
Kermit McKeever, Chief, Division of Parks and Recreation, Charleston, West Virginia
James H. Evans, Chairman, National Recreation and Park Association, New York City

1967 **John P. Hewitt,** Director, The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Silver Spring, Maryland
Earl P. Hanson, Chief, California Division of Beaches and Parks, Sacramento, California
George B. Hartzog, Jr. Director, National Park Service, Washington, D.C.

1968 **Theodore Kazimiroff,** Historian, Bronx Borough, Bronx, New York
William M. Gosdin, Director, Department of Park Services, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Austin, Texas
Lemuel A. Garrison, Director, Region V, National Park Service, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

1969 **Nash Castro,** Regional Director, National Captial Parks, Washington, D.C.
Joseph J. Truncer, Director, Department of Conservation and Economics, Division of Parks, Trenton, New Jersey
Lawrence N. Stevens, Associate Director, Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, Washington, D.C.

1970 **Robert W. Ruhe,** Superintendent, Board of Park Commission, Minneapolis, Minnesota
Ben H. Bolen, Commissioner, Virginia Division of Parks, Richmond, Virginia
Harthon L. Bill, Deputy Director, National Park Service, Washington, D.C.

1971 **Earl E. Gaylor,** General Manager, Oglebay Park, Wheeling, West Virginia
Joseph W. Sousa, Director, Hawaii State Parks, Hawaii
Melvin M. Payne, Chairman, National Geographic Society

1972 **Howard W. Gregg,** General Manager, Milwaukee County, Park and Recreation Department, Wisconsin
William P. Mott, Director, California Department of Parks and Recreation, Sacramento, California
Nathaniel P. Reed, Assistant Secretary, Department of Interior, Washington, D.C.

1973 **Horace Caldwell,** Executive Director, Jekyll Island Authority, Georgia
William A. Par, Superintendent, Maryland State Parks
Elbert Cox, Regional Director, National Park Service, Richmond, Virginia

1974 **Rhodell E. Owens,** Director, Peoria Park District, Illinois
Lawrence Stuart, Director, Maine State Parks
Russell Dickenson, Director, National Park Service, Washington, D.C.

1975-1978 **No medals were awarded.**

1979
Max D. Ramsey, Director, Cultural Resources and Recreation for Tennessee Valley Authority
Nash Castro, Executive Director, Palisades Interstate Park Commission, New York-New Jersey
Daniel J. Tobin, Deputy Director, National Park Service, Washington, D.C.

1980 **No medals were awarded.**

1981 **FrankVaydik,** Director, Kansas City Parks, Recreation, and Conservation, Missouri

1982
Graham A. Skea, Director, Parks, Recreation and Conservation, Orange County, New York
William P. Mott, Director, California Parks Foundation
John A. Townsely, Superintendent, Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming

1983
David O. Laidlaw, Director, Huron-Clinton Metroparks, Ohio
Charles Odegaard, Director, Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission
Manus J. Fish, Director, National Capital Region, National Park Service, Washington, D.C.

1984-1986 **No medals were awarded.**

1987
Robert F. Toalson, Director, Champaign Park District, Illinois
William C. Forrey, Director, Pennsylvania State Parks
Marc Sagan, Chief, Harpers Ferry Center, National Park Service

1988
William R. Bird, Director, Metropolitan Dade County Parks and Recreation Department, Florida
William C. Walters, Director, Indiana State Parks
William P. Mott Jr., Director, National Park Service, Washington, D.C.

1989
H. C. Johnson, Director, DuPage County Forest Preserve, Illinois
Orin Lehman, Commissioner, New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
Philip O. Stewart, Assistant Director, Land Acquisition, National Park Service
Willis P. Kriz, Chief, Land Resources Division, National Park Service

1990
Richard Trudeau, Director, East Bay Regional Park District, California
William J. Hopkins, Director, Delaware State Parks
David G. Talbot, Director, Oregon State Parks
Gary Everhardt, Director, National Park Service, Washington, D.C.

1991
Ronald H. Dodd, Director, Chicago Park District, Illinois
Ford W. Hughes, Director, St. James Foundation
Dennis P. Galvin, Deputy Director, National Park Service, Washington, D.C.

1992
Ralph S. Cryder, Director, Los Angeles County Parks, California
Boyd Evison, Regional Director, National Park Service
Ray Murray, National Park Service, San Francisco, California

1993
James A. Colley, Director, Phoenix Parks, Recreation and Library Department, Arizona
Andrew Sansom, Director, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
William J. Briggle, Superintendent, Mt. Ranier National Park
James M. Ridenour, Director, National Park Service, Washington, D.C.

1994
James A. Truncer, Director, Monmouth County Park System, New Jersey
Cordie O. Hudkins, Director, West Virginia State Parks
John Cook, Regional Director, National Park Service, Santa Fe, New Mexico

1995
Charles R. Jordan, Director, Portland Parks and Recreation, Oregon
Edward J. Koenenmann, Director, Vermont State Parks

1996	**No medals were awarded.**
1997	**Ernest W. Nance,** Director, Oaklawn Park District, Illinois **Ira J. Hutchison**, Assistant Director, National Park Service, Washington, D.C.
1998	**Ken Winslade,** Director, Department of Parks and Recreation, New Westminster, BC, Canada **Fran P. Mainella**, Director, Florida State Parks
1999	**Joseph Caverly,** Director, Westchester County Parks Commission, New York **John L. Crompton**, Distinguished Professor, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas
2000	**Christopher K. Jarvi,** Director, City of Anaheim, California **Carol M. Severin**, Chair, East Bay Regional Park District, California **Bruce Babbitt**, Secretary, Department of Interior, Washington, D.C.
2001	**Anne S. Close,** Fort Mill, South Carolina **Andrea S. Moore**, State Representative, Illinois **Joseph J. Bannon**, Professor Emeritus, University of Illinois, Champaign, Illinois
2002	**Eugene Young,** Superintendent of the Recreation and Park Commission for East Baton Rouge Parish (BREC), Louisiana **Bernadette Castro**, Commissioner, New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation **Dean R. Tice**, Executive Director, National Recreation and Park Association, Ashburn, Virginia
2003	**Terry Hershey,** Conservationist, Houston, Texas **Pat O'Brien**, General Manager, East Bay Regional Park District, California **Robert G. Stanton**, Director, National Park Service, Washington, D.C.
2004	**Victor Ashe,** Mayor of Knoxville, Tennessee **Brian O'Neill**, Superintendent, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, National Park Service, California **Laurance S. Rockefeller**, Conservationist and Philanthropist, Pocantico, New York
2005	**Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson,** Conservationist, Austin, Texas **Clifton E. French**, Superintendent, Hennepin County Minnesota Park Preserve District **Patrick F. Noonan**, Chairman, Conservation Fund, Washington, D.C.
2006	**Tony A. Mobley,** Dean Emeritus, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana **L.W. "Bill" Lane Jr.**, Retired Publisher of *Sunset*, Menlo Park, California
2007	**Fran P. Mainella,** Director, National Park Service, Washington, D.C. **Elizabeth Barlow Rogers,** President, Central Park Conservancy, New York City **Stuart L. Udall,** Secretary of Interior, Washington, D.C.
2008	**Henry L. Diamond**, Environmental Lawyer, Wasshington D.C. **Vern J. Hartenburg,** Executive Director, Cleveland Metroparks, Ohio **Elizabeth Cushman Titus Putnam**, Founding President, Student Conservation Association, New Hampshire
2009	**George L. Bristol,** President, Texas Coalition for Conservation **Huey D. Johnson,** President, Resource Renewal Institute **Eunice Kennedy Shriver,** Executive Vice-President, Joseph P. Kennedy Jr. Foundation **Anne M. Burke,** Justice, Illinois Supreme Court

2010 **Martin J. Rosen,** Founding Member, Board Chairman, and retired President, The Trust for Public Land
Harry (Hal) G. Haskell, Jr., Life trustee, National Recreation and Park Association, citizen advocate, Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania
Charles E. Hartsoe, Professor Emeritus, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, Virginia

2011 **Roderick Frazier Nash,** Author and Professor, Santa Barbara, California
James Reed Ellis, Citizen Activist and Conservationist, Bellevue, Washington
John L. Nau III, Historic Preservationist, Houston, Texas

2012 **Pete Dangermond,** Previous Director of California State Department of Parks and Recreation, and President of Save-the-Redwood League, California
Roger K. Brown, Previous Parks and Recreation Director for seven different departments over 50 years, Former President of both NRPA and IFPRA, First Southeast Regional Director of NRPA; Greensboro, NC
Joe Crookham, Citizen Advocate for Youth, Family, and Community, President, Musco Lighting, Oskaloosa, Iowa

2013 **Beverly D. (Brandes) Chrisman,** Chairman of NRPA (1991–1995); Chairman of Irmo Chapin Recreation Commission (1987–2002) in Irmo, SC; Lexington, SC
John H. Davis, Executive Director of NRPA (1976–1986); Director of Dalton, Georgia Recreation Department (1957–1963); Culpepper, Virginia
Barry Sanford Tindall, NRPA Director of Public Policy (1967–2005) including assistance to The Nature Conservancy, NPS, and President's Commission on Americans Outdoors; Falls Church, Virginia

2014 **Eric W. O'Brien,** Chairman of M.E. O'Brien & Sons; Chair of NRPA (1995–1999); Chair of Foundation for Sustainable Parks and Recreation (2014)
James A. Peterson, Professor Emeritus, Indiana University Department of Recreation and Park Administration; President of NRPA (1987–1988); Inducted into Indiana Football Hall of Fame (1993)
Kathryn A. Porter, Chair of NRPA (1989–1991); Past President of National Recreation Foundation

2015 **Lamar Alexander,** three-term U.S. Senator for Tennessee; former U.S. Education Secretary; former University of Tennessee president
John C. Potts, Illinois parks leader; 12-year Academy Executive Secretary/Treasurer; NRPA Directors School faculty charter member
M. Kathleen Perales, research biologist with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; leader in creation of Natural Resource Management Gateway

2016 **Richard L. Ash, Jr.,** former Director of St. Charles, MO Parks & Recreation, leader in formation of Great Rivers Greenway District, former President of Conservation Federation of Missouri
John Sutter, 20-year member of East Bay Regional Park District Board, three-term Board President, founding member of Greenbelt Alliance, California

2017 **Anita B. Gorman,** Kansas City, Missouri, longtime Park & Recreation Board Commissioner; driving force behind City of Fountains Foundation
Lewis Ledford, North Carolina State Park Director; executive director of National Association of State Park Directors
Peter G. Sortino, force behind City ArchRiver Initiative, St. Louis, Missouri

2018 **Robert E. Doyle,** General Manager, East Bay Regional Park District, Oakland, California; founding board member Save Mount Diablo, East Bay Conservation Corps, and Bay Area Ridge Trail Council
William C. Scalzo, (retired) Director, Maricopa County Parks & Recreation Department, Arizona; Chair Arizona State Parks Board

2019 **Renée E. Bahl**, former director San Diego County Park Department, California; former executive director Arizona State Parks Board; former Santa Barbara County's Assistant County Executive Officer, California
Richard J. Dolesh, former vice president conservation and parks and former vice president of strategic initiatives, National Recreation and Park Association
Dr. Phillip Rea, (retired) Professor, North Carolina State University; author

2020 **Dr. Daniel L. Dustin,** co-author *Stewards of Access, Custodians of Change* and author *The Wilderness Within: Reflections on Leisure and Life*; tenured faculty at San Diego State University, Florida International University, and University of Utah; environmentalist; advocate for the healing power of nature

2021 **Elizabeth S. Kessler,** executive director, McHenry County Conservation District, Illinois; Chair, Chicago Wilderness Alliance
Arnold Randall, general superintendent, Forest Preserves of Cook County; Chair, Chicago Wilderness; chair, The Chicago Plan Commission and Chicago Building Commission, Illinois
John J. Reynolds, superintendent, North Cascades National Park, Washington; manager, Denver Service Center, Colorado; director, Mid-Atlantic Region and Pacific Region, National Park Service, Virginia

2022 **William Mitchell,** Executive Director, Bucks County Parks & Recreation, Pennsylvania

2023 No medals were awarded.

American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration

Class of 2024

David Bennett – Charleston County Park & Recreation Commission, Charleston, South Carolina
Robert Carmona – Gilbert Parks & Recreation, Gilbert, Arizona
Anthony Paul (AP) Diaz – Seattle Parks and Recreation, Seattle, Washington
Tara Eggleston Stewart – Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Greenbelt, Maryland
Matthew Enoch, CPRE – US Army Fort Riley, Directorate Family & Morale, Welfare & Recreation, Fort Riley, Kansas
Tara Gee – Roseville Parks, Recreation & Libraries, Roseville, California
Seth Hendler-Voss – Prince William County Parks, Recreation & Tourism, Manassas, Virginia
Nancy Kaiser – Consultant, Rogers, Arkansas
Dr. Tony Lopez – Town of Miami Lakes, Miami Lakes, Florida
Jeff Muck – Novi Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services, Novi, Michigan
Kim Reser, CPRP – Springfield-Greene County Park Board, Springfield, Missouri
Lisa Sheppard – Glencoe Park District, Glencoe, Illinois
Dr. June N. Price-Shingles – Chicago State University, Chicago, Illinois
Dr. Sydney Sklar – University of St. Francis, Joliet, Illinois
Jeff Stewart, CPRP – Johnson County Park District, Shawnee Mission, Kansas
Bill Tschirhart – Five Rivers MetroParks, Dayton, Ohio
Dr. Melissa Weddell – University of Montana, Missoula, Montana
Corey Wilson – Recreation and Park Commission for the Parish of East Baton Rouge (BREC), Louisiana

Board of Directors 2023–2024

Tracey Crawford, CTRS, CPRP, President, Northwest Special Recreation Association, Illinois
Cindie Sullivan, CPRP, President-Elect, (retired) Somerset County Park Commission, Ohio
Janet Bartnik, CPRE, Prince William County Parks, Recreation & Tourism, Virginia
Robert Armistead, CPRP, Treasurer, Travis County Parks, Texas
Cory Stryon, CPRP, Secretary, County of Los Alamos Community Services, New Mexico

Director (Term Expires 2024)
Roslyn Johnson, CPRP, Annapolis Recreation & Parks, Maryland
Michael Klitzing, CPRE, Carmel Clay Parks & Recreation, Indiana

Director (Term Expires 2025)
RJ Cardin, Maricopa County Parks & Recreation, Arizona
Michael Kalvort, CPRE, Michael Kalvort & Associates, Florida

Director (Term Expires 2026)
Rick Atkins, CPRP, Round Rock Parks & Recreation, Texas
Deb Jordan, Re.D., East Carolina University, North Carolina

AAPRA Staff
Jane H. Adams, Executive Director, California
Brit Kramer, CAE, Executive Secretary/Treasurer, Lacey, Washington
Shelley Dahle, Membership Services, Lacey, Washington