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2022

National Gold Medal Awards

The Premiere Award in Parks and Recreation

2021 RECIPIENTS



CLASS I
Cleveland Metroparks
Cleveland, Ohio



CLASS II
City of Tampa Parks & Recreation
Tampa, Florida



CLASS III
Provo Parks & Recreation
Provo, Utah

CLASS IV

Coppell Parks & Recreation
Coppell, Texas



CLASS V

Vernon Hills Park District
Vernon Hills, Illinois



STATE PARKS

Delaware State Parks
Dover, Delaware



ARMED FORCES

Naval Base Coronado
San Diego, California



2022 Gold Medal Judges

Rick Atkins

Parks and Recreation Director
City of Round Rock
Round Rock, Texas



Jennifer Cirillo

Parks and Recreation Director
Palm Beach County
Lake Worth, Florida



Randy Bina

Parks and Recreation Executive
Director (retired)
City of Bismarck
Bismarck, North Dakota



Nasha McCray

Assistant City Manager
City of Greensboro
Greensboro, North Carolina



Michelle Healy

Deputy Executive Director
Bend Park and Recreation
District
Bend, Oregon



Brit Kramer

Gold Medal
Administrator
Lacey, Washington



National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA)

Kristine Stratton

President and Chief
Executive Officer

Kevin Roth

Vice President of Research,
Evaluation and Technology

Gina Cohen

Vice President of
Communications

American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration (AAPRA)

William Foelsch, CPRP, CPSI

President, AAPRA
Morris Township, New Jersey

Jane H. Adams

Executive Director, AAPRA
Sacramento, California

Rod Tarullo, CPRE

Gold Medal Judges Liaison, AAPRA
Golden, Colorado

John Prue, CPRP

Gold Medal Committee Chair, AAPRA
Kenosha, Wisconsin

Class I

Population of more than 400,001

Hillsborough County Parks & Recreation
Tampa, Florida

Recreation and Park Commission for the Parish of East Baton Rouge (BREC)
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Johnson County Park and Recreation District
Shawnee Mission, Kansas

Virginia Beach Parks & Recreation
Virginia Beach, Virginia

Class II

Population of 150,001 to 400,000

City of Des Moines Parks and Recreation
Des Moines, Iowa

City of Plano Parks & Recreation Department
Plano, Texas

City of Henderson Parks and Recreation
Henderson, Nevada

Wichita Park & Recreation
Wichita, Kansas

Class III

Population of 75,001 to 150,000

Champaign Park District
Champaign, Illinois

South Bend Venues Parks & Arts
South Bend, Indiana

Roseville Parks, Recreation & Libraries Department
Roseville, California

Waukegan Park District
Waukegan, Illinois

Class IV

Population of 30,001 to 75,000

Bristol Parks, Recreation, Youth and Community Services
Bristol, Connecticut

Park District of Oak Park
Oak Park, Illinois

Hoffman Estates Park District
Hoffman Estates, Illinois

Waukesha Parks, Recreation & Forestry Department
Waukesha, Wisconsin

Class V

Population of 30,000 and less

Deerfield Park District
Deerfield, Illinois

East Goshen Township Parks and Recreation
East Goshen, Pennsylvania

Dickinson Parks and Recreation District
Dickinson, North Dakota

Town of Fountain Hills Community Services
Fountain Hills, Arizona

ARMED FORCES

Representing All Branches of the Military

U.S. Army Garrison Fort Campbell
Fort Campbell, Kentucky

Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay
King's Bay, Georgia

NAS Whiting Field Morale, Welfare, Recreation
Milton, Florida

Fort Drum Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation, Community Recreation Division
Fort Drum, New York

CLASS I 2022 Finalists



Hillsborough County Parks & Recreation Tampa, Florida

Hillsborough County Parks & Recreation provides competitive athletic and recreational opportunities for more than 1.49 million people of all ages and abilities in one of the fastest growing regions in the Southeast. The CAPRA-accredited, award-winning department manages a wide range of facilities, including 54 recreation centers, 118 playgrounds, 47 athletic complexes, 223 sports fields, 10 dog parks, and five skate parks. In addition, there are 104 non-programmed neighborhood parks consisting of approximately 1,200 acres of open space, athletic courts, walking

paths, playgrounds, and picnic shelters. These parks provide an economic impact of \$49.6 million in increased property values and \$435,778 annually in ecosystem services.

Hillsborough County Parks & Recreation is also proud to offer inclusive programming options, like the Camp Sparks therapeutic recreation program that serves more than 150 youth a year and the adaptive sports program with more than 300 athletes competing in 26 sports and one of nine teams competing in the USA Wheelchair Football League. In addition to its direct-to-residents programming, Hillsborough County works with more than 180 community partners in the Tampa Bay area that range from the Tampa Bay

Lightning and Positive Coaching Alliance to the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office and Keep Tampa Bay Beautiful. Hillsborough County Parks & Recreation creatively and effectively manages resources, including personnel, programming, and facilities to create the most enjoyable and efficient experience in all its parks and facilities. Parks aren't just a place to be, they are a place to BECOME, especially in Hillsborough County.



Johnson County Park and Recreation District Shawnee Mission, Kansas

Johnson County Park and Recreation District (JCPRD) is renowned for providing exceptional parks, facilities, and services and is the only special park district in Kansas. Serving a population of 609,000, JCPRD employs more than 300 full-time professionals and 1,500 seasonal employees. JCPRD operates and maintains over 10,000 acres of park property and 25 recreation and culture facilities that welcome over 10 million visitors annually. JCPRD's long-range comprehensive

plan, Legacy Plan, serves as a roadmap through 2030 to disciplined planning and financial stewardship with intentional focus on decreased dependency on public funding and expanded non-tax alternatives. 48.3%

of JCPRD's \$79 million annual budget comes from non-tax sources, including revenues from its successful enterprise-funded operations.

In less than three years JCPRD has developed and opened three new parks adding more than 1,000 acres of parkland. These new parks are strategically located in different quadrants of the county that were previously under served. JCPRD continued its commitment to

trail development as a widely used and highly valued public amenity. JCPRD worked with community partners to expand on multi-use, single track, and equestrian trails, adding over 26 miles. The community has embraced these new offerings, with 1.2 million visitations in 2021.

JCPRD is honored to be a Gold Medal Finalist and looks forward to a bright future as we continue to sustain and enrich a thriving park and recreation system that inspires play, culture, and education, leading to healthy and fulfilling lives for all.

Recreation and Park Commission for the Parish of East Baton Rouge (BREC) Baton Rouge, Louisiana

BREC is the agency that connects people to parks and nature in East Baton Rouge Parish. Created in 1946 as a political subdivision of the State of Louisiana, BREC has spent the past 75 years purchasing land and developing parks and facilities to improve the health, environment, and quality of life for all residents. BREC was among the first park agencies in the nation to achieve accreditation and recently earned re-accreditation for an unprecedented sixth time meeting 150 out of 151 standards. BREC is a two-time National Gold Medal Award Grand Plaque recipient and 17-time Finalist.

BREC has 175 parks with a unique mix of facilities which mirror the rich history and natural resources in the region; including a state-of-the-art children's museum, swamp nature center, plantation museum, high-tech

observatory, performing arts theatre, equestrian park, art gallery, arboretum and botanical gardens, zoo, six golf courses and an extreme sports park with a 30,000-foot concrete skate park, rock-climbing wall, BMX track and velodrome.

Since the community approved a tax to fund the Imagine Your Parks strategic plan in 2004, BREC has constructed twelve community parks, six dog parks, a family-sized Aquatics Center, a growing trails system, two new conservation parks, the first surfing simulator in the state and procured two mobile recreation units to serve play deserts in the area. The combination of new and renovated



facilities, innovative programming and careful attention to community needs help BREC fulfill its mission to make Baton Rouge a better place to live, work and play.

Virginia Beach Parks & Recreation Virginia Beach, Virginia

Virginia Beach Parks & Recreation (VBPR) boasts a 96 % resident approval rating and an ongoing litany of exciting new developments.

A new 30,000 square-foot state-of-the-art skatepark, built on an underground 5.2 million-gallon storm water tank, has proven popular with a vast cross section of the city's demographics. And the first-ever formal mountain biking trail system in Virginia Beach is under way in a new park created on 100 acres of wooded property acquired from the Navy.

These developments complement 293 parks, 7,000+ acres of parks and natural areas, a marina, an athletic complex, 5 dog parks and hundreds of neighborhood playgrounds. Signature parks include Mount Trashmore, the

first park in the country built atop a landfill, and Red Wing, home of an annual cherry blossom festival, a Japanese Garden, and a demonstration pollinator garden.

VBPR provides landscaping at all municipal and school sites, the oceanfront resort, and along roadways. It also offers year-round sports leagues for youth and adults and is the city's largest childcare provider with programs at all 56 elementary schools and 4 licensed preschools.

Generations of residents have "grown up" in one of seven large recreation centers that offer affordable fitness, aquatics, childcare, and therapeutic recreation. The centers host



community events, blood drives, voting locations, and Covid 19 vaccination clinics.

Department goals include increasing the percentage of residents who live near a park, increasing the urban tree canopy, and creating connectivity through trail projects.

CLASS II 2022 Finalists



City of Des Moines Parks and Recreation

Des Moines, Iowa

Des Moines Parks and Recreation oversees more than 4,000 acres of parkland, open space, and trails and offers a variety of events and programs for Des Moines residents of all backgrounds, ages and abilities.

Our staff manages, operates and maintains complex assets including 76 parks, 88 miles of paved and unpaved trails, seven cemeteries, two community recreation centers, three golf courses, four disc golf courses, 27 aquatic facilities, one ice

fields, baseball and softball fields and tennis, pickleball and futsal courts.

The department employs 66 full-time staff, 313 part-time/seasonal staff and works with an average of over 4,400 unique volunteers yearly to maintain its resources and offer recreational programs 345+ days per year.

skating rink, 239 community garden plots, 60 playgrounds, three dog parks, one skate park, one BMX track, 61 sheltered areas and a variety of sports facilities that include basketball and volleyball courts, soccer and football



City of Plano Parks & Recreation Department

Plano, Texas

Founded in 1968, Plano Parks and Recreation enriches Plano by providing inviting spaces, caring service, outstanding value, and memorable experiences. Nationally accredited since 1994, Plano Parks and Recreation has been ranked #1 in Texas since 2015 by The Trust for Public Land. A four-time winner of the NRPA Gold Medal Award for Excellence in Parks and Recreation Management, the department delivers quality of life services to people of all ages, backgrounds,

Plano Parks and Recreation's 4,370 acres of parkland includes 85 park sites, 71 playgrounds, 98 miles of recreational trails, more than 100 competition fields, 29 lighted tennis/pickleball courts, three performing arts venues, a railway museum, nine swimming pools, six recreation centers, a championship golf course, a skate park, a tennis center, a retreat center, and two nature preserves.

and abilities through a robust system of parks, trails, recreation programs and facilities. The department is also an active participant in health and wellness initiatives and partnerships benefitting the community at-large.

The department's array of recreational opportunities appeal to a variety of interests and cultures, and encourage connecting with nature while creating active and healthy lifestyles. From guided nature walks and family campouts to archery lessons, aquatics, fine arts, and more, Plano residents take advantage of more than 5,000 enriching courses every year.

City of Henderson Parks and Recreation

Henderson, Nevada

The award-winning City of Henderson Parks and Recreation Department has been accredited through the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies for over 20 years and is a two-time Gold Medal recipient. Henderson is committed to providing residents with a variety of diverse and inclusive programs, classes, and events. These programs are hosted at 69 neighborhood and community parks, seven aquatic facilities, and eight recreation centers (including two centers for adults 50 and over). Henderson is also home to a variety of specialty facilities such as the Henderson Bird Viewing Preserve, Water Street Plaza, Whitney Mesa Nature Preserve, BMX tracks, sports complexes and an equestrian park.

Programs incorporating all ages, individuals with disabilities, and many cultural and demographic groups reach participants throughout Southern

Nevada. Planning guidelines have provided 73% of residents access within a 10-minute walk to a park or trail. All parks are maintained at the same high-quality standards regardless of location or infrastructure age. Additionally, environmental stewardship is at the forefront of programming and future development ensuring responsible water use during unprecedented drought conditions.

Henderson Parks and Recreation consistently achieves a 95% satisfaction rating from residents by providing an innovative approach to programming with dynamic cultural experiences, interconnected and safe trails, revitalization projects for underserved areas, health and



wellness initiatives and infrastructure investment in world class sports and entertainment venues.

Wichita Park & Recreation

Wichita, Kansas

Wichita Park & Recreation (WPR) is a two-time CAPRA accredited agency serving a jurisdiction of almost 400,000. Our greatest strength lies in our commitment to leveraging our community position for resourceful management of personnel, programming, and assets, creating exceptional benefits for residents, and fulfilling the department's mission through four main pillars of excellence: vital living for the community; providing sustainable opportunities for the community; linking the community; and providing safe public spaces for the community. WPR strives for excellence through extensive public engagement, measuring outcomes from our services, and strategic planning for our future.

Spread across the city, from recreation centers to maintenance buildings to pools to City Hall,

WPR is filled with some of the most passionate people you will find in Wichita. Residents don't always see the work that goes into maintaining some of their favorite spaces, but WPR staff expertly manage millions of dollars each year to remain the foremost quality of life provider in the area. We can tout our 5,000+ acres of parkland, 144 parks, 87 playgrounds, a newly renovated aquatics system, and many other award-winning amenities and leisure opportunities, but without the staff behind those success stories, we wouldn't be where we are today. Our behind-the-scenes heroes preserve the beauty of Wichita's parks and open spaces and keep striving for new and improved recreation opportunities every day.



Opportunities abound for Wichita residents to love where they live, work, and play!

WPR is honored to have its dedicated staff, innovative programs, and impactful partnerships recognized again.

CLASS III 2022 Finalists



Champaign Park District Champaign, Illinois

Nestled between the cornfields of central Illinois is an innovative, cultural hub: Champaign, Illinois, home of the Champaign Park District.

In its 100+ year existence, the Champaign Park District has grown to better serve the needs of its more than 88,000 residents. The Park District maintains 64 park sites, totaling over 700 acres. Its staff manages fourteen unique recreation facilities, including several historic properties, an aquatic center, and a replica of a turn-of-the-century

farm with animals. These facilities and parks provide space for the Park District to offer approximately 1,500 unique programs annually.

Health, wellness, and equity are core values to Champaign Park District, whose Foundation distributed over \$120,000 in youth scholarships over the last three years to at-risk youth. A new partnership with the Don Moyer Boys & Girls Club will better serve local youth through shared space at the District's new Martens Center facility. The District also partners with Urbana Park District to offer Champaign-Urbana Special Recreation programming, and recently renovated an outdated facility, creating a facility entirely dedicated to meet the recreation needs of individuals with disabilities.

Conservation efforts include the \$10 million restoration of a 1921 historic theatre, native prairie restoration, sustainable energy sourcing, and more.

Enhancing the community's quality of life through positive experiences in parks, recreation, and cultural arts is not only Champaign Park District's mission, but is woven into the fabric of each park, facility, and program offered, and will continue to drive positive change to Champaign and beyond.



Roseville Parks, Recreation & Libraries Department Roseville, California

Roseville Parks, Recreation & Libraries (PRL) is a key reason that Roseville, California, is the eighth fastest-growing city in the nation. Approximately 149,000 people call Roseville home, and appreciate our accessible, well-designed parks and recreation facilities that improve their quality of life. 84% of Roseville residents have a park within a 10-minute walk of their home, and we plan to keep it that way. PRL provides the community with 79 parks, two golf courses, a fitness center, a community

center, three swimming pools, a Native American museum, three libraries, 19 on-campus before and after school sites, nearly 4,000 acres of open space, and countless programs and events. Our dedicated staff work closely with the

community to ensure our parks, programs and facilities meet their needs. Great support from our city leaders facilitates our success.

PRL's mission is to enhance lives and the community by providing exceptional experiences. We achieve this mission not just with our greenspaces, but also with our programs and events. Even in COVID-impacted 2021, we saw

nearly 1.5 million program participations and facility visitations. More than 60,000 people attend PRL's downtown events each year, and increased foot traffic from these events has helped the City's Economic Development Department attract new businesses to downtown. It's well recognized that PRL's impact on the community is far reaching.

PRL's future is bright as we finalize a new Strategic Master Plan, design a new regional sports complex, create innovative programs, expand cultural arts, and open 12 more parks in the next few years.

South Bend Venues Parks & Arts

South Bend, Indiana

South Bend Venues Parks & Arts (VPA) is dedicated to making South Bend, Indiana, more livable and loveable for our 100,000 residents. We do this through producing first-class public amenities, committed community engagement and by creating emotionally engaging experiences for all.

Our agency oversees nearly 60 parks, 3 golf courses, an accredited zoo and North America's first artificial white-water course in the center of our downtown core.

Our decisions are led and influenced by four impact drivers: Social Equity, Ecological Stewardship, Economic Impact and Health and Wellness. In the last several years VPA has completed over \$60 million worth of public infrastructure projects – from public restroom accessibility

improvements to massive park redevelopments – which show our community's dedication to our shared public spaces.



Waukegan Park District

Waukegan, Illinois

Established on December 26, 1916, the Waukegan Park District has 53 properties and more than 742 acres of land to allow for creative programming and influential education. The District is committed to providing parks, facilities and leisure opportunities to the culturally diverse population of nearly 90,000 residents. The District provides opportunities to support health and wellness, conservation education and memorable experiences. Programs and services are provided to all ages and abilities. The triannual printed program guide is printed in both English and Spanish to reach the District's diverse population. Hundreds of low-cost programs are offered year-round and 30% of programming is free to the public. The state-of-the-art indoor fitness facility provides the community with access to free walking to improve health and numerous

walking paths have been incorporated in new park renovations. Nature education is integrated into programming to promote conservation throughout the community.

The staff and community are involved in the planning process through public input meetings, surveys, and social media engagement.

Continual improvements to parks, facilities, and programs are ensured through accountability to deliver outstanding parks and services to the community. These efforts have been recognized nationally and locally by the Certified Accreditation of Parks and Recreation Association,



Government Finance Officers Association, Illinois Association of Museums and the Illinois Parks and Recreation Association. Through leadership, community involvement and dedicated staff, The Waukegan Park District is effectively serving its residents in innovative ways for over 100 years.

CLASS IV 2022 Finalists

Bristol Parks, Recreation, Youth and Community Services Bristol, Connecticut



Bristol Parks, Recreation, Youth and Community Services (BPRYCS) is the 2nd largest municipal park system in Connecticut and one of the top ten largest municipal park systems in New England. Rated as the #1 reason residents love about Bristol, the department oversees 730 acres of urban parks, hundreds of recreational programs, three aquatics facilities, counseling and case management for youth and community members, a federal drug free community program, and a community theater.

The integration of youth and community services in 2019 has fostered service alignments that have increased access to resources, while a new arts and culture division has resulted in public art installations and the development of a cultural district.

BPRYCS is known nationally for its innovative and award-winning programs and facilities, which continue to expand access to recreation and advance social equity. The department is committed to engaging in diversity, equity, and

The organization has evolved from a traditional parks department to a comprehensive full-service agency that impacts every aspect of how people live, play, and work in the City of Bristol.

inclusion work in order to fully deliver high-quality services and facilities that enhance the community's quality of life, meet the diverse needs of all citizens, and build a sustainable future.

For close to a century, the Bristol Parks, Recreation, Youth and Community Services Department has served as an essential department impacting the lives of all Bristol residents by shaping positive public perceptions, fostering cultural unity, creating responsible and healthy citizens, and inspiring advocacy.



Established in 1912, the Park District of Oak Park (PDOP) has a long history of developing green space and offering recreational opportunities for residents. We have a community of 55,000 yet only 84 acres of land. Thus, staff is creative when offering our 3,000+ programs and maintaining our spaces.

The District is proud that our sustainability commitment aligns with the expectations of our

residents. We implement best practices through construction of LEED, Net Zero, and Passive House designs for our facilities as well as installation of bio-swales, solar, rain-harvesting, geo-thermal, and more. Since 2016, our electricity usage has decreased by approximately 30% and over 1,000,000 gallons of water is saved annually.

The District is passionate about innovation and engaging staff and the community. Since 2017, 822 staff ideas were posted on Launchpad, over 2,000 comments were made on these ideas, and 163 ideas were officially launched. Our performance dashboard provides data to staff

and the public with real-time information for planning, decision-making, and transparency. Reaching under-resourced and under-served residents is a priority for PDOP. Thus, we have expanded scholarships and childcare discount offerings. The Community Recreation Center (CRC) provides free after-school programs for grades 6-12 and a walking track for all residents; the CRC includes gymnasiums, e-sports room, inclusive locker rooms, and more. Finally, our DEI Committee focuses on diversifying engagement efforts through partnerships to help us reach new audiences for PDOP involvement.

Park District of Oak Park Oak Park, Illinois

We align our efforts with our commitment to mother-earth and the health and wellness of all residents.

Hoffman Estates Park District

Hoffman Estates, Illinois

Hoffman Estates Park District (HEParks) prides itself on “making life fun” for all of the nearly 53,000 residents in its diverse and vibrant district!

Ensuring equal access to programs and facilities across the district is at the heart of every decision at HEParks. Divided into three distinct areas by an interstate and a large forest preserve, HEParks reduces location barriers by offering popular programs, such as soccer, baseball, fitness, and special events within all three geographic zones. Understanding that location is just one barrier to program participation, HEParks teamed up with the school district to create the “Programs for All” initiative to provide free program access to financially disadvantaged families. To extend inclusive programming opportunities, HEParks partnered with the local special recreation association to convert an underused

facility into a hub for local families with disabilities.

HEParks takes pride in providing the community equitable access to parks through open spaces, athletic fields, spray pads, dog parks, pickleball, tennis, volleyball, disc golf and over 14 miles of walking/biking trails. With over 930 acres of park space and 88 playgrounds, 94.7% of Hoffman Estates residents live within one-half mile of a district park or playground.

As a two-time perfect score CAPRA accredited agency, HEParks takes pride in providing excellent services and facilities while staying fiscally responsible. Through innovative personnel and alternative revenues, including grants, HEParks



has one of the lowest tax to total expense ratios in Illinois for similarly sized districts.

Waukesha Parks, Recreation & Forestry Department

Waukesha, Wisconsin

Waukesha Parks, Recreation & Forestry Department (WPRF) is a diverse Southeastern Wisconsin community of 72,000+ residents, helping to make Waukesha a desirable place to live, work, and play! Aided by on-going departmental planning efforts, the park system has grown to 50 sites encompassing over 1,146 acres of active parkland and natural resource areas. WPRF offers a comprehensive recreation program of award-winning programs, activities, and community special events for persons of all ages/abilities and the underserved. Facility opportunities abound featuring a recreation center, nature center, community buildings, 3 sports complexes, 2 outdoor aquatic facilities, 24 park shelters, skate park, formal gardens, performance center, amphitheater, dog run, toboggan run, 40 tennis courts, 24 pickleball courts, and 32

accessible playground areas. In addition, an extensive trail system and popular “Riverwalk” corridor links local and regional trails. The department also plans and cares for the city’s urban forest of nearly 30,000 street, park and public property trees and maintains street/boulevard landscapes. Educational programs teach about conservation include Monarch Butterfly, Rain and Community Gardens.

WPRF is the community leader in mobilizing and utilizing the talents of a large volunteer support program. New partnerships and resources (in particular leveraging recreation with education) have been realized through



the Sponsorships, Partnerships & Alternative Revenue Sources (SPARS) program along with support from the Friends of WPRF and the Park Foundation of Waukesha. Ongoing assessments, strategic planning and use of technology keep the department connected, engaged and “Essential to Community Quality of Life!”

CLASS V 2022 Finalists



Deerfield Park District maximizes services for our residents by cultivating unique, well-designed, lasting partnerships. Our 2021-2026 Illinois Distinguished Accredited Agency award approval highlighted our local government cooperation, Intergovernmental Agreements and shared services.

Sachs Recreation Center is the training facility for both the 2021 Champion WNBA Chicago Sky and North Shore Rhythmic Gymnastics Club, a world-renowned Olympic program. For active

adults, age 50+, over 2,000 yearly recreation, social, health and aging programs are experienced at the Patty Turner Center, a cooperative facility with the Village of Deerfield. Our partnerships with Cove School, Northern

Suburban Special Education District and Northern Suburban Special Recreation Association provide recreation and internship program experiences for residents with disabilities.

During the pandemic, hosting a Covid-19 vaccine clinic in partnership with Doctors Test Centers at our Patty Turner Center resulted in administering 8,000 on-site and 12,000 mobile-site vaccines. Spanning 350 acres, popular amenities include a user-designed skatepark, two outdoor pools,

Deerfield Park District Deerfield, Illinois

a dog park, 17 playgrounds and an 18-hole golf course. The addition of no-mow zones, volunteer-managed beehives that house 10,000 bees and serving as a drop-off site for 16 non-profits align perfectly with our Going Green Environmental Stewardship strategic plan core strategy.

Our Wellness Committee collaboration with the Village and Library provides information, activities and services for staff designed to support healthy lifestyle choices. Recent additions of a flexible workweek program and work from home initiative promote work-life balance. These progressive enhancements allow our staff to continue to enrich lives, promote healthy living and inspire memorable experiences.



East Goshen Township Parks and Recreation is a community that values its open space, with 495 acres of parkland alongside eighteen parks. Despite only having one full time staff member, it has experienced tremendous growth as the community has taken ownership and breathed life into its efforts, with four capital park projects coming to completion 2018-2023. It is truly a park and recreation experience shaped by the residents.

Shop hosts these events, introducing new generations to the building in a rightful fashion!

We also look to meet emerging recreational pursuits, most notably seen in our Southeastern Pennsylvania Teen Filmmakers Showcase. A public-private partnership with the Movie Tavern Exton, the festival gives emerging filmmakers opportunities to see their film on the big screen!

East Goshen Township Parks and Recreation East Goshen, Pennsylvania

The township, settled in the 1600s, allows the department to weave its historical assets throughout its programming, most readily seen in its Escape Room series created by the department's Poet Laureate. Our 300-year-old Blacksmith

Started in 2019 with fourteen local submissions, we now receive 2700+ global submissions each year, and in 2022 will donate net proceeds to Olga Artushevskaya, a Ukrainian filmmaker in Kiev.

The department also creatively tackles environmental issues, partnering with West Chester University to host the Carnival of Ruin, a multi-year project where residents gathered garbage that was then turned into professional costuming and even a big top, made from 4,000 single use bags. East Goshen Township Parks and Recreation, serving a community of 18,000 reside, is in the "Business of Making Memories".

Dickinson Parks and Recreation District

Dickinson, North Dakota

Dickinson Parks and Recreation (DPR) serves the 25,000 people of Dickinson. Dickinson's solid workforce base attracts people from across the country to relocate here. People move to Dickinson for its strong economy, and they remain in Dickinson because it is a great place to live and raise a family.

Dickinson Parks and Recreation's mission is to enhance the quality of life for the community and its visitors by providing leisure opportunities. DPR proudly manages 1,763 acres of parkland which is comprised of 31 parks, 30 miles of pedestrian trails along with 14 first class facilities and over 200 programs and special events. One of our finest facilities is the West River Community Center; a 135,000 sq. ft. recreational facility that attracts 300,000 annual visitors. The center is a big part in

bringing health and wellness to our community and is what truly brings people together. In providing positive impacts to safety, health and wellness, we are proud of our youth, adult and senior programming.

As we celebrate our 75th Anniversary, our team strives to bring the community what it expects—a city rich with parks, trails and recreational opportunities. Dickinson Parks and Recreation is extremely honored to see their hard work and dedication come to light in being recognized as a 2022 Gold Medal Finalist! We can't wait to see what the future holds for Dickinson Parks and Recreation.



Town of Fountain Hills

Community Services

Fountain Hills, Arizona

Fountain Hills Community Services is a small but impressive team that operates with a culture of passion and commitment. We shine brightest when it comes to increasing community advocacy, earning the trust of our leadership, and magnifying our limited fiscal resources. Encompassing five divisions with 17 full-time staff, we represent the broadest, most public-facing department within the town. In a community of 24,000, we oversee 5 parks with more than 125 acres of active space, 2 trailheads within 822 acres of preserved open space, a 30,000 sq ft Community Center and one world famous fountain.

Our mission highlights proactive community engagement, stewardship of amenities, and enhancement of community health. Our program designs, policy revisions, and advocacy

efforts strive to drive these initiatives forward in tangible and impactful ways.

Our residents, user groups, and 800+ volunteers are often our loudest cheerleaders and have stepped forward with time, service, and funding to advance our department initiatives.

Our partnerships with local businesses and vendors pave the way for us to do more and go further. Examples include the expansion of our Concerts on the Ave program, newly added MUSCO Mini-Pitch system and cooperative venture with Kompan to debut new playground equipment. Relationship building is the ultimate hallmark of



the Fountain Hills Community Services team and continues to be the catalyst for improvement, innovation, and community collaboration.

ARMED FORCES 2022 Finalists



U.S. Army Garrison Fort Campbell Fort Campbell, Kentucky

The Fort Campbell Community Recreation Division (CRD) is a proponent of the Directorate of Family and Morale Welfare and Recreation (MWR) which provides programs, services, and activities to offer soldiers and families opportunities

The Community Recreation Division is comprised of 187 staff members categorized in Outdoor Recreation, Recreation, Sales and Service and Sports, Fitness and Aquatics. We consistently measure the overall effectiveness of providing program activities for healthy living, people first, and strong communities.

Fort Campbell, a world-class military community that offers the "Best Soldier and Family Experience," lies on the border between Hopkinsville, Kentucky and Clarksville, Tennessee; approximately 60 miles northwest of Nashville, Tennessee.

Fort Campbell is the home of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), known as the "Screaming Eagles," serving as the Army's only Air Assault Division.

to enrich their lives culturally and creatively.

Our programs relieve stress, build strength and resilience, and help the Army family stay physically and mentally fit. We are a professional service organization delivering critical services to sustain readiness and provide essential family programs to over 24,000 active duty soldiers and their family members, retirees, and Department of Defense civilian employees.



Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay King's Bay, Georgia

recreation opportunities for the new generation of military members. The customer base of 26,000 patrons consists of Sailors, Marines, Coast Guard service members, retirees, civilian government employees, and their families. This diverse

to overcome whatever obstacles lie ahead, keeping them as a leader in military recreation.

The professional MWR Kings Bay team understands the organizational vision and believes in the processes necessary to achieve greatness. Together they have accomplished countless recognitions such as multiple Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) and Commander, Navy Installations Command (CNIC) 5-Star program accreditations, and the 2014 National Gold Medal Grand Plaque Award.

Nestled in tranquil Camden County, Georgia, Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay, is a community where people, nature, and technology live in harmony. Within this unique installation operates the highly accredited Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) Department.

community provides the customer focused MWR Kings Bay team of 90 employees with ample opportunities to meet and exceed expectations.

MWR Kings Bay works diligently to achieve its short-and-long-term goals, becoming one of the premier Navy MWR departments. With emphasis placed on fiscal responsibility, innovation, customer service, and program evolution, MWR Kings Bay ensures that all areas have the tools

A customer-driven organization, MWR Kings Bay, takes pride in offering new, innovative programs to improve the entertainment, fitness, and

NAS Whiting Field Morale, Welfare, Recreation Milton, Florida

Located in Northwest Florida, Naval Air Station Whiting Field is the busiest aviation complex in the world conducting over 1.1 million flight operations a year. NAS Whiting Field's trains war fighters where every Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard helicopter pilot receive their wings of gold. Our installation serves 3000 military and Department of Defense members, their families, and 9000 retirees. Our team is comprised of 64 enthusiastic professionals who provide world class service to our community.

Morale, Welfare, Recreation (MWR) at Whiting Field is a programming powerhouse, stretching dollars and resources to transport guests into other worlds. Whether converting a nature trail into a spooky haunt or unused property house into Santa's Village or Alice's Wonderland, we provide enjoyment for all. Our inventive team members

transform underutilized spaces into recreation hotspots including the conversion of a softball field into a dog park, a paintball course into a driving range, and racquet ball court into a Family Fitness room. We are on the edge of military trends opening a \$1.4 million bowling center renovation into a recreation space for all. These efforts contributed to installation awards including, "Best Base in the Navy 2020," and CNO Award for Environmental Quality. MWR has received 5-Star Accreditation exhibiting our work to maintain consistent services and world class facilities. The MWR team at Whiting Field delivers exceptional services to sustain the Fleet, enable the fighter, and support the family.



Fort Drum Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation, Community Recreation Division Fort Drum, New York

The recipient of the 2020 Department of Defense Commander in Chief's Award for Installation Excellence, Fort Drum is the home of the 10th Mountain Division Light Infantry, located in Northern New York's picturesque North Country. Fort Drum is commonly referred to as "The Army's Best Kept Secret," offering soldiers and families a majestic setting for inspiring recreational opportunities. Family and MWR, Community Recreation Division offers an abundance of activities throughout the year to foster memories that last a lifetime.

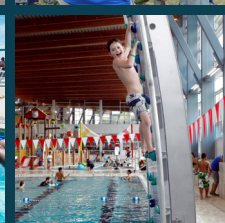
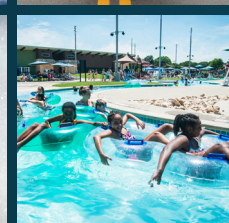
Our top priority is to enhance the quality of life for the Fort Drum community. We focus on improving mental and emotional well-being by embracing all four seasons with diverse

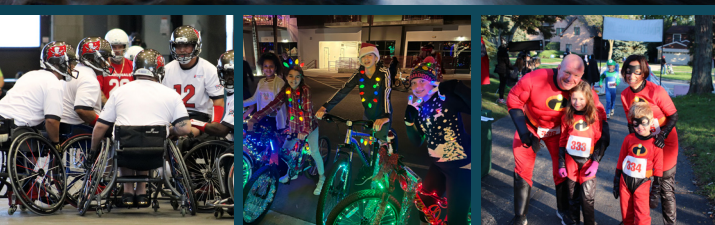
programs, services and events. During the spring, our community experiences hikes through the Adirondack Mountains, rock-climbing, and trail beautification. In the summer, we offer boating, camping, mountain biking and large events such as Riverfest and Mountainfest. Watching the leaves change color during fall is a popular activity and photo opportunity. Our partnership with New York State Department of Environmental Conservation is showcased in fall with hunter education classes, guided pheasant hunts and archery offerings. Winter is one of our most unique seasons where snowmobiling, ice fishing, skiing,



snowboarding and ice skating are a must.

Our robust Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers (BOSS) program serves over 7,500 single soldiers. We network through brigade representatives to offer life skills, recreational activities, and volunteer initiatives to enhance the readiness and resiliency of the soldier. Fort Drum is the Army's Best Kept Secret!







Musco Lighting

Congratulates All 2022 National Gold Medal Award Finalists

From the Heartland to the Gulf Coast, from the Smoky Mountains to the Rockies, and around the globe, park and recreation professionals are committed to improving their communities through dedicated service. Musco Lighting is proud to recognize the efforts of individuals and agencies making a difference in the lives of so many, increasing opportunities for life-enhancing activities at all levels.

Whether it's pools, trails, nature, sports, environmental restoration, or green space improvement; the activities, programs, and management efforts of these dedicated organizations span the broad range of interests and needs in their communities. All finalists are actively involved in finding the solutions best suited for their communities, and their communities are better for it.

Through the expansion of programs devoted to the well-being and health of their citizens, recreation and parks departments are positively impacting current and future generations with better prospects for healthy lifestyles, communities, and environments. Musco salutes these programs and the people who have brought them to life.