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Grand Plaque Recipients Announced at the 2024 National Gold Medal Awards in Parks and Recreation

The premiere award in the park and recreation industry, awarded to Armed Forces Installations and Local Agencies

Lacey, Washington, October 11, 2024– The [American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration](#) (AAPRA), in partnership with the [National Recreation and Park Association](#) (NRPA), is pleased to announce the Grand Plaque recipients in the 2024 National Gold Medal Awards for Excellence in Park and Recreation Management. [Musco Lighting, LLC](#) is proud to continue sponsoring the Gold Medal Awards program as it has been for more than 20 years.

Founded in 1965, the Gold Medal Awards program honors communities in the United States that demonstrate excellence in parks and recreation through long-range planning, resource management, volunteerism, environmental stewardship, program development, professional development and agency recognition. Applications are comprised of six classes, with five classes based on population and one class for armed forces.

The following agencies received the Grand Plaque award after first receiving the Finalist award:

Class I (population 400,001 & over): Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, Minneapolis, Minnesota
Class II (population 150,001 to 400,000): South Suburban Park and Recreation District, Littleton, Colorado
Class III (population 75,001 to 150,000): City of New Braunfels Parks and Recreation, New Braunfels, Texas
Class IV (population 30,001 to 75,000): Douglasville Parks and Recreation, Douglasville, Georgia
Class V (population under 30,000): Dickinson Parks and Recreation District, Dickinson, North Dakota
Armed Forces Category: Naval Air Station Whiting Field, Milton, Florida

Agencies are judged on their ability to address the needs of those they serve through the collective energies of community members, staff members and elected officials. Each of these agencies first received the Finalist Plaque in their category. For the Grand Plaque round of judging, each Finalist had to submit a five-minute video which supports their application, and the judges reviewed progress on the agency's strategic plan.

A panel of five park and recreation professionals judged all application materials. Judges are chosen for their considerable experience and knowledge of parks and recreation on both the local and national levels.

For more information on the Gold Medal Awards, visit www.nrpa.org/goldmedal or www.aapra.org.

The American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration (AAPRA) is a nonprofit organization founded 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 sponsor seminars related to the advancement of park and recreation administration. For more information, visit www.aapra.org.

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) is the leading not-for-profit organization dedicated to building strong, vibrant and resilient communities through the power of parks and recreation. NRPA advances this vision by investing in and championing the work of park and recreation professionals as a catalyst for positive change in service of [equity](#), [climate-readiness](#), and overall [health and well-being](#). For more information visit www.nrpa.org.

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