

2023

Washington Recreation & Parks Association
Award Nomination Presentation
Orientation & FAQ



Washington Recreation
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As we reflect on the many accomplishments of our industry, we would like to encourage each of you to submit nominations for the incredible co-workers, supervisors, and staff we are all surrounded by.

WRPA looks to honor career-long and emerging leaders alike.

In hopes of creating a more inclusive awards program, we are working with the EIB Committee to take continuous steps, modernization of some of the award category names as well as updating evaluation criteria.

Award categories that we recognize:

- **Professional Awards**
- **Citation of Merit Awards**
- **Spotlight Awards**

Nominations are open from Sept. 1, 2022 – Jan. 31, 2023



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Professional Awards

NEW THIS YEAR

Champions for Change Award:

This NEW award is intended to honor agencies with unique, innovative and exemplary practices that remove barriers, result in positive social change and inspire others to follow in their path. It improves the working experience and engagement levels of employees from underrepresented communities, and/or the lives of all people through delivery of excellent services and programs

Some practices include:

- Increase access
- Foster diversity and inclusion
- Addresses environmental impacts
- Overall enhancement of social equity within their community or organization

The program / implementation within the past 2 years and needs to be a current WRPA member.



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Professional Awards – Lasting Legacy Award

(formerly known as Distinguished Service)

This award honors ALL Parks and Recreation professionals that have retired within the past 2 years – with a minimum of 10 years of service in the field - and a minimum of 5 years as a WRPA Member or Agency Member

This is a non-competitive award - Anyone who is nominated that meets the criteria will be recognized at the Annual Conference Awards Banquet

2022 Recipients:

- Jeanne Blackburn – Snohomish County Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
- Patricia Petesch – City of Seattle Parks and Recreation
- Jonathon Turlove – City of Olympia Arts and Recreation

2021 Recipients:

- Jim Ballew – City of Marysville
- Greg Brown – City of Maple Valley
- Patrick Foran – Bellevue Parks and Community Services
- Glenn Kost – Bellevue Parks and Community Services
- Scott Armstrong – Bellevue Parks and Community Services
- Mike Mecham – Bellevue Parks and Community Services



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Professional Awards - Impact and Influence Award

(formerly known as Honor Fellow)

This is the highest recognition bestowed by WRPA to an individual, recognizing their dedication and achievement in the field of parks and recreation. Nominees must have a minimum of 10 years of service in the field and have been a member of WRPA for at least 10 years.

Nominees should be professionals that demonstrate consistent commitment to the field of parks and recreation, service to their community and furthering the goals of WRPA.

Some attributes of nominees:

- Significantly contributed to WRPA in ways that have affected the philosophy and practices of the organization
- Initiated or implemented recommendations that promotes and advances the value of parks and recreation
- Repeatedly accepted and eagerly welcomed leadership opportunities within WRPA
- Committee work related to parks and recreation, conference speaker, committee level involvement

- 2022 Recipient

- Roxanne Miles, Pierce County Parks and Recreation

- 2021 Recipient

- Shelley McVein, Bellevue Parks and Community Services



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Professional Awards - Emerging Professional

(formerly known as Young Professional Award)

This category recognizes up and coming future leaders in the field of parks and recreation.

Nominees should possess the qualities and talents that will result in their assuming influential roles within their agency and/or WRPA in the future. Nominees need to have at least 3 years of service as a parks and recreation professional and as a WRPA member.

Some attributes of nominees:

- Contributed significantly to their community, agency or department
- Demonstrates emerging leadership skills and shows initiative
- Served as a speaker at conferences, webinars, network meetings or other such gatherings to promote parks and recreation
- Served in influential positions in their community and/or with WRPA

- 2022 Recipient – Gabbi Gonzales, City of Burien Parks and Recreation & Cultural Services
- 2021 Recipient – Justin Brown, City of Longview
- 2020 Recipient – David Green, Everett Parks and Community Services
- 2019 Recipient – Carissa Ware – Spokane Parks and Recreation



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Professional Awards - Ron C Davis II Unsung Hero Award

This award recognizes an individual for their unwavering commitment, leadership, passion and contributions to the profession. This award is meant for those individuals who work tirelessly to make a difference in people's lives, without being in the spotlight, without significant acknowledgment, but with steadfast grace and passion.

Nominees need to have at least 3 years of service as a parks and recreation professional and as a WRPA member.

Some attributes of nominees:

- Passion and commitment to the field of parks and recreation
 - Unassuming, often work behind the scenes to bring value to people's lives
 - Demonstrate a broader sense of community service both inside and outside of work and has contributed significantly to their community.
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- 2022 Recipient – Shanyanika McElroy, City of Seattle, Parks & Recreation Department
 - 2021 Recipient – Christine Bensen, Snohomish Aquatics Center
 - 2019 Recipient – Rich Lindsay, City of Edmonds & Willie Rogers Seattle Parks and Recreation



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Citation of Merit Awards

The Citation of Merit Award recognizes individuals and organizations for their significant contributions to the field of parks and recreation.

COMMUNITY – This award recognizes an outside *group, organization or individual* for their significant contribution to the field of parks and recreation in Washington State

- Has consistently demonstrated commitment and support to the field of parks and recreation at a state or local level
- Helped address a unique, critical or otherwise unmet parks and recreation need

2020 Recipient – City of Bothell

2018 Recipient – BMX Program Non-Profit – Spokane, WA

2017 Recipient – Evergreen East Mountain Bike Alliance, Spokane, WA

2016 Recipient – Piazza Renton, Renton, WA

2015 Recipient – Partners for Parks, Verdant Health Commission & Bainbridge Island Land Trust



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Citation of Merit Awards

PROFESSIONAL – Honors a parks and recreation professional for their contributions to the field and/or to WRPA.

- Minimum of 5 years of service & WRPA membership (individual or agency)
- Nominees should demonstrate consistent commitment to the field of parks and recreation, service to their community and assist in furthering the goals of WRPA. Some ways nominees could have made qualifying contributions:
 - *Served in influential positions in their community or within WRPA*
 - *Significantly impacted the advancement of parks and recreation within their community or within WRPA*
 - *Held a network, committee or board position within WRPA*
 - *Served as a conference, webinar or other training presenter.*
- 2022 Recipient – No Nominations
- 2021 Recipient – Sylvana Niehauser, City of Olympia Parks and Recreation
- 2020 Recipient – No Nominations
- 2019 Recipient – Kevin Witte, City of Mountlake Terrace (now City of Auburn)
- 2018 Recipient – Mary Coppin, city of Lacey
- 2017 Recipient – Michelle Larson, City of Enumclaw
- 2016 Recipient – Diane Mortenson, City of Mercer Island



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WRPA Spotlight Awards:

FACILITIES, PARKS & TRAILS ~ Recognizes the highest standards in design, development and renovation of parks and recreation areas.

- *Projects must be completed (fully constructed) during the past 2 years. Agency or nominating party must be a WRPA member.*
- *Projects have successfully addressed a community or regional need and have demonstrated a creative use of resources, materials or partnerships.*

- **INDOOR SPACE** ~ Facilities that have roof and walls and that are utilized for recreation.

2021 – The Pullman Recreation Center, City of Pullman Parks, Facilities & Recreation

2019 – Eastside Community Center, Metro Parks Tacoma

- **OUTDOOR SPACE** ~ Outdoor areas that have a recreational use component

2021 – Wenberg Park, Snohomish County Parks and Recreation

2020 – Yesler Terrace Park, Seattle Parks and Recreation, Downtown Park, City of Redmond, Summit Park, City of Maple Valley, U.S. Pavilion & Howard Street Promenade Riverfront Spokane

2019 – Outdoor Spaces: Brookville Garden Park, City of Fife & Vancouver Waterfront Park

- **TRAIL** ~ Recreational Trails or Paths

- 2019 – Matt Hirvela/Bicentennial Trail, City of Mountlake Terrace
Washington Park Arboretum Loop Trail, Seattle Parks and Recreation



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WRPA Spotlight Awards:

PROGRAM EXCELLENCE ~ Honors achievements in the delivery of parks and recreation programs and services.

- Programs that occurred during the past 2 years and have not received prior recognition.
- Successfully addressed a community or regional service need.
- Impact of the program or initiative

- **EQUITY, HEALTH & WELLNESS** ~ Programs, initiatives or special events that promote equity for marginalized communities, healthy lifestyles and community wellness.

2021 – Operation Senior Meal Drop, Tukwila Parks and Recreation

2020 – Summer Meal Program, City of Lynnwood

2019 - Rainbow Recreation 50+ Seniors Program, Empty Bowls, City of Burien

- Youth Link, Unity Through Diversity: Moving Beyond the First Impression, City of Bellevue

- **INNOVATIVE PROGRAMMING** ~ Programs / initiatives / special events that are unique & cutting edge.

2020 – Whole Child Initiative, Metro Parks Tacoma

2019 - STREAM Team, City of Renton, Winter Wonderland, Metro Parks Tacoma

- **OTHER (PROGRAMS, INITIATIVES OR SPECIAL EVENTS)** ~

2020 – District Drama, White River Community Activities Program

2019 – Oly on Ice, Olympia Parks, Arts and Recreation



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