



The 2021 Utah Recreation and Park Association Awards Program Overview

Each year the Utah Recreation and Parks Association (URPA) recognizes outstanding achievement in the field of parks, recreation, leisure services, and education within the State of Utah. Nominations are received in eleven separate categories. Individuals, facilities, programs, and departments are acknowledged for their accomplishments. Categories include the following:

- **Lifetime Achievement**
- **Outstanding Citizen Advocate/Volunteer**
- **Vendor / Sponsor of the Year • Outstanding Adaptive Program**
- **Outstanding Special Event**
- **Outstanding Program**
- **Outstanding Facility**
- **Innovation of the Year**
- **Conservation & Sustainability**
- **Outstanding Professionals:** Executive, Recreation, Parks (Parks, Cemetery, Golf Course), Aquatics, Academic, Young Professional
- **Outstanding Department:** Class I (under 15,000 pop.), Class II (15,000 - 50,000 pop.), Class III (over 50,000 pop.)
- **Professional Scholarships:**
 - Great Western Recreation
 - Steve and Georgia Carpenter
 - Fred and Judy Tamagawa

Nominations may be submitted online at <https://urpa.org/professional-awards.html>. All nominations will receive a confirmation email when the submission is completed and received. If you do not receive a confirmation email please contact us at urpa.nominations@gmail.com.

Nominations require detail in substantiating the nomination. Information must be accurate, neatly prepared and relevant to the award criteria established for the chosen award category. A separate nomination form is required for each category submitted for consideration. All current and honorary URPA members may submit one or more nominations for consideration.

The URPA Past President's Award Selection Committee is formally established to meet, review, and select a winner from each established category.

Awards will be presented during the Annual Utah Recreation and Parks Association Conference

URPA Professional Awards Criteria

Lifetime Achievement

The Lifetime Achievement Award acknowledges a parks and recreation professional who has dedicated their time to improving the quality of their community and supporting the parks and recreation movement in Utah. This individual has shown strong leadership through community outreach, inspiration to others, and note-worthy contributions to the field of parks and recreation.

Along with the guidelines stated above, please indicate how the nominee devoted his or her 10 or more years of involvement with URPA and outstanding service to his or her community.

Eligibility Requirements

- Currently retired or retiring in the current year, moving out of the state of Utah or is no longer active in the day-to-day activities of an agency.
- Minimum of 10 years of service in the field of parks and recreation.
- Minimum of 4 years as a URPA member

Evaluation Criteria

- Broad range of parks and recreation experience, including progressive levels of responsibility
- Held appointed and/or elected leadership positions in their community and/or with URPA
- Contributed significantly to their community and/or agency
- Contributed significantly to URPA
- The candidate **must be a member of the Association** for at least four (4) years.

- The candidate must have at least ten (10) years of experience working in Parks and Recreation as a leader, instructor, supervisor, or administrator parks and recreation activities.
- The Candidate should have contributed to the advancement of the Association, affiliated organizations, or the profession in general through at least four (4) of the following functions:
 - Outstanding service as a Board Member of the Association, Representative, Committee Chair, or Member.
 - One or more significant improvements to recreation and parks or related curriculum on either the undergraduate or graduate level.
 - Service to a related professional organization.
 - Significant volunteer efforts to a specific aspect of the field.
 - Initiation of one or more new recreation programs for a specific group or area.
 - Contribution to expand parks and recreation activities through the initiation of increased cooperation between one or more allied community partners or groups
 - Considerable and varied work in support of legislation and/or regulations resulting in benefits to any facet or level of the field.
 - Exhibition of continued enthusiasm for working to benefit and improve any facet or level of the field.
 - At least three presentations before professional groups, at conferences, seminars, or workshops.

Outstanding Citizen/Volunteer

The Outstanding Citizen/Volunteer Award recognizes a citizen, agency parks and recreation board member, or volunteer who has demonstrated exceptional efforts towards enhancing and supporting parks and recreation in their community/agency and/or Utah. Nominees may be recognized for a record of cumulative service or for their endeavors related to a single project or activity of significance.

Eligibility Requirements

- Individual has been a volunteer for at least one year

- Nominating agency must be a current URPA member

Evaluation Criteria

- Proven record of outstanding volunteer service to the delivery of park and recreation services or programs in their community.
- Active support of URPA or national professional groups, furthering the mission of parks and recreation.
- Contributed to the development of new equipment, apparatus, facilities or programs

Outstanding Vendor/Sponsor

The Outstanding Vendor/Sponsor Award recognizes a vendor, company, or individual who has significantly contributed to the field of parks and recreation and developed a strong partnership with URPA. This vendor, company, or individual has shown great leadership and support to the parks and recreation field by providing either equipment, volunteer time, in-kind services, or other contributions to a project or program that benefits the community and demonstrates the importance of parks and recreation.

Eligibility Requirements

- Current vendor/sponsor of a URPA training, conference and/or program OR a vendor/sponsor of a current member agency of URPA and their parks, recreation and or facility
- Current member of URPA

Evaluation Criteria

- Shown great leadership and support to the parks and recreation field over the past year
- Provides either equipment, volunteer time, in-kind services, or other contributions to a project or program
- Proven record of supporting the vision, goals and local programs; communicating to the community served the benefits of parks, recreation and community services.
- Proven record of maximizing resources for the accomplishment of long term community goals; supporting the implementation of strategic initiatives that produce the desired change by increasing an agency's or community's capacity; strengthening community leadership to address mutual challenges.

- **Outstanding Adaptive Program**

The Outstanding Adaptive Program Award praises an organization or agency for their achievements pertaining to a program or project that increases awareness and benefits of parks and recreation. This award highlights and acknowledges the organization's effort and determination to provide inclusive opportunities and programming to their community.

Eligibility Requirements

- Agency is a current member of URPA
- Program must have successfully ran at least once

Evaluation Criteria

- The significant issue, problem or concern that the entry addressed and the desired outcomes the program was looking to achieve.
- The entry demonstrated the use of creative or innovative approaches and the role community partners or stakeholders played in addressing the challenge
- Extent the entry utilized various strategies, tools, resources and outreach efforts to address the challenge, including the use of non-traditional fiscal or community resources (grants, sponsorships, volunteers, etc.) and the communication efforts used to inform or seek feedback from the community, policy makers or partners.
- The extent to which the entry created a substantial community benefit, improved operational efficiencies, created new or increased value in the community, or significantly enhanced the provision of park and recreation services through measureable results
- The extent to which the entry supported the mission of the profession and / or agency
- The program or project increased awareness and benefits of parks and recreation
- Provided an outstanding or new programming opportunity to the community
- The program or project increased awareness and benefits of parks and recreation and the community being served
- Provided inclusive programming opportunities to persons and or groups with disabilities

Outstanding Program

The Outstanding Program Award praises an organization or agency for their achievements pertaining to a program or activity that increases awareness and benefits of parks and recreation. This award highlights and acknowledges the organization's effort and determination to provide programming opportunities and benefits to their community.

Eligibility Requirements

- Agency is a current member of URPA
- Program must have successfully ran at least once

Evaluation Criteria

- The significant issue, problem or concern that the entry addressed and the desired outcomes the program was looking to achieve.
- The entry demonstrated the use of creative or innovative approaches and the role community partners or stakeholders played in addressing the challenge
- Extent the entry utilized various strategies, tools, resources and outreach efforts to address the challenge, including the use of non-traditional fiscal or community resources (grants,

sponsorships, volunteers, etc.) and the communication efforts used to inform or seek feedback from the community, policy makers or partners.

- The extent to which the entry created a substantial community benefit, improved operational efficiencies, created new or increased value in the community, or significantly enhanced the provision of park and recreation services through measureable results
- The extent to which the entry supported the mission of the profession and / or agency
- The program or project increased awareness and benefits of parks and recreation
- Provided an outstanding or new programming opportunity to the community

Outstanding Special Event

The Outstanding Special Event Award honors one time or annual events pertaining to senior and active adults, youth and families, cultural arts, health and fitness, community wellness and more. The event highlights the heart and passion of a community/agency and celebrates their uniqueness and the ability to come together and celebrate who they are.

Eligibility Requirements

- Agency is a current member of URPA
- Program must have successfully ran at least once

Evaluation Criteria

- The significant issue, problem or concern that the entry addressed and the desired outcomes the program was looking to achieve.
- The entry demonstrated the use of creative or innovative approaches and the role community partners or stakeholders played in addressing the challenge
- Extent the entry utilized various strategies, tools, resources and outreach efforts to address the challenge, including the use of non-traditional fiscal or community resources (grants, sponsorships, volunteers, etc.) and the communication efforts used to inform or seek feedback from the community, policy makers or partners.
- The extent to which the entry created a substantial community benefit, improved operational efficiencies, created new or increased value in the community, or significantly enhanced the provision of park and recreation services through measureable results
- The extent to which the entry supported the mission of the profession and / or agency
- The event increased awareness and benefits of parks and recreation
- Provided an outstanding reoccurring or new event opportunity to the community
- Event helped provide a sense of community and belonging to the community served

Outstanding Facility

Outstanding Facility Awards are presented to agencies for outstanding and unique achievements in the design and development of new or renovated recreation parks and facilities.

Awards in this category will be given out based on the following population the agency services:

- Class I (Under 15,000 population)
- Class II (Under 15,000 – 50,000 population)
- Class III (Over 50,000 population)

Eligibility Requirements

- Agency is a current member of URPA
- The facility must be or will be open by the annual URPA Conference

Evaluation Criteria

- Met a community challenge or compelling community need
- Demonstrated the use of unique architectural elements or responded to challenging environmental, cultural or site constraints or integrated “green” construction materials, systems, management or maintenance practices.
- Extent the entry utilized various strategies, tools, resources and outreach efforts to address the challenge, including the use of non-traditional fiscal or community resources i.e., grants, sponsorships, foundations, volunteers and the communication efforts used to inform, engage and receive feedback from the community, policy makers or stakeholders.
- Extent the entry provided a substantial community benefit, improved operational efficiencies, created new or increased value in the community or significantly enhanced the provision of park and recreation services through measurable results.
- Extent to which the entry supported the mission of the profession

Innovation of the Year

The Innovation of the Year Award honors programs pertaining to senior and active adults, youth and families, cultural arts, health and fitness, community wellness and more. These programs should be unique in nature and demonstrate the creativeness of the agency to meet the needs of the community they serve.

Eligibility Requirements

- Agency is a current member of URPA
- The innovation must have been offered or running at the time of the annual URPA Conference

Evaluation Criteria

- The significant issue, problem or concern that the entry addressed and the desired outcomes the program was looking to achieve.

- The entry demonstrated the use of creative or innovative approaches and the role community partners or stakeholders played in addressing the challenge
- Extent the entry utilized various strategies, tools, resources and outreach efforts to address the challenge, including the use of non-traditional fiscal or community resources (grants, sponsorships, volunteers, etc.) and the communication efforts used to inform or seek feedback from the community, policy makers or partners.
- The extent to which the entry created a substantial community benefit, improved operational efficiencies, created new or increased value in the community, or significantly enhanced the provision of park and recreation services through measureable results
- The extent to which the entry supported the mission of the profession and / or agency
- The program or project increased awareness and benefits of parks and recreation
- Provided an outstanding or new programming opportunity to the community

Conservation and Sustainability

The Conservation and Sustainability Award recognizes an agency or park team for its exceptional management of an existing park, trail, natural area, recreation, and/or aquatic facility asset over time. Nominees should demonstrate a record of improvement through quality maintenance and operations, efforts to retain and enhance the resource over time, creative problem-solving in the areas of budget, staffing, physical and/or environmental constraints, and/or introduction of new programs or activities that ensure continued use and optimization of the asset.

Eligibility Requirements

- Agency is a current member of URPA

Evaluation Criteria

- Met a community challenge or compelling community need
- Demonstrated the use of unique architectural elements or responded to challenging environmental, cultural or site constraints or integrated “green” construction materials, systems, management or maintenance practices.
- Extent the entry utilized various strategies, tools, resources and outreach efforts to address the challenge, including the use of non-traditional fiscal or community resources i.e., grants, sponsorships, foundations, volunteers and the communication efforts used to inform, engage and receive feedback from the community, policy makers or stakeholders.
- Extent the entry provided a substantial community benefit, improved operational efficiencies, created new or increased value in the community or significantly enhanced the provision of park and recreation services through measurable results.
- Extent to which the entry supported the mission of the profession

Outstanding Professional – Young Professional

The Young Professional Award is presented to a current parks and recreation professional who exhibits the attributes of an emerging leader, as displayed through their initiative, innovation, and contributions to the park and recreation field. Nominees should possess a record of career advancement, be engaged in professional and/or community organizations, and demonstrate outstanding service to their agency. Must be a current URPA member and 35 years of age or younger at the time of the URPA Annual Conference.

Eligibility Requirements

- Current member of URPA
- Age 35 or younger at the time of the annual URPA Conference

Evaluation Criteria

- The individual has demonstrated leadership qualities and characteristics
- The nominee is generally recognized by coworkers and colleagues as an emerging leader
- The nominee is engaged with community and/or professional organizations
- The nominee demonstrated initiative and the ability to be a self-starter
- The nominee has improved/affected parks and recreation in his/her community
- The individual has held progressively more responsible positions/titles in his/her work
- The nominee actively pursued professional development opportunities
 - Priority will be given to nominees who have a proven record of service in URPA.
Examples of service include:
 - Volunteering during workshops, trainings, events or conference
 - Actively involved in their region and/or on board

Outstanding Professional – Academic

The Outstanding Academic Professional Award is presented to an individual for their exceptional impact on the academic field of parks and recreation. Nominees should have a record of noteworthy and special contributions to the parks profession, demonstrate leadership and advocacy, display remarkable service to their school, and be a source of academic guidance and inspiration. Must be a URPA member.

Eligibility Requirements

- Current member of URPA
- At least 3 years as a parks and recreation academic professional

Evaluation Criteria

- The individual has demonstrated leadership qualities and characteristics
- The nominee is generally recognized by coworkers and colleagues as a leader
- The nominee is engaged with the academic community and/or other professional organizations

- The nominee demonstrated initiative and the ability to be a self-starter
 - The nominee has improved/affected parks and recreation in his/her community
 - The individual has held progressively more responsible positions/titles in his/her work
 - The nominee actively pursued professional development opportunities
 - Priority will be given to nominees who have a proven record of service in URPA.
- Examples of service include:
- Volunteering during workshops, trainings, events or conference
 - Actively involved in their region and/or on board

Outstanding Professional – Parks

The Outstanding Parks Professional Award is presented to an individual for their exceptional impact on the field of parks and recreation. Nominees should have a record of noteworthy and special contributions to the parks profession, demonstrate leadership and advocacy, display remarkable service to their agency, and be a source of professional guidance and inspiration. Must be a URPA member.

Eligibility Requirements

- Current member of URPA
- At least 3 years as a parks and recreation professional

Evaluation Criteria

- The individual has demonstrated leadership qualities and characteristics
 - The nominee is generally recognized by coworkers and colleagues as a leader
 - The nominee is engaged with the community and/or other professional organizations
 - The nominee demonstrated initiative and the ability to be a self-starter
 - The nominee has improved/affected parks and recreation in his/her community
 - The individual has held progressively more responsible positions/titles in his/her work
 - The nominee actively pursued professional development opportunities
 - Priority will be given to nominees who have a proven record of service in URPA.
- Examples of service include:
- Volunteering during workshops, trainings, events or conference
 - Actively involved in their region and/or on board

Outstanding Professional – Recreation

The Outstanding Recreation Professional Award is presented to an individual for their exceptional impact on the field of parks and recreation. Nominees should have a record of noteworthy and special contributions to the recreation profession, demonstrate leadership and advocacy, display remarkable service to their agency, and be a source of professional guidance and inspiration. Must be an IPRA member.

Eligibility Requirements

- Current member of URPA
- At least 3 years as a parks and recreation professional

Evaluation Criteria

- The individual has demonstrated leadership qualities and characteristics
- The nominee is generally recognized by coworkers and colleagues as a leader
- The nominee is engaged with the community and/or other professional organizations
- The nominee demonstrated initiative and the ability to be a self-starter
- The nominee has improved/affected parks and recreation in his/her community
- The individual has held progressively more responsible positions/titles in his/her work
- The nominee actively pursued professional development opportunities
 - Priority will be given to nominees who have a proven record of service in URPA.
Examples of service include:
 - Volunteering during workshops, trainings, events or conference
 - Actively involved in their region and/or on board

Outstanding Professional – Aquatics

The Outstanding Aquatics Professional Award is presented to an individual for their exceptional impact on the field of parks and recreation. Nominees should have a record of noteworthy and special contributions to the aquatics profession, demonstrate leadership and advocacy, display remarkable service to their agency, and be a source of professional guidance and inspiration. Must be a URPA member.

Eligibility Requirements

- Current member of URPA
- At least 3 years as a parks and recreation professional

Evaluation Criteria

- The individual has demonstrated leadership qualities and characteristics
- The nominee is generally recognized by coworkers and colleagues as a leader
- The nominee is engaged with the community and/or other professional organizations
- The nominee demonstrated initiative and the ability to be a self-starter
- The nominee has improved/affected parks and recreation in his/her community
- The individual has held progressively more responsible positions/titles in his/her work
- The nominee actively pursued professional development opportunities
 - Priority will be given to nominees who have a proven record of service in URPA.
Examples of service include:
 - Volunteering during workshops, trainings, events or conference

- Actively involved in their region and/or on board

Outstanding Professional – Executive

The Outstanding Professional Award is presented to an individual for their exceptional impact on the field of parks and recreation. Nominees should have a record of noteworthy and special contributions to the parks and recreation profession, demonstrate leadership and advocacy, display remarkable service to their agency, community and URPA. Be a source of professional guidance and inspiration. Must be a URPA member.

Eligibility Requirements

- Current member of URPA
- At least 3 years as a parks and recreation professional

Evaluation Criteria

- The individual has demonstrated leadership qualities and characteristics
- The nominee is generally recognized by coworkers and colleagues as a leader
- The nominee is engaged with the community and/or other professional organizations
- The nominee demonstrated initiative and the ability to be a self-starter
- The nominee has improved/affected parks and recreation in his/her community
- The individual has held progressively more responsible positions/titles in his/her work
- The nominee actively pursued professional development opportunities
 - Priority will be given to nominees who have a proven record of service in URPA. Examples of service include:
 - Volunteering during workshops, trainings, events or conference
 - Actively involved in their region and/or on board

Outstanding Department (Under 15,000 population)

The Outstanding Department Award identifies an exceptional URPA agency who shows involvement and significant contributions to the parks and recreation field. This agency strives to improve the quality of life to both their community and to the state of Utah.

Eligibility Requirements

- Current member of URPA
- Current population of 15,000 or less

Evaluation Criteria

- Promotes participation in recreational experiences
- Strengthens community image and sense of place
- Strengthens safety and security

- Promotes health and wellness
- Fosters human development
- Increases cultural unity
- Protects natural resources
- Supports economic development
- Facilitates community problem solving

Outstanding Department (15,001-50,000 population)

The Outstanding Department Award identifies an exceptional URPA agency who shows involvement and significant contributions to the parks and recreation field. This agency strives to improve the quality of life to both their community and to the state of Utah.

- Current member of URPA
- Current population of 15,001 to 50,000

Evaluation Criteria

- Promotes participation in recreational experiences
- Strengthens community image and sense of place
- Strengthens safety and security
- Promotes health and wellness
- Fosters human development
- Increases cultural unity
- Protects natural resources
- Supports economic development
- Facilitates community problem solving

Outstanding Department (Over 50,001 population)

The Outstanding Department Award identifies an exceptional URPA agency who shows involvement and significant contributions to the parks and recreation field. This agency strives to improve the quality of life to both their community and to the state of Utah.

- Current member of URPA
- Current population over 50,0001

Evaluation Criteria

- Promotes participation in recreational experiences
- Strengthens community image and sense of place
- Strengthens safety and security
- Promotes health and wellness
- Fosters human development

- Increases cultural unity
- Protects natural resources
- Supports economic development
- Facilitates community problem solving

Professional Scholarship – Great Western Recreation

Criteria- Provide financial assistance to worthy candidates who would benefit from financial assistance in obtaining training on a local, state, or national level.

Professional Scholarship – Steve and Georgia Carpenter

Criteria- Provide financial assistance to worthy candidates who would benefit from financial assistance in obtaining training on a local, state, or national level.

Professional Scholarship – Fred and Judy Tamagawa

Criteria- Provide financial assistance to worthy candidates who would benefit from financial assistance in obtaining training on a local, state, or national level.

Professional Scholarship – Learn and Lead

Criteria- Provide financial assistance to worthy candidates who would benefit from financial assistance in obtaining training on a local, state, or national level.