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2020 Gold Medal Grand Plaque Awards for Excellence in Parks and Recreation Announced

Ashburn, Va. (Oct. 27, 2020) — The [American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration](#) (AAPRA), in partnership with the [National Recreation and Park Association](#) (NRPA), is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2020 National Gold Medal Grand Plaque Awards for Excellence in Park and Recreation Management. Presented as part of the 2020 NRPA Annual Conference: A Virtual Experience, the sponsor of the National Gold Medal Awards program is Musco Lighting, LLC.

The 2020 Gold Medal Grand Plaque recipients are:

Class I (population 400,001 and over)

- Metroparks Toledo – Ohio

Class II (population 150,001 – 400,000)

- City of Greensboro Parks and Recreation Department – North Carolina

Class III (population 75,001 – 150,000)

- Carmel Clay Parks and Recreation – Indiana

Class IV (population 30,001 – 75,000)

- Decatur Park District – Illinois

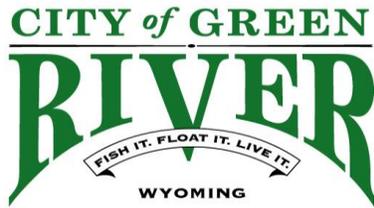
Class V (population less than 30,000)

- City of Green River Parks and Recreation Department – Wyoming

Armed Forces Recreation Award

- Fort Riley Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Community Recreation Division – Kansas

In presenting the Grand Plaques, AAPRA President Dianne Hoover shared, “The National Gold Medal Awards, both the Finalist and the Grand Plaques, are especially significant this year as agencies were adapting to a new normal due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Agencies were experiencing unprecedented increase in park usage at the same time they were adapting to new recreation program delivery challenges. Each agency is to be commended and congratulated.”



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Founded in 1965, the National Gold Medal Awards program honors communities throughout 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. Agencies are judged on their ability to address the needs of those they serve through the collective energies of community members, staff and elected officials.

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

To learn more about the Gold Medal Awards, visit aapra.org or nrpa.org/awards.

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The Parks and Recreation Department was required to submit a four- minute video highlighting what the department offers to the citizens of Green River. Due to the virtual nature of this year's award ceremony a one- minute video was submitted introducing themselves, followed by a video thanking the Academy for the award.

Parks and Recreation employees, including director Brad Raney watched the presentation at City Hall on a big screen. Following the announcement, a big cheer could be heard throughout City Hall. Raney says the award is awesome for his department, but more importantly a testament to the hard working employees of the Parks and Recreation department and the passion of all citizens of Green River for their Parks.

Green River Parks and Recreation is the first agency in Wyoming to win the award. The official presentation of the Grand Plaque from NRPA representatives will occur at the City Council meeting on Monday, November 2, 2020 at 7:00pm in City Hall. The 4 minute video is can be viewed here: <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1123484801371080>