



An Affiliate of the National Association of Counties and National Recreation and Park Association

2025 NACPRO Awards - Call for Nominations

Nominations are now being accepted for the NACPRO 2025 awards program. The annual awards program honors excellence in parks and recreation at the county, regional, and special district levels.

The presentation of awards will be held on June 12, 2025 in Oakland County, Michigan during the Special Park District Forum.

The Forum starts on June 9 and concludes the evening of June 12. Details about registration, hotel bookings, and the event agenda will be available in January at www.metroparks.com/spdf/. You can also sign up for email updates on the site.

Important details:

- Your nomination should be for projects, programs and events that occurred or were completed in 2024.
- Each agency is limited to 2 nominations per award category.
- Each agency can receive a maximum of 2 awards per year.
- A non-refundable fee of \$75 per nomination is required.
- Award nominations are accepted only from agencies that have a NACPRO member.
- You will be notified of the disposition of your award nomination by April 8, 2025.

Not sure if your agency has a member? Contact Brenda at (814) 927-8212 or Brenda@nacpro.org. Once your agency has an active member, you can access to the online form with your member's username and password.

The deadline for award submissions is February 10 at midnight EST.

See page 4 for instructions on how to prepare and submit your award nomination.

INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

Outstanding Public Official

This award is presented to a nominated, elected, or appointed official, such as commissioners, board members, and state and federal representatives, who are strong advocates for parks and recreation, to the benefit of NACPRO member agencies.

Professional

These awards are presented to professionals from NACPRO member agencies who have impacted the profession or community.

Lifetime: Recognizes professionals who are retiring or leaving parks and recreation service.

Fellow: Recognizes an exemplary professional currently employed in the parks and recreation service.

New Professional: Recognizes up-and-coming leaders in the parks and recreation profession with less than 7 years' experience, who possess leadership qualities and talents.

Friends of Parks and Recreation

These awards are presented to lay individuals who have made exemplary contributions benefiting parks and recreation programs or facilities at NACPRO member agencies.

Outstanding Contributor: This award is presented to an individual who has made a significant contribution of land or financial resources to parks and recreation.

Outstanding Volunteer: This award is presented to an individual who has made a significant contribution of personal time and talent.

Outstanding Support Organization: This award is presented to an organization that has made a significant contribution to benefit park and recreation programs, facilities, operations, or organizational support.

AREA AND FACILITY AWARDS

Park and Recreation Areas and Facilities

This award recognizes excellence in park and recreation areas, recreation facilities, and operational facilities.

Class I Award: Agencies with a population service area of less than 150,000

Class II Award: Agencies with a population service area from 150,001-275,000

Class III Award: Agencies with a population service area from 275,001-500,000

Class IV Award: Agencies with a population service area over 500,001

Trails and Corridors

This award recognizes excellence in a trail, greenway, waterway, corridor, or other linear park development project.

Class I Award: Agencies with a population service area of less than 150,000

Class II Award: Agencies with a population service area from 150,001-275,000

Class III Award: Agencies with a population service area from 275,001-500,000

Class IV Award: Agencies with a population service area over 500,001

PROGRAM AWARDS

Park and Recreation Program

This award recognizes a NACPRO member agency that has provided an exceptional program, activity, or event, which provides an inspiration to other agencies.

Class I Award: Agencies with a population service area of less than 150,000

Class II Award: Agencies with a population service area from 150,001-275,000

Class III Award: Agencies with a population service area from 275,001-500,000

Class IV Award: Agencies with a population service area over 500,001

SPECIAL AWARDS

Conservation

This award recognizes an exceptional effort to acquire, restore, and preserve, natural areas or significant conservation areas, as well as programs that create public awareness and appreciation for conservation efforts.

Cultural History

This award recognizes excellence in historic and cultural facility development, preservation, programming, interpretation, or events.

Innovative Financing

This award recognizes creative, innovative, and entrepreneurial strategies to generate financial resources for park-related capital and operating expenses. Some examples may include but are not limited to special taxes, referendums, millages, ballot initiatives, sponsorships, philanthropy, and partnerships.

Marketing

This award recognizes a marketing effort demonstrating unique, significant, or remarkable outcomes. This award category includes projects involving market research, marketing plans, promotion, advertising, and the use of information technologies.

Planning Initiative

This award recognizes an outstanding research or planning project that contributes to a body of knowledge and advances the practice of planning.

Social Justice

The award honors a park system that has served as a change agent and made a tangible impact in the community or workplace by prioritizing a culture of equity and inclusion. This award recognizes outstanding leadership and collaboration in community programs or projects, or workplace initiatives or policies.

Universal Accessibility

This award recognizes a unique program or facility that enables and encourages greater participation in parks and recreation by persons with disabilities.

Instructions

The deadline for award submissions is **February 10, 2025 at midnight EST.**

1. Award nominations are accepted only from agencies that have a NACPRO member. You cannot proceed with your nomination until you have an active membership and your member's username and password. Not sure if your agency has a member? Contact Brenda at (814) 927-8212 or brenda@nacpro.org.
2. Nominations are submitted via an online form. A non-refundable fee of \$75 per nomination is required. If you plan on submitting several nominations, we prefer to invoice you for the total. This saves us time and processing costs. Please choose the "Invoice Me" option when you get to the payment page. Check, Purchase Order, Visa, MasterCard, American Express and Discover Card are accepted.
3. Each agency is limited to 2 nominations per award category.
4. Each agency can receive up to 2 awards per year.
5. Your nomination should be for projects, programs and events that occurred or were completed in 2024.
6. An award nomination cannot be edited once it has been submitted online. We recommend preparing the nomination in Notepad or Word before you login, and pasting the text into the online form.

You will need to gather the following information to complete your nomination:

- a) **Contact Person:** Name, phone number and email address.
- b) **Nomination information:** Nominee's name, nominee's organization, population of area served (for class awards), and year project was completed or program occurred.
- c) **Achievement Narrative:** Make your best case for why your nomination is worthy of recognition. Limit your narrative to 2-3 paragraphs (2000 characters or about 300 words). If you want to reference a report, please include a URL to that report in the narrative.
 - For **Individual Awards** please describe the individual's role, a description of their actions, the scope of their achievements, the impact of their activities, and support provided to your agency.
 - For **Facility or Special Awards** please describe the facility, its outcomes and benefits, timeframe, partners, innovative techniques, public response, and any aspects of sustainability.
 - For **Program and Event Awards** please describe the event or program, its benefits to participants, partners, innovative techniques, public response, and when it was conducted.
- d) **Award Summary:** Using the information you've provided in the Achievement Narrative, please provide a brief overview (1000 characters or about 150 words) of the award and its significance to be used in the awards presentation.
- e) **Attach one document with support information:** Clippings, testimonials, brochures, resume, or other documentation necessary to present a complete picture. If you have multiple files, please combine them into one PDF. This file should be less than 5 MB in size.
- f) **Attach three digital photos** of the person, project, event, facility, or program nominated. Each upload can only be one photo. Photos should be in jpg format and have a resolution of at least 300 dpi. Photos should not be larger than 2 MB in size.

Log-in to enter your award nominations: <https://nacpro.memberclicks.net/2025-awards>

Questions?

Contact Brenda Adams-Weyant at (814) 927-8212 or Brenda@nacpro.org