



2026 Awards Ceremony
Sarasota, Florida
May 20, 2026

National Association of County Park and Recreation Officials

Our awardees provide inspiration and innovation. We encourage you to contact them to learn more.

Outstanding Public Official

Kathleen O'Connor, Commissioner

Westchester County Parks, Recreation & Conservation, New York

Outstanding Support Organization

Cincinnati Off-Road Alliance (CORA)

Great Parks, Ohio

Contact: Rachel Doellman, rdoellman@greatparks.org

Outstanding Volunteer

Sue Gorr and Anne Stake

Forest Preserves of Cook County, Illinois

Contact: Lydia Uhler, lydia.uhler@cookcountyil.gov

Outstanding Volunteer

Dale Shields

Lake County Forest Preserves, Illinois

Contact: Rebekah Snyder, rsnyder@LCFPD.org

Park & Recreation Program - Class I

Gochland Powhatan Farmers Market

Gochland County Parks and Recreation, Virginia

Contact: Angelia Miller, amiller@gochlandva.us

Park & Recreation Program - Class II

Agents of Discovery App in partnership with University of Florida/IFAS Extension Sarasota County

Sarasota County Parks, Recreation and Natural Resources, Florida

Contact: Kristina King, kking@scgov.net

Park & Recreation Program - Class III

Schools in Pools Program

Palm Beach County Parks and Recreation, Florida

Contact: James Davis, jrdavis@pbc.gov

Park & Recreation Program - Class III

Movie in the Park & Movies on the Trails Program

Orange County Parks and Recreation, Florida

Contact: Amanda Kimmer, Amanda.Kimmer@ocfl.net

Park & Recreation Program - Class IV

Parks with Purpose Program

OC Parks, California

Contact: Danielle Kennedy, danielle.kennedy@ocparks.com

Park & Recreation Program - Class IV

Aquatic Adventure Camp

East Bay Regional Park District, California

Contact: Yulie Padmore, ypadmore@ebparks.org

Developed Recreation Parks and Facilities - Class II

Lake Betty Park Redevelopment

Charlotte County Government, Florida

Contact: Tina Powell, tina.powell@charlottecountyfl.gov

Developed Recreation Parks and Facilities - Class II

Nokomis Community Park Improvements Project

Sarasota County Parks, Recreation and Natural Resources, Florida

Contact: Kristina King, kking@scgov.net

Developed Recreation Parks & Facilities Class III

Wallace Lake Improvement Project

Cleveland Metroparks, Ohio

Contact: Nancy Desmond, nd@clevelandmetroparks.com

Developed Recreation Parks and Facilities - Class IV

Mississippi Gateway Regional Park Redevelopment

Three Rivers Park District, Minnesota

Contact: Jason McGrew-King, jason.mcgrew-king@threeriversparks.org

Developed Recreation Parks and Facilities - Class IV

Loggerhead Park and Mooring Field

Broward County Parks and Recreation, Florida

Contact: Katherine Fermenich, KFermenich@broward.org

Trails & Corridors - Class I

Pymatuning Valley Greenway Trail Project

Ashtabula County Metroparks, Ohio

Contact: Brett Bellas, bbellas@ashtabulametroparks.com

Trails & Corridors - Class IV

Santa Ana River Trail Wayfinding Project

Riverside County Regional Park and OpenSpace District, California

Contact: Robert Williams, rowilliams@rivco.org

Community Impact

Outdoor Explore - An Overnight Experience

Riverside County Regional Park and OpenSpace District, California

Contact: Robert Williams, rowilliams@rivco.org

Conservation

Seed Amplification Program

Forest Preserves of Cook County, Illinois

Contact: Lydia Uhlir, lydia.uhlir@cookcountyil.gov

Conservation

Virmond Park Wetland Restoration and Stormwater Management Project

Ozaukee County Planning and Parks Department, Wisconsin

Contact: Andrew Struck, astruck@ozaukeecounty.gov

Cultural History

Slater Hall Community Center

Greenville County Parks, Recreation & Tourism, South Carolina

Contact: Colin Young, cyoung@greenvillecounty.org

Cultural History

Historical Bell Ford Bridge Restoration

Hamilton County Parks & Recreation, Indiana

Contact: Erica Foreman, erica.foreman@hamiltoncounty.in.gov

Innovative Financing

HighGrain Brewing Partnership

Great Parks, Ohio

Contact: Rachel Doellman, rdoellman@greatparks.org

Marketing

Wine in the Woods Festival

Howard County Recreation and Parks, Maryland

Contact: Anna Hunter, ahunter@howardcountymd.gov

Marketing

Suicide Prevention Sign Campaign in Partnership with MHARS

MetroParks of Butler County, Ohio

Contact: Jaime Kimbrough, jimbrough@yourmetroparks.net

Marketing

Find Your Wild App

Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation, Michigan

Contact: Ann Ziolkowski, ziolkowskia@washtenaw.org

Planning Initiative

Community Inventory Project

Charlotte County Government, Florida

Contact: Nancy Pizzino, Nancy.Pizzino@charlottecountyfl.gov

Planning Initiative

Planning, Research, and Development Division
Palm Beach County Parks and Recreation, Florida
Contact: Bob Hamilton, RHamilton@pbc.gov

Universal Accessibility

Theatre in the Park Project
Johnson County Park and Recreation District, Kansas
Contact: Rhonda Pollard, rhonda.pollard@jocogov.org

Universal Accessibility

Lake Atwood Accessibility Improvement Project
McHenry County Conservation District, Illinois
Contact: Elizabeth Kessler, EKessler@MCCDistrict.org

New Professional

Samantha Thies
Columbus Parks and Recreation, Georgia

Professional - Fellow

Ken Jones, Director of Land Preservation
Lake County Forest Preserves, Illinois

Professional - Fellow

Kevin Cook
Westchester County Parks, New York

Professional - Lifetime

Harold Harrison
Cleveland Metroparks, Ohio

Professional - Lifetime

Jonathan Vlaming
Three Rivers Park District, Minnesota

Class Definitions

Class 1 Award: Agencies with a population service area of less than 200,000

Class 2 Award: Agencies with a population service area from 200,000 – 749,999

Class 3 Award: Agencies with a population service area from 750,000 – 1,999,999

Class 4 Award: Agencies with a population service area over 2,000,000