

NACPRO 2007 Park and Professional Awards

Outstanding Public Official. This award is presented to a nominated, elected or appointed federal, state, or local official (including commissioner or board member) who has contributed significantly to the benefit of county level parks, recreation, leisure services and open space programs. Although the specific involvement may be with only a single county park system, it is truly exemplary to the county park movement.

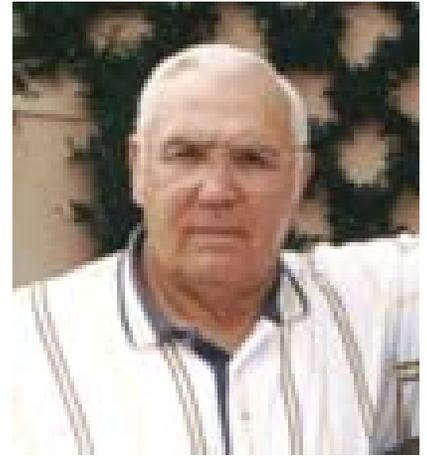
Jonny Presley—Outstanding Public Official.

Nominated by Tommy Hailey Director , Newton County Recreation Commission , GA

From playing, coaching, marketing political activism, financial advocacy to serving a third term as Chairman of the Recreation Commission, John has done it all for the past 35 years in Newton County, Georgia.

John helped secure over \$6 million through passage of sales taxes, 158 acres of Turner Lake Complex, Dixie Boys World Series, Independent Softball Association Fast pitch World Series and numerous district and State tournaments. His advocacy brought substantial economic benefits to the area—an estimated one million dollars for game one of the World Series Event.

John's commitment to providing quality facilities, programs and preservation of green space is commendable and his advocacy for the many benefits of recreation is greatly appreciated.

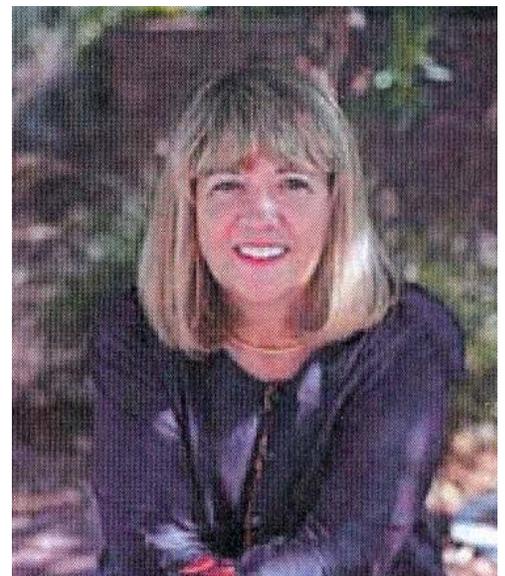


Lifetime, awards are conferred to recognize outstanding professions who are retiring or leaving county level park service.

Patricia Marchese—Lifetime

Nominated by Clark County Parks and Recreation , NV

The Las Vegas Review-Journal calls Patricia Marchese, "Queen of Culture" because she brought art and recreational opportunities to the desert and has been one woman's quest—a goal she has attained in many different ways at many different venues. In Patricia's 30 years of government, she adopted a 20 year master plan, added more than 870 acres of developed parks, 252,000 sq ft of urban centers, 52,999 sq ft in aquatic facilities and saved over 4,000 acres of environmentally sensitive lands and open space. Throughout her career, Pat Marchese has advanced the profession for her service at the city, county, state and national levels. She has served as Secretary and President Elect of NACPRO. Patricia leaves behind a thriving and progressive Clark County Department of Parks and Recreation!



Douglas F. Bryant—Lifetime

Nominated By: Three Rivers Park District, MN

During his tenure, Doug acquired 3,000 additional acres, which included three new regional parks, a special recreation feature, a contemporary working farm, and a historic interpretive village for a total of 27,000 acres and over 70 miles of regional trails. Superintendent Bryant's work at Three Rivers Park District has been multi-faceted including: public access (elimination of parking fees), securing funding for acquisition, development and rehabilitation of innovative recreation and support facilities such as creative play areas, lighted cross-country ski trail, artificial snowmaking for snow tubing and, cross-country skiing, single-track mountain bike trails, disc golf courses, upland swim ponds, lighted golf facilities, while protecting natural resources through the creation and adoption of strong water resources management policies, all of which now serves nearly 6 million visitors annually.



Doug has served the parks and recreation field for over 36 years and has been a dominant force at the Park District for the past 21 years. He was a long-standing NACPRO member for 16 years, serving on the Board for eight years. Doug has been a dedicated, innovative, and inspirational professional, he provided exceptional leadership for the Park District Board of Commissioners, staff, and volunteers.

Michael A. Pasteris—Lifetime

Nominated by the NACPRO Board of Directors

After nearly 30 years with the Forest Preserve District of Will County, Michael Pasteris retired in July. He began as an intern and finished his last 10 years as Executive Director and saw the organization grow from a tiny, file-drawer operation to an agency with more than 100 employees and a \$240 million dollar voter and board approved bond for land acquisition and site improvements. Between 1990 and 2000, the Will County population grew by 150,000 and estimates are around 150,000 more during the past seven years. With the population explosion, the need to preserve open space took on a greater urgency. As a result of referendums in 1999 and 2005, more than 6,500 acres, were added for a total Forest Preserve holding to 18,731, or about four percent of Will County's total acreage.



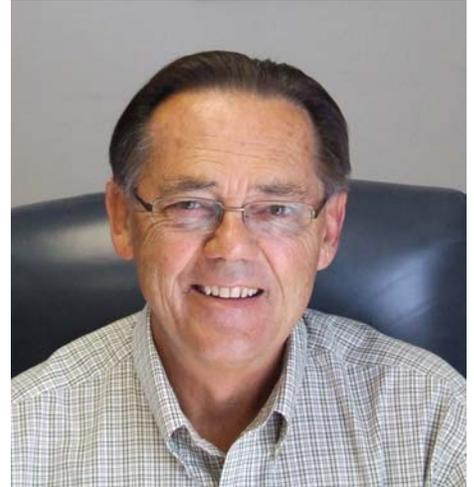
Michael Pasteris has been active in professional organizations, and served on the board of directors for National Association of County Park and Recreation Officials since 2000 and National Association of Counties since 2003. He served as NACPRO President until his retirement this year. He firmly believes open space contributes to the quality of life in one of the fastest growing county in Illinois and is quoted saying, "We have built an organization that is sustainable and valuable." His staff couldn't agree more.

The Fellow award was established to recognize an exemplary professional currently employed in county level park and recreation fields.

Robert L. Harbin-- Fellow

Nominated By: Broward County Parks and Recreation Division, FL

For nearly 15 years, Robert L. Harbin has served as Director of the Broward County Parks and Recreation Division, one of the largest agencies in the nation's 15th most-populous county. The Division oversees over 6,200 acres featuring four park districts with 15 regional parks, six neighborhood parks and 21 natural areas. During his tenure, he led the Division's growth to encompass 800 full-time and 500 part-time employees. Under Harbin's instrumental leadership, a \$400 million Safe Parks and Land Preservation Bond Referendum was approved by a 74 % margin.



As a Certified Park and Recreation Professional, Robert Harbin brings a wealth of experience dating back to 1966 with membership in multiple professional organizations. His efforts were direct results of the Division's national accreditation in 1996, 2001, 2006, and received the National Gold Medal Award in 1990.

Friends of Parks and Recreation

These awards are presented to lay individuals and organizations that have made major contributions benefiting parks and recreation programs or facilities.

Outstanding Volunteer: This award is presented to recognize an individual or individuals who made a significant contribution of personal time and talent to county parks and recreation.

Lis and Bob Richardson-- Outstanding Volunteers

Nominated By: County of Maui Department of Parks and Recreation

Lis and Bob retired to Maui from Portland, Oregon in 2001. Their move proved to be a true blessing to the Maui Parks and Recreation Department. Lis and Bob began working for parks as volunteers that cleaned a (Po'olenalena) Beach Park by patrolling the area picking up litter. They eventually enlisted illegal campers to help in the weekly park clean up.



Bob and Lis then became an integral part of the Kalama Park Action team that included special work days to repair and paint a skate park, gathered 150 volunteers to assist with the banding of the Wedge-Tailed, Shearwater, and spearheaded restoration of the sand at Kamaole III Beach Park. Bob and Lis have lobbied for funding to replace old playground equipment, the whale trail project, increased security in parks, ATVs for the police department, and an increase in funding for maintenance repairs.

Outstanding Support Organization: This award is presented to an organization that has responded in an exceptional manner by making a major contribution to benefit park and recreation programs or facilities.

Oakland County 4-H Fair Association-- Outstanding Support Organization

Nominated by: Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission, MI

The Oakland County Fair Association keeps the farm experience alive. In 2006, the fair drew 800 youth participants and more than 80,000 spectators. The County Fair Association has partnered with Oakland County Parks since 1986. To date, the Association has

donated more than \$825,000 in capital improvements including new barns, pavilions, asphalt paving, equipment and more.

The Association employs one full-time facility manager and relies heavily on 80 volunteers. In 2006, more than 4,000 volunteer hours were contributed to Oakland County Parks.



ORGANIZATIONAL

Park and Recreation Program Award: This award is presented to recognize a county park and recreation agency that has provided a unique or exceptional program, activity, or event which provides an outstanding example that other agencies could adopt or emulate.

Mov-Fit Kidz--Park and Recreation Program Award

Nominated by Hamilton County Parks and Recreation, TN

With obesity and other health problems associated with poor nutrition and inactivity now affecting all age groups, the Mov-Fit Kidz Program targets school aged children, and in turn their parents, encouraging them to develop healthier habits that some previous generations by being more physically active and eating more nutritionally balanced meals.

Mov-Fit Kidz program is a joint effort by Hamilton Parks and Recreation and Step One (Optimize with Nutrition and Exercise) Program, originally initiated in 2004 to combat this alarming trend throughout the country. The Hamilton School Summer Camps were the forum's debut and reached more than 700 children in 11 schools. All the children demonstrated strong retention of what they learned from the fitness games, nutritional activity books and sample taste-tests.



The overall message of the program is that good or bad health isn't determined by a person's body size, but rather the development of beneficial exercise habits with a good balance of fruits, vegetables and whole grains.

Celebration of Cultures--Park and Recreation Program Award

Nominated By: James City County Parks and Recreation VA

Over recent years, the James City County labor pool became insufficient to support the local tourist industry. Large corporations and small businesses sought to recruit and hire international employees.

The County wanted to recognize the values and contributions of the new workforce. With a limited budget, a partnership with All Together, a local non-profit whose mission is to build diversity awareness and understanding created "Celebrations of Cultures".

The 2005 Celebration of Cultures was a success, attracting more than 1,700 citizens and visitors. The group backgrounds included: African American, Hispanic, and American Indians with organization representing Syria, J Turkey, Norway, and Greece to list a few which participated in the family event as performer, exhibitors and food vendors.



Tandem Bike Skills Development Program--Park and Recreation Program Award

Nominated by Broward County Parks and Recreation Division, FL

This year the Broward County Parks and Recreation Division marks the 10th anniversary of its Tandem Bike Skills Development Program for persons with visual impairments. This free program was initiated in 1997 through the Division's Special Populations Section to introduce participant to a potential new recreation and leisure opportunity.

This program also educates individuals on how to access and pursue tandem hiking by pairing blind or visually impaired participants with sighted volunteers. The South Broward Wheelers Bicycle Club recently acknowledged the program's importance by donating four new tandem bicycles.



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NACPRO Areas, and Facilities and Program Awards of Excellence have been created to recognize and honor excellence in recreation and park facilities; to focus national attention (both public and professional) on the very best of facility design; to encourage outstanding efforts in planning, design, construction, and benefits to the community; and to be a resource of information for the highest quality of facility and program development.

Pine Mountain Amphitheater—Park and Recreation Facility Award

Nominated by Coconino County Parks and Recreation, AZ

The Pine Mountain Amphitheater is engraved in a natural forest bowl at the heart of Fort Tuthill County Park in Flagstaff, Arizona. The acoustics are magnificent and generate a wonderful outdoor entertainment experience.

In May 2006, the Amphitheater had a grand opening recognized as Northern Arizona's newest and largest outdoor amphitheater. The community has been supportive from the planning, construction to funding, promoting and attending outdoor events.

Coconino County has partnered with Flagstaff's Orpheum Theater to provide the community first-class concerts and performances. Last year, prominent local and national acts included: Flagstaff Symphony Orchestra, The Black Crows, Dwight Yoakam, and Los Lobos. International acclaimed artists such as Ziggy Marley, The Indigo Girls are planned for 2007 season.



Brosnaham Sportsplex and Stadium—Park and Recreation Facility Award

Nominated by: Escambia County Parks and Recreation, FL

The Ashton Brosnaham Sportsplex in Pensacola, Florida is a state of the art athletic facility focused on attracting premier soccer and other field sporting events. The sportsplex project was funded from a local sales tax, to tourism development council, Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program, and FEMA to replace facilities destroyed by Hurricane Ivan.

The facility hosted the NCAA Division 2 Men's and Women's Soccer Championships, Women's Field Hockey National Championships, several major youth soccer tournaments in excess of over 100 teams, and the National Flag Football Championships. Athletes participating in the events rated the facilities as the highest of any other facility in the conference.



Brosnaham Sportsplex includes 8 lighted regulation size soccer fields, 1 lighted International sized soccer field, and 1 lighted Stadium field with a capacity for 3,000 spectators. Other facility amenities include an advanced press box capable of supporting live TV broadcasts, 2 professional grade locker rooms, a multi-use room, a versatile concession stand, ticket office, covered pavilion, ample vendor space, and a lighted playground.

Miracle Field at Ridge Road Park—Park and Recreation Facility Award

Nominated by: Westchester County Department of Parks Recreation and Conservation, NY

Miracle Field at Ridge Road Park in Hartsdaie is the country's first baseball field designed specifically for kids with disabilities. Miracle Field is a custom-designed field with a cushioned, rubberized turf to help prevent injuries, wheel-chair accessible dugouts and completely flat, barrier-free surface to ease access for visually impaired players or players in wheelchairs.

The Miracle League is a non-profit organization which serves children ages 3-19 who suffer from any physical or mental disability that would exclude them from conventional youth programs. The program integrates children with disabilities by pairing volunteer "buddies" or "angels in the outfield" to assist players during games to make sure they both have fun and nobody gets hurt.



The field was paid for with county capital funds under the Westchester Legacy program, which preserves and protects parkland while enhancing opportunities for active recreation county-wide. Thanks to the cooperation of the county Board of Legislators, Parks and Public Works departments, the field was one of the fastest capita! projects ever approved and built in the county—less than one year!

Ellis Barn—Park and Recreation Facility Award

Nominated by: Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission, MI

The 123 year-old "Ellis Barn" is on the official Michigan Centennial Farm certification list, is one of the state's largest barns, and is the only Michigan barn referenced in the nationally renowned book, *The American Barn*. Generous donations from two individuals (former major league baseball players turned real estate investors) combined with volunteer efforts, and the support efforts from Oakland County Parks staff ensured that this unique, historic barn is preserved for future generations.

The 14,000 sq ft barn includes an indoor riding arena, 11 box stalls, tack rooms, an office, horse exercise room, mechanical exercise ring, and cavernous send floor for hay and straw. A grant from Michigan Department of Transportation enabled the hiring of an Amish barnwright from Indiana to dismantle, inventory and reconstruct the barn in its birthplace prior to the move within Springfield Oaks County Park.



The barn's preservation will be an important educational tool and serves as a link to the past which can educate the next generation about farming and the hands-on lifestyle the forbearers lived, plus serve as a focal point for rural recreation experiences.

Elm Creek Winter Recreation Area—Park and Recreation Facility Award

Nominated by: Three Rivers Park District, MN

In the 1980s, "usable natural snow" days in the Minneapolis/St. Paul metro area varied from over to as little as 7 days per year. With unreliable snow conditions, it was hard to serve committed individuals, ski teams, and maintain the public's interest in cross country skiing.

The Elm Creek Winter Recreation Area, located in a northern Minneapolis suburb of Maple Grove, first opened phase I in 2003, a 2.5k ski trail with snow making capabilities and added lights to 6k, as a result visitation grew from 14,000 to 45,000. The next phases of development included a 20 lane/350 ft. snow tubing area, beginner downhill ski/snowboard area and terrain park with state of the art snow making and grooming. The site includes a 11,767 sq ft chalet with a full food service, reservation area as well as ski/snowboard, and tube rental for group and individuals.



The facility has become wildly successful, attracting significant media attention, hundreds of families as well as corporate and youth groups with visitation in 2006-2007 growing to 84,000. Finally, the Twin Cities metro area has a reliable facility around which to grow winter recreation activities.

Children's Discovery Garden at Wegerzyn Park—Park and Recreation Facility Award

Nominated by Five Rivers MetroParks, OH

Ten years ago a volunteer saw a need for a place where local children could get their hands dirty, explore nature and be introduced to the joys of gardening. Children's Discovery Garden at Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark in Dayton, OH was opened in partner with Five Rivers MetroParks and the Wegerzyn Gardens Foundation. To date, it is one of only a few children's gardens in the nation of this size and scope that is free to the public.

The garden contains 11 themed areas celebrating the plants and habitat features that make the Miami valley special. On a typical day, children can splash in a waterfall and stream, see fossils from Ohio's past, see native wildlife, design gardens in the sand, make music, and create imaginary worlds among the plants. Skeeter's garden, is dedicated to fostering a love of gardening through hands-on experience.



In its inaugural season, public response to the garden was overwhelmingly positive. Over 600 visitors a day were awed by the beauty, creative space and how well the children responded to it. The garden is considered a treasure to the community which provides free family entertainment and will continue to and evolve to inspire future gardeners and appreciation for the outdoors.

Fairgrounds Regional Park—Park and Recreation Facility Award

Nominated by Douglas County Division of Parks and Trails, CO

Douglas County is one of the fastest growing Counties in the United States of America and the population is anticipated to increase for the next 20 years. During the late 1990's, while undergoing the Master Planning process, Colorado started experiencing a multi-year drought with water usage restrictions as well as increase in costs.

Douglas County needed to address the dilemma of how to incorporate water conservation methods, reduce operating costs, and lower the amount of maintenance. The solution was to develop a design template with four turf alternatives with a mixture of hard, soft surfaces along with ornamental grasses into park designs. The different type of surfaces used included a mixture of irrigated blue grass, synthetic turf, low-growth and permanent drill mixture, ornamental grasses, and hard and soft surfaced areas.

Through the use of this multi-surface design template, Douglas County cut its water consumption by 50-60% and maintenance cost by 30-40% as compared to similar acreage in previously developed regional parks—without any loss in active or passive recreational space. This new design template is now paying dividends and will "pay off" in many years to come.



Therapeutic Recreation Complex—Facility Award

Nominated by: Palm Beach County Parks and Recreation, FL

The Club Managers Association of America Therapeutic Recreation Complex opened with state-of-the-art accessibility features to reach a wide variety of people with disabilities. The Complex was designed and constructed so therapeutic recreation participants may train and compete in sports, rehabilitation and fitness programs and experience numerous visual and performing arts programs.

Palm Beach County successfully partnered with Special Olympics Florida, VSA arts of Florida, and other local community organizations and individuals to develop this unique facility that contains an athletic center with gymnasium, catering kitchen, and performance stage. The Recreation center has a specially designed computer lab with voice activation and touch screen technology, art studio with potters' wheel and kiln, art gallery to promote artwork sales, swimming pool with an adapted bath house, and offices for professional staff.



Adjacent to the site within the park is a softball triplex, bocce ball courts, tennis courts and a fully-accessible playground that is easily accessed from the complex. Innovative TR programs are also offered to residents in this county of 1.3 million people.

Kamaole III Beach Park Sand Dune Restoration Project-- Conservation Award

Nominated by: County of Maui Department of Parks and Recreation, HI

Kamaole 111 Beach Park is probably the most popular park for both residents and visitors of Maui. Estimated visitor count for the park is between 1.5-2.0 million visitors annually. Over the past 15 years, heavy winds and foot traffic ruttled out the natural dunes and grass was damaged by shifting, blowing sand and damaged irrigation lines.

A lack of designed trail entry added to the general access and further site degradation. Because of the scope of repairs needed, partnerships evolved which included: University of Hawaii, Hawaii Tourism Authority, County of Maui Office of Economic Development and Tri Isle Resource Conservation, Maui Correction Center Work Line County of Maui Parks and Recreation, local Rotary Club, a Community Association, and two Condo owners associations, Board of Directors and countless individuals and volunteer who contributed time or funds.



The end result was the re-establishment of grass in areas adjacent to the sand dunes that make sunbathing and other activities more enjoyable, a well-marked and convenient pathway to access the beach while protecting the adjacent dune and plant area. Now the park is a more enjoyable place to visit and the amount of sand blowing has been significantly reduced thanks to the collaborative efforts.

Greenways and Environmental Lands-- Environmental/Conservation Award

Nominated By: Leon County Division of Parks and Recreation, FL

Leon County Division of Parks and Recreation manages three major Greenways and Open Space Parks. Funds were set aside with in the Blueprint 2000 Program, a local tax initiative focused on maintaining a pristine Florida for all citizens. The P&R staff vision is to return properties from agricultural/recreational hunting tracts to landscape resembling native Florida.

The Greenways System of Leon County is recognized as a vital community asset serving as a host for the local school board's outdoor classroom as well as a training site for the State's Forestry Division. Passive recreation is another draw to this system. From the casual walker to the distance runner and horseback riders, over sixty miles of developed trails is enjoyed daily by hundred of citizens.

Leon County was one of the first public agencies to receive the "Land Stewardship Certification", the NRPA "Gold Medal Park" Award, and Wall Street Journal recommended the Miccosukee Canopy Road Greenway as a destination to see. The success of this project could not have been achieved with the combined effort of staff, volunteers, and local and state representatives willing to ensure a quality of life for Florida residents.

