



Elmer H. Anderson Park Excellence Awards

PURPOSE

Recognize excellence in park planning, design and construction throughout the State of Nevada.

CATEGORIES

Regional - Large Park and recreational projects intended to serve wide segments of the State or large geographic regions. Multi-jurisdictional projects are encouraged.

Community - Park and recreational projects intended for use by local residents within certain geographical or political boundaries.

Neighborhood - Intended to serve a small, distinctive area or section of a community.

Special Feature - Unique and/or special recreational projects including public art, arboretums, museums, libraries or other unique elements highlighted at a park facility.

Commercial - To include casinos/resorts with unique or special attractions, which add aesthetic or recreational value to the community.

Park and Facility Renovation - Renovation projects to an existing facility.

Trails/Nature Areas – Enhancements of natural areas and/or trail systems. May include wetlands, lakes, rivers, or other natural features.

REVIEW COMMITTEE

A panel of impartial judges who have knowledge and background in park planning and design, park construction, landscape design, natural resource preservation, trail construction, habitat restoration, and landscape architecture will review all entries. Projects submitted that do not meet design standards and established criteria will not be recommended for an award in any category.

One outstanding project will be chosen for project of the year.

ELIGIBILITY

Outstanding park projects located within the State of Nevada that are open and available to the public. Private agencies are eligible, as well as non-profits, civic groups and government agencies. Project must have been completed within the previous five (5) years.

AWARDS

Awards will be given in all winning categories as recommended by the review committee. Plaques will be awarded to the Agency responsible for the project. Certificates will be presented to the other parties involved in the project. Additional plaques may be ordered following the award presentation if desired at the expense of the applicant. Project of the Year will receive a plaque for the agency, design firm and contractor.

Recipients will receive their award at the **2024 NRPS Peak Professionals Recognition Awards during conference.**

GUIDELINES

- NRPS encourages non-association members to submit an application for their program or park project for award review.
- All applications must be compliant with the guidelines or the entry will be disqualified. No refunds given.

GENERAL CRITERIA

- Excellence of project development (Master Plan, Strategy/goals clearly defined & met).
- Preservation of natural resources on the site. Consideration also given for minimizing the amount of disturbance to the site.
- Enhancement of the subject project with respect to the surroundings and natural environment.

- Functional Creativity in response to programs, needs and setting.
- Excellence in design for ease of maintenance.

SPECIFIC CRITERIA

Each entry will be judged on the following specific criteria:

- Excellence of architectural, engineering and landscape architectural development in relation to natural environmental elements pertaining to the site.
- Excellence of aesthetic development with relation to buildings, walls, walks, steps, benches, shelters, lighting, parking, planting, circulation, information, signing, scale, details for people, special features, etc.
- Excellence of functional development including pedestrian and vehicular circulation and inclusive elements.
- Adaptability of land otherwise considered unfavorable for other types of development for park use. (Example, reuse of landfill, brownfields, rails to trails projects or rehabilitation)

Projects will be evaluated on a point system. Highest scoring projects in each category will receive awards.

ADDITIONAL CRITERIA

Park and Facility Renovation

Renovation projects to an existing facility, having been in place for five (5) years or more, that offer a unique or innovative approach that enhances the programmed use or significantly reduces maintenance and operation costs.

Additional criteria will include:

1. The project location must be part of an original park or facility that has been in place for at least five (5) years.
2. The park or facility renovation must have a unique feature associated with it:
 - Innovative design that enhances the use of the park/facility
 - Reduction in operating costs, whether labor or materials
 - Extends the anticipated service life of the facility or reduces life cycle costing

- Offers enhanced revenues

Trails/Nature Areas

Trails-specific criteria

- New construction or addition to existing trails that connect parks, facilities, or neighborhoods; including trail corridors, linkages to open space, natural resources and public lands.
- Provide a copy of the master project plan for the community the project serves.
- Identify key linkages that the project will provide access to.
- Provide a description of the user groups served; i.e., pedestrian, bicycle, rollerblade, equestrian, OHV, vehicle, etc.
- Identification of support facilities; i.e., parking, informational kiosks, interpretive elements, restrooms, outdoor classrooms etc.

Nature Areas- specific criteria

Projects should consist of enhancement of natural settings through new construction, environmental restoration, or mitigation to provide passive or active recreational or educational opportunities through design. Eligible projects may include, but not limited to: wildlife habitat and viewing areas; preservation/education of natural, cultural or historic resources; interpretive areas; wetlands; trails; and open space.

- Objective(s) of project must be clearly identified. May include wetlands, lakes, rivers, or other natural features.
- Where applicable, summarize resources being protected and method.
- Describe public benefits (recreation, education etc.).
- For open space projects, summarize public process, and identify unique feature(s) of site, which make it valuable to set aside for the community.

GENERAL FORMAT

Applications may submit only one (1) entry per category, but may enter in as many categories as desired. Only completed projects will be eligible. Phase development of large parks shall be considered completed projects. Each entry must be submitted to nrps@nrps.org and accompanied by the proper supporting documentation. In the subject line

please title it Park Excellence Award. **Entry must be submitted by February 16th**. After submitting your application, the awards committee will contact you if additional information is required.

Required Additional Submittals

1. Digital photos - a maximum of ten (10) color digital photos submitted on a disk showing the comprehensive/master plan for the project, graphic details, construction details, construction plans or special features of the site which best represent the character of the development shall be submitted. Applications are encouraged to submit action photos with people using the facilities or development at the "best" time of year, i.e., green grass and leaves on the trees. Electronic photos must be in .tif, .pdf, or .jpg formats.

2. Text - A description of the project shall accompany the photos. The text shall be typed and limited to four (single-sided) or two (double-sided) pages, and shall give the following details:

- Project purpose
- Project scope
- Design criteria
- Design solutions
- ADA considerations
- Project Budget and funding sources
- Unique concepts (cooperative partnerships, green building/LEED elements, restoration, interpretation etc.)
- Narrative describing submitted photos in sequence
- Considerations for ease of maintenance and operations

3. Project Site Plan - One or more color digital file(s) showing the project site plan(s) shall be submitted with each entry. No actual blueprints or construction drawings will be accepted. The site plan files shall be part of the ten-digital photo set referred to in Item 1 above. Electronic maps/site plans must be in .tif, .pdf, .jpg formats.

If you have any questions about this award, please contact nrps@nrps.org

All agencies/individuals submitting entries will be notified prior to the State Conference as to whether or not they have won an award.



Tahoe Blue Event Center, Lake Tahoe (Stateline) NV
Nevada Recreation & Park Society Annual Conference
April 15th – 17th 2024