



2024 Ohio Parks and Recreation Association Awards of Excellence Winners

Category 1: Capital Improvement Projects – Up to \$500,000

- 1st Place Medina County Park District | Allardale Playscape
- 2nd Place Licking Park District | Infirmary Mound Park – Nature Playscape
- 3rd Place Geauga Park District | Troy Wetlands

Category 2: Capital Improvement Projects – \$500,000 to \$10 Million

- 1st Place Mason Parks and Recreation | Adaptive Ballfields at Makino Park
Kettering Parks, Recreation & Cultural Arts | From Vision to Zipline: Kettering’s Gentile Nature Park
- 2nd Place Transforms Community
- 3rd Place Miamisburg Parks & Recreation | Riverfront Park Improvement Project

Category 3: Capital Improvement Projects – \$10 Million and Up

- 1st Place Ohio State Parks and Watercraft | Great Council State Park – Ohio’s 76th State Park
- 2nd Place City of Madeira | McDonald Commons Renovation
- 3rd Place Summit Metro Parks | Valley View: A Park Nearly 100 Years in the Making

Category 4: Management Innovation

- 1st Place Cincinnati Recreation Commission | Rec @ Nite
- 2nd Place Fairborn Parks & Recreation | MVRAC Summer Staff Training
- 3rd Place Cincinnati Parks Foundation | obliterators Volunteer Litter Removal Program

Category 5: Marketing Innovation

- 1st Place Great Parks | Great Parks Passport
- 2nd Place City of Dublin | The Dublin Rec App
Ohio State Parks and Watercraft | Ohio State Parks 75th Anniversary: 75 Years of Making Memories in Your Ohio State Parks
- 3rd Place

Category 6: Natural Resources & Conservation

- 1st Place Cincinnati Parks | The Cincinnati Conservation Stewards
- 2nd Place Ohio State Parks and Watercraft | Headlands Dunes H2Ohio Coastal Wetland Restoration Project
- 3rd Place Friendship Park District | Friendship Park Highwall Reclamation

Category 7: Adaptive Programs & Events

- 1st Place Ohio State Parks and Watercraft | LightSound: An Adaptive Solar Eclipse Experience for All
- 2nd Place Greene County Parks & Trails | Toad-Ally Together: Trolls Adventure and Dino Exploration
- 3rd Place City of Powell | Intergenerational Inclusion: Memory Care Meetups

Category 8: Environmental & Interpretive Programs & Events

- 1st Place Kettering Parks, Recreation & Cultural Arts | EcoFEST 2024: Cultivating Community Through Environmental Stewardship
Kettering Parks, Recreation & Cultural Arts | From Saplings to Suds: Kettering’s Innovative Approach to Urban Forestry Education
- 2nd Place
- 3rd Place Reynoldsburg Parks & Recreation | Nature Adventure Day

Category 9: Health & Wellness Programs & Events

- 1st Place Columbus Recreation and Parks | VOICE: Breaking the Cycle of Violence
- 2nd Place Cleveland Metroparks | Urban Line Dancing
- 3rd Place Westlake Parks & Recreation | Westlake Community Run in Conjunction with Wellness & Safety Day

Category 10: Historical & Cultural Arts Programs & Events

- 1st Place City of New Albany | New Albany Celebrates Diwali
- 2nd Place Gahanna Parks & Recreation | Celebrating 175 Years of Gahanna
- 3rd Place Upper Arlington Parks and Recreation | Stories of Resilience: Black History Journey Through the Arts

Category 11: Law Enforcement Programs & Events

- 1st Place Greene County Parks & Trails | Junior Ranger Academy (10-17 year old)
- 2nd Place Ohio State Parks and Watercraft | Ohio State Parks and Watercraft Active Threat Response Training
- 3rd Place Metroparks Toledo | National Night Out

Category 12: Community Events

- 1st Place Gahanna Parks & Recreation | Gahanna Senior Prom
- 2nd Place Miamisburg Parks & Recreation | Riverfront Park Grand Opening
Athens Arts, Parks and Recreation | Changing the Culture of Athens Halloween Block Party: Uptown Family
- 3rd Place Friendly Halloween Block Party

Category 13: Recreational Programs

- 1st Place Columbus Recreation and Parks | APPS Job Readiness Program: A Pathway to Possibilities for Columbus Youth
- 2nd Place Cincinnati Recreation Commission | Cincinnati Recreation Commission's Free Ski and Snowboard Program
- 3rd Place Greene County Parks & Trails | Babbling Bunnies (ages 6 to 23 months)

Outstanding Youth Leadership

Maggie West | Hilliard Recreation & Parks

Outstanding Citizen

The Lehner Family | Five Rivers MetroParks

Youth Sports Coach of the Year

Jen Welday | Reynoldsburg Parks and Recreation

Jack Hanna Resource Conservation

Heather Bokman | Ohio State Parks and Watercraft

Public Official of the Year

Representative Sharon Ray

Harvey Woods Lifetime Achievement

Kim Conrad | City of Grove City

Professional of the Year

Ken Carter | Centerville-Washington Park District

OPRA Hall of Fame

James Garges

Mary Mertz | Ohio State Parks and Watercraft

Governors Award

To be announce February 4, 2025 at the 2025 OPRA Conference & Trade Show annual Awards Dinner.