



OPRA Governor's Award Winners

2010	Reynoldsburg Parks and Recreation Department	Livingston Community Gardens
2011	Green Parks & Recreation Department	Green Veterans Memorial Park
2012	Cincinnati Park Board	Smale Riverfront Park
2013	Geauga Park District	East Branch of the Cuyahoga River Covered Bridge
2014	National Trail Parks and Recreation District	NTPRD Chiller
2015	Columbus and Franklin County Metro Parks	Rocky Fork Metro Park
2016	Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Park District	River Friendly Parking Lot - An Eco-Conscious Parking Solution
2017	Cincinnati Recreation Commission	Youth 2 Work
2018	Metroparks Toledo	Howard Marsh Metropark – Phase 1 Construction
2019	Stark County Park District	Mindfulness Walk
2020	Whitehall Parks & Recreation	Whitehall Community Park YMCA
2021	Cincinnati Parks Foundation	be.well Fall Adaptive Hiking Program
2022	City of North Canton	Possibility Playground at Dogwood Park
2023	Metroparks Toledo	Glass City Metropark
2024	Cincinnati Recreation Commission	Rec @ Nite



OPRA Hall of Fame Inductees

2006	Richard Rano
2006	David Sacco
2006	Donald Schmidt
2006	Harvey Woods
2007	Ed Dressler
2007	William Yeck
2008	Edward Hutchins
2008	Jean Ward
2009	Dave Parker, Metroparks of the Toledo Area
2010	John Brennan, Hilliard Recreation and Parks Department
2010	Jack Gallon, Metroparks of the Toledo Area
2011	Michael Fritz, Hudson Community and Recreation Department
2012	Jon Brady, Hamilton County Park District
2012	Jody Stowers, Westerville Parks and Recreation Department
2015	Joseph Sommer, Ohio Department of Natural Resources and Stark County Park District
2016	Frances Seiberling Buchholzer, Summit Metro Parks
2016	Bob Feldmann, Centerville-Washington Park District
2017	John O'Meara, Columbus and Franklin County Metro Parks
2018	David Noble
2022	Kevin Haver, Johnny Appleseed Metropolitan Park District
2023	David Williams
2024	James Garges
2024	Mary Mertz, Ohio Department of Natural Resources



OPRA Director's Award Recipient

2021 Officer Jason Lagore, Ohio Department of Natural Resources



Harvey Woods Lifetime Achievement Award Recipients

2002	Richard Peddemors, Five Rivers MetroParks
2003	Timothy C. Smith, National Trail Parks and Recreation District
2004	Rick Greer, Hamilton County Park District
2005	Jack Gallon, Metroparks of the Toledo Area
2008	Michael, Fritz, Hudson Community Education and Recreation Department
2009	Bunnie Geroux, Gahanna Parks and Recreation Department
2010	Vern Hartenberg, Cleveland Metroparks
2011	James Bargar, Preservation Parks of Delaware County
2012	Don Holub, Solon Recreation Department
2013	Tom Bresko, Mill Creek MetroParks
2014	Daniel N. Slagle Jr., Boardman Township Park District
2015	Keith Shy, Summit Metro Parks
2016	William Thomas, Mayfield Village
2017	Kevin Haver, Johnny Appleseed Metro Park District
2018	Tom James, Medina County Park District
2019	Jonathan Dobney, Greene County Parks & Trails
2020	Alicia Eckhart, Fairborn Parks & Recreation
2021	Larry Peck, Columbus and Franklin County Metro Parks
2022	Rebecca Benná, Five Rivers MetroParks
2023	Carol Kennard
2024	Kim Conrad



Jack Hanna Resource Conservation Award Recipients

- 2011 Jack Hanna, Director Emeritus, Columbus Zoo & Aquarium
- 2012 Dave Nolin, Five Rivers MetroParks
- 2013 John Hoopingarner, Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District
- 2014 Bob Mason, Great Parks of Hamilton County
- 2016 Tim Schetter, Metroparks of the Toledo Area
- 2017 Denis Franklin, Metroparks Toledo
- 2018 Tim Gallaher, Metroparks Toledo
- 2019 Mike Johnson, Summit Metro Parks
- 2022 LaRae Sprow, Metroparks Toledo
- 2024 Heather Bokman, Ohio State Parks and Watercraft



Public Official of the Year Recipients

(previously known as the Legislator of the Year Award)

2003 Larry Wolpert
2004 Tom Niehaus
2005 Theresa Fedor
2006 Larry Mumper
2007 Frederick Strahorn
2008 Bill Harris
2010 Matt Huffman
2011 Dave Hall
2012 Scott Oelslager
2012 Chris Widener
2013 Tom Patton
2014 Denise Driehaus
2015 Gayle Manning
2016 Frank LaRose
2018 Marcy Kaptur
2019 Kirk Schuring
2022 Governor Mike DeWine
2024 Sharon Ray



Outstanding Citizen Leadership Award Recipients

- 2001 Albert Bobak, Westlake Parks and Recreation Department
- 2001 Jack Gallon, Metroparks of the Toledo Area
- 2002 Robert K. Siebenthaler, Five Rivers MetroParks
- 2003 Stanley J. Pijor, Lorain County Metropolitan Park District
- 2004 Edward F. Honton, Westerville Parks and Recreation Department
- 2005 Alan Kyger, Oxford Parks and Recreation Department
- 2006 Frederick H. Deering, Erie MetroParks
- 2007 Judith Keegans, Centerville-Washington Park District
- 2008 Robert H. "Tad" Jeffrey, Columbus & Franklin County Metro Parks
- 2009 Bob and Christine Freitag, Metro Parks, Serving Summit County
- 2010 Fred Rzepka, Cleveland Metroparks
- 2011 Daniel Schipfer, Darke County Park District
- 2012 John A. Wannemacher, Miami County Park District
- 2013 Jean Woodhull, Five Rivers MetroParks
- 2014 C. Andrew Black, Canton Park System
- 2015 Tony Klepacz and Andrea White, Kettering Parks, Recreation & Cultural Arts
- 2017 Anzora Adkins, Cincinnati Recreation Commission
- 2018 Gregory Lashutka, Columbus and Franklin County Metro Parks
- 2018 Andy Niekamp, Five Rivers MetroParks
- 2019 The Garg Family, Washington Township Recreation Department
- 2020 David Harrison, Medina County Park District
- 2021 Lindsay Harris, New Albany Parks and Recreation
- 2022 Bob and Vicki Darden, Beaver Creek Parks, Recreation & Culture
- 2023 Jo Ferguson, City of Beaver Creek
- 2024 The Lehner Family, Five Rivers MetroParks



Outstanding Youth Leadership Award Recipients

- 2002 Zac Sideras, Kettering Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts
- 2003 Josh Bowling, Oxford Parks and Recreation Department
- 2005 Kara Rosine, Grove City Parks and Recreation Department
- 2006 Chris Skovron, Gahanna Parks and Recreation Department
- 2007 Grace Ficke, Evendale Recreation Department
- 2008 Christa Hester, Gahanna Parks and Recreation Department
- 2009 Steffani Ronfeldt, Grove City Parks and Recreation Department
- 2010 Tiarra Comer, Five Rivers MetroParks
- 2011 Alicia Hirnikel, Evendale Recreation Department
- 2014 Andrew Mularo, Cleveland Metroparks
- 2015 Owen and Gavin Gonzalez, Centerville-Washington Park District
- 2016 Douglas May, Five Rivers MetroParks
- 2017 Ellie Leonard, Metroparks Toledo
- 2018 Ella Oswalt, Gahanna Parks & Recreation Department
- 2019 Owen Troutman, New Albany Plain Local Parks District
- 2020 Luther Bell and Martez Scott, Youngstown Parks and Recreation
- 2021 Aaron Medina, Youngstown Parks and Recreation
- 2022 Christopher Kobs, Hilliard Recreation & Parks
- 2023 Kelly Shaw, Worthington Parks and Recreation
- 2024 Maggie West, Hilliard Recreation & Parks



Professional of the Year Award Recipients

- 2001 Carl Guarnieri, City of Middleburg Heights
- 2001 Dianne Hoover, Cincinnati Recreation Commission
- 2002 James D. Martin, Lorain County Metropolitan Park District
- 2003 John Brennan
- 2004 Larry Peck, Columbus & Franklin County Metro Parks
- 2005 Steve S. Gruner, Sandusky County Park District
- 2006 Molly McClure, Anderson Park District
- 2007 Dan West, Ohio Department of Natural Resources
- 2008 Carol Kennard, Centerville-Washington Park District
- 2009 Kim Conrad, Grove City Parks and Recreation Department
- 2010 Charlie Shoemaker, Five Rivers MetroParks
- 2011 Doug Burger, Hamilton County Park District
- 2012 Thomas K. James, Medina County Park District
- 2013 Alan McKnight, Columbus Recreation and Parks Department
- 2014 Leann Castillo, National Trail Parks and Recreation District
- 2015 Stephen Madewell, Metroparks of the Toledo Area
- 2016 Brian M. Zimmerman, Cleveland Metroparks
- 2017 Tony Collins, Columbus Recreation and Parks Department
- 2018 Bob Fonte, Stark County Park District
- 2019 Sergeant Eric Lane, Five Rivers MetroParks
 - Ranger Kyl Caldwell, Five Rivers MetroParks
 - Ranger Amanda Chiles, Five Rivers MetroParks
 - Ranger Rebecca Dieker, Five Rivers MetroParks
 - Ranger Scott Janicki, Five Rivers MetroParks
 - Ranger Elyzabeth McDonald, Five Rivers MetroParks
 - Ranger Cory Reis, Five Rivers MetroParks
- 2020 Arnie Biondo, Centerville-Washington Park District
- 2021 Boris Slogar, Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District
- 2022 Amanda Morris, Marysville Parks & Recreation
- 2023 Bill Tschirhart, Five Rivers MetroParks

2024 Ken Carter, Centerville-Washington Park District



Youth Sports Coach of the Year Award Recipients

- 2007 Doug Nunn, Village of Evendale Recreation Department
- 2008 Tony Bonofiglio, City of Delaware
- 2009 Mark Hamm, Lakewood Community and Education Department
- 2010 Greg and Mindy Dysinger, National Trail Parks and Recreation District
- 2011 Dave Caracci, Village of Evendale Recreation Department
- 2012 Mike Wilson, Trumbull County MetroParks
- 2013 Ken Puthoff, Village of Evendale Recreation Department
- 2016 Tonaruse "Spoon" Witherspoon, Cincinnati Recreation Commission
- 2017 Mark Coyer, City of Groveport
- 2018 Ed Krause, Reynoldsburg Parks and Recreation
- 2023 Dan Bogan, Kettering Parks, Recreation & Cultural Arts
- 2024 Jen Welday, Reynoldsburg Parks and Recreation