



## Mississippi Recreation & Park Association

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## Mississippi Recreation & Park Association (MRPA) Awards for Excellence in Park and Recreation

Proudly Sponsored by Musco Lighting

*The MRPA Awards Committee is now accepting nominations for the 2020 Awards*

The purpose of the Awards for Excellence in Park and Recreation is to honor and recognize the state's outstanding park and recreation agencies. The program gives state-wide recognition to communities for excellence in long-range planning, fiscal resource management, citizen support systems, environmental stewardship, preservation, program planning, professional development, agency recognition, and services for special populations.

- \* The Awards are open to all municipal and county park and recreation professionals who are members in good standing with MRPA.
- \* The deadline for nominations is October 16, 2020.
- \* *This is your nomination packet.*

We look forward to an abundant number of nominations from around our state. The winners of all awards will be announced in November. The annual Awards for Excellence in Park and Recreation program is sponsored by **Musco Lighting**,

**Nominations and supporting information should be submitted October 16, 2020 to:**

**MRPA Awards Committee  
Attn: Samuel Pryor  
310 South 15 St  
Oxford, MS 38655**

# MRPA Awards Categories

1. MRPA Recreation Professional of the Year
2. Hayward “Bo” Phillips Design Award of Merit
  - Class I - Population under 15, 000
  - Class II - Population 15,000- 34,999
  - Class III - Population 35,000 and greater
3. Special Event Award of Merit
  - Class I - Population under 15, 000
  - Class II - Population 15,000- 34,999
  - Class III - Population 35,000 and greater
4. Arts, Humanities and Programming Award of Merit - Single Program
  - Class I - Population under 15, 000
  - Class II - Population 15,000- 34,999
  - Class III - Population 35,000 and greater
5. Arts, Humanities and Programming Award of Merit – Program Series
  - Class I - Population under 15, 000
  - Class II - Population 15,000- 34,999
  - Class III - Population 35,000 and greater
6. Recreation Programming Award of Merit - Single Program
  - Class I - Population under 15, 000
  - Class II - Population 15,000- 34,999
  - Class III - Population 35,000 and greater
7. Recreation Programming Award of Merit – Program Series
  - Class I - Population under 15, 000
  - Class II - Population 15,000- 34,999
  - Class III - Population 35,000 and greater
8. Award of Excellence in Special Events Sports Programming
  - Class I - Population under 15, 000
  - Class II - Population 15,000- 34,999
  - Class III - Population 35,000 and greater
9. Therapeutic Recreation Awards
  - 7A. Recreation Therapist of the Year
  - 7B. Therapeutic Programming Award of Merit
  - 7C. Therapeutic Program Special Event Award

# MRPA Awards Categories - Descriptions

## MRPA Recreation Professional of the Year

### Description of Award:

- The highest professional award given by MRPA
- To recognize the contributions of outstanding recreation professionals in Mississippi
- To encourage professionalism and exceptional professional performance by recreation professionals in Mississippi.

### Criteria:

- The individual nominee **MUST** be a recreation professional MRPA member, defined as a person who has a major responsibility for the conduct, supervision or administration of recreation programs and services in any service setting, in the academic preparation of professionals, or in research in the leisure service profession.
- The nominee must be a member in good standing of MRPA during the three years prior to his/her nomination.
- In addition, the nominee must assume responsibility for his/her professional growth and evidence professional commitment through membership and/or involvement in local, state, and national recreation organizations.
- Former winners within the last ten (10) years may not be nominated.

### Nomination Procedure:

- Submit a statement stating clearly and concisely why the nominee should receive the award.
- The nomination must be submitted on a completed copy of the MRPA official nomination form, along with a headshot photo of the nominee.

### Supporting Information: *(Optional information that may be included)*

- A. Rationale for nominating the candidate, professional contributions made during the award year as well as long-term professional involvement.
- B. Work experience, particularly that work experience that supports the candidates' nomination.
- C. National, state and regional affiliations, offices, committees and involvement in professional organizations.
- D. Honors and awards received by the nominee.
- E. Educational preparation.
- F. Community service with other organizations as a professional and a volunteer.

# MRPA Awards Categories - Descriptions

## Hayward “Bo” Phillips Design Award of Merit

### Description of Award:

- This award is given to recognize any MRPA agency member for excellent examples of area/facility design and/or development such as parks, recreation areas, athletic complexes, malls, recreation buildings, pools, playgrounds, or other leisure service areas or facilities designed for the delivery of therapeutic recreation or special leisure services to populations with disabilities.

### Criteria:

- Agency recipient must be an MRPA Agency Member.
- The nominated facility must be under the jurisdiction of the agency submitting the nomination.
- The nominated facility must have been built within the last ten (10) years, and not have previously won the award.

### Nomination Procedure:

- Submit a statement clearly and concisely why the agency should receive the award.
- The nomination must be submitted on a completed copy of the MRPA official nomination form.
- Describe the facility.
- Photographs supporting the nomination are strongly encouraged.
- One or two slides must be included for presentation purposes.
- Photographs must be labeled with information about the facility, activities, and persons depicted.

### Supporting Information: *(Optional information that may be included)*

- A. Steps in the design and development
- B. Special problems encountered
- C. Funding sources(s)
- D. Agencies and personnel involved
- E. Planned programs/services for the area/facility
- F. Persons benefiting from the project.

# MRPA Awards Categories - Descriptions

## Special Event Award of Merit

### Description of Award:

- Given in recognition of special event programming.
- Special events are considered 1 to 3 days in length and occur no more than twice per calendar year.
- For the purpose of this award, an activity falling into the category of “special event” may include, but not be limited to, any specific activity that is not part of the normal and regular programming for the nominated agency.

### Criteria:

- Agency **MUST** be represented by an MRPA member.
- Professional Member must have direct contact with planning and organizing event.
- Event should include involvement with private and/or public agencies.
- Awarded events within the last four (4) years may not be nominated.

### Nomination Procedure:

- Submit a statement describing the event and why it should receive the award.
- The nomination must be submitted on a completed copy of the MRPA official nomination form.
- Photographs or slides supporting the nomination are strongly encouraged.
- Photographs and slides must be labeled with information about the event, facilities and persons depicted.

### Supporting Information: *(Optional information that may be included)*

- A. How the event originated.
- B. Special problems encountered
- C. Source(s) of funding
- D. Program planning materials outlining other organizations/agencies involvement
- E. Promotional materials for event
- F. Examples of media coverage of the event.

# MRPA Awards Categories - Descriptions

## Arts & Humanities Award of Merit – Single Program

### Description of Award:

- Given to any agency represented by an MRPA member in recognition of outstanding examples of a single program in the graphic and performing arts.
- All entries in this category will be returned to the submitting professional.
- Nominees may submit their entries to the NRPA National Arts and Humanities Awards competition.

### Criteria:

- Agency **MUST** be represented by an MRPA member.
- Professional Member must have direct contact with planning and organizing event.
- Single Program must have taken place since the previous year's awards deadline.
- Single Program must cover a single directed or instructed course area, spanning no more than 1-7 days.
- Nominees will be evaluated on the following:
  - [a] innovative nature of program;
  - [b] number of people served;
  - [c] involvement of volunteers and/or partnerships to implement the program; and
  - [d] positive public exposure for the field of parks and recreation and cultural programs.

### Nomination Procedure:

- Submit a written description of the program planning process including:
  - [a] other organizations/agencies involved
  - [b] source(s) of funding
  - [c] corporate and/or commercial sponsorship
  - [d] scope and content of program
- Submit copies of promotional materials used
- Photographs supporting the nomination are strongly encouraged.
- Supporting photographs must be labeled with information about the activity, facility, and persons depicted.
- Submit examples of media coverage of the event/program.
- Materials must be submitted with a completed copy of the official nomination form.

# MRPA Awards Categories - Descriptions

## Arts & Humanities Award of Merit – Program Series

### Description of Award:

- Given to any agency represented by an MRPA member in recognition of outstanding examples of programming in the graphic and performing arts.
- All entries in this category will be returned to the submitting professional.
- Nominees may submit their entries to the NRPA National Arts and Humanities Awards competition.

### Criteria:

- Agency **MUST** be represented by an MRPA member.
- Professional Member must have direct contact with planning and organizing event.
- Program Series must have taken place since the previous year's awards deadline.
- Program Series must cover multiple directed or instructed course areas, spanning multiple weeks or months.
- Nominees will be evaluated on the following:
  - [a] innovative nature of program;
  - [b] number of people served;
  - [c] involvement of volunteers and/or partnerships to implement the program; and
  - [d] positive public exposure for the field of parks and recreation and cultural programs.

### Nomination Procedure:

- Submit a written description of the program planning process including:
  - [a] other organizations/agencies involved
  - [b] source(s) of funding
  - [c] corporate and/or commercial sponsorship
  - [d] scope and content of program
- Submit copies of promotional materials used
- Photographs supporting the nomination are strongly encouraged.
- Supporting photographs must be labeled with information about the activity, facility, and persons depicted.
- Submit examples of media coverage of the event/program.
- Materials must be submitted with a completed copy of the official nomination form.

# MRPA Awards Categories - Descriptions

## Recreation Programming Award of Merit – Single Program

### Description of the Award:

- This award is given to recognize any agency represented by an MRPA member, for public recreation programming including a specific recreational innovative program.
- These areas are related to: senior adult recreation, wellness, programs for teens, athletics, aquatics, arts and crafts, drama, camps, nature and outdoor programs, and many other aspects of recreation.

### Criteria:

- Agency **MUST** be represented by an MRPA member.
- Professional Member must have direct contact with planning and organizing event.
- Single Program should include involvement with private and/or public agencies.
- Single Program must have taken place since the previous year's awards deadline.
- Single Program must cover a single directed or instructed course area, spanning no more than 1-7 days.

### Nomination Procedure:

- Submit a written description of the program planning process including:
  - [a] other organizations/agencies involved
  - [b] source(s) of funding
  - [c] corporate and/or commercial sponsorship
  - [d] scope and content of program
- Submit copies of promotional materials used.
- Photographs supporting the nomination are strongly encouraged.
- Supporting photographs must be labeled with information about the activity, facility, and persons depicted.
- Submit examples of media coverage of the event/program.
- Materials must be submitted with a completed copy of the official nomination form.



# MRPA Awards Categories - Descriptions

## Recreation Programming Award of Merit – Program Series

### Description of the Award:

- This award is given to recognize any agency represented by an MRPA member, for public recreation programming which includes both general and specific recreational innovative programs.
- These areas are related to: senior adult recreation, wellness, programs for teens, athletics, aquatics, arts and crafts, drama, camps, nature and outdoor programs, and many other aspects of recreation.

### Criteria:

- Agency **MUST** be represented by an MRPA member.
- Professional Member must have direct contact with planning and organizing event.
- Program Series should include involvement with private and/or public agencies.
- Program Series must have taken place since the previous year's awards deadline.
- Program Series must cover multiple directed or instructed course areas, spanning multiple weeks or months.

### Nomination Procedure:

- Submit a written description of the program planning process including:
  - [a] other organizations/agencies involved
  - [b] source(s) of funding
  - [c] corporate and/or commercial sponsorship
  - [d] scope and content of program
- Submit copies of promotional materials used.
- Photographs supporting the nomination are strongly encouraged.
- Supporting photographs must be labeled with information about the activity, facility, and persons depicted.
- Submit examples of media coverage of the event/program.
- Materials must be submitted with a completed copy of the official nomination form.

# MRPA Awards Categories - Descriptions

## Award of Excellence in Special Events Sports Programming

### Description of the Award:

- This award is given to recognize any agency represented by an MRPA member for excellence in sports programming which includes general and specific innovative sports programs.
- Special Events in sports programming occur 1-3 days in length.
- These areas are related to: special games, championship events, exhibition games, events dedicated to fitness and play, opening ceremonies, other tournaments (example given: golf or ultimate Frisbee), or any additional event that is strictly sports related.

### Criteria:

- Agency **MUST** be represented by an MRPA member.
- Professional Member must have direct contact with planning and organizing event.
- Program should include involvement with private and/or public agencies.
- Awarded events within the last four (4) years may not be nominated.

### Nomination Procedure:

- Submit a written description of the program planning process including:
  - [a] other organizations/agencies involved
  - [b] source(s) of funding
  - [c] corporate and/or commercial sponsorship
  - [d] scope and content of program
- Submit copies of promotional materials used.
- Photographs supporting the nomination are strongly encouraged.
- Supporting photographs must be labeled with information about the activity, facility, and persons depicted.
- Submit examples of media coverage of the event/program.
- Materials must be submitted with a completed copy of the official nomination form.

# MRPA Awards Categories - Descriptions

## Recreation Therapist of the Year

### Description of Award:

- This is the highest therapeutic award given by MRPA and MTRA.
- The award is designed to recognize outstanding contributions made in therapeutic recreation services and to encourage exceptional performance in providing quality therapeutic recreation in any setting.

### Criteria:

- The individual nominee must be a full-time recreation therapist as well as a current member of MRPA/MTRA.
- Former winners within the last ten (10) years may not be nominated.

### Nomination Procedure:

- Submit a statement stating clearly and concisely why the nominee should receive the award.
- The nomination must be submitted on a completed copy of the MRPA official nomination form, along with a head shot photo of the nominee.

### Supporting Information: *(Optional information that may be included)*

- A. Work experience in therapeutic recreation field
- B. Professional contributions/enhancement of profession
- C. National, regional or state affiliations
- D. Honors or awards received
- E. Community education presentation
- F. Community involvement in service organizations in area of therapeutic recreation
- G. Specialty certifications

# MRPA Awards Categories - Descriptions

## Therapeutic Programming Award of Merit

### Description:

- This award is given to recognize any agency for public recreation programming which is directly related to provision of services to person with special needs.
- This program may include both general and specific recreation activities, with emphasis on innovative programming.

### Criteria:

- Program must have direct contact with a MRPA individual member
- MRPA member must have direct contact with planning and or organizing agencies
- Program may include involvement with private and/or public agencies
- Program may occur multiple times during the calendar year and/or on a consistent basis

### Nomination Procedure:

- Submit a written description of the programming planning process including:
  - [a] other organizations/agencies involved
  - [b] source(s) of funding
  - [c] corporate and/or commercial sponsorship
  - [d] scope and content of program.
- Submit a description of the role of the therapeutic recreation professional in the event.
- Submit copies of promotional materials used.
- Submission photographs supporting the nomination are strongly encouraged; photos must be labeled with information about the activity, facility, and persons depicted.
- Submit examples of media coverage of the event/program.
- Materials must be submitted with a completed copy of the official nomination form.

# **MRPA Awards Categories - Descriptions**

## **Therapeutic Recreation Special Event Award**

### Description:

- This award is given to recognize any agency for presenting a special event that is specifically programmed for persons with special needs.

### Criteria:

- Program must have direct contact with a MRPA individual member
- MRPA member must have direct contact with planning and or organizing agencies
- Program may include involvement with private and/or public agencies
- Program may occur only once during the calendar year; although it may last multiple days during that one time.

### Nomination Procedure:

- Submit a written description of the programming planning process including: other organizations/agencies involved; source(s) of funding; corporate and/or commercial sponsorship and scope and content of program.
- Submit a description of the role of the therapeutic recreation professional in the event.
- Submit copies of promotional materials used.
- Submission of photographs supporting the nomination are strongly encouraged; photos must be labeled with information about the activity, facility, and persons depicted.
- Submit examples of media coverage of the event/program.
- Materials must be submitted with a completed copy of the official nomination form.

# Mississippi Recreation & Park Association (MRPA)

## Awards for Excellence in Park and Recreation – Nomination Form

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Award Category: \_\_\_\_\_

Select the appropriate Award Classification:

1. Population under 15,000
2. Population 15,000 - 34,999
3. Population 35,000 and over

If Nominating for Hayward “Bo” Phillips Design Award of Merit, list name and contact number of Architect/Contractor: \_\_\_\_\_

In the event your agency receives an Award at the Awards for Excellence Banquet, please list all media and contact information you wish to receive a press release.

Television Station: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Newspaper: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Other Media: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Person/Agency Nominated: (Person/Agency must be a member in good standing with MRPA)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Nominating Person/Agency Contact:**

Name/Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Supporting comments, photos, and PowerPoint documentation required in both electronic and written form\*  
Nominations and supporting information should be submitted by October 16, 2020 to:

**MRPA Awards Committee**  
**Attn: Samuel Pryor**  
**310 South 15 St**  
**Oxford, MS 38655**  
**662-816-9613**  
**stpryor@oxfordparkcommission.com**