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Two Georgia Agencies Awarded Finalist Medal in 2023 National Gold Medal Award Program

LACEY, WA, April 25, 2023 – The American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration (AAPRA), in partnership with the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) announces Gwinnett County Parks & Recreation and Douglasville Parks and Recreation are Finalists for the 2023 National Gold Medal Award for Excellence in Park and Recreation Management. Musco LLC is the proud sponsor of this nationally recognized award program.

Gwinnett County is one of four Finalist agencies in Class I, population 400,001 and over. Other Class I Finalists are Hillsborough County Parks and Recreation, Tampa, Florida; The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Greenbelt, Maryland; and Virginia Beach Parks & Recreation, Virginia Beach, Virginia.

Douglasville Parks and Recreation is one of four Finalist agencies in Class IV, population 30,001 to 75,000. Other Finalists in Class IV are Bristol Parks, Recreation, Youth and Community Services, Bristol, Connecticut; Hoffman Estates Park District, Hoffman Estates, Illinois; and Park District of Oak Park, Oak Park, Illinois.

One Finalist agency in each population class will receive the highest award, the Grand Plaque.

Founded in 1965, the Gold Medal Awards program honors park and recreation agencies in the United States and military installations worldwide that demonstrate excellence in parks and recreation through long range planning, resource management, volunteerism, environmental stewardship, program development, professional development and community engagement. Applicants are placed into six (6) classes, with five classes based on population and one class for armed forces installations.

A panel of five park and recreation professionals, representing differing governmental agencies, size, and geographic area, reviewed and judged all application materials. Judges are chosen due to their considerable experience in managing park and recreation agencies and their knowledge of parks and recreation on the local, state, and national levels.
“Congratulations to both Gwinnett County Parks & Recreation and Douglasville Parks and Recreation as 2023 National Gold Medal Award Program Finalists from the Great State of Georgia! AAPRA is proud to administer this program which recognizes excellence in park and recreation management from a variety of perspectives,” says Jane H. Adams, Executive Director, AAPRA.

Presentation of the Finalist and the Grand Plaques in each population class will occur in-person at the 2023 NRPA Annual Conference, October 9-11, in Dallas, Texas.

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The American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration is a national nonprofit organization founded in 1984 to advance knowledge related to the administration of recreation and parks; to encourage scholarly efforts by both practitioners and educators to enhance the practice of park and recreation administration; to promote broader public understanding of the importance of parks and recreation to the public good; and, to conduct research, publish scholarly papers and sponsor seminars related to the advancement of park and recreation administration. For more information, visit www.aapra.org.

The National Recreation and Park Association is a national not-for-profit organization dedicated to ensuring that all people have access to parks and recreation for health, conservation and social equity. Through its network of 60,000 recreation and park professionals and advocates, NRPA encourages the promotion of healthy and active lifestyles, conservation initiatives and equitable access to parks and public space. For more information, visit www.nrpa.org. For digital access to NRPA’s flagship publication, Parks & Recreation, visit www.parksandrecreation.org.

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