2026 IAPD Best of the Best Award Winners

Top Journalist

Mundelein Park & Recreation District for Mick Zawislak, *Daily Herald*

Best Friend of Illinois Parks – Small Business

Glenview Park District for Carriage Hill Kennels

Oswegoland Park District for Restoration 1 of Fox Valley

Park Ridge Park District for MPowered Smiles Orthodontics

Rockford Park District for Schmeling Construction Company

Best Friend of Illinois Parks – Mid-Sized Business

West Chicago Park District for Republic Bank of Chicago

Best Friend of Illinois Parks – Large Business

McHenry County Conservation District for Stryker

Urbana Park District for OSF HealthCare Sacred Heart Medical Center - Urbana

Intergovernmental Cooperation

Deerfield Park District with the Deerfield Police Department, Village of Deerfield, Deerfield-Bannockburn Fire Department, and Deerfield Public Library

Huntley Park District with the Village of Huntley for Project Horizon

Lemont Park District with the Village of Lemont, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Illinois Department of Transportation, Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway, Studio GC, and E.P. Doyle & Sons for the Athens Park Project

Lincolnway Special Recreation Association with Western DuPage Special Recreation Association

St. Charles Park District with the City of St. Charles

IAPD

Illinois Association of Park Districts

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Partnership

Cary Park District with the Friends of Illinois Nature Preserves

Hoffman Estates Park District with Ascension St. Alexius

Naperville Park District with Max's Mission

Plainfield Park District with Werk Force Brewing Co.

Worth Park District with Republic Bank

Arts in the Park

Gurnee Park District

Lombard Park District

Oregon Park District

Best Green Practices

Forest Preserves of Cook County

Northbrook Park District

Village of Willowbrook Parks and Recreation

Good Sportsmanship

Waukegan Park District for Kayla Pounds

Outstanding Citizen Volunteer of the Year

Forest Preserves of Cook County for Marianne Kozlowski

Hoffman Estates Park District for Oluremi Odediran

Lombard Park District for Dave Cyr

Northbrook Park District for Judy Hughes

Urbana Park District for Bob Vaiden

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