



<b>MRPA Administration Manual</b>	Policy #	<b>4.0</b>
<b>Section 4</b>	Effective Date:	<b>10.01.08</b>
<b>Awards Committee</b>	Supersedes:	

## Mississippi Recreation & Park Association

# Awards for Excellence in Parks and Recreation

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The MRPA Awards Committee is now accepting nominations for the 2012 Awards. The purpose of the Awards for Excellence in Park and Recreation is to honor 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 agencies who are members in good standing with MRPA. The deadline for nominations is August 24, 2012. 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 at the MRPA Annual Convention and Trade Show in Vicksburg, Mississippi. The annual Awards for Excellence in Park and Recreation banquet, sponsored by Musco Lighting, will be held on Wednesday, September 19, 2012.

Nominations and supporting information should be submitted by **August 21th, 2012** to:

**MRPA Awards Committee**  
**C/O Leigh Ann Mattox**  
**P.O. Box 3608**  
**Tupelo, MS 38803**

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



<b>MRPA Administration Manual</b>	Policy #	<b>4.0</b>
<b>Section 4</b>	Effective Date:	<b>10.01.08</b>
<b>Awards Committee</b>	Supersedes:	

Class II - Population 15,000- 34,999  
Class III - Population 35,000 and greater

4. Arts, Humanities and  
Programming Award of Merit

Class I - Population under 15, 000  
Class II - Population 15,000- 34,999  
Class III - Population 35,000 and greater

5. Recreation Programming Award of Merit

Class I - Population under 15, 000  
Class II - Population 15,000- 34,999  
Class III - Population 35,000 and greater

6. Award of Excellence in Sports Programming

Class I - Population under 15, 000  
Class II - Population 15,000- 34,999  
Class III - Population 35,000 and greater

7. Therapeutic Section Awards

- 7A. Recreation Therapist of the Year
- 7B. Therapeutic Recreation Award of Merit
- 7 C. Therapeutic Agency or Special Event Award



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## **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 nominee **MUST** be a recreation professional, 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.

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.

Supportive Information: (Not required (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.



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<b>Section 4</b>	Effective Date:	<b>10.01.08</b>
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## **Hayward “Bo” Phillips Design Award of Merit**

Description of Award: This award is given to recognize an agency for excellent examples of area/facility design and/or development such as parks, recreation areas, athletic complexes, malls, recreation buildings, pools, play grounds or other leisure service areas or facilities designed for the delivery of therapeutic recreation or special leisure services to population with disabilities.

Criterion: Recipient must be an MRPA Agency Member. The nominated facility must be under the jurisdiction of the agency submitting the nomination and must not have previously received this 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: Not required (optional) information may include steps in the design and development, special problems encountered, funding sources(s), agencies and personnel involved planned programs/services for the area/facility, persons benefiting from the project.



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## **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.

Criterion:

1. MUST be an MRPA agency member.
2. Agency must have direct contact with planning and organizing event.
3. Event should include involvement with private and/or public agencies.
4. Previous winning events 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.

Supportive Information: Optional information may include how the event originated, special problems encountered, source(s) of funding, program planning materials outlining other organizations/agencies involvement, promotional materials for event and examples of media coverage of the event.



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## **Arts & Humanities Award of Merit**

Description of Award: Given to agencies in recognition of outstanding examples of programming in the graphic and performing arts. All entries in this category will be returned to the submitting agency. Nominees may submit their entries to the NRPA National Arts and Humanities Awards competition.

Criterion:

1. MUST be an MRPA agency member.
2. Program must have taken place since the last awards deadline.
3. 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:

1. 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; and [e] scope and content of program.
2. Submit copies of promotional materials used.
3. Photographs supporting the nomination are strongly encouraged. Supporting photographs must be labeled with information about the activity, facility, and persons depicted.
4. Submit it examples of media coverage of the event/program.
5. Materials must be submitted with a completed copy of the official nomination form.



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## **Recreation Programming Award of Merit**

### Description of the Award:

This award is given to recognize any agency for public recreation programming which includes both general and specific recreational innovative programs.

These areas are related to: Therapeutic recreation, senior adult recreation, wellness, programs for teens, athletics, aquatics, arts and crafts, drama, camps, nature and outdoor programs, and many other aspects of recreation.

### Criterion:

1. **MUST** be an MRPA agency member.
2. Agency must have direct contact with planning and organizing program.
3. Program should include involvement with private and/or public agencies.
4. Previous winning events may not be nominated.

### Nomination Procedure:

1. 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; and [d] scope and content of program.
2. Submit copies of promotional materials used.
3. Photographs supporting the nomination are strongly encouraged. Supporting photographs must be labeled with information about the activity, facility, and persons depicted.
4. Submit examples of media coverage of the event/program.
5. Materials must be submitted with a completed copy of the official nomination form.



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## **Award of Excellence in Sports Programming**

Description of the Award:

This award is given to recognize any agency for excellence in sports programming which includes general and specific innovative sports programs.

These areas are related to: leagues, tournaments, special games, championship events, or any additional event that is strictly sports related.

Criterion:

1. **MUST** be an MRPA agency member.
2. Agency must have direct contact with planning and organizing program.
3. Program should include involvement with private and/or public agencies.
4. Previous winning events may not be nominated.

Nomination Procedure:

1. 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; and [d] scope and content of program.
2. Submit copies of promotional materials used.
3. Photographs supporting the nomination are strongly encouraged. Supporting photographs must be labeled with information about the activity, facility, and persons depicted.
4. Submit examples of media coverage of the event/program.
5. Materials must be submitted with a completed copy of the official nomination form



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## **Therapeutic Recreation Awards**

### **Recreation Therapist of the Year**

#### Description of Award:

The highest therapeutic award given by MRPA and MTRA. To recognize outstanding contributions made in therapeutic recreation services. To encourage exceptional performance in providing quality therapeutic recreation in any setting.

#### Criteria:

The nominee must be a full-time recreation therapeutic and a current member of MRPA.

#### Rationale for nominating:

Professional contributions made during the award year as well as long-term professional involvement, certifications, and work experience. May include any such national, regional or state affiliations or involvement in professional organizations and honors or awards received by the nominee.

### **Therapeutic Recreation Award of Merit**

#### Description of Award:

Recognizes a recreation professional outside TR who has contributed to the advancement of therapeutic programming.

#### Criteria:

Nominee must be a current member of MRPA and a full-time recreation professional.

#### Rationale for nomination:

Contributions made in the past year to the therapeutic recreation field.

### **Agency or Special Event Award**

#### Criterion:

This award is given to recognize any agency or special event sponsor for excellent examples of programming for special populations. You may consider facility design for ADA accessibility, innovative programming or integration in the field of recreation.



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Award Category:

Select the appropriate Award Classification:

- Population under 15,000
- Population 15,000 - 34,999
- Population 35,000 and over \_\_\_\_\_

Person/Agency Nominated:

Address:

City/State/Zip:

**Nominating Person/Agency Contact:**

Name/Phone Number:

Agency:

Address:

City/State/Zip:

Supporting comments, photos, and power point documentation required in both electronic and written form.

Nominations and supporting information should be submitted  
by 8/24/12 5:00 PM CST.

[leigh.mattox@tupeloms.gov](mailto:leigh.mattox@tupeloms.gov)

**MRPA Awards Committee**

**C/O Leigh Ann Mattox**

**P.O. Box 3608**

**Tupelo, MS 38803**