

MEDIA CONTACT

Amanda Rodriguez, Marketing Manager
arodriguez@grapevinetexas.gov | 817.410.3919

City of Grapevine Announced as Finalist for the 2021 National Gold Medal Awards in Parks and Recreation Management

Grapevine Parks and Recreation to compete for prestigious honor in the park and recreation industry

[GRAPEVINE, TX] May 13, 2021 – The [American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration](#) (AAPRA), in partnership with the [National Recreation and Park Association](#) (NRPA), is pleased to announce [Grapevine Parks and Recreation](#) as a finalist for the 2021 National Gold Medal Awards for Excellence in Park and Recreation Management. [Musco Lighting](#), LLC is proud to continue its 20+ years of sponsoring the National Gold Medal Awards program.

Founded in 1965, the National Gold Medal Awards program honors communities in the United States that demonstrate excellence in parks and recreation through long-range planning, resource management, volunteerism, environmental stewardship, program development, professional development and agency recognition. Applications are separated into seven classes, with five classes based on population, one class for armed forces recreation and one class, awarded on odd numbered years, for state park systems.

AAPRA Executive Director Jane H. Adams shared, “Each Finalist is congratulated for this prestigious award. We know local communities, state park systems, and military installations worldwide met the challenge of being responsive to the changing demands of delivering services during the COVID 19 pandemic. Park visitors and program participants have come to rely upon their service provider for physical, mental, and emotional support during this pandemic. The Academy congratulates each Finalist for their management excellence during this unprecedented time.”

Grapevine Parks and Recreation is a finalist in the Class IV category (population 30,001 to 75,000). The agency recently became CAPRA accredited in 2020 and received the Texas Recreation and Park Society’s Gold Medal award in 2021.

Agencies are judged on their ability to address the needs of those they serve through the collective energies of community members, staff members and elected officials. Grapevine Parks and Recreation joins three other finalists in their class that will compete for the Grand Plaque which will be awarded in September.

“It is a huge honor to be selected as a finalist and my team and I are excited to compete for the Grand Plaque,” said Kevin Mitchell, Director of Grapevine Parks and Recreation. “To be recognized as one of the best parks and recreation agencies in the nation means that we are doing something right.”

A panel of five highly qualified park and recreation professionals will review and judge all application materials. Judges are chosen for their considerable experience and knowledge in parks and recreation on both the local and national levels.



This year's finalists will compete for the Grand Plaque Award honors this summer, and seven Grand Plaque recipients will be announced during the 2021 NRPA Conference, which will be held virtually and in person September 21 - 23 in Nashville, Tennessee. The presentation of both the Finalist and Grand Plaque recipients is being finalized and details will be forthcoming.

For more information on the National Gold Medal Award Program, visit www.aapra.org.

###



The City of Grapevine Parks and Recreation aims to enhance the quality of life of the citizens of Grapevine, through the stewardship of natural resources and the responsive provision of quality leisure opportunities. The Department believes in a healthy community and is committed to making Grapevine a healthier and happier place to live and play. By providing access to miles of connected trails, high quality parks, recreational programs, state-of-the-art facilities, protection of natural resources, educational opportunities and social services, Grapevine Parks and Recreation enriches the quality of life for residents and brings all members of the community together. For more information, visit GoGrapevine.com.



The American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration is a nonprofit organization founded to advance knowledge related to the administration of recreation and parks; to encourage scholarly efforts by both practitioners and educators that would 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.

Partner: National Recreation and Park Association



The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) 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.



Sponsor: Musco Lighting, LLC is a company that has specialized in lighting systems for sports and large areas for more than 30 years. Musco has pioneered dramatic improvements in energy efficiency and affordable ways to control wasted spill light and glare. Permanent and temporary lighting services range from neighborhood fields to NASCAR super speedways. For more information, visit www.musco.com.