

"DON'T WAIT, NOMINATE!"



2026 NDRPA AWARDS

Application Deadline: June 15, 2026

The North Dakota Recreation & Park Association (NDRPA) is accepting nominations for its 2026 Awards, which will be presented during the Awards Banquet at the NDRPA State Conference on Sept. 15-17 in Dickinson.

Award Categories

Individuals

Distinguished Professional
Outstanding Young Professional
Citizen Advocacy Award

Organizations

Golden Egg Award
Innovative Programming Award
Partnership Award
Impact Award

Submissions for the NDRPA Hall of Fame have a different nomination form that is posted at www.ndrpa.com.

Nominating Procedure

- Any member of NDRPA may submit candidates.
- Each nomination should be accompanied by narrative and biographical data to assist the committee in preparing the final award.
- Nominations should be submitted directly to the NDRPA office.
- Information submitted by the sponsor will be checked for accuracy by NDRPA Awards Committee members.

Ranking Criteria and Selection Process

The Awards Committee shall study the qualifications of candidates and classify them according to one of five groups, giving each the appropriate numerical weight as follows: Group I Outstanding (10 points), Group II Excellent (7 points), Group III Good (5 points), Group IV Consider in Future (3 points), and Group V No Recommendation (0 points).

At the Award Committee's discretion more than one award may be presented in a single year for each individual award categories, if the average ranking points of the nominations are within 0.3 or less of each other.

Nominations must be received by 5 p.m. CT Monday, June 15, 2026, by:

MAIL: NDRPA ▪ PO Box 1091 ▪ Bismarck, ND 58502

ONLINE: Submit via [Dropbox](#).

The Dropbox link is also provided on the NDRPA website at www.ndrpa.com.

Upon submitting a nomination, if you do not receive a confirmation email within one business day, please call Shannon at 701-355-4458.

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NOMINATION FORM

Name of Nominee: _____

Address: _____

City/State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

Award Recommended:

- Distinguished Professional
- Outstanding Young Professional
- Citizen Advocacy Award
- Golden Egg Award
- Innovative Programming Award
- Partnership Award
- Impact Award

**Please review and submit additional nomination requirements specific to each of the above awards as outlined on the following two pages.*

Is nominee a current member of NDRPA? _____ NRPA? _____

Present Position (or last one held if retired): _____

Submitted By: _____

Print Name

Sponsor's Signature

Sponsor's Address: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Date Submitted: _____

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QUALIFICATIONS FOR NDRPA INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

Distinguished Professional (formerly Fellow Award)

This award honors professional members of NDRPA and NRPA. Qualifications include:

- Membership in NDRPA and must have held an elected position and/or served on a committee.
- Experience of at least 10 years as a leader, instructor, supervisor, administrator, consultant, or a combination of these services in the field of parks, recreation, and conservation.
- Shown leadership through involvement in local organizations, state or regional associations, committees, special projects, or any other community involvement.
- Achieved accomplishments including awards, commendations, honors, and advancement through their work in parks and recreation.
- Made significant contributions to the park, recreation, and leisure field through any of the following: research, advocacy, community efforts, public relations, and any contributions to the profession which has affected the philosophy or practice of parks and recreation.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Please include a single page narrative on the nominee’s leadership, accomplishments, and significant contributions in the park and recreation profession. If possible, include a resume of the nominee, including their education and career history. Optional items for submission include letters of recommendation, certificates, media coverage, and pictures that support the nominee’s achievements and contributions.

Outstanding Young Professional

This award honors professional members of NDRPA and NRPA. Qualifications include:

- At least three years of active membership in NRPA, NDRPA, and any of its branches and affiliates.
- Less than 10 years of experience as a leader, instructor, supervisor, administrator, consultant, or a combination of these services in the field of parks, recreation and conservation.
- Must be 35 years of age or younger (at the time of nomination deadline).
- Shown leadership skills through involvement in local associations, advocacy efforts, community outreach, holding an elected position within local organization, and volunteer opportunities.
- Achieved accomplishments including awards, commendations, honors, and professional advancement through their work in parks and recreation.
- Contributed to the park, recreation, and leisure field through any of the following: research, advocacy, community efforts to advance the field, developing service through creative program development

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Please include a single page narrative on the nominee’s leadership, accomplishments, and significant contributions in the park and recreation profession. If possible, include a resume of the nominee, including their education and career history. Optional items for submission include letters of recommendation, certificates, media coverage, and pictures that support the nominee’s achievements and contributions.

Citizen Advocacy Award (formerly Individual Citation)

This award recognizes a citizen, an elected or appointed official, or volunteer who has demonstrated outstanding contribution to the park, recreation, and conservation movement through education and activating the public in their community, state, or at the national level. Activities may include but are not limited to:

- Preparing and/or sponsoring legislation
- Supporting and promoting the movement on all levels
- Serving as a board or commission member
- Serving on a citizen committee which works to raise funds, secure approval of bond issues, etc.
- Any other services which in the opinion of the Committee entitles the individual to consideration.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Please submit a single-page narrative describing nominee’s active support of parks and recreation and impact on the community.

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QUALIFICATIONS FOR NDRPA ORGANIZATION AWARDS

Golden Egg Award

This award recognizes outstanding and innovative park projects in North Dakota. It was established in honor of former Fargo Park District Superintendent Bob “Goose” Johnson. The award is presented to the entity that manages an innovative park or facility that serves as a model facility or park in its inclusiveness and responsiveness to the needs of the local community or region. The award will promote uniqueness, innovation, creativity, and display a high degree of design quality for recreation usage.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Please submit a 1-3 page description of the project, including an explanation of the need in the community. Include a maximum of five digital pictures in a JPEG file format.

Innovative Programming Award

This award recognizes and honors an NDRPA member agency or organization that demonstrates leadership with advanced groundbreaking ideas in programming. The award highlights the efforts and impact an agency or organization has made in promoting or increasing the awareness of the benefits of parks and recreation in their community through offering a variety of programs. This award will recognize the agency or organization that best demonstrates innovation in one of the following areas: arts and humanities, health and wellness, parks and conservation, recreation, and sports and athletics.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Please submit a 1-3 page detailed description of the program including any successes, challenges, and unique features. May include a maximum of five digital pictures in a JPEG file format.

Partnership Award (formerly Organization Citation)

This award is presented to an agency or organization that has developed a successful partnership to create a project or program that benefits the community, region, or state and increases awareness of the importance of parks, recreation, and leisure services in quality of life. Qualifications include:

- Partnership must be in existence for at least one year.
- Partnership was established to address a particular issue or opportunity.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Please submit a single-page narrative describing the scope of the program or project, the length of partnership, contributions of the agency or organization, and how the partnership benefits the community, region, or state.

Impact Award

This award recognizes an NDRPA member agency or organization that demonstrates creativity and innovation in the promotion of diversity, equity and/or inclusion. The award celebrates the impact an agency or organization has made to increase awareness, further understanding and assist in reducing the barriers of diversity, equity and/or inclusion within their community or organization.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Please submit a 1-3 page detailed description and explanation of how the project, program or policy is advancing diversity, equity and/or inclusion efforts within a community or organization. May include a maximum of five digital pictures in a JPEG file format.