



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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2012 Gold Medal Award Grand Plaque Award Recipients Announced

ASHBURN, VA – October 17, 2012 – The American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration (AAPRA), in partnership with the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2012 National Gold Medal Grand Plaque Awards for Excellence in Park and Recreation Management. This year's proud sponsor of the Gold Medal Awards program is Musco Lighting, LLC.

The 2012 Gold Medal Grand Plaque recipients are:

Class I (population 250,000 and over)

- Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation Department, Charlotte, NC

Class II (population 100,001 – 250,000)

- Rockford Park District, IL

Class III (population 50,001 – 100,000)

- James City County Parks and Recreation Department, Williamsburg, VA

Class IV (population 25,001 – 50,000)

- Town of Castle Rock Parks and Recreation Department, CO

Class V (population less than 25,000)

- Durango Parks and Recreation Department, CO

Armed Forces Recreation Award

- Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) Department, Naval Station Great Lakes, IL

Founded in 1965, the Gold Medal Awards program honors communities throughout the U.S. that demonstrate excellence in parks and recreation through long-range planning, resource management, volunteerism, environmental stewardship, program development, professional development and agency recognition. Agencies are judged on their ability to address the needs of those they serve through the collective energies of citizens, staff and elected officials.

A panel of five park and recreation professionals reviews and judges all application materials. Military representatives preliminarily judged the armed forces recreation applications. Judges are chosen for their considerable experience and knowledge in parks and recreation on both the local and national levels.

This year's recipients were announced live during NRPA's Annual Congress & Exposition in Anaheim, California, October 16, 2012.

For more information on the Gold Medal Awards, go to www.nrpa.org/awards or www.aapra.org.

The American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration is a non-profit 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.

The National Recreation and Park Association is a national not-for-profit organization dedicated to advancing park, recreation and conservation efforts that enhance quality of life for all people. Through its network of 20,000 recreation and park professionals and citizens, NRPA encourages the promotion of healthy lifestyles, recreation initiatives, and conservation of natural and cultural resources. For more information, visit www.NRPA.org. For digital access to NRPA's flagship publication, *Parks & Recreation*, visit www.parksandrecreation.org.

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.

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