

For Immediate Release

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City of Plano Announced as Finalist for 2022 Gold Medal Awards in Parks and Recreation

Plano to compete for prestigious honor in the park and recreation industry



The American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration (AAPRA), in partnership with the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), announced last month that the City of Plano's [Parks and Recreation Department](#) is a Class II finalist for this year's National Gold Medal Award. The award honors agencies that demonstrate excellence in parks and recreation through long-range planning, resource management, volunteerism, environmental stewardship, program development, professional development, and community engagement.

This will mark the fifth Gold Medal award for Plano Parks and Recreation if named this year's winner.

Agencies are judged on their ability to address the needs of those they serve through the collective energies of citizens, staff and elected officials. Plano joins three other finalists in the class (population 150,001-400,000) that will compete for grand honors this year: the cities of Des Moines, IA; Henderson, NV; and Wichita, KS.

"Being named one of the top agencies in the country is quite an honor," said Ron Smith, Plano Parks and Recreation Director. "Plano's parks and recreation system reflects the expectation our community has when it comes to their quality of life. The legacy of our Department starts with long-range planning. The ability to purchase land ahead of growth to create an integrated, dynamic system is one reason the Department is a finalist for this prestigious award."

A panel of five park and recreation professionals reviews and judges 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 Grand Plaque Award honor, and the seven Grand Plaque recipients will be announced at the 2022 NRPA Annual Conference in Phoenix, AZ, Sept. 20-22.

For more information on the Gold Medal Awards, visit www.nrpa.org/goldmedal or www.aapra.org.

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About Plano

Plano, Texas, is the largest city in Collin County with a population of 285,190 as of January 2020. Incorporated in 1873, the city is located 20 miles north of Dallas. Niche and AreaVibes recently named Plano as one of the Best Cities to Live in America. Forbes designated Plano one of America's safest cities. The City offers a high quality of life that includes nationally recognized schools, award-winning parks, and sustainability initiatives and a wide variety of multi-cultural neighborhoods appealing to families, young singles and retirees. Plano is home to the headquarters or regional operations of major corporations such as Toyota, Liberty Mutual, JPMorgan Chase Boeing Global Services, Fannie Mae, FedEx Office, JC Penney, Rent-A-Center, Cinemark Holdings, Denbury Resources and Alliance Data Systems. Our dynamic community features excellent restaurants, vibrant shopping and entertainment venues, a lively historic downtown district and active local arts scene. Easy access to DART light rail and major highways makes Plano a convenient place to live, work and visit. To learn more about Plano, go to our website at plano.gov.