



Contact: Debbie Wilmot
Public Information Officer
City of Lafayette
www.cityoflafayette.com
debbiew@cityoflafayette.com
1290 S. Public Road
Lafayette, CO 80026
Phone 303-665-5588 ext.3455

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The City of Lafayette Recreation and Parks/Open Space/Golf Departments are honored as one of the top 4 finalists for the NRPA Gold Medal Award

Lafayette, Colo May 14, 2012 – The National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) announced that the City of Lafayette has been chosen as one of 4 finalists in the annual Gold Medal Award for Excellence in Park and Recreation Management for populations less than 25,000.

Founded in 1965, the Gold Medal Award program honors communities in 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. Four finalists in each class are chosen to compete for grand honors each year.

According to Monte Stevenson, Director of the Parks, Open Space and Golf Department, "We are genuinely honored that Lafayette is represented in this way on a national level. Our success is in part indicative of the backing we have from our community for outdoor recreation and park amenities. Lafayette citizens support our Department's mission through voter support, stewardship, and the active use of our parks, open spaces and golf course."

"It's always been our objective to provide top-notch amenities to the community. The Department was very proud 10 years ago when we received our first Gold Medal, and then again last year when we were a finalist. Since that time we've gone to great lengths to continue to enhance and grow our offerings," emphasized Curt Cheesman, Director of the Recreation and Facility Management Department. "I'm pleased to see that after 20 years of operations, the Bob L. Burger Recreation Center is still at the top of its class. It's a great testament to Lafayette that residents have the multitude of nationally recognized indoor and outdoor amenities available right here in our community."

Some of the activities over the past 5 years that have gained recognition for the Departments include

- A new regional destination skatepark; the Lafayette Skatepark
- The Mountain View Egg Farm/Rock Creek Trail regional connectivity project
- Reinstating the historic Thomas Farm open space back to a working farm
- Great Bark Dog Park, Simpson Mine Park, Romero Park, Festival Plaza
- Implementing multiple energy sustainability measures including solar systems at the Recreation Center
- Addressing the needs of special populations through a multitude of programs including a new handicapped/family changing room at the Recreation Center, scholarship programs, and accessible playgrounds and trails to name a few
- The acquisition of over 231 acres of open space land
- The addition of 4 miles of trails

In 2002 Lafayette's Parks and Recreation Department was honored with a Gold Medal Award and was a finalist in 2011. The 2012 finalists will compete for Grand Plaque Award honors this summer, and the six Grand Plaque recipients will be announced during NRPA's Annual Congress & Exposition in October. For more information on the Gold Medal Awards, visit www.nrpa.org/awards.

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