



Contact: Debbie Wilmot
Public Information Officer
City of Lafayette
1290 S. Public Rd / Lafayette, CO 80026
Office: (303) 661-1225
Cell: (720) 245-1446
debbiew@cityoflafayette.com
www.cityoflafayette.com

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The City of Lafayette honored as a top finalist for the NRPA Gold Medal Award

Lafayette, Colo June 3, 2014 – The National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) announced 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 30,000.

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 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 12 years ago when we received our first Gold Medal, and then again in 2011 and 2012 when we were selected as 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 25 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."

Projects within the last 5 years that have gained recognition for the Departments include;

- A new regional destination skatepark; the Lafayette Skatepark
- The Lafayette Quest Scavenger Hunt
- 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 enhancements, 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 an ADA compatible remodel of the hot tub/spa areas and a new ADA/family changing room at the Recreation Center, scholarship programs, and accessible playgrounds and trails
- The acquisition of over 231 acres of open space land
- The addition of 4 miles of trails
- Various community partnerships including the Josephine Commons Senior Housing Development

In 2002 Lafayette's Parks and Recreation Department was honored with a Gold Medal Award and has been a finalist in 2011, 2012 and 2014. The 2014 Gold Medal Grand Plaque Award recipient will be announced during NRPA's Annual Congress & Exposition in October. For more information on the Gold Medal Awards, visit www.nrpa.org/awards.

In 2013 the Lafayette Recreation and Facilities Management, and Parks, Open Space, and Golf Departments joined the ranks of elite park and recreation agencies and departments across the country by earning accreditation through the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) and the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA). This distinguished accomplishment has been awarded to a total of 118 agencies nation-wide since its inception in 1993. Only three other Colorado agencies have achieved this prestigious level of distinction. This mark of distinction indicates the City has met rigorous standards related to the management and administration of lands, facilities, resources, programs, safety and services. Accreditation is an ongoing process of evaluation and continual commitment to improvement.

###