



# PRESS RELEASE

## **For Immediate Release:**

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## **PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT SELECTED AS NATIONAL GOLD MEDAL AWARD FINALIST**

CITY OF WINTER PARK

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Winter Park, Florida

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**WINTER PARK, Fla., an internationally recognized ICMA Excellence Award winner with accredited fire, police and parks & recreation agencies (June 11, 2013)** – The American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration (AAPRA), in partnership with the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), has announced that the Parks & Recreation Department of the City of Winter Park is a finalist for the 2013 National Gold Medal Awards for Excellence in Park and Recreation Management. This year's proud sponsor of the Gold Medal Awards program is Musco Lighting, LLC.

Founded in 1965, the Gold Medal Awards 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. Applications are separated into seven classes, with five classes based on population, one class each for armed forces recreation communities and the State Park System Class awarded every other year.

Agencies are judged on their ability to address the needs of those they serve through the collective energies of citizens, staff and elected officials. The city's Parks & Recreation Department is a finalist in the Class IV (population 25,001 – 50,000) category and will compete for grand honors this year with Doral, Fla.; St. Charles, Ill.; and Westerville, Ohio.

"Our staff has worked so hard for this opportunity, and we are honored to be recognized with the other fine cities for the amazing work we do on behalf of the citizens of Winter Park," said Parks & Recreation Director John Holland for the City of Winter Park.

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 honors this summer, and the seven Grand Plaque recipients will be announced live during NRPA's Annual Congress & Exposition in Houston in October 2013.

For more information on the Gold Medal Awards, visit [nrpa.org/awards](http://nrpa.org/awards) or [aapra.org](http://aapra.org). For additional information regarding the City of Winter Park, please visit the city's official website at [cityofwinterpark.org](http://cityofwinterpark.org).

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