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City of St. George Leisure Services Department Announced as Finalist for the 2015 National Gold Medal Awards in Parks and Recreation

City of St. George Leisure Services Department to compete for prestigious honor in the park and recreation industry

St. George, UT, June 9, 2015 – The [American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration](#) (AAPRA), in partnership with the [National Recreation and Park Association](#) (NRPA), is pleased to announce City of St. George Leisure Services Department as a finalist for the 2015 National Gold Medal Awards for Excellence in Park and Recreation Management.

Celebrating its 50th anniversary with NRPA and 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 for armed forces recreation and one class for state park systems awarded on odd numbered years.

City of St. George Leisure Services Department is a finalist in the 75,001-150,000 residents category.

Agencies are judged on their ability to address the needs of those they serve through the collective energies of citizens, staff and elected officials. City of St. George Leisure Services Department joins three other finalists in their class that will compete for grand honors this year.

“We are thrilled and honored to be named a finalist for the second year in a row,” said department Director, Kent Perkins. “This selection recognizes the tremendous commitment by the outstanding staff of the department to provide quality programs and facilities for our residents and visitors. The other three finalists are impressive agencies and we are excited to join them in this competition.”

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 the Opening General Session at the 2015 NRPA Annual Conference in Las Vegas, NV, Sept. 15-17.

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

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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 more than 47,000 recreation and park professionals and citizens, NRPA encourages the promotion of healthy and active lifestyles, conservation initiatives and equitable access to parks and public space. For more information, visit www.nrpa.org. For digital access to NRPA's flagship publication, *Parks & Recreation*, visit www.parksandrecreation.org.

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