



2024 Awards Program

Recognizing excellence in the field of recreation, parks and leisure.



Nomination Package

ABOUT THE AWARDS PROGRAM

Each year, Recreation Manitoba's (Rec MB) Awards Program pays tribute to those individuals and organizations who through their efforts and skills, make an outstanding contribution towards the advancement of recreation, parks and leisure in Manitoba. The annual presentation of these awards reflects Recreation Manitoba's commitment to celebrate and publicly recognize individuals, groups, and organizations who have inspired us and earned our respect.

The awards will be presented in conjunction with the Annual Recreation Provincial Conference, Connect 2023. The 2024 Awards Presentation will take place at the President's Luncheon and Awards Ceremony on March 15, 2024. We are grateful for the support of the Association of Manitoba Municipalities for helping us to present this event.

AWARD CATEGORIES



PRAIRIE CROCUS AWARD

The **Prairie Crocus Award** is the most prestigious award presented by Recreation Manitoba and honours a professional who has made a significant contribution to recreation, therapeutic recreation, parks and/or leisure services within the Province of Manitoba.

A nominee for this award:

- must be a member in good standing with Recreation Manitoba
- will have worked in the profession a minimum of five (5) years
- have promoted and advanced the values and benefits of recreation, therapeutic recreation, parks and/or leisure
- by their actions, have had a positive impact on the community they serve
- have contributed to the profession through active participation on committees, special initiatives and /or projects with local, regional, and/or national associations



THERAPEUTIC RECREATION AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Therapeutic Recreation Award of Excellence recognizes and honours a therapeutic recreation professional who has made a significant contribution in the field of Therapeutic Recreation within the Province of Manitoba. *Individuals, students, groups and organizations are eligible for this award.

A nominee for this award will:

- Have through their actions, enhanced the quality of life of their community through therapeutic recreation, leisure services and programs.
- Have demonstrated innovation, resourcefulness and leadership as a therapeutic recreation professional.
- Have initiated a therapeutic recreation program, service and/or process in their group/organization.



FACILITY AWARD

This award recognizes a recreation facility, individual or group in Manitoba that demonstrates outstanding or unique innovations in providing places to gather, play and connect. Nominees have the capacity and passion to operate facilities and spaces, according to best practices and trends in the industry. *Facilities, spaces, and individuals that contributed to facility and recreation space management are eligible for this award.

Nominees in this category demonstrate:

- best leadership practices in places and spaces where recreation and leisure occur.
- encourages a place to gather, play and connect.
- encourage safe, accessible and inclusive facilities and/or spaces.
- have been instrumental in implementing innovative initiatives and efforts to create, improve or enhance a recreation facility and/or space.



NATURE AWARD

Parks, trails and natural spaces are enriching spaces for recreation resulting in both environmental and human benefits. This award recognizes the passion and achievements of individuals, groups and organizations that steward recreational, natural, and green spaces that enhance community quality of life. *Individuals, groups, organizations, and outdoor destinations are eligible for this award.

Nominees in this category demonstrate:

- best leadership practices in green practices and climate change initiatives
- active steward for green spaces and nature
- share knowledge of new spaces
- encourage exploration of natural built environments



PEOPLE & COMMUNITY AWARD

Recreation is a human experience. Communities and people will flourish when brought together through recreation programming, services and events. This award recognizes the efforts and dedication of individuals, or groups, who lead and advocate for the many benefits of the field. *Individuals, including students, teams or groups are eligible for this award.

Nominees in this category demonstrate:

- leadership in the parks or recreation field, in developing programs, events, partnerships or organizations to the communities and individuals they serve
- mentorship and role modelling to others, professionally or through personal leisure activities
- enthusiasm for recreation and leisure, personally and professionally
- positive attitude for learning and building capacity



HEALTH & WELLBEING AWARD

The health and wellbeing of communities are enhanced through recreation and parks. This award recognizes nominees that have gone above and beyond to increase opportunities for their community to benefit mentally, physically and socially.

*Facilities, individuals, students, groups or organizations are eligible for this award.

Nominees in this category demonstrate:

- exceptional efforts to increase wellness through recreation to those they serve
- awareness of innovative trends and initiatives that increase engagement in community health and positive wellbeing. For example, improving process/policy development, innovative initiatives, program implementation, infrastructure enhancements, etc.
- advocacy for the field of recreation and its benefits for all
- positive community leadership



AWARD OF MERIT

The award of merit is an award given out, at the discretion of the Recreation Manitoba Board Members. The award is designed to recognize spaces, events, projects, community groups, organizations, municipalities or people, including students, within the recreation sector, highlighting their excellence and innovation in the provision of recreation in Manitoba. No nomination submissions required for this award.

NOMINATION CRITERIA AND GUIDELINES

Nominations will be evaluated only on the merit of the submission received. As a nominator, it is your responsibility to reflect the achievements of the nominee to the selection committee, to draw out their exceptional nature.

Recipients will be chosen in each category by the Selection Committee. The decisions of the Selection Committee are final. The recipient of an award will be notified in advance. The Selection Committee reserves the right to move a nomination to another category, or the right to withhold an award.

Nomination Criteria:

- Must be a resident of Manitoba
- Any individual (member or non-member), group or organization may be nominators and nominees.
- The Prairie Crocus Award is the only award that requires the nominee to be a member in good standing of Recreation Manitoba.

Nomination Submission Requirements:

- Fill out the Nomination Form in full (linked [HERE](#)). *Paper copy available upon request.*
- Submit a minimum of one (1) letter of support.
 - Letter of support is your opportunity to provide specific information not otherwise contained in the statement of nomination.
 - Have supporters cover specific points raised in the statement of nomination but target different qualities you wish to highlight.
 - The letter of support should come from someone who is not the nominator, who can speak to how the nominee meets the criteria.
- Please Note: If your nomination is selected as a winner, you will be asked by the selection committee to provide various forms of media (photos, videos, etc) that showcase the winner and their accomplishments. This media will be used to create a 2-3 minute video that will be presented at the awards presentation. The Selection Committee will contact you with further information and timelines.

Nomination Period: October 1, 2023 – January 16, 2024

Completed nomination forms and all supporting material must be received **no later than January 16, 2024, at 9:00 pm.** Any questions regarding the nomination form or process, please email president@recreationmb.ca

Please email a completed application package, in confidence, to Courtney Bangert-Murray, President, via email at president@recreationmb.ca or mail completed nomination package to:

Recreation Manitoba
Attn: Selection Committee - Awards Program
Room 402-145 Pacific Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3B 2Z6