



## BEST IN THE NATION

In 2019, the Fairfax County Park Authority was awarded the National Gold Medal Award for Excellence in Park and Recreation Management by the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration, in partnership with the National Recreation and Park Association. It marked the fourth time the Park Authority received the prestigious honor.

The Park Authority won the Grand Plaque in the Class 1 category for populations greater than 400,000 after being judged on its ability to address the needs of those it serves through the collective energies of citizens, staff and elected officials. This honor capped ongoing preparation and commitment to the highest level of service in parks and recreation and recognized Fairfax County as a role model for park systems across the country.

At the award ceremony, Park Authority Executive Director Kirk W. Kincannon said, "Our Park Authority team is honored and humbled to be recognized as 'The Best in the Nation' by the American Academy of Parks and Recreation and the National Recreation and Park Association." He added, "This award is a tribute to the quality of life in Fairfax County and the importance of parks in the health and wellness of our residents. We can only do this with a great staff, and support from the Board of Supervisors, the Park Authority Board, and our residents. Our citizens love their parks and this award is a tribute to them."

Founded in 1965, the Gold Medal Awards program honors communities throughout the United States that demonstrate excellence in parks and recreation through long-range planning, resource management, volunteerism, environmental stewardship, program development, professional development and agency recognition. A panel of five park and recreation professionals review application materials, and the judges are chosen for their considerable experience and knowledge in parks and recreation at the local and national level.

The National Gold Medal lets visitors know they are enjoying the best parks and facilities in the nation. Learn more about the critical role parks play in Fairfax County and view our Gold Medal videos on our information and education page at:

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/information-education>