



MINNESOTA RECREATION AND PARK ASSOCIATION

PROFESSIONAL AWARDS

Clifton E. French Distinguished Services Award

This is the highest professional award given by MRPA to its members. Nominated individuals must:

- **Be professional members of MRPA**
- **Have provided over fifteen (15) years of professional service to the parks and recreation field**
- **Have provided many years of service and involvement to MRPA**

Clifton E. French graduated from the University of Minnesota with a B.S. in 1948 and received his M.Ed. in recreation leadership in 1949. He worked as the Director of the University of Minnesota's Coffman Union and Edina Parks and was the Executive Director of the Minnesota Recreation and Parks Association. He was the first superintendent of the Hennepin County Park Reserve District. He has been a wonderful role model for many recreational professionals around the country.

Dorothea Nelson Award

This award is given by MRPA to its female members. Nominated individuals must:

- **Be professional members who are actively involved in MRPA and our profession**
- **Have 8-15 years of professional service**
- **Have a diverse background that showcases years of active involvement with MRPA**

Dorothea Nelson majored in music and recreation at the University of Minnesota in 1918. She worked for the Chicago Recreation District and the Red Cross oversees recreation programs, based in Japan. In 1948 Dorothea became the first full time director of a suburban recreation department in Saint Louis Park, Minnesota. She was a strong advocate for female recreation programs.

Jack Niles Award

This award is given by MRPA to its male members. Nominated individuals must:

- **Be professional members who are actively involved in MRPA and our profession**
- **Have 8-15 years of professional service**
- **Have a diverse background that showcases years of active involvement with MRPA**

Jack Niles received a Bachelors degree in education from the University of Wisconsin, La Crosse, and did considerable graduate work in physical education and recreation at the University of Minnesota. He worked for Saint Paul Parks and Recreation, Columbia Heights school district and an athletic and recreation officer at Fort Snelling. In 1948 he became the first recreation director for the community of South Saint Paul. He was well renowned for his visionary ideas related to parks and recreation.

Horizon Award

This award is given to an "up and coming" professional who possesses leadership skills, has made noteworthy contributions to the field of parks, recreation and leisure services and who is an active and vibrant contributor to MRPA sections, committees and/or events. Nominated individuals must:

- **Be professional members of MRPA**
- **Have under 8 years of professional service**
- **Be an "up and coming" professional who possess great leadership skills**
- **Be an active contributor to MRPA and our profession**

SEE OTHER SIDE

Dr. Gerald B. Fitzgerald Award

This award is given by MRPA to members who have demonstrated achievements in the areas of research and/or journalism. Nominated individuals must:

- **Be professional members of MRPA**
- **Have attained a high achievement in research and /or journalism related to parks and recreation**

Gerald B. Fitzgerald graduated from Notre Dame University in 1930, received a masters from the University Minnesota and completed his doctoral studies at Indiana University. He taught for the University of Minnesota and a school district in the state of Illinois. He served as the president of MRPA and various other regional committees. He was well renowned for his innovative global thinking related to parks and recreation.

Tommy Johnson Award

The Awards Committee will select one “Award of Excellence” project or initiative to receive the “Tommy Johnson Award.” The successful “Award of Excellence” project or initiative will best exemplify the characteristics and values that Tommy Johnson was known for; innovation, futuristic, revolutionary and/or creative with ideas and initiatives that help establish future trends, philosophical change, sharing of new resources and new exciting concepts.

All projects that receive “Award of Excellence” will be consideration for the Tommy Johnson Award. The Tommy Johnson Award will be presented at the Annual General Meeting and Awards Banquet.

Tommy Johnson graduated from the University of Minnesota in 1968. He was a supervisor and district manager for Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board. He was instrumental in introducing broomball, wrestling, fall soccer and ceramics into various parks departments. He also started a program to foster training and the certification of referees for youth sports.

MRPA Special Award

This award is given to notable or outstanding achievements in the parks and recreation field. Nominated individuals must:

- **Be either a MRPA member or a citizen**
- **Have advocated and advanced the field of parks and recreation in their community**
- **Have demonstrated notable and outstanding achievements in the parks and recreation field**
- **Have made an impact in the parks and recreation field on a local, state or national level, or with a particular group of people**

The Legislative Award

This award is intended to recognize legislators for “outstanding contributions at the state or federal level on behalf of Parks and Recreation.” Nominated individuals must:

- **Have served as a member of the State Legislature within the last 12 months.**
- **Have served as a member of the Minnesota’s Federal Legislative Delegation within the last 12 months**
- **Support the MRPA Legislative platform**
- **Have served on committees dealing with issues in parks and recreation**
- **Authored bills promoting parks and recreation**

Park and Recreation Board and Commission Award

This award is given to **one** member of a citizen’s advisory or policy-making board in the parks and recreation field. Nominated individuals must:

- **Be, or have been, significantly involved on a park and recreation board and/or commission**
- **Have contributed by setting public policies, financing and advocating for parks and recreation**
- **Have contributed by delivering high quality park and recreation services that have enriched the lives of people in their community**

MINNESOTA RECREATION AND PARK ASSOCIATION



NOMINATION PROCEDURES

- **Completely fill out the MRPA nomination form, be as detailed as possible**
- **All candidates must be a MRPA member to be nominated**
- **Please make sure that the potential candidate meets the award criteria**
- **Please complete a separate nomination form for each individual and/or agency you nominate**
- **Return the completed nomination form to the MRPA office - postmarked by October 31**

AWARDS CATEGORIES

Clifton E. French Distinguished Services Award

- The nominated individual must be a professional MRPA member
- The candidate must have over 15 years of professional service
- The candidate must be an active member of MRPA and our profession

Dorothea Nelson Award (female) & Jack Niles Award (male)

- The nominated individual must be a professional member who is actively involved in MRPA
- They must have 8-15 years of professional service
- The ideal candidate will have a diverse background that showcases years of active involvement with MRPA

Horizon Award

- The nominated individual must be a professional member of MRPA
- They must have provided under 8 years of professional service
- They must be an “up and coming” professional who possess great leadership skills
- They must be an active contributor to MRPA and our profession

Dr. Gerald B. Fitzgerald Award

- The nominated individual must be a professional member of MRPA
- They must have attained a high achievement in research and /or journalism related to parks and recreation

Tommy Johnson Award

- The Awards Committee will select one “Award of Excellence” project or initiative to receive Award

MRPA Special Award

- The nominated individual can be either a MRPA member or a citizen
- The candidate must have advocated and advanced the field of parks and recreation in their community
- They have demonstrated notable and outstanding achievements in the parks and recreation field
- The candidate has made an impact in the parks and recreation field on a local, state or national level, or with a particular group of people

The Legislative Award

- Have served as a member of the State Legislature within the last 12 months.
- Have served as a member of the Minnesota’s Federal Legislative Delegation within the last 12 months
- Support the MRPA Legislative platform, served on committees dealing with issues in parks and recreation and or authored bills promoting parks and recreation

Park and Recreation Board and Commission Award (given to one member)

- The nominated individual member should be, or have been, significantly involved on a park and recreation board and/or commission
- They have contributed by setting public policies, financing and advocating for parks and recreation
- They have contributed by delivering high quality park and recreation services that have enriched the lives of people in their community

MINNESOTA RECREATION AND PARK ASSOCIATION



- Completely fill out the MRPA nomination form, be as detailed as possible
- All candidates must be a MRPA member to be nominated
- Please make sure that the potential candidate meets the award criteria
- Please complete a separate nomination form for each individual and/or agency you nominate
- Return the completed nomination form to the MRPA office - postmarked by October 31
- The nominee will receive a form to submit with information needed for scoring. We encourage the nominator to review with the candidate.

Nominee's/Agency's Information

Award Category: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Agency: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email Address: _____

Nominator's Information

Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Agency: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email Address: _____

Please write a paragraph detailing why you think the person is deserving of the award based on the award background and criteria. Also please be as detailed as possible in your narrative.

**Please return the form to the MRPA office post marked by October 31
Minnesota Recreation and Park Association, 200 Charles Street NE, Fridley, MN 55432**