



# Parks Excellence

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BC Recreation and Parks Association is pleased to host an annual Awards program that recognizes outstanding special events, programs, facilities, parks, and dedicated individuals whose ideas, innovation, and services make an impact in the recreation and parks sector.

The **Parks Excellence** award recognizes outstanding design and development of park spaces using natural elements or repurposing materials. The park space reflects community culture, which is accessible to all patrons, and encourages individuals and communities to get out into nature. The park positively impacts the well-being of the community and the recreation and parks sector.

In the committee's deliberations for the provincial awards, considerations of equity across communities will be considered, including geographic location, population size of the community and community demographics.

### New Update:

Please note that the Provincial Awards Committee has implemented a limit of **one nomination per organization, per award category**.

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## About the Nomination Application:

Please budget up to 10 hours to collect the necessary information needed to apply for the Parks Excellence Award, and up to 2 hours to complete the online nomination form.

### Prior to starting the online nomination form, we recommend the following:

- ☐ Assign a staff member familiar with the park to take the lead on the application.
- ☐ Collect all the information listed in the “**Additional information for the Nomination Application**” section.
- ☐ Review the **Nomination Questions on page 3** and prepare and save your answers for copy and paste into the online nomination form.

**Note:** You will be able to save your progress and return to the nomination form later. If you lose the URL link or need to make an edit to your nomination, please contact Kelly Kieu, Partnerships and Events Coordinator [by email](#).

**The deadline for nominations is: 11:59 PM, February 26<sup>th</sup> , 2026.**

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## Eligibility Requirements:

1. Either the **nominator** or **applicant** must be a BCRPA member.
2. The Nominee (the Park) must be owned and operated by a currently enrolled Local Government, Affiliate, or Corporate Member.
3. The **park** must have been in existence for a **minimum** of one year.



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## Required Information for the Nomination Application:

In addition to the questions listed below, you will be asked to provide:

- ☐ Contact information and BCRPA Membership status of the Nominator / Applicant
- ☐ Contact information and BCRPA Membership status for the Nominee
- ☐ **Upload 3 to 5 high resolution images** (300 dpi in jpg, png or eps format - maximum file size of 10 MB each)
- ☐ **Submit 3 to 5 testimonials from a community member** who has experience with the park (please limit each testimonial to 2 to 3 sentences each) (**Refer to Community Impact question 1, page 5**)
- ☐ **You are welcome to** include media releases, or news articles (written/print media, or video) as URL links.
- ☐ You will also be asked to complete a **photography release form** (to be completed by the copyright holder or authorized individual) and an **application release form**. Both forms are integrated into the online nomination form.

**Submit your Parks Excellence nomination online at:**

<https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/8640316/2026-Nomination-Form-for-Parks-Excellence>

Please refer to **page 3 to review the Nomination Questions** and to help you prepare your answers.

**If you have any questions or require assistance with the nomination form, please contact the 2026 Provincial Awards Review Committee, c/o Kelly Kieu, Partnerships and Events Coordinator [by email](#)**



## Nomination Questions

Please use the questions below to tell the story of the nominee and why the nominee is deserving of provincial recognition.

Please ensure that you answer all the questions completely. Point form is acceptable.

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### About the Community

The following questions are to provide BCRPA with additional context for your project

1. **Name of the park.**
  2. **Name of the municipality / organization that manages the park.**
  3. **Does your park serve an urban or rural community?** A) Urban B) Rural
  4. **What is the approximate population size of your community?** (Enter a number)
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### About the Project

The following questions are to provide BCRPA with additional context for the park.

1. **Please provide a brief description of the park.** (Park size, features etc.) **(Word Limit: 200)**
  2. **Who does the park serve?** (Demographics, immediate area or region-wide etc.)
  3. **Where in the community is the park located?** (Physical location and address)
  4. **Was the project within budget?** (Yes/No)
  5. **Was the project on time?** (Yes/No)
  6. **How was the project funded?** (Funding sources)
  7. **Briefly describe the park design process.** **(Word Limit: 150)**
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### About the Project Scope

Describe your project and outcomes.

**This section has a weight factor of 25% towards the total score.**

1. **What community needs did this park fulfill? What role does the park play in the vision of the city/neighbourhood/region?** **(Word Limit: 300)**
  - Park aligns with local or regional, provincial or federal strategies.
  - Park fills or addresses a gap or need.
  - Park responds to a trend, movement or a cultural opportunity.
  - Funding opportunity existed - partner funding or grant funding.



## Parks Excellence

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**2. Describe how this park is unique or innovative? (Word Limit: 300)**

- Park used green or innovative technologies or practices considering design, construction, and operations. (e.g. climate resilient features, sustainability etc.)
- Park is creative and innovative in how it addressed community need.
- Park reflected the community uniqueness, history or culture.
- Park attracts a unique/new audience.
- Park features, funding or technologies were not previously used in the area, region, province, nation.
- The creative or innovative aspects of the park are transferable to another community (small, medium, and/or large).

**3. Describe how this park is inclusive? (Word Limit: 300)**

- Park removed barriers to participation and/or accessible elements were incorporated.
- Consideration given to minority populations and/or truth and reconciliation.
- Accessibility is considered for all ages, abilities, ages, cultures, etc. (e.g. park features, transportation/walkability etc.)

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## Community Engagement / Communication Initiatives

Describe how your community has shaped your park

**This section has a weight factor of 20% towards the total score.**

**1. Describe how the population(s) you're seeking to serve were involved in the decision-making and delivery of your park. (Word Limit: 300)**

- Consultation was inclusive and considered equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) principles.
- Changes or adaptations to the plan considered community input.
- Stakeholders and right-holders were engaged in the design and development.
- Residents were engaged.
- Awards, recognition, media coverage. **(URLs may be included)**



## Community Impact

Describe the impact of the park.

**This section has a weight factor of 55% towards the total score.**

**1. Describe how the park was received by or impacted the community**

**Please provide information on the following: (Word limit: 300)**

- Expectations of the community were met.
- Wellness and social wellbeing of the community was impacted.
- Targeted demographic was reached.

**Please provide testimonials from parks visitors / users. (Minimum 3, maximum 5; Limit 2 to 3 sentences each)**

**2. What made this park a success? (Word Limit: 300)**

- Performance indicators of success provided.
- Client attraction beyond traditional boundaries.
- Park promotes community connection or placemaking.
- Park has created an economic impact to the community.

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## Lessons Learned

**1. What are three learning outcomes you can share with others? (Word Limit: 100 words for each learning outcome)**

For example, did you experience any significant challenges or successes? If yes, how they were overcome? What were the lessons learned in developing and delivering the park? How will this park inspire others?