



GOLD MEDAL AWARD
Pre-Evaluation Checklist
for agencies to determine readiness for the
Gold Medal Application Process:

1. Agency has completed at least one park system Master Plan, Strategic Plan, Business Plan, or a Comprehensive Long Range Plan and has achieved goals from that plan. (The judges want to see that the agency has used good planning techniques and are implementing them).
2. Agency can cite in their Gold Medal Application form that these planning efforts were comprehensive in incorporating citizen input.
3. Agency has conducted meetings with their staff, executive team, legislative body and advisory board regarding their plans to apply for the Gold Medal Program. This is to provide the necessary support and buy in prior to the process.
4. Agency can describe the uniqueness of the agency's area or constituency.
5. Agency can accurately document funding sources, expenses, park acreage, population, types of park areas and volunteer hours. Agency also has records of this information for at least five years. This information will be captured using NRPA PRORAGIS link unique for the Gold Medal Application.
6. Agency can accurately describe challenges that are unique to that community or area besides lack of resources.
7. Agency can accurately document best practices in stewardship including environmental and cultural protection, preservation, and restoration citing management practices, interpretation/education programs, and general stewardship efforts.
8. Agency can accurately describe and demonstrate a major leadership role the agency has assumed in the community.
9. Agency can demonstrate the results, impacts, or outcomes the agency has measured including benefits and how the results were secured.
10. Agency needs to demonstrate benefits to the residents of that community in measurable ways which can include agency effectiveness and outcome measures.
11. Can demonstrate agency effectiveness through user research and changes made to enhance effectiveness.
12. Agency can demonstrate ongoing support for special populations, and site specific groups helped including people with disabilities, at-risk youth, older adults, economically disadvantaged, the homeless, etc. Agencies can also demonstrate that ADA transition plans are current and that facilities have been made accessible.

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATION

13. Encouraged but not required: Agency has completed an accreditation, agency audit or self-assessment review process.