



Awards of Excellence Program

PREPARED BY:	Administration	COUNCIL APPROVAL DATE:	September 10, 2019
EFFECTIVE DATE:	September 10, 2019		
REFERENCES:	Procedures AD25-P1 Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (ICSP)	PREVIOUS REVISION DATE:	March 20, 2009
FUNCTION:	Public Relations	LS REVIEW DATE:	June 24, 2019

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to acknowledge and provide recognition to Parkland County residents, groups, organizations, businesses and schools who have distinguished themselves through significant achievements.

POLICY STATEMENT

Parkland County Council shall make award presentations to eligible County residents to acknowledge and recognize their outstanding achievements in Arts and Culture, Athletics, Agricultural, the 100-Year Farm Family, Community Life, Sustainability, and the Agricultural Bursary through the Awards of Excellence Program.

DEFINITIONS

1. "Arts and Culture" refers to outstanding individuals or organizations who gain local, provincial, national or international acceptance or recognition of outstanding achievement in one or more of the arts where considerable discipline, skill and training is required or where qualified board adjudicators or judges have publicized their awarding opinion or decision.
2. "Athletics" refers to outstanding local, provincial, national and international calibre athletes who have represented Parkland County in a creditable manner in athletic competition and whose example of good sportsmanship has brought repute to the sport and high regard for the individual.
3. "Agricultural" refers to outstanding individuals or organizations who gain local, provincial, national or international acceptance or recognition of outstanding achievement in an agricultural discipline or sector where qualified board adjudicators or judges have publicized their awarding opinion or decision.
4. "100 Year Farm Family" refers to the award presented to those farm families who have farmed, and continue to farm in Parkland County for 100 years or longer.
5. "Community Life" refers to an individual(s) who has made a significant and/or lifetime contribution to the community which enhances the quality of life in Parkland County. Nominees may be recognized for a single action or for a contribution or achievement over an extended period of time.

6. "Agricultural Bursary" refers to 5 (five) - \$500 awards given to up to 5 post-secondary students who are enrolled in an Agriculture-related program.
7. "Sustainability" refers to individuals or organizations who are meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Nominees are committed to sustainability and stewarding our natural environment and fostering a sustainable and diverse economy while maintaining our rural character. They are innovative and creative in growing a healthy community that provides equitable opportunities for all, and celebrate our heritage and culture. This is in keeping with the Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (ICSP).
8. "Residents" refers to individuals that have resided in or owned property in Parkland County for at least one (1) year.
9. "Business" refers to an entity engaged in commerce and is physically located within the municipal boundaries of Parkland County.
10. "Groups or Organizations" refers to an organized body of people with a particular purpose based in Parkland County where the majority of members live in the municipal boundaries of Parkland County.
11. "School" refers to an educational entity that is part of Alberta's K to 12 education system and is located within the boundaries of Parkland County, City of Spruce Grove and Town of Stony Plain. Schools are eligible to enter the Sustainability Award category only.

ELIGIBILITY

1. Any current resident of Parkland County is eligible.
2. Former residents may receive awards provided they are being nominated for achievements or contributions that took place at the time they lived in the County, and that they have lived in the County within the last three years.
3. Individuals who live in Parkland County and participate in groups not based in the County are eligible to receive awards as individuals.
4. Nominees may be professionals, amateurs or volunteers.
5. Parkland County employees are not eligible to receive an award recognizing their work at the County. One exception: If the employee, as part of their County role, is a member of a community organizing committee (e.g., hosting a large event), they may be recognized as part of that group.

Parkland County employees are eligible to receive an award for contributions or achievements they have accomplished outside their work as a Parkland County employee.

6. Elected officials currently serving with any order of government are not eligible.
7. Recipients can be recognized posthumously.

SCOPE

This policy applies to all Parkland County residents who meet the required criteria for the Awards of Excellence Program.

RESPONSIBILITIES

The Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) oversees the implementation of the Awards of Excellence Program. Community Services is responsible for the oversight of the Awards of Excellence Program.

STANDARDS

1. Parkland County Council will present Awards of Excellence to winners in each award category upon recommendations made by:
 - A. The Community Sustainability Committee for the categories of
 - i. Arts & Culture
 - ii. Athletics
 - iii. Community Life
 - iv. Sustainability
 - B. The Agricultural Service Board for the categories of
 - i. 100 Year Farm Family
 - ii. Agricultural Award
 - iii. Agricultural Bursary
2. Parkland County will not formally recognize nominations as a result of competitions occurring within the school system.
3. Awards of Excellence will be presented to recipients at an event during the month of June.
4. Candidates may nominate themselves.