



## OFFICE OF MAYOR ANDY SCHOR

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### **The City of Lansing Parks and Recreation Department Receives Statewide Recognition from mParks**

**(LANSING)** –Mayor Andy Schor today announced that the City of Lansing’s Parks and Recreation Department was recognized by the Michigan Recreation and Parks Association (mParks) with several awards during their annual conference earlier this year. mParks represents, supports and trains parks and recreation agencies throughout Michigan.

Lansing Parks and Recreation was recognized in three categories:

- Innovative Programming
- Social Media Campaign
- Special Award for COVID-19 Engagement

“The team at the Lansing Parks and Recreation Department have proven to be both innovative and flexible as we’ve had to completely transform our programming due to the COVID-19 pandemic,” said Mayor Schor. “I’m proud of the hard work they’ve done to continue to offer fun, safe and family-friendly programming and events over the last year. We strive to create unique experiences at award winning levels here in Lansing.”

The **Innovative Programming Award** recognized the Drive Thru Trick-or-Treat Event held on October 31, 2020 which provided a safe and fun trick-or-treating experience for the youth in Lansing.

The **Social Media Campaign Award** recognized the Park Madness Competition. When the 2020 NCAA Tournament was canceled, the Lansing Parks and Recreation staff developed a virtual tournament called Park Madness. Sixteen Lansing parks were chosen at random to face-off against each other. Facebook posts announced the tournament, featured the head-to-head match ups and crowned the winner. Park highlights can be found on the Lansing Parks and Recreation Department’s YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbR3xE9TCObaOga1xOke9KA>

The **Special Award for COVID-19 Engagement** recognized Lansing Parks and Recreation's partnership with the Lansing School District to provide a Learning Lab for students. The Learning Lab runs from 7:15 a.m. until 6:00 p.m., offering breakfast, lunch, snack, supervision and guidance during the school day and after school programming at no cost. Lansing Parks and Recreation is able to provide up to 70 children with a safe place to virtually learn while their parents are at work. The Lansing Parks and Recreation Department works with partners including Potter Park Zoo, REACH Art Studio, Case Credit Union, Todd Martin Youth Leadership, Happendance, Girl Scouts, CADL, First Tee Golf and the Retired Senior Volunteer Program, to add in extracurricular activities that are both educational and fun.

"The Lansing Parks and Recreation Department takes pride in our achievements and I appreciate mParks for recognizing the imagination and commitment of everyone in our Parks and Recreation Department," said Brett Kaschinske, City of Lansing Parks and Recreation Director. "The continuous community support and impassioned employees are what makes recognitions like these so special."

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