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## **GLENDALE EMPLOYEE RECEIVES PARKS & RECREATION PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR FROM LOCAL ORGANIZATION**

**Glendale, Ariz.** — Mike Gregory, Glendale parks and recreation administrator, was recently honored as Parks & Recreation Professional of the Year by the Arizona Parks & Recreation Association (APRA) at their recent annual conference.

Gregory was nominated for his consistent strong leadership, innovative solutions to complex challenges and developing his staff, displaying his versatile expertise in many areas of his field. With more than 21 years of professional experience, he has overcome many challenges during his tenure and also maintained a strong commitment to APRA as an industry leader.

Some of the recent significant projects Gregory led include coordinating an Arizona State Tourism Association grant for Thunderbird Conservation Park improvements for directional and safety signage; creating a partnership with Arizona Game and Fish to implement an urban fishing program at an existing park; implementing the use of laptops for lead staff out in the field to increase communication levels and expedite problem resolution; forming a partnership with the City of Peoria in creating an annual environmental awareness event “Party for the Planet” at the Skunk Creek Linear Park; coordinating the 2013 “Wild Flower” project at our largest conservation park with the non-profit Leadership West organization; and leading a department “Partners N’ Parks” program for voluntary public involvement in the maintenance of neighborhood parks. In addition, he played a major role this past year in applying for national re-accreditation through National Recreation & Parks Association (NRPA.)

~ more ~

**Gregory Award**  
**Add 1.1.1**

“Mike exemplifies the very best of what a parks and recreation professional should be and goes above and beyond daily to provide the absolute best service he can for the citizens of Glendale,” stated Erik Strunk, Glendale’s Director of Community Services. “As a department we are very proud of Mike and congratulate him on this accomplishment.”

Throughout his career, Gregory has committed to learning and professional development. He is a Certified Parks and Recreation Professional (CPRP) and a graduate of the nationally-recognized Maintenance Management School. In addition, he attended the Athletic Business Conference in 2013 and Leadership Diversity Alliance workshop over the past two years.

For additional information on Glendale’s Parks, Recreation & Library Services Department visit [www.glendaleaz.com/parksandrecreation](http://www.glendaleaz.com/parksandrecreation).

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