

North Dakota Parks & Recreation Department

NEWS RELEASE

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ND Parks director recognized with national award

Doug Prchal, director of the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department, was honored by the National Association of State Park Directors, with presentation of the Distinguished Service Award.

The association annually recognizes a state park director demonstrating a long-term sustained record of professional accomplishment in the field of parks and recreation management. The presentation was made at the national convention in Boise, Idaho, during its Sept. 4 banquet.

“Doug is a true professional,” said South Dakota parks director Doug Hofer. “I have worked with Doug on a variety of issues that our two states share and have always been impressed with Doug’s commitment to his state and to our profession and believe he is very deserving of this recognition.”

The Killdeer, N.D., native has devoted a 25-year career to the state of North Dakota, 11 years as a parks planner and the past 14 years as director. Prchal was nominated for the Distinguished Service Award by department staff who noted the director continues to protect and preserve many of the same projects he designed through establishment of maintenance trust funds.

Throughout his tenure, Prchal has strongly supported group relationships which have fostered the success of his maintenance trust fund initiative. Key components of the ND park system are in operation due to Prchal’s perseverance to establish these trusts with support groups.

Among those projects Prchal has helped lead to success are: Cross Ranch State Park; the Pioneer Heritage Center and historic buildings; the Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center; the Sunne Farmstead at Fort Ransom State Park; and reconstruction of Fort Abraham Lincoln.

Recreation opportunities and access remain among the department’s top priorities. Prchal works extensively with the Army Corps of Engineers and other agencies to maintain access to areas such as Lake Sakakawea, the Missouri River and Devils Lake.

“Doug stands by the department’s mission to provide and enhance outdoor recreation opportunities through diverse parks and programs that conserve the state’s natural diversity,” parks and recreation staff said in making their nomination. “His overall goal has always been to protect the integrity of the North Dakota park system.”

Prchal’s involvement with the National Association of State Park Directors includes serving as a board member and representative from the Northwest Region. He is past chairman of the Awards Committee and has volunteered to do special research on several occasions.