

**NEWS  
RELEASE**

November 15, 2013  
CITY OF PADUCAH, KY



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**Paducah Parks Services Department Receives Awards through  
Kentucky Recreation & Park Society**



Pictured (from left to right): Paducah Parks Services Director Mark Thompson, Recreation Specialist Mallory Gentry, Recreation Specialist John Gorrell, and KY Recreation & Park Society President Tabatha Clemons

PADUCAH – For the second year in a row, the Paducah Parks Services Department took home two awards at the Kentucky Recreation & Park Society’s annual conference held November 12-14 in Hebron. The department was honored with the Outstanding Department Award and the Outstanding Program Award for Touch a Truck. Last year, the Paducah Parks Services Department also received the Outstanding Department Award and the Outstanding Program Award for Bikes on Broadway.

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Parks Services Director Mark Thompson says, “I would like to congratulate the Kentucky Recreation and Park Society for its sixty years of service to the Commonwealth and thank them for this recognition as the Outstanding Class 1 Department in Kentucky for the second year in a row. It takes a strong commitment from each member of the Parks Services Department’s staff as well as the support of the City’s sister departments and City Commission to provide the best in parks and programs for the citizens of Paducah and the region. It is an honor to accept this award and at the same time a challenge to propel ourselves forward to improve our park facilities and enhance the recreation experience for each of our patrons.”

City Manager Jeff Pederson says, “The Citizen Survey conducted by the City of Paducah earlier this year shows the importance of Paducah’s parks system to our citizens. Regarding how often they have visited a park in Paducah, 89% of the respondents said



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that they had visited a Paducah park at least once in the past year which is higher than average when compared to other cities.” Pederson adds, “This award shows the dedication that the Parks Services Department has to maintaining and improving our network of parks in addition to providing family-friendly activities.”

Paducah Parks Services is a department of 23 full-time staff with one director, two superintendents, one maintenance supervisor, two recreation specialists, 14 maintenance workers, and a busy clerical staff of three. The department maintains 27 parks and facilities in Paducah.

In the past year, the department expanded the Greenway Trail to include the stretch between the Paducah Expo Center and U.S. 45 and significantly renovated the Noble Park Pool to include new filtration and disinfection systems, new piping, new liner, new slides, diving boards, and other amenities including a spray pad. The City also broke ground on the Riverfront Redevelopment Project which in the initial phase involves the placement of more than 316,000 tons of rock into the Ohio River to create a three-acre park base. After settling, the next phase will finish the surface of the park.

Each year the Paducah Parks Department hosts a variety of events including parades, Bikes on Broadway, Concerts in the Park, Movies in the Park, and the Independence Day Celebration. However, one of the most memorable events for children is Touch a Truck. At Touch a Truck, children have the chance to see a variety of vehicles, sit in the driver’s seat, honk the horn, and talk to the operators. Some of the vehicles that children get to see include a helicopter, race cars, an ambulance, tow truck, a concrete mixer, police cars and bomb robots, fire trucks, and garbage trucks. The Parks Department thanks the businesses that help make the event such a success each September and thanks the schools that participate by having educational field trips at Touch a Truck. For 2013, more than 700 children attended the popular event.

For more information about the award-winning Parks Services Department, visit [www.paducahky.gov](http://www.paducahky.gov). For more information about the Kentucky Recreation & Park Society, visit [www.kyrps.org](http://www.kyrps.org).

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