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City Staff Receive Texas Recreation and Park Society Awards

New Braunfels, Texas – The City of New Braunfels Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation, Ken Wilson, was honored with the Central Region Professional of the Year Award by the Texas Recreation and Park Society (TRAPS) during a ceremony at the organization’s annual Central Regional Workshop on November 2nd in Schertz, Texas. The award is given annually to a professional who has an outstanding record for exemplary advancement of the recreation and parks profession and to the TRAPS organization - via service on committees, promoting advancement of the recreation and parks profession within the region and state, and involvement in the community.

Mr. Wilson has been employed by the Parks and Recreation Department since 2011 and has served the Parks and Recreation profession for over 25 years in several communities including Burnet and Copperas Cove.

“Ken is a mentor and inspiration to those under his leadership. He sees the very best in people and rarely misses an opportunity to recognize outstanding work by our staff,” said Parks and Recreation Director Stacey Dicke. “His encouraging approach and servant leadership attitude has been an asset to the department.”

“Ken has served as the department contact for capital improvement projects in New Braunfels that add up to over \$40 million in park system development and improvements. His cooperative attitude and attention to detail have contributed to these projects being successful. Some of the projects include construction of Fischer Park, development of Morningside Park, renovation of Landa Park and the Landa Park Golf Course and the current construction of Das Rec, New Braunfels Recreation Center.”

The Texas Recreation and Park Society’s Central Region Maintenance Rodeo was held in Schertz on November 1st at the Schertz Skatepark. The rodeo consisted of a variety of competitive events, including plant identification; mower, trailer and backpack obstacle courses, irrigation assembly, backhoe operation, and a nail driving contest.

“This annual event provides an excellent team-building atmosphere and promotes camaraderie in a casual competitive environment” said Stacey Dicke, Parks and Recreation Director.

New Braunfels Parks and Recreation operation team members Josh King and Jeff Hays placed third in the irrigation assembly obstacle. First, second and third place winners are eligible to advance to the state competition at the 2018 Texas Recreation and Park Society’s Annual Institute being held in Waco in March.

On Thursday, November 2nd at the workshop, Aquatic Coordinator Brandon Bartels received the Part Time Employee of the Year Award. This award recognizes a part-time or seasonal employee who has made an outstanding contribution to the profession of Parks and Recreation as well as examples of exemplary customer service.

“Brandon has been with the City of New Braunfels Aquatics Department for the last five years. He worked his way up from a Lifeguard position to most recently serving as one of the Aquatic Coordinators for the 2017 season,” said Cailin Cronin, Aquatic Programs Supervisor. “Throughout Brandon’s years of service, his integrity, determination, and passion for aquatics have quickly defined him as a person of notable character which has moved him up the ranks.”

TRAPS is a nonprofit 501(c)3 professional organization, committed to advancing the field of parks, recreation and leisure services in Texas, while advocating for enhanced recreation opportunities and the increase of public green space for Texans.

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