

The Gold Medal award is presented annually to communities throughout the United States for excellence in park and recreation administration and for outstanding community service.

Bismarck Parks and Recreation District (BPRD) was the finalist for the Gold Medal award in 1991, 1992, 1993 and 1999, meaning the district ranked among the highest in the nation in their population category.

There are five award classifications determined by a city's population. Bismarck is in the 20,000-50,000 population classification, as demonstrated by the most recent census at that time

In 1993, BPRD won the Gold Medal award. The grand award winner in each classification is selected based upon improvement, service, continuing development, extent of future planning, and degree of participant involvement and acceptance by the community.

The Gold Medal award is sponsored by the National Sporting Goods Association and the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA). Gold Medal winners are announced each year at the NRPA annual convention.