

Hon. Stephanie A. Miner
Mayor



Lazarus U. Sims
Commissioner

John Walsh
Deputy Commissioner

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION AND YOUTH PROGRAMS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: May 4, 2015

CONTACT: Alexander Marion
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CITY PROGRAMS, NEIGHBORHOOD ACTIVISTS HONORED BY NYS RECREATION AND PARK SOCIETY

*City Staff Honored Along With Judy Lewis, Annelise Bucci of the
Eastwood Neighborhood Association for the Efforts Surrounding the
East Woods Skate Plaza*

SYRACUSE, N.Y. – The City of Syracuse Department of Parks, Recreation, and Youth Programs was honored last week by the New York State Recreation and Park Society with three prestigious statewide awards recognizing achievements related to the East Woods Skate Plaza, which opened in the Eastwood neighborhood of the City last year.

“What makes living in the City of Syracuse a great experience is the dedication and involvement of neighbors,” said **Syracuse Mayor Stephanie A. Miner**. “I am pleased to congratulate the volunteers from the Eastwood Neighborhood Association and Parks Department staff who received these awards. Their often unheralded hard work has made a major difference in the quality of life in our community.”

The City of Syracuse Department of Parks, Recreation and Youth Programs was recognized with the Outstanding Facility: Class II award in recognition of the East Woods Skate Plaza. Judy Lewis was given the Volunteerism Award and Annelise Bucci was given the Stewardship Award. Both women are active members of the Eastwood Neighborhood Association and helped in the

“Being Parks Commissioner is made easier every single day with the help of neighborhood activists and I thank Annelise and Judy for their continued advocacy,” said **Lazarus U. Sims**, Commissioner of Parks, Recreation, and Youth Programs. “Because of volunteers like these women, we see our neighborhoods become stronger and more vibrant for the next generation.”

“Receiving statewide accolades is important for Syracuse and it highlights the great work that our Parks Department does for the community,” said **Common Councilor Pamela J. Hunter**,

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who attended the award ceremony. "I was happy to be a part of this event and celebrate this achievement with our staff and award recipients."

Annelise Bucci, who won the Stewardship Award for her involvement with the Eastwood Neighborhood Association, said: "I felt very honored to be chosen as one of the three award winners in the categories nominated by the New York State Recreation and Parks Society and was delighted to be able to attend this event with my ENA friends and our City Representatives, many thanks for their support and help with our various beautification projects in Eastwood these past 11 years."

Judy Lewis, who was recognized with the Volunteerism Award for her involvement with the Eastwood Neighborhood Association, said: "It is such a joy to visit the East Woods Skate Plaza. A reward of volunteering is seeing the results when a team works toward a single goal. Eastwood Neighborhood Association's committee process fosters this cooperation."

The East Woods Skate Plaza was developed as the result of a committee of volunteers from the Eastwood Neighborhood Association who sought to bring a community skateboarding park to the neighborhood to serve local youths. The committee worked for over nine years and secured grants and raised money to cover construction costs. The park was opened in June, 2014.

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