

Robert J. Hall-2009

Robert J. Hall began his career as a Recreation Leader in St. Louis in 1960. Perhaps no one professional has served at as many levels (local, county, state, regional, national, international) in the parks and recreation profession. He served as a St. Louis Community Center Director, Director of Kirkwood Parks and Recreation, Superintendent of Recreation and Cultural Services for St. Louis County, Associate Director of St. Louis County and the Director of St. Louis County Parks and Recreation, all over a 39 year span prior to his retirement in 1999. But he was not finished yet! Upon his retirement from St. Louis County, Bob accepted the position of Executive Director for Gateway Parks and Trails. This work resulted in the creation of the Metropolitan Park and Recreation District (now known as the Great Rivers Greenway District and Metro East Park District). He served in this capacity until 2001. Bob's service to the Missouri Park and Recreation Association is unsurpassed. He served on the executive board for a total of 32 years, including two terms as President. He chaired many committees, including co-chair of the MPRA Building Campaign, making possible the purchase of the first MPRA office building. He continues to be active on matters affecting Missouri parks and recreation. He was also a charter member of the National Recreation Association in 1965. He served as NRPA President, as an NRPA Trustee, had 30 years of service to the NRPA Great Lakes Regional Council (also as Chair), and chaired numerous other committees. These positions include the CAPRA Agency Accreditation Team, Constitution and Bylaws, International Committee, Conference Committee, Nominating Committee, and the National Forum. He was an NRPA APRS Board Member and served as an NRPA Delegate to the National Recreation Association of Japan from 1996 until 2007. He also served as NRPA Interim Executive Director from October 2002 to March 2003. His service has made him the recipient of numerous awards and honors: Outstanding Professional Award from the NRPA Great Lakes Regional Council, MPRA Fellow Award, MPRA Retirement Service Award, Bi-State Chapter Service Award, American Red Cross and Amateur Skating Union of U.S. Award, Missouri Skating Association. Establishing relationships between the National Recreation and Park Association and the National Recreation Association of Japan will be considered one of his greatest accomplishments during his long career. Robert J. Hall will continue to be known as one of the most outstanding professionals and leaders among his peers.