



# Press Release

## City of Edmonds

*Mayor David O. Earling*

***For Immediate Release: April 24, 2013***

To: City Council

The Edmonds Beacon

The Seattle Times

The Everett Herald

My Edmonds News.com

Edmonds Patch

Edmonds KOMO

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### **City of Edmonds recognized for Excellence in Parks**

Each year, the **Washington Recreation and Park Association (WRPA)** honors public agencies and individuals for outstanding and unique achievements in the professional field of Parks and Recreation. Park and Recreation professionals, facilities, special programs and media materials from throughout Washington State were recognized during an awards ceremony at the WRPA Annual Conference & Trade Show on Wednesday, April 17, 2013 at the Hilton Hotel, Vancouver WA.

**The City of Edmonds brought home three awards from this year's ceremony.**

One of the highest recognition awards is given to an agency and/or organization that has contributed significantly to the field of Parks and Recreation. This year the award was given to the **Floretum Garden Club** for their contribution to Edmonds Parks and Recreation. The Floretum Garden Club is a 91 year old organization, with 150+ members that dedicate their mission to beautifying Edmonds. They have contributed a tremendous amount of volunteer labor and financial support to the Edmonds Parks and Recreation Department since inception. Present at the awards ceremony to accept this award was the current President of the Floretum Garden Club, Jeri Schoenfeld, and the incoming President Patti Greene.

The second award Edmonds received was for the design and development of the **Hazel Miller Plaza**. This award is given to projects that demonstrate design objectives that meet community needs, the use of site and materials, the ability to overcome obstacles in development, and a completed project that demonstrates the character of the community and its commitment to parks and recreation. The design of the Hazel Miller Plaza was produced by **Barker Landscape Architects** working with a design committee that was formed, representing numerous groups, organizations, downtown merchants, and citizens. Some of these objectives included incorporation of public art, having appropriately scaled outdoor seating in a garden setting, incorporation of seasonal gardens, unique plants, year round flowers, certification as a backyard wildlife habitat, incorporation

of a water feature, blending hardscapes and softscapes, creation of texture and color, inclusion of historical significance and a design that flows with curved seating. The project demonstrated how citizens, merchants and staff worked together to develop a plan, raise funds, and meet the challenges and needs in developing this park. Present to accept this award were Mayor Dave Earling and Parks Director Carrie Hite.

The third award was given to the **Cities of Edmonds, Lynnwood, and Mountlake Terrace** for a Program Spotlight award for their collaboration on the third grade swim lesson program. The Cities applied, as a group, to Verdant Health Commission and were awarded funding to teach water safety to all third grade students registered in the Edmonds School District, in both public and private schools. This program gives 3rd grade students the opportunity to become water safe through the development of personal safety and basic rescue skills with students participating in an aquatic instruction program based on individual improvement. Lynnwood and Mountlake Terrace pools are available year round; Yost Pool in Edmonds is available in the summer only. Long-term goals of this program include 1) all students in the district be water safe within 10 years; 2) fewer drownings are reported in this age group within the boundaries of the District; and 3) for this program to be a model in water safety instruction for the state of Washington and the partnership with Verdant Health Commission would be recognized for emulation by others in the state. Present to accept this award were Bill Haugen, from Lynnwood Parks and Edmonds Parks Director Hite.

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