

NEWS RELEASE

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April 7, 2017



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SUFFOLK PROJECT RECOGNIZED IN GOVERNOR'S ENVIRONMENTAL EXCELLENCE AWARDS

SUFFOLK, VA (April 7, 2017) Governor Terry McAuliffe announced the winners of the *2017 Governor's Environmental Excellence Awards* earlier this week at the Environment Virginia Symposium at the Virginia Military Institute in Lexington. The City of Suffolk Department of Parks & Recreation received an Honorable Mention for the Sleepy Hole Park Canoe/Kayak Launch and Pier in the category for implementation of the Virginia Outdoors Plan.

The awards recognize successful and innovative projects in the categories of sustainability program, environmental project, land conservation and implementation of the Virginia Outdoors Plan. Located all around the Commonwealth and from several sectors, winners represent a variety of achievements benefitting Virginia's natural environment.

"The organizations recognized have proven their dedication to protecting Virginia's environment, and it is an honor to acknowledge their achievements," Governor

McAuliffe said. "Their accomplishments can inspire others to reduce their own environmental footprint and preserve important landscapes."

Award winners were chosen based on criteria including environmental benefit, stakeholder involvement, public outreach, transferability and innovativeness. The awards are sponsored by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality and the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation. Additional information on the Governor's Environmental Excellence Awards is available on the DEQ website at www.deq.virginia.gov. The awards were presented by the Governor's Secretary of Natural Resources, DEQ Director and DCR Director.

(Photographed from left to right: Clyde Cristman, DCR Director; Molly Joseph Ward, Secretary of Natural Resources; Lakita Watson, Director, Suffolk Parks & Recreation, and David Paylor, DEQ Director)

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