



**The Nevada Chapter of the American Planning Association
Announcement and Call for Nominations for the
2026 DeBoer Awards for Excellence in Planning**

The Nevada Chapter of the American Planning Association encourages excellence in planning. The Chapter's DeBoer Awards are named after Saco Reink DeBoer, author of the Boulder City plan and one of the master city planners of the twentieth century. The awards honor excellence in planning projects and individual initiative. Winners represent the best efforts of the planning community that affect the Silver State in a positive way. The Chapter encourages your participation.

AWARDS

Nominated planning products or projects must be relevant to Nevada and must be current (generally completed within the past three years). Previous Outstanding Planning Award winners are not eligible for an award for the same project/plan in the same category for 5 years. Previous award winners are eligible to apply as applicable in other categories. Previous winners of distinguished leadership awards are not eligible for an award in the same category for 5 years. Awards committee members are not eligible for distinguished leadership awards.

OUTSTANDING PLANNING AWARDS

The following awards are for group achievement and may be awarded to a planning agency, private company, community group, local authority, or a combination. Nominations from communities of every size are encouraged. Applicants can only submit in one category. Applicants must utilize their discretion in selecting a category that best fits their application. The awards committee reserves the right to not award an Outstanding Award in a category if there are no proposals deemed worthy of receiving an award.

- ***Outstanding Plan*** Awarded to a written plan that significantly advances the art and science of planning or focused planning efforts for individual residential, non-residential, or mixed-use projects that demonstrate excellence in the application of planning principles. This category may include ***long range planning efforts*** both comprehensive and topical.
- ***Outstanding Individual Project***: Awarded to a project that significantly advances the art and science of planning or focused planning efforts for individual residential, non-residential, or mixed-use projects that demonstrate excellence in the application of planning principles. This category may include ***short term and actionable planning efforts***.
- ***Outstanding Implementation***: Recognizing an effort that demonstrates a significant achievement for an area — a single community or a region — in accomplishing positive changes as a result of planning. This award emphasizes measurable results.
- ***Outstanding Rural Plan or Project***: Projects or plans that show dedication and creativity in providing community-oriented needs; focused on successful planning efforts that were completed to enhance the overall characteristic of rural areas (i.e. set outside of the city and towns and or are considered non-urban).

- ***Outstanding Public Outreach and Journalism:*** For an initiative illustrating how a region or community involves the general public in a planning activity, above and beyond the minimum state or local requirements. This category emphasizes successful efforts to engage the public, as well as programs to raise the overall level of understanding of planning, economic, development, environmental, or integrated issues. Nominations should demonstrate the role of outreach and public education in improving planning results, and may include initiatives such as media programs, newsletters, consensus building, interactive systems, electronic participation, audio and video programs, and similar efforts. This category also recognizes journalism that demonstrates excellence in the analysis and description of planning issues in a community or throughout the State of Nevada. Journalism nominations must have appeared in publications of general circulation, or of specialized circulation statewide.
- ***Outstanding Cultural or Environmental Plan:*** For a planning effort that contributes to Nevada's cultural or environmental heritage and quality of life through management, enhancement, preservation, or restoration of important resources. Nominations may include plans for remediation projects, historic districts, natural and wildland areas, cultural sites, and other cultural or environmental efforts.
- ***Outstanding Community Partner Award:*** This award honors local businesses, community organizations, or agencies that have promoted the creation of communities through the advancement of health, safety and economic well-being for all residents. This award emphasizes an organizations contribution and support towards community values. Award nominations are open to all topic areas including, but not limited to housing, affordability, health, open space, economic development, employment, design, infrastructure, resiliency, arts and culture, leadership and community outreach, etc.

DISTINGUISHED LEADERSHIP AWARDS

These awards are given to individuals for sustained, significant contributions to the planning profession.

- ***Professional Planner:*** To a member of the Nevada Chapter for sustained contribution to the profession through distinguished practice, teaching or writing.
- ***Elected Official:*** To an individual elected to local, state, or national office who has advanced or promoted the cause of planning.
- ***Citizen Planner:*** To an individual who has advanced or promoted the cause of planning in the public arena. Nominees may include planning commissioners, advisory board members, other appointed officials, neighborhood leaders, community activists, and others who do not earn their living as professional planners and who are not elected officials.

PRESIDENT'S AWARD

The Chapter President may select a Chapter member or a nominee from any category to receive the President's Award. The award honors extraordinary service to the Chapter, as well as individuals or groups who reflect most positively on planning in Nevada no separate submittal is required for consideration for the President's award.

JUDGING

An impartial panel of retire APA members will evaluate the nominations and select the winners in all categories. The judges may elect not to grant an award in a category.

The following judging criteria for the outstanding planning awards and distinguished leadership awards will be used to evaluate the nominations submitted. It is strongly recommended that you specifically address each of these criteria in your submitted nomination.

Judging criteria for the outstanding planning and distinguished leadership awards include the following, as applicable:

- Advocacy: Development of enhanced public awareness and participation in good planning.
- Benefit: Enrichment of a community through planning work and leadership.
- Contribution: Betterment of the planning profession.
- Community Need: Demonstration of planning work that addresses the needs of a community.
- Implementation: Effectiveness of carrying out the planning work.
- Originality: Innovative concept or appreciable refinement of existing techniques or procedures.
- Partnerships: Demonstration of collaboration with state and local governments, public private, nonprofit or other entities.
- Practicality: Effective use of planning principles and usefulness of the plan in addressing real planning problems.
- Quality: Excellence of thought, graphics, writing, analysis, and character of presentation.
- Sustainability: Effectiveness of a planning project to be maintained at a certain level and limit the depletion of natural resources. Honors efforts to create more sustainable and greener communities that reduce the impact of development on the natural environment and improve environmental quality.
- Transferability: Potential application to other areas of projects.

SUBMITTAL REQUIREMENTS

Entries must be accompanied by the enclosed application form and must be received **no later than 4:00 PM, Wednesday, August 26 2026**. Submit an electronic version of the application and supporting materials to dwrap@sparksnv.gov. Incomplete applications will not be evaluated.

Entries must include a half to one-page summary of the submission, **AND** up to a two page explanation demonstrating how the submission meets the stated criteria. Use specific examples.

Entries must include supporting information, including nominated plans, regulations, or other planning products themselves (or excerpts). Supporting information should be brief and complete, and must be submitted electronically. Supporting documentation may include reviews, critiques, newspaper or magazine articles, and other information from outside sources. Voluminous additional information should not be submitted, but listed for possible reference, or linked to a website.

Entries for distinguished leadership awards should include a brief resume or biographical sketch of the individual, headshot (**please provide jpg, tiff, or png file**), and at least three letters of recommendation. The letters should address the applicable criteria.

The presentation of the 2026 DeBoer Awards will be made by the Chapter at the annual State Planning Conference on **October 22, 2026** this year. For use at the awards ceremony, digital photos showing the (winning) product, the project area, the individual nominee, or other relevant content must accompany each nomination. **Image files of all photos should be provided with the application.** The Chapter may also encourage nominators of winning entries to enter the national awards competition of the American Planning Association.

Winning entries become the property of the Nevada Chapter and will be retained for archival and educational purposes.

Thank you for your interest in the 2026 DeBoer Awards for Excellence in Planning. For questions or more information, please contact:

Dani Wray, AICP
dwrap@sparksnv.gov
(775) 353-1524



**The Nevada Chapter of the American Planning Association
2026 DeBoer Awards for Excellence in Planning Application**

Name of nominator: _____

Address of nominator: _____

Phone number of nominator: _____ Email address of nominator: _____

Name of the plan, project, or individual being nominated for an award:

Names of participating entities, consultants, developers, or others that should be recognized:

Category for which the nomination is made (one per nomination):

- ☐ Outstanding Plan
- ☐ Outstanding Individual Project
- ☐ Outstanding Implementation
- ☐ Outstanding Rural Plan or Project
- ☐ Outstanding Public Outreach and Journalism
- ☐ Outstanding Cultural or Environmental Plan
- ☐ Outstanding Community Partner Award
- ☐ Distinguished Leadership – Professional Planner
- ☐ Distinguished Leadership – Citizen Planner
- ☐ Distinguished Leadership – Elected Official

Summary of the Nominated Plan, Project, Partner or Individual (add additional pages as needed):

**How does the Nominated Plan, Project, Partner or Individual meet the criteria of advocacy, benefit, contribution, implementation, originality, practicality, quality, and/or transferability (as they apply)?
(add additional pages as needed)**

For Outstanding Planning Awards, please submit:

- ☐ Nominated plans, regulations or planning products
- ☐ Supporting documentation (reviews, letters, articles, etc.)
- ☐ Project Images (jpg, tif, png)
- ☐ List of additional (optional) sources of information for reference

For Distinguished Leadership Awards, please submit:

- ☐ Brief resume or biographical sketch of the individual
- ☐ Headshot (jpg, tif or png)
- ☐ Supporting documentation or letters of recommendation
- ☐ Additional supporting documentation or references (optional)

Please submit your nomination containing all contents electronically to dwwray@sparksnv.gov, **no later than 4:00 PM, Wednesday August 26, 2026**. (if files are over 20 MB please e-mail the above email address and you will be provided with an additional option to upload documents).