



American Planning Association
Northern New England Chapter

Making Great Communities Happen

ANNUAL AWARDS NOMINATION FORM
Nominations are Due by August 14, 2026

Every year, planners and their work are acknowledged through the Northern New England Chapter of the American Planning Association (NNECAPA) awards program. The program is designed to recognize a special person, organization, or project for its contribution to the field of planning. Award categories are **Citizen Planner, Professional Planner, Planner Emeritus, Project of the Year, and Plan of the Year**.

NNECAPA is also introducing the **Great Places in Northern New England** award! Modeled after APA's program, Great Places in America, NNECAPA is excited to recognize the neighborhoods, streets, and public spaces that make communities stronger and bring people together through good planning. Please see the award criteria included with the nomination form.

The Awards Committee seeks nominations for this year which will be awarded at the NNECAPA Conference at the DoubleTree, in Manchester, New Hampshire, held October 21-23, 2026. The Committee will work with the winners on preparations for press releases as well as nomination materials and submissions for possible submission to APA.

Please submit one digital copy of this form and necessary attachments (as PDF) to the attention of the Awards Committee by emailing awards@nnecapa.org on or before **August 14, 2026**. Questions regarding the awards process or any nomination materials can also be referred to the Awards Committee. For additional information and past awards, please visit <https://nne.planning.org/chapter/awards/>.

Nominator Information

The nominator will work with the NNECAPA awards committee in obtaining additional information as needed and will serve as a liaison between the nominee and the committee.

Name: _____ Title: _____

Company/Organization: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

I hereby nominate _____ for a NNECAPA Annual Award.
Name of Planner/Project/Plan/Place

Award Category

☐ Professional Planner of the Year

☐ Planner Emeritus**

☐ Project of the Year

☐ Citizen Planner of the Year

☐ Plan of the Year

☐ Great Places in Northern NE

Nominee Information

Please provide the names of the individual, other than the nominator, to be notified in the event this submission is selected to receive an award.

Name: _____ Title: _____

Company/Organization: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Submission Requirements

☐ NNECAPA Award Nomination Form

☐ Summary of the individual's or the submission's qualifications (one-page maximum)

☐ Explanation demonstrating how the individual or submission meets the applicable awards criteria listed on the following pages (three-page maximum)

☐ Letter(s) of recommendation in support of the individual or submission (one minimum, nominations with multiple letters of support are encouraged)

☐ Optional: Supporting documentation to help the awards committee in reviewing the application, such as copies of documents, maps, plans, photographs, newspaper articles, etc.

***For Planner Emeritus nominations, please only complete this nomination form and fill out the online form at: <https://form.jotform.com/92414554861157>*

Signature

I certify that the submitted work was done by the parties credited and meets all eligibility requirements. I understand that any entry that fails to meet submission requirements may be disqualified.

Signature of Nominator: _____ Date: _____

NNECAPA AWARD CATEGORIES & CRITERIA

Nominations need to meet the basic eligibility standard for consideration by the Awards Committee. The Awards Committee recognizes that nominations may not meet all of the criteria listed, but nominations should illustrate an overall strong case for the award category.

Citizen Planner of the Year

ELIGIBILITY: For a non-professional, citizen who has made a distinguished contribution to planning such as members of planning boards/commissions, zoning boards of adjustment/ appeals, economic development boards/commissions, or other elected or appointed officials. It could also include the more non-traditional roles of citizen activists or neighborhood leaders.

CRITERIA:

- **Support of Planning:** To what extent has the nominee's time and dedication increased the understanding of planning principles and the planning process, as well as the goals of the organization of which they are a part?
- **Effectiveness:** How has the nominee promoted the cause and advanced the merits of planning?

Professional Planner of the Year

ELIGIBILITY: A professional who has made a sustained contribution to the field of planning through distinguished practice, teaching, or writing.

CRITERIA:

- **Support of Planning:** To what extent has the nominee's work increased the understanding of planning principles and the planning process?
- **Effectiveness/Results:** To what extent has the nominee been effective in formulating and implementing his/her plans and furthered the cause of planning?

Planner Emeritus

ELIGIBILITY: A professional who has dedicated thirty or more years of service to the planning profession and is/was a member of NNECAPA.

CRITERIA:

- **Dedication to Public Service:** To what communities, organizations, and people has the nominee dedicated their career?
- **Membership in the Chapter:** Is the nominee currently, or has the nominee ever been a member of NNECAPA?

Project of the Year

ELIGIBILITY: For a project, bylaw, ordinance, document, program, guidelines, tax abatement or tool that is of unusually high merit.

CRITERIA:

- **Originality:** To what extent does the project incorporate creative and innovative ideas?
- **Transferability:** How does the project provide an example for others?
- **Quality:** To what extent does the project show excellence of thought, analysis, writing, graphics, etc.?
- **Comprehensiveness:** Does the project implement elements of the community's Comprehensive Plan or other master planning efforts?
- **Public Participation:** How has the project encouraged participation and included those left out of similar efforts in the past?
- **Results:** How has the project made a difference in the lives of the people affected?

Plan of the Year

ELIGIBILITY: For a plan, program, or process of unusually high merit such as comprehensive/master plans, housing plans, capital improvement plans, environmental/resource conservation plans, park and recreation plans, transportation plans, redevelopment plans, economic development plans, or rails-to-trails plans.

CRITERIA:

- **Originality:** To what extent does the plan incorporate creative and innovative ideas?
- **Transferability:** How does the project provide an example for others?
- **Quality:** To what extent does the project show excellence of thought, analysis, writing, graphics, etc.?
- **Comprehensiveness:** How have planning principles been observed and to what extent does the plan include elements important to the local community?
- **Public Participation:** How has the project encouraged participation and included those left out of similar efforts in the past?
- **Implementation:** Does the plan incorporate measurable implementation tasks and goals and has the plan been supported by those responsible for implementation tasks?

Great Places in Northern New England

ELIGIBILITY: Great neighborhoods, streets, and public places come in many forms, but they all have characteristics that are grounded in good planning practices. Nominations must be located in one of the great northern New England states including Maine, New Hampshire, or Vermont.

CRITERIA:

- **Livable Built Environment:** How do all elements of the built environment, including land use, transportation, housing, energy, and infrastructure, work together to provide a high quality of life through sustainable, green places for living, working, and recreation?
- **Harmony With Nature:** How are the contributions of natural resources to human well-being explicitly recognized and valued?
- **Resilient Economy:** To what extent is the place built to weather both positive and negative economic circumstances through sustainable urban development and redevelopment strategies?
- **Healthy Community:** How community health and well-being recognized and addressed ?
- **Responsible Regionalism:** How is the place an anchor for the region displaying high degrees of connectivity with neighboring areas?
- **Authentic Participation:** Were there planning processes that actively involved all segments of the community?