

Recreation, Parks, and Library Department Employee of the Year 2025



Ben Gutierrez
Park Maintenance Worker II

“Ben has been an invaluable help dealing with numerous library maintenance issues, sometimes several in one day. He’s always quick to respond, never complains about requests, and follows ongoing issues through to completion. No matter what the situation is, Ben tackles it with humor and a smile. When issues are beyond his ability to deal with, he refers them to Public Works for additional input. Overall, he’s been great to work with and deserves this recognition.” – Library Manager, Mark Herbert

“Throughout the year, Ben has gone above and beyond in supporting the Recreation Division, handling a wide range of creative and sometimes unusual requests with enthusiasm and professionalism. From innovative facility improvements to quick, efficient problem-solving, Ben consistently demonstrates a can-do attitude that makes a real difference. Whether being asked to build or create event and program features, handle rodent issues, or asked to respond swiftly to leak and restroom issues, Ben never acts like a job is too big or too small. His ability to collaborate and tackle any challenge with a smile has not only made our facilities run smoothly but has also enhanced the overall experience for everyone who needs maintenance assistance. We are truly grateful for Ben's hard work, creativity, and commitment to excellence!” – Recreation Manager, Linnea Palmer

“As Parks Facility Maintenance Technician, Ben has provided outstanding service throughout the Recreation, Parks, and Library Department. In addition to servicing the park buildings, he monitors and services playgrounds, picnic facilities, fencing, lighting, and drinking fountains. With older buildings and facilities, he is constantly in big demand. He manages to provide timely responses to these issues and to various department personnel requests. Ben is a tremendous asset to the department and very deserving of the Employee of the Year.” – Parks Superintendent, Christopher Hentzen