

Maine Association of Planners

2024 Awards Criteria

Every year, planners and their work are acknowledged through the Maine Association of Planners (MAP) 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, Project or Program of the Year, and Plan of the Year.**

The Awards Committee is actively seeking nominations for this year which will be awarded at the MAP Annual Meeting. If you wish to nominate a person, organization, plan or project, please review the following criteria and submit to Matthew Williams (mwilliams@ellsworthmine.gov) a copy of your nomination form and any attachments.

The Committee will work with the winners on preparations for press releases as well as nomination materials and submissions for possible submission to Northern New England Chapter of the American Planning Association (NNECAPA) and American Planning Association (APA).

Questions or comments regarding the MAP Awards Program may be directed to Matthew Williams at (207) 669-6615 or mwilliams@ellsworthmaine.gov.

MAP AWARD CATEGORIES

DISTINGUISHED LEADERSHIP/SERVICE AWARDS

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 he/she is a part?
- **Effectiveness:** How has the nominee promoted the cause and advanced the merits of planning?

Professional Planner of the Year

ELIGIBILITY: For 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?

OUTSTANDING PLANNING AWARDS

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?