



555 Walnut St. Abilene, Texas 79601  
[www.abilenetx.com](http://www.abilenetx.com)

# News Release

"We work together to build and maintain a community of the highest quality for present and future generations."

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 5, 2017

### MEDIA CONTACTS:

NR#0405030

Jeff White, Recreation and Senior Services Administrator

Ph: 325-734-5306 Email: [jeff.white@abilenetx.com](mailto:jeff.white@abilenetx.com)

OR Alaisha Guerra, Communications & Media Relations Manager

Ph: 325-676-6677 Cell: 325-513-9381 Email: [alaisha.guerra@abilenetx.com](mailto:alaisha.guerra@abilenetx.com)

## City of Abilene Awarded 2017 Texas Recreation and Park Society Gold Medal Award

ABILENE, Texas - The Texas Recreation and Park Society recently honored the City of Abilene Parks and Recreation department with the 2017 Texas Recreation and Park Society Gold Medal Award.

The Gold Medal Award honors communities that demonstrate excellence in long-range planning, resource management, volunteerism, environmental stewardship, program development, professional development and agency recognition. This award is the highest honor that a Parks and Recreation department can receive from the Texas Recreation and Park Society.

"Our team works diligently every day to provide the highest quality of services and programming in everything that we do," said Lesli Andrews, Director of Community Services. "We are absolutely honored to have been chosen as the recipient of this award." Abilene was recognized as the winner among cities with populations between 100,001 and 250,000.

The City's Parks and Recreation department serve as a tourism and economic driver with over 30,000 guests generating \$8,000,000 in **annual economic impact**. Abilene's proximity to large metropolitan areas makes it an appealing location to host tournaments, leagues, and special events. Utilized by thousands of residents and guests, the City has 31 Parks, 4 Recreation Centers, a Tennis Center, 3 Splash Pads, a Dog Park, a Senior Center, 3 Rental Facilities, and 39 ballfields.

###

This news release is posted online at <http://www.abilenetx.com/news>.