



ROANOKE COUNTY NEWS RELEASE

Roanoke County Public Information Office
5204 Bernard Drive, SW • PO Box 29800
Roanoke, Virginia 24018-0798

For Immediate Release

Contact: [Teresa Hamilton Hall](#)

Roanoke County Public Information Director
Office: 540-772-2010

Roanoke County Department Honored at State Conference *Parks, Recreation and Tourism Receives Six Awards*

ROANOKE COUNTY, VA (September 17, 2010) – Roanoke County's Parks, Recreation and Tourism Department took home six awards at the Virginia Recreation and Park Society's annual conference held September 11-14 in Hampton.

Several of the awards were tied to the opening of the new Green Ridge Recreation Center, which received *Best New Facility* honors. Parks, Recreation and Tourism Department staff also received two *Best Promotional Effort* awards for their work in promoting the new facility via television commercials and a printed membership packet. In addition, the department was honored with a *Best New Program* award for a wellness class titled "Couch to 5K" and another *Best Promotional Effort* award for the annual "Summer Camp Guide." Roanoke County also received the *Best New Special Event* award for "Touch-a-Truck," a free family event held annually at Green Hill Park. The department competed in the 50,001 to 100,000 population category.

Director Pete Haislip is honored that his staff received state-wide recognition for their work. "The awards are a tribute to the hard work of our employees and community partners and reflect a commitment to improving the quality of life for our residents." More than 100 applications were received from localities vying for awards in 17 different categories. Roanoke County was among the most awarded organizations this year.

The Virginia Recreation and Park Society is a private, non-profit professional organization, whose mission is to unite all professionals, students, and interested lay persons engaged in the field of recreation, parks, and other leisure services in the Commonwealth of Virginia. More than 700 delegates from around the state gathered for the 56th annual conference, providing an opportunity for recreation and park professionals to discuss areas of common interest.

For more information about Roanoke County's participation in the conference, contact Roanoke County Parks, Recreation and Tourism Marketing Manager Scott Ramsburg at 540-387-6078 extension 230. For information about the Virginia Recreation and Park Society, contact the state office at 804-730-9447 or visit www.vrps.com.

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