

Abe Phillips-2014

Jefferson City, MO – Albert "Abe" Phillips was inducted into the Missouri Recreation and Parks Hall of Fame on Thursday, February 27, 2014. One of the key founders of the Missouri Park and Recreation Association, he served as president in 1967-68 and was awarded the MPRA Fellow Award in 1967. He devoted many years working in the field with St. Louis County Parks. In 1969, St. Louis County passed two tax issues equally 32M, allowing the department to make the largest single effort to expand a Park and Recreation system in our state. This election provided the funds to build 3 recreation complexes as well as acquire and develop thousands of acres of park land. In a 20-year period the number of parks nearly doubled and the acreage tripled to well over 13,000 acres. In addition to his parks and recreation work Abe emerged as a key leader in the Missouri Conservation movement with the passage of the 1/8-cent sales tax for conservation in 1976. As a member of the Conservation Federation of Missouri, our state's largest citizen conservation organization, he served as 2nd Vice President, 1st Vice President, President, Chairman of the Board, and in many other extremely crucial positions and as various committee chairs. He was instrumental in starting the Operation Game Thief (OGT) program and to this day he continues to serve on the Conservation Federation of Missouri's executive board. It seems certain that Abe has the greatest seniority on the Board and is a legacy. Also on a state-wide basis, Abe was in the forefront of every legislative and ballot effort to gain voter approval of the State Parks and Soils Sales Tax and its renewals. Abe's service has led to significant achievements not only for the parks and recreation profession but for the public.