

When Jodie Adams graduated from Missouri State University, she faced a crossroad in her life. Over several years, Jodie had gained a national reputation in amateur tennis and was strongly encouraged to enter the world of professional tennis. The other path at her crossroad was to pursue a career of leadership in public parks and recreation. Fortunately for the state of Missouri, she chose to jump into the world of parks and recreation.

In 2000, NRPA awarded its highest agency honor, the Gold Medal Award, to the Springfield-Greene County Park Board as the top agency in the country for its population category. Jodie Adams was part of the team that spearheaded this national endeavor.

In 2003, Jodie led the charge in securing the Community Olympic Development Program (CODP) for Springfield through the United States Olympic Committee (USOC). CODP, in partnership with numerous national governing bodies, supported hundreds of youth athletes in the sports of weightlifting, tennis, ice hockey, volleyball, and archery. "The Springfield CODP has been an incredible partner of the USOC," said Alicia McConnell, retired USOC Director, Athlete Services and Programs. "We appreciate the community's commitment to not only create opportunities for youth to participate in sport, but also to provide the chance for them to excel in sport and life. In 2007, Jodie received recognition from the National Federation of High School Officials for 30+ years as a volleyball official for numerous high school and state championship matches.

In 2010, in addition to receiving the United States Tennis Association President's Award, Jodie was also accorded the International Tennis Hall of Fame's-Samuel Hardy Award for Outstanding Service to Tennis. And most recently in 2021, she received the coveted USTA Barbara Williams Service Award. The recipient of these awards must exemplify those qualities of personal unselfishness and devotion to the game which have been an inspiration to others throughout the nation.

In 2012, when the United States Olympic Committee sought individuals to help with the International Olympic Games in London that summer, Jodie stepped up to work for Team USA.

Also in 2012, after a successful career at the Springfield-Greene County Park Board, Jodie took her passion for parks and recreation into the classroom at Missouri State University where she became a member of the university faculty. Upon retirement from this second career, Jodie was bestowed the rare status of Emeritus Faculty.

Jodie Adams has always demonstrated a life of doing exceptional things for regular people.

As a Past President of the National Recreation and Park Association, Jodie continues to be a driving force in the pursuit of improving the profession and the NRPA organization. She just finished chairing a committee on behalf of the American Academy of Parks and Recreation Administration and NRPA to revise the requirements for the NRPA Gold Medal Awards Program, improving the process for ALL agencies to compete for this coveted national award.

Throughout her lifetime, Jodie Adams has repeatedly demonstrated 3 reoccurring characteristics:

1. Grace in her successes, 2. Character in her pursuits, 3. Excellence in her achievements.

In reviewing Jodie Adams' career, it truly reflects the high credentials, accomplishments, and character for which the Hall of Fame was established as follows.

To recognize and honor professionals and special individuals who have made outstanding, unique, lasting, and extraordinary contributions to the recreation and park movement. These contributions may include those of national or regional significance but must have impacted Missouri in a significant way.

MPRA has already honored Jodie Adams as an Outstanding Young Professional, it's President and Fellow Awardee. We now welcome her into the Missouri Recreation and Parks Hall of Fame.