

Governor's Quality of Place Prosperity Awards

Award Purpose

The Maine Quality of Place Prosperity Awards is sponsored by the Maine Quality of Place Council to recognize significant contributions to preserve, sustain, enhance, and market Maine's place-based assets that stimulate job creation and economic prosperity. Recognition is given for leadership, innovation, and entrepreneurship resulting in marketable quality of place products and services.

Quality of Place

According to the Brookings Institution, "Maine possesses a globally known 'brand' built on livable communities, stunning scenery, and great recreational opportunities..." Their report, *Charting Maine's Future*, demonstrates how Maine has changed both physically and economically in recent decades, and suggests strategies to ensure sustainable prosperity for the future. One of Brookings' main findings is that the quality and character of Maine's communities and landscape are a distinctive economic asset, and that preserving and investing in our "quality of place" are essential for the state's long-term economic health.

Some aspects of Maine's quality of place are easy to identify. They're the postcard images of loons, lobsters, and lighthouses. Other aspects are harder to pinpoint, like the reputation for quality and honesty leveraged by Maine companies.

Quality of place consists of those characteristics of a community or region and its people that make it *distinctive* from other places and *attractive* as an area to reside, work, and/or visit. Quality of place encompasses a community's natural and built environment, civic traditions, cultural amenities, and recreational opportunities, working in harmony.

Nominee Eligibility

Eligible nominees include: Maine businesses, nonprofit organizations, local, state and regional governments, educators, and community and civic leaders.

Award Categories

Public Service Leadership Award – This award recognizes individuals who are either elected or appointed officials of state, county, regional, or local government or nonprofit organizations that have made a significant contribution to the future prosperity of Maine through the enhancement of state or regional quality of place assets.

Business Leadership Award – This award recognizes business leaders who have set a new leadership standard for business practices that promote, preserve, or protect the state or region's quality of place assets.

Quality of Place Development Award – This award recognizes business that have made significant investments in supporting the state or region's quality of place economy or expanded employment opportunities through the development of new place-based commercial products or services.

Award Criteria

Leadership Awards

- Demonstrates commitment to protecting, sustaining, or enhancing Maine's quality of place
- Demonstrates ability to collaborate and create partnerships to advance Maine's quality of place
- Encourages the replication of quality of place best practices through passion, enthusiasm, and leadership
- Communicates a vision for Maine's future economic prosperity based on quality of place

Development Awards

- Makes significant business investment in Maine's quality of place
- Capitalizes on the state or region's competitive, place-based strengths to start or expand a new business
- Demonstrates innovation and entrepreneurship to create new jobs
- Develops new markets for Maine's sustainable, place-based assets

Nomination Procedures

Nominations may be submitted