

Kennard Named Park Professional of the Year

Columbus, Ohio – January 11, 2009

The name of Carol Kennard and the Centerville-Washington Park District go hand in hand. Carol has spent 27 years at the Park District with the last 11 as director. She has spent her career working tirelessly to preserve open space and provide quality program opportunities while educating the residents of Centerville and Washington Township. A longtime member of the Ohio Parks and Recreation Association (OPRA) and the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), she has been a champion for the community as well as our state and nation. Since 2005, Carol has served as an OPRA representative on the national level.

Carol has also served in various positions of the Centerville Rotary Club, Centerville Washington Diversity Council, and Hithergreen Center fostering positive and productive relationships within the membership and community groups.

Carol was nominated by her staff because she epitomizes what it means to be a Park Professional. She takes time to listen to resident concerns and offers her thoughts for solutions. Setting high standards for her staff, she leads by example. Many of the Park District staff have been with the organization for a more than ten years, another tribute to Carol's leadership.

Carol's nomination was only half the battle. Her application was chosen from all Park Professionals across the state. Colleagues from across the country seek her advice as she is well respected and admired. Her drive and determination are contagious and because of it she encourages others to accomplish what needs to be done. Carol truly understands what it takes to get the job done and do it well. She always puts her best foot forward on any task and is not afraid of a challenge. Please join us in congratulating Carol as the Ohio Parks and Recreation Association's Professional of the Year.