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For Immediate Release:

Akron, OHIO – January 24, 2010

The Centerville-Washington Park District was awarded the Ohio Parks and Recreation Association (OPRA) Outstanding Award in Category 2 for Park Development for the Iron Horse Trail Paving Project. Category 2 compares projects ranging in cost from \$500,000-1,000,000. The award was presented at the OPRA awards dinner held in Akron, Ohio, on Sunday, January 24, 2010 as part of the annual OPRA Conference and Trade Show.

The primary purpose of the paving project was to make the existing trail bed more accessible and enhance an important section of the community's multi-use trail system. Funding was identified as a challenge as part of the trail section that was paved is jointly owned by the City of Centerville and the Centerville-Washington Park District while the northern section is owned by the City of Kettering. Additional funding was acquired through a Clean Ohio Trails Grant, a Bikes Belong Grant, and funding from the William and Dorothy Yeck Nature Fund and Washington Township. As part of the awards scoring, projects are rated on the purpose of the project, planning process, goals, activation of community resources, funding, and challenges encountered in completing the project. Supporting documentation is also reviewed to include photos of the project and measurable goals.

With nearly 1,000 acres of parkland in Centerville and Washington Township, the Park District offers programs and natural area preservation for residents and nonresidents alike. The seven community parks host large group activity such as athletics, while the seven nature parks preserve historical and natural treasures. Thirty-four neighborhood parks provide recreation and play opportunities within walking distance of most homes. The mission of the Centerville-Washington Park District is to provide quality parks, outdoor education, and recreation while preserving open space.

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For further information, please contact Martha Lanese, Office Manager at (937) 433-5155.