



221 N. Main Street • Centerville, Ohio 45459-4617 • (937) 433-5155 • FAX (937) 433-6564 • www.cwpd.org

For Immediate Release:

Ohio Parks and Recreation Association (OPRA) has announced its 2010 Annual Awards of Excellence winners and a number of local agencies have been recognized.

Locally, the Centerville-Washington Park District won a 3rd place award in the Park Area Development under \$1,000,000 category for the Oak Creek South Park Skatepark .

In response to the requests from residents of Centerville and Washington Township, the Centerville-Washington Park District was able to add a skatepark when Oak Creek South Park was scheduled for redevelopment. After the successful passing of a park improvement levy in 2004, the skatepark was added to the schedule. The initial design for the skatepark was for a component park, however, after further input from the community, a concrete bowl design was selected. We now see groups of teens and young adults visiting the park every day!

The OPRA Annual Awards of Excellence will be presented at a banquet hosted by the association on February 10, 2011 at the Hilton Cincinnati Netherlands Plaza. One first place award winner will be presented with the 2010 Governor's Award for Parks and Recreation, a "best-in-show" award which includes a \$500 contribution to the parks and recreation foundation of the agency winner.

The awards are judged in a two-tiered process, which includes a panel of parks and recreation professionals from around Ohio, as well as, the association's Board of Directors.

Incorporated in 1963, the OPRA is a non-profit, public interest organization representing over 1300 professionals and citizen board members striving to provide quality parks and recreation facilities and opportunities for all Ohioans while protecting and preserving Ohio's natural resources, positively impacting local economies and health and wellness of its citizens. Ohio has become known as a trendsetter in the nation with parks and recreation often singled out for national test markets and pilot programs.

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