



OHIO PARKS AND RECREATION ASSOCIATION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 21, 2011

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Ohio Parks and Recreation Association (OPRA) has announced its 2011 Annual Awards of Excellence winners.

Locally, the Centerville-Washington Park District won a 3rd place award in the Youth and Family Programs category for the **Fairy and Gnome Home Festival** held on September 10, 2011 at Grant Park.

Approximately 100 children and adults came together for this outside opportunity to experience tactile connections with natural materials as they constructed miniature multi-level homes, high-rises, theaters, garages, and bridges. Most arrived in costume, but all enjoyed story-telling, face painting, and drinking fizzy fairy floats while listening to the sounds of harps and flutes.

The objective of the festival was to demonstrate how easy it is to build using natural materials and that all it takes is a little imagination. One measure of success was hearing a few of the families planning to create a fairy or gnome home in their own backyard.

The OPRA Annual Awards of Excellence will be presented at their banquet on February 7, 2012 at the Kalahari Resort and Conference Center in Sandusky, Ohio.

The 2011 Governor's Award for Parks and Recreation will also be presented and includes a \$500 contribution to the winning parks and recreation foundation.

The awards are judged in a two-tiered process, which includes a panel of parks and recreation professionals from across 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.