



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Subject: Centerville-Washington Park District Announced as Finalist for the 2018 National Gold Medal Award in Parks and Recreation**

**CENTERVILLE, OH:** The [American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration](#) (AAPRA), in partnership with the [National Recreation and Park Association](#) (NRPA), recently announced the Centerville-Washington Park District as a finalist for the 2018 National Gold Medal Awards for Excellence in Park and Recreation Management.

Founded in 1965, the Gold Medal Awards program honors communities in the U.S. that demonstrate excellence in parks and recreation through long-range planning, resource management, volunteerism, environmental stewardship, program development, professional development and agency recognition. Applications are separated into seven classes, with five classes based on population. The Centerville-Washington Park District is a finalist in the Class IV (population 30,001-75,000) category.

Agencies are judged on their ability to address the needs of those they serve through the collective energies of community members and staff. The Centerville-Washington Park District joins three other finalists in their class that will compete for grand honors this year.

Dan Monahan, Park Board President, praised the community, the volunteers, staff and partners. "We enjoy a terrific park system and hundreds of activities because so many residents are involved. We couldn't get this national recognition if it weren't for the contributions of so many people and organizations in our community."

A panel of five park and recreation professionals reviews and judges all application materials. Judges are chosen for their considerable experience and knowledge in parks and recreation on both the local and national levels.

Park District Director Arnie Biondo said, "This recognition is an affirmation of the Park Board's willingness to ask and listen. The dozens of park improvements and new programs all stem from resident feedback. Being a Gold Medal finalist affirms the importance of engaging residents in their park services."

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This year's finalists will compete for Grand Plaque Award honors this summer, and the six Grand Plaque recipients will be announced live during the General Session at the 2018 NRPA Annual Conference in Indianapolis, Indiana, Sept. 25–27, 2018.

For more information on the Gold Medal Awards, visit [www.nrpa.org/goldmedal](http://www.nrpa.org/goldmedal) or [www.aapra.org](http://www.aapra.org).

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**The Centerville-Washington Park District** operates eight community parks, nine nature parks, and 33 neighborhood parks encompassing more than 1,000 acres in Centerville and Washington Township. For more information about the Centerville-Washington Park District, please call (937) 433-5155 or visit [www.cwpd.org](http://www.cwpd.org).

**The American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration** is a non-profit organization founded to advance knowledge related to the administration of recreation and parks; to encourage scholarly efforts by both practitioners and educators that would enhance the practice of park and recreation administration; to promote broader public understanding of the importance of parks and recreation to the public good; and, to conduct research, publish scholarly papers and sponsor seminars related to the advancement of park and recreation administration. For more information, visit [www.aapra.org](http://www.aapra.org).

**The National Recreation and Park Association** is a national not-for-profit organization dedicated to ensuring that all Americans have access to parks and recreation for health, conservation and social equity. Through its network of 60,000 recreation and park professionals and advocates, NRPA encourages the promotion of healthy and active lifestyles, conservation initiatives and equitable access to parks and public space. For more information, visit [www.nrpa.org](http://www.nrpa.org). For digital access to NRPA's flagship publication, Parks & Recreation, visit [www.parksandrecreation.org](http://www.parksandrecreation.org).

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