



# Centerville-Washington PARK DISTRICT

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**Date:** February 6, 2014

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**Subject:** Centerville-Washington Park District Wins Two OPRA Awards

**CENTERVILLE, OH:** Centerville-Washington Park District received two Awards of Excellence from the Ohio Parks and Recreation Association (OPRA). The awards were presented at the OPRA annual awards banquet held February 4, 2014 in Sandusky, Ohio in conjunction with the 2014 OPRA Annual Conference and Trade Show.



The Oak Grove Park archery range was awarded first place in the sports programs category. In fall 2012, Park District staff built an archery range in a natural setting at Oak Grove Park -- a 102-acre high-use community park that already included baseball diamonds, a fishing pond, paved trails, a dog park, picnic shelters, play equipment, soccer fields and tennis courts.

Funding for the construction cost was made possible through the Federal Wildlife Restoration Grant. WRF come from federal excise tax consumers pay when purchasing firearms, ammunition and archery equipment. Funds are administered on a state level by the Ohio Division of Wildlife.

The native seed nursery, located at Bill Yeck Park, was awarded third place in the natural resources and conservation category. The seed nursery was established in spring 2012 in order to have a steady supply of native seeds to utilize throughout the parks. The seeds are harvested by staff and volunteers. They are then planted in other locations, establishing prairie gardens with beautiful blooms. The seed nursery allows the Park District to reduce emissions through mowing, improve park aesthetics, reduce chemical applications and provide suitable wildlife habitats.



The OPRA Awards of Excellence are judged on: project purpose, goals and objectives, evaluation, community engagement and use of external resources, challenges and creative solutions, and the overall impact of the project. Leaders from park districts statewide judge the contest. Ohio park districts submit their best projects from the previous year for consideration.

"It is an honor to be recognized by the Ohio Parks and Recreation Association for these new facilities and programs that benefit our community," said Carol Kennard, Director of the Park District. "Our staff enjoys providing great park opportunities for our residents, and is grateful for the acknowledgment."

The Centerville-Washington Park District operates eight community parks, eight nature parks, and 33 neighborhood parks 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).

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