

For Immediate Release

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Subject: Centerville-Washington Park District Director Announces Retirement



CENTERVILLE, OH: After nearly 33 years, the last 17 as Director, Carol Kennard is retiring from the Centerville-Washington Park District in December. She was hired as the first full-time program director in 1982 and immediately began introducing new programs to engage people in their local parks. Hidden Meadows Day Camp, Winter Woods Day Camp, after school children's nature programs, Haunted Trail and the Volunteer Naturalist Program are just a few of the successful programs she began.

Carol was promoted to Director in 1997, as the Park District entered a building phase thanks to community levy support. Under her leadership, the Park District acquired seven new parks; added 56.165 acres to existing parks; and added many new facilities, including the Grant Nature Nook, skatepark, sprayground, all-access playground, Mark Kreusch Nature Playce, dog park and a multitude of other park amenities. During her career at the Park District, she assisted with six successful park levy campaigns, reaching out to the community to garner support for parks.

"What I enjoyed most about this job was getting involved with many different amazing groups in the community," said Kennard. "Partnering with other local governments, service clubs and private donors enabled us to stretch tax dollars to provide opportunities for people to enjoy their parks in many unique and fun ways."

After she retires, Carol plans to continue to seek ways to stay involved in the Centerville and Washington Township community. She is currently involved in the Centerville Rotary Club and is Vice-Chair for the Centerville-Washington Diversity Council. "I'm looking forward to having more time to give back to the community, and to spend time relaxing in our beautiful parks," said Kennard. "I'm excited for the future of the Park District, and feel fortunate we have such support for parks, open space and park programs in our community. And I appreciate all of the assistance given to me by our residents over the past 33 years."

The Park District has contracted with the Ohio Parks and Recreation Association to conduct the search for a new Executive Director.

The Centerville-Washington Park District currently 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.