



The Village of
Glenview



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Park District, Village share intergovernmental award

Sept. 30, 2011 -- The Glenview Park District and the Village of Glenview will be among award winners recognized Friday, Oct. 14, at the Illinois Association of Park District's 2011 Best of the Best Awards Gala.

The governments took first place in the category for Intergovernmental Cooperation for the 2010 transfer of Gallery Park from the Village to the Park District.

The 140-acre Gallery Park, bounded by Patriot Boulevard and Chestnut, Lehigh and West Lake avenues, was among the amenities originally identified in the Community Reuse Master Plan for redevelopment of the 1,028-acre former Glenview Naval Air Station, which closed in 1995.

Park District and Village officials worked together from the start of the redevelopment planning to design the park, which features a 45-acre lake surrounded by wetland and natural restoration areas (which permits catch and release fishing from its shores), six miles of walking and biking trails, an amphitheater, boardwalk, playgrounds, gardens, fountain, tennis courts and athletic fields. An expansive lawn area accommodates community gatherings and Little Bear Children's Garden features a "sprayground" play area.

The Village, as master planner of the base redevelopment effort, was able to construct the park as part of the overall redevelopment project, known as The Glen, using such tools as a Tax Increment Financing District (TIF).

Once The Glen was substantially developed, the two governments entered into an Intergovernmental Agreement to shift care, maintenance and programming of Gallery Park from the Village to the Park District. Under terms of the pact, day-to-day operational costs, totaling nearly \$500,000 annually, will continue to be covered by the Tax Increment Financing District (TIF) until it expires, a legal requirement by 2021. The

Park District is leasing the park acreage at no cost until Sept. 1, 2022, when the land sale restriction set by the U.S. Navy expires. At that point, the Park District would take ownership of both the park land and Park Center, the Park District's recreation center at 2400 Chestnut Ave.

"In this era of partisan politics and turf wars between governmental agencies, the Village of Glenview transferred 60 acres of fully developed park land in a prime area of Glenview to the Glenview Park District **at no cost**," the Park District wrote in its application. "The spirit of cooperation is alive and well. This spirit sets a high standard of cooperation and trust between the Park District and Village that leaves a long-lasting legacy for generations to come. It also avoids duplication of services."

At that same gala, which takes place at the Chevy Chase Country Club in Wheeling, the Park District will receive a first runner-up award in the Partnership category for Perk Center Café, the non-profit food service organization focused on training and employing individuals with developmental disabilities. The café is located in the Park Center lobby.

Each year, nominations are submitted for the Illinois Association of Park Districts "Best of the Best Awards" from park districts, forest preserves, conservation, recreation and special recreation agencies across the state of Illinois. The *Best of the Best Awards* program is designed to thank outstanding local businesses, citizen volunteers, other units of local government and the media that support and work with these Illinois agencies.

A list of winners can be found online at
www.ilparks.org/resource/resmgr/docs/list_of_winners.pdf

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