

Glen Ellyn Park District a National Gold Medal Award Finalist
Award represents highest honor in parks and recreation

Glen Ellyn, IL - The Glen Ellyn Park District has been named a finalist for the 2010 National Gold Medal Award for Excellence in Park and Recreation Management.

One of park and recreation's highest honors, the Gold Medal Award recognizes agencies throughout the United States that demonstrate excellence in long-range planning, resource management, volunteerism, environmental stewardship, program development, professional development and agency recognition. Each agency is judged on its ability to address the needs of those it serves through the collective energies of citizens, staff and elected officials.

Glen Ellyn Park District is one of only four park districts nationwide to reach the finalist stage in the Class IV category, which consists of agencies serving populations of 25,001-50,000. Glen Ellyn Park District has advanced to this summer's Grand Award competition. Grand Plaque Recipients will be announced during National Recreation and Park Association's (NRPA) Annual Congress & Exposition in Minneapolis, MN, October 25-29, 2010.

A panel of five parks and recreation professionals from NRPA and the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration (AAPRA) reviews and judges all application materials. Judges are chosen for their considerable experience and knowledge in parks and recreation on both local and national levels.

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.

The National Recreation and Park Association is a national not-for-profit organization dedicated to advancing park, recreation and conservation efforts that enhance quality of life for all people. Through its network of roughly 21,000 professionals and citizens, NRPA encourages the promotion of healthy lifestyles, recreation initiatives, and conservation of natural and cultural resources. For information on the Gold Medal program for 2011, contact the NRPA Awards team at awards@nrpa.org. For online information, go to the National Recreation and Park Association Web site at www.nrpa.org/awards or the Academy for Park and Recreation Administration Web site at www.aapra.org.