



## *Community Service Awards 2015*

FEBRUARY 18, 2016

*Our Mission:* In partnership with the community,  
we enrich lives by providing meaningful experiences  
through programs, parks and facilities.



**PARK DISTRICT**  
of OAK PARK

## Congratulations

### TO THIS YEAR'S RECIPIENTS OF THE IAPD/IPRA COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS:

Boy Scout Troop #4020

Good Heart Work Smart Foundation  
American Youth Soccer Organization  
Chicago Edge Soccer  
Oak Park Youth Baseball/Softball

### 2016 BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

Paul Aeschleman, President  
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The Park District of Oak Park was the 2015 recipient of the National Gold Medal Award for excellence in park and recreation management. The Gold Medal is the most prestigious award in the parks and recreation industry. In 2015 the Park District was also awarded accreditation through the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) and the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA).

The Park District is only one of four park and recreation agencies in the State of Illinois to win the Gold Medal and earn both State and National Accreditation.

### A COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

Creating partnerships with other governmental and community agencies to provide services is the key to achieving and maintaining an excellent parks and recreation system. One example of this type of collaboration is the initiative to develop all-weather fields in our community.

One of the continued needs identified in the Park District's comprehensive plan is the need for additional field space. To meet this need, a synthetic turf field was installed as part of the Ridgeland Common Recreation Complex renovation in 2014. In addition, the Park District successfully partnered with School District 97, Irving School PTO, AYSO Soccer and the Chicago Edge Soccer Club in 2014 to install a synthetic turf field at Irving School.

With the success of the Irving School project in mind, the Park District once again approached School District 97 to create more field space. However, to bring this project to fruition, more partners were needed. The Good Heart Work Smart Foundation, AYSO, Chicago Edge Soccer and Oak Park Youth Baseball/Softball stepped forward to support the creation of all-weather turf fields at Julian and Brooks Middle Schools.

The addition of all-weather fields at these locations help the Park District meet the community's demand for quality outdoor field space while providing outdoor space for School District 97 physical education and sports programs. These spaces also offer a place for students to socialize during lunch breaks and, when school is not in session, they are available for the enjoyment of the general public.

The Park District extends its sincere gratitude to the Good Heart Work Smart Foundation, AYSO, Chicago Edge Soccer and Oak Park Youth Baseball/Softball for your partnerships which benefits our entire community by providing outdoor space for all to pursue healthy, recreational activities.



*Percy Julian Middle School all-weather field.*



*Gwendolyn Brooks Middle School all-weather field.*

**You are invited to the Grand Opening** on Saturday, April 9, of the Julian Middle School field at 9am and the Brooks Middle School field at 10:30am.

## *Recent Community Service Award Winners*

### **2014**

Irving School Parent/Teacher Organization (PTO)  
Dan Jordan  
Ridgeland Common Working Group

### **2013**

Jason Geil  
Dee Jeffries  
David T. Kindler  
Frank Lipo  
Joshua Siegel

### **2012**

Jamil Bou-Saab  
James Budrick  
Mimi Burkland  
Senator Don Harmon  
Christina Morris  
Reed Smith, LLP

### **BOY SCOUT TROOP #4020**

Boy Scout Troop #4020 has been supporting the Park District in various capacities for a very long time. So long, in fact, that the first wave of scouts and probably a few after, have graduated from college and are now raising children who are involved in scouting too.



This troop has provided support for the Park District's annual Frank Lloyd Wright Races, specifically working water stations, passing out food and providing some much needed traffic control. Managing residents who are hurriedly on their way to church or elsewhere early on a Sunday morning is not always pleasant but this troop has always been up to the task. Members of Troop #4020 have also logged many miles delivering flyers door to door, year after year, to announce important community meetings. There were some years, in the height of our site planning process, where flyers were delivered up to ten times in one year. This form of communication was not only effective but also economical and contributed to the many successful park planning and renovation projects the District has completed since the passing of the 2005 referendum. Eagle Scouts have built birdhouses which have been a welcomed additions to our parks, especially at the new fen in Taylor Park. Finally, a current Eagle Scout candidate is planning to construct mini-libraries for park locations. We look forward to that addition to our parks.

The Boy Scouts of America is a values-based youth development organization that provides opportunities for young people to build character and learn about responsible citizenship. Many thanks to all scouts past and present who have volunteered their time in support of our organization. You have contributed to the success of the Park District and, more importantly, to the quality of life in our community. The Park District Board and staff are truly grateful for all of your support.