

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PRESS RELEASE

Park District Recognizes Community Volunteers

At the February 19, 2015 Park Board meeting, the Irving School Parent/Teacher Organization, the Ridgeland Common Working Group and Dan Jordan were the recipients of Community Service Awards from the Park District of Oak Park in coordination with the Illinois Park And Recreation Association and the Illinois Association of Park Districts. Community Service Awards are presented annually to individuals and organizations in recognition and appreciation of their outstanding contribution and unselfish devotion for the advancement of parks, recreation and leisure in the community and the state of Illinois.

The Irving School PTO led a Village-wide effort to bring a new U10 synthetic turf soccer field to the school through fundraising efforts and developing partnerships with the Park District, School District 97, Oak Park AYSO and Chicago Edge. Irving PTO members recognized include Laura Crawford, Margaret Justice, Jassen Strokosch, Barbara Hoffman, Barbara Metric, Juliane Kelly, Michelle Chapman-Rienstra, and Reshma Desai.

The Ridgeland Common Working Group, a group of dedicated citizen volunteers, worked selflessly to make the vision of a new Ridgeland Common Recreation Complex become a reality. The group, which originally formed in October 2006, worked diligently through a lengthy community planning process which culminated with the grand opening of the RCRC on June 14, 2014. The members of the Ridgeland Common Working Group include Craig Failor, Mark Gartland, Marty Bracco, David Kindler, Rick Kuner, Dick McKinlay, Gerry Lordan, Joe Modrich, Dan Sullivan, and Christine Graves.

Community Service Award recipient Daniel Jordan was recognized for his hard work to further the sport of soccer in the Oak Park community through his involvement with the American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO). Dan started as a volunteer assistant coach back in 2000 and in his 15 years of service he assumed many responsibilities eventually serving as the AYSO Regional Commissioner. Under his watchful eye, the league has grown to over 1,700 kids, the largest youth sports league in Oak Park. Through his enormous energy and countless hours of work, Dan has made a lasting impact on AYSO, in Park District parks, and in the community of Oak Park.

"Too often, we are consumed with our day-to-day tasks and forget to recognize the good work of others that contribute to the success of our Park District and our community," stated Park Board President Jessica Bullock. "Through these Community Service Awards we recognize and thank Dan Jordan, the Ridgeland Common Working Group and the Irving School PTO for their hard work and dedication which has made a lasting and positive impact on parks and recreation in Oak Park."