

# Rename Glenview Park For Thomas Richardson

Commissioners Take First Step To Honor Former Parks Director

By [Tom Robb](#) | on February 28, 2018

Glenview Park District commissioners at their Thursday (Feb. 22) meeting took the first steps to rename West Fork Park for former parks director Thomas Richardson.



Tom Richardson, (bottom row furthest left) at the ribbon cutting for West Fork Park off Willow Road Road in July 2002. That park is soon expected to bear Richardson's name.

West Fork Park, located at 1950 Westleigh Drive near Willow Road and at the West Fork of the North Branch of the Chicago River, is expected to be formally renamed after Richardson this summer.

Park district regulations require a 90-day waiting period between when a measure to rename a park is introduced and when it is given final approval.

Richardson worked for the park district for 24 years, serving as director from 1990 through 2006 during a period of great expansion for both the village and the park district.

Retired park district Superintendent Robert Quill and former Deputy Executive Director Barb Cremin both spoke at Thursday's meeting about Richardson's long list of contributions to the park district over his 16-year tenure as director.

Richardson oversaw many agreements, like when the Glen tax increment financing district was created to fund parks and other local units of government. He also supervised the acquisition of land for Community Park West, including seeing 95 acres — half of that land — donated by Town & Country Homes.

Richards oversaw replacement of the park's two pools; acquisition and development of Wagner Farm, including its Heritage Center after the last member of the Wagner Family passed away; acquisition and development of The Grove; the National 9 golf course; the development of Gallery Park and the area now known as the Kent Fuller Air Station Prairie after Naval Air Station Glenview became The Glen; and two successful referendums.

Quill said Richardson had the vision to reject a potential \$1.2 million renovation of the old Rugen School, which served as the primary park district building, and instead build the Glenview Park Center.

“No one person could accomplish all these things, but he was at the helm,” Quill said.

Richardson himself was not at the meeting, as officials said he has since moved out of state.