GLENVIEW, Ill., Sept.24, 2019 – A commitment to exemplary community service has earned the Glenview Park District recognition nationwide. After months of precise consideration, the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration (AAPRA) in partnership with the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) has awarded its most prestigious honor to the Glenview Park District. The 2019 National Gold Medal Award for Excellence in Park and Recreation Management is a highly coveted award. The Glenview Park District is the only district in the country, with a population between 30,001 and 75,000, to win this award.

Founded in 1965, the Gold Medal Awards program honors communities in the U.S. that demonstrate excellence in parks and recreation through long-range planning, resource management, volunteerism, environmental stewardship, program development, professional development and agency recognition. Applications are separated into seven classes, with five classes based on population, one class for armed forces recreation and one class for state park systems awarded on odd numbered years.

The Glenview Park District earned the distinction in the Class IV category (population 30,001 to 75,000). The District won the award in 1970, 1974 and was a finalist in 2009.

Agencies are judged on their ability to address the needs of those they serve through the collective energies of community members, staff and elected officials.

“What an achievement for our staff, board members and volunteers. They are all gold-medal-worthy. This is well-deserved recognition for the hard work they do each and every day,” said Michael McCarty, Glenview Park District Executive Director.

A panel of five park and recreation professionals, chosen for their considerable knowledge of the parks and recreation industry, reviews and judges all application materials.
The Glenview Park District stood out with an 8.3 out of 10 rating by residents (compared to the 7.2 state average), 54.4% of revenue as non-tax (compared to the 27.3% national average) and as an IAPD/IPRA Distinguished Accredited Agency. The passage of a $17 million referendum with enthusiastic support (64.56% voted yes) was also showcased.

The Glenview Park District is one of the largest park districts in Illinois with more than 90 years in existence, consistently providing residents with outstanding recreational, educational and healthful opportunities. The park district is made up of 850 acres of land, containing 26 parks and a variety of facilities, including a national historic landmark, a working dairy farm and both indoor and outdoor fitness facilities. A total of 99.6% of the Glenview Park District’s 59,000 residents live within 10 walking minutes of a park or trail.

The district’s partnerships with the village, schools and organizations limit tax increases, provide reduced-fee programs and expanded opportunities, including a unique TIF partnership with the Village of Glenview which generates $20.6M in revenue. This partnership allowed for projects to address storm water improvements for more than 1,151 homes. A partnership with the Northern Suburban Special Recreation Association welcomes those with disabilities to learn and play, with work and volunteer experience.

“The Glenview Park District’s vision, hard work and community prioritization make it truly exceptional,” said McCarty.

For more information on the Gold Medal Awards, visit www.nrpa.org/goldmedal or www.aapra.org.