

2006 Florida Cities of Excellence Awards Program ▶ Nomination Form

Category (Please check one) See Award Criteria for more information. Please print or type. One nomination per page.

FLORIDA CITY OF EXCELLENCE AWARD

Name of Municipality Nominated _____
Nominated by _____
(Name of City/Town/Village)

CITY SPIRIT AWARD

Name of Municipality Nominated The City of Seminole
Nominated Project The Centennial Playground Project
Nominated by The City of Seminole
(Name of City/Town/Village)

MAYOR OF THE YEAR

Name of Individual Nominated _____
Nominated by _____
(Name of City/Town/Village)

COUNCIL MEMBER OF THE YEAR

Name of Individual Nominated _____
Nominated by _____
(Name of City/Town/Village)

CITY EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

Name of Individual Nominated _____
Title _____ Department _____
Nominated by _____
(Name of City/Town/Village)

CITY MANAGER OF THE YEAR

Name of Individual Nominated _____
Nominated by _____
(Name of City/Town/Village)

CITY CLERK OF THE YEAR

Name of Individual Nominated _____
Nominated by _____
(Name of City/Town/Village)

CITY ATTORNEY OF THE YEAR

Name of Individual Nominated _____
Nominated by _____
(Name of City/Town/Village)

CITY FINANCE OFFICIAL (DIRECTOR OR OFFICER) OF THE YEAR

Name of Individual Nominated _____
Nominated by _____
(Name of City/Town/Village)

CITY CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

Name of Individual Nominated _____
Nominated by _____
(Name of City/Town/Village)

Person Completing Nomination Form

Please print or type.

Name Frank P. Edmunds
Title City Manager
Government The City of Seminole
Address 9199 - 113th Street North
Telephone Number 727-391-0204 x 109 Fax 727-399-8406
E-mail Address fedmunds@ci.seminole.fl.us

Nomination Certification

This nomination has been voted on and approved by a majority of the city council/commission.

Signed 
City Clerk

The judges will use the narrative and supportive information to select the award winners. Nominators/nominees are asked not to contact the judges directly.

Narrative

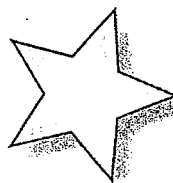
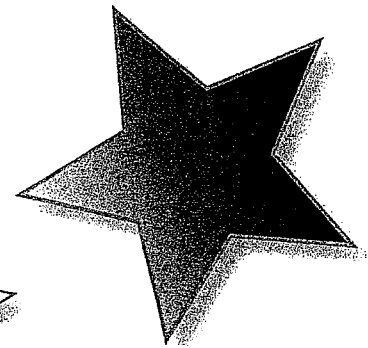
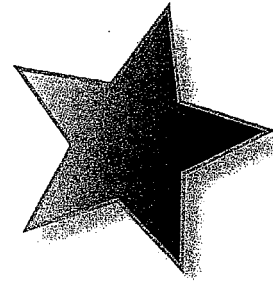
In the narrative, please be clear and concise, using the Award Criteria to support the selection of your nominee. Please type (or print in black ink), up to 1,200 words, double-spaced on white 8-1/2" x 11" paper.

Supportive Information

Up to 10 pages of supportive information (newspaper clippings, photographs, letters from constituents, etc.), on 8-1/2" x 11" paper (single-sided) may be provided. Please do not include videotapes, DVDs, CDs or Power-Point presentations.

Submit nominations by **August 18, 2006:**

Florida League of Cities, Inc.
Attn: Florida Cities of Excellence
301 S. Bronough Street, Suite 300 (32301)
P.O. Box 1757
Tallahassee, FL 32302-1757



**2006 FLC City Spirit Award Nomination
City of Seminole and Rotary Club of Seminole
Centennial Playground Project**

It is with great pleasure that the City of Seminole is nominating the City of Seminole and Rotary Club of Seminole Centennial Playground project for the 2006 Florida League of Cities "City Spirit Award". This community based project involved a three (3) year partnership that would culminate in the dedication of the City of Seminole and Rotary Club of Seminole Centennial Playground. This highly innovative and need based project was initiated in January of 2002 when the Rotary Club established a partnership with the Seminole Recreation Division by asking what they could do for the City Recreation Division that would benefit the children of the community. The City of Seminole had just dedicated a new Recreation Complex that included a 7,000 sq. ft. playground, soon after opening the newly renovated complex it was realized that the aforementioned playground had a few usability issues including poor accessibility, and drainage that needed to be addressed and in a timely manner.

The Recreation Division established a task force with members of the Rotary Club, and the Recreation Director. Two major issues that had been previously identified included poor drainage, and lack of handicap accessibility. Working within budget constraints, it was suggested that the City look at purchasing the ADA approved "Woodcarpet" playground mulch to immediately improve the accessibility of the playground surface. The Rotary agreed and funded the \$2,000 purchase of necessary "Wood Carpet" and assisted in the installation of this ADA approved playground mulch. Some minor drainage work was also completed by the Public Works Division. The new accessible mulch was then installed by members of the Rotary Club and City of Seminole in April 2002.

In November 2002, the Rotary Club again approached the Recreation Department with a longer term vision. They asked if we would consider an additional enhanced partnership in a project that could be considered a "Rotary International Centennial" project celebrating the 100th Year birthday of Rotary International. The task force was again brought back together consisting of City staff and Rotary members, to conceptualize a longer term plan for the playground at Recreation Center. It was decided that the "Woodcarpet" mulch although adequate, still wasn't meeting the need for 100% accessibility, and the drainage issues still were present.

The task force developed a longer term vision that would include a playground surface that would be 100% accessible, provide additional handicap accessible play equipment, a shade structure for protection from the sun, a new picnic shelter, basketball court re-surfacing, along with additional landscape improvements. After reviewing the costs of these items, it was determined that the task force was going to need to be creative as the traditional accessible playground surface would limit the amount of project items that could be completed. At the time a new product was coming into the market known as playground grass that had been re-designed to meet all ADA accessibility regulations and at 60% of the cost of the traditional accessible surfacing. This use of this product would allow for more project elements to be introduced into the design.

The highly innovative project design and budget was established and presented to the Seminole City Council for approval to move forward in August of 2003. The final funding options included a Rotary Club of Seminole contribution of \$30,000 along with matching dollars from

the City of Seminole. In addition, the City Council approved the application for a Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program grant in the amount of \$112,500 would be submitted to the State of Florida. These funding options were approved by the Seminole City Council in August 2003 and the grant application was submitted. In May 2004, a Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program grant in the amount of \$112,500 was awarded by the State of Florida to assist in funding the playground project. An additional \$2,000 District 6590 Rotary Foundation grant was also secured by the Rotary Club of Seminole bringing its total contribution up to \$34,000.

The project renovation commenced in November 2004 and dedicated on February 26, 2005 which was also the 100th birthday of the Rotary. In attendance were the Mayor, City Council members, City Administration, Rotary members, the past President of Rotary International, and members from the community both young and old. This project was very special as it involved a partnership between a community civic group, community members, and a city government that spanned more than three (3) years, involved financial contributions, and volunteer labor in the installation process. The final project was very innovative as it was the first municipal playground in the state of Florida to utilize a new playground grass and has been highly received by the users. Attached are pictures from various stages of the project.

The project needs were clearly identified early in the design process along with the vision of this project being long lasting in the sense that the Rotary Club realized that it needed to not lose sight of what was its original goal, provide a fully accessible playground for the benefit of the community. In the public sector funding isn't always available at the time you need it so

community stewardship proved to be a vital facet of the "City Spirit" project as the Rotary Club of Seminole and the City maintained their vision and utilized the resources available to them

The innovativeness of the new playground surface, shade structure, and accessible play equipment will provide many years of quality play for all users of the playground. In addition, the City and Rotary Club of Seminole have made a long term commitment to be sure that this play area will always meet the high standards that both will strive to achieve. This includes both financial and volunteer support for any associated renovations and recreational programs. Because the project involved a three (3) year commitment, it has clearly demonstrated a high level of "City Spirit" and a community partnership for the long term.

The effectiveness of this project has been seen through the increased usage of the playground by the community, mom's groups, and both able-bodied and non able-able bodied citizens creating a more highly visible recreation component for use by our community residents and neighbors. The project has been reviewed and praised by many other public and private agencies to its innovativeness, durability and usability. Also, the project involved three separate commercial vendors therefore allowing maximum participation in the project. Lastly, the \$174,500 spent on this handicap accessible playground only cost the citizens of Seminole approximately \$30,000 due to a very creative community, city, and state stewardship.

With the new and innovative use of the playground grass surface, this project has also become a testing ground for other agencies considering the use of this type of play surface in addition to its natural appearance as depicted by the pictures. As stated in the above narrative, the Centennial

Playground project has demonstrated success far and above what we could have imagined. Not only was the project cost effective, user friendly, problem solving, and community based it demonstrated a high degree of City Spirit to bring to fruition.