

# good stuff



## District Receives Green Practices Award

On October 21, 2016, the Byron Forest Preserve District received a Best Green Practices Award from the Illinois Association of Park Districts at the Best of the Best Awards Gala at the Wheeling Park District's Chevy Chase Country Club in Wheeling, Illinois.

The Illinois Association of Park Districts Best Green Practices Award is presented to a park district, forest preserve, conservation district, or special recreation agency that has taken the initiative to incorporate and encourage environmentally-friendly business practices and policies. Winning organizations have demonstrated practices that could include recycling and solid waste reduction; education and advocacy; conscientious purchasing, green buildings; and energy and materials conservation.

"We are proud to be recognized by the IAPD for our organization's green practices," said Todd Tucker, Byron Forest Preserve District Executive Director. "We are dedicated to preserving the open spaces and natural resources in our region and this recognition is a great honor and a sentiment to our commitment."

The District has implemented several initiatives over the last five years that have helped with energy efficiency. At PrairieView

Golf Club, hand watering practices and the reduction of "mowed space" has led to 25 percent less water usage. In addition, PrairieView changed-over its fleet of 80 golf carts from gas to all electric carts which has reduced noise, air pollution and the need for fossil fuel.

The Keller Education Center, which houses the District's 85-student preschool education program, is a 2013 Platinum LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified building with a wind turbine, solar panels, a geothermal well and many other energy conservation features. Students at the preschool use iPads and a Smartboard to reduce paper consumption in the classroom.

The Jarrett Prairie Center which houses the District's administrative offices and newly renovated Natural History Museum has had roof-top solar panels for more than ten years which have saved thousands of tax payer dollars in reduced energy costs.

Above photo, l-r: Peter Murphy, President/CEO of IAPD; Trevor Hogan, Byron Forest Preserve Board Commissioner; Todd Tucker, Byron Forest Preserve Executive Director; and Ken Collin, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of IAPD.