

Burg Parks wins state award for football field

The City of Miamisburg Parks and Recreation Department partnered in 2007 with the Wee Vikes Football and Cheer Association (Wee Vikes) to create a new home field for the Wee Vikes at Beachler Park. And, the State of Ohio Parks and Recreation Association acknowledged those efforts by bestowing on the project the highest honor for facility improvement during the organization's annual awards of excellence. The award ceremony was held recently at the Dayton Convention Center during the annual conference and trade show.

Based on recommendations made in Parks Master Plan developed in 2006, which was formally adopted by city council and the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, the Parks and Recreation Department joined with the Wee Vikes, the Miamisburg Civic Youth Baseball and Softball Assn. and the Miamisburg Soccer Assn. to transform Beachler Park's adult softball field into a game field for youth football. The conversion of this facility, located between Ninth and Tenth streets, allowed the city and Wee Vikes to provide a quality field dedicated to the community's popular youth football program.

The Wee Vikes program teaches the fundamentals of football and cheerleading to youth in grades one through six.

"The creation of a dedicated youth football game facility at Beachler Park enhanced the quality of the program and was accomplished through successful community partnerships," stated Parks and Facilities Superintendent Doug Voss.

The project garnered significant community support, as evidenced by the number of volunteers and donors who contributed to the success of the project.

A total of 34 local businesses, churches, youth sports organizations, volunteers and the City of Miamisburg combined resources to complete the transformation of Beachler Park.

Local businesses donated professional services, offered truckloads of dirt and sod at a discount and provided supplies and food for volunteers. Neighboring churches also opened their gates to provide parking for players and spectators. In all, 3,250 volunteer hours were logged, and \$53,000 of material and services were donated. The Wee Vikes took ownership of the project, putting time and money into the creation of a home field in which children and parents can take pride for many years to come.

Wee Vikes serves over 400 youth in Miamisburg. The part-

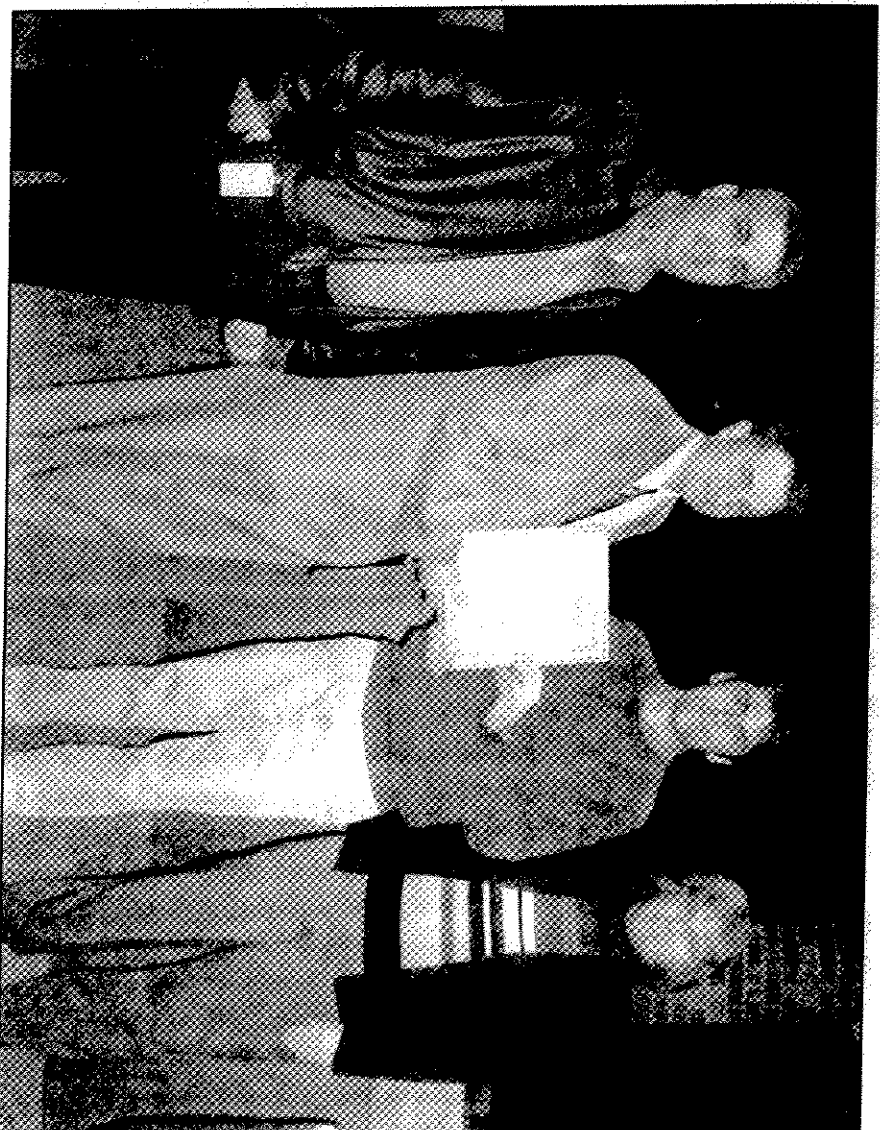


Photo by Steve Sandlin
Officials from the Miamisburg Park and Recreation Department and the Wee Vikes display the award received from Ohio.
nership at Beachler resulted in cilities and the continued development of the Wee Vikes and youth sports programs in the