

GRIFFON SYSTEMS

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Griffon Systems delivered an IP Megapixel solution that provided the image resolution and system flexibility needed.



Glenview Park District

Achieving success with IP Megapixel technology

Glenview Park District is one of the largest park districts in Illinois. Located just north of Chicago, Glenview Park District serves over 50,000 residents including all of Glenview and Golf, small portions of Niles, Northbrook, Northfield and Skokie, and unincorporated areas beyond village limits.

The park district offers a wide array of programs to its community and has a number of facilities such as an ice center, tennis club, golf courses, community center, as well as several outdoor pools and parks.

Glenview's objectives

Prior to working with Griffon Systems, Glenview used disparate analog security cameras at its facilities and recognized the need

for upgraded standardization. In searching for the right district-wide surveillance solution, Glenview's main objectives were 1) to standardize on one camera solution allowing for a single point of integration into a number of other technology projects planned in upcoming years 2) to obtain image resolution that would allow for facial and license plate identification 3) to find a user-friendly system that would facilitate manageability and access from any park facility.

Kevin Roberts, Manager of Information Technology, spearheaded the search for Glenview Park District. Mr. Roberts says "I needed a camera that I could have our park services team mount on any facility or light

pole and then my team could remotely configure the camera through our network" says Mr. Roberts.

How Griffon helped?

After meeting with Mr. Roberts, Griffon Systems quickly realized that traditional cctv products were not going to meet Glenview's requirements or satisfy future demands as the park district continued to expand. In order to supply Glenview with the system they desired, Griffon Systems designed a high-resolution, IP-based surveillance system utilizing megapixel technology from the global leader in this space, Mobotix.

Mobotix IP Megapixel cameras have the ability to record at a



"Griffon Systems really took the time to listen to our needs and recommend a solution that aligned with our strategic initiatives. We feel the Mobotix camera line is a great fit for the district" says Mr. Roberts.

resolution 10x higher than analog cameras recording to a DVR (640x480 resolution compared to 2048x1536).

Additionally, the approach Griffon mapped out utilized a decentralized surveillance strategy (i.e. shifting the intelligence of the system to the camera instead of a centralized server). The benefit to this strategy is system stability and flexibility. Stability comes from the "heavy lifting" of encoding and decoding the video and all video management processes occur at each camera. Video storage on the camera allows flexibility in camera placement.

"At the time, IP Megapixel cameras were relatively new entrants to the U.S. market especially here in the Midwest which meant Glenview would be one of our first clients taking on a IP Megapixel solution" says Paul Grefenstette, owner of Griffon Systems.

Mr. Roberts admits his initial reservations about Mobotix given its newness to the market but possessed a willingness to "step out of the box" and decided to give Mobotix a closer look by conducting a 30 day demo test on their products.

Glenview secured the Mobotix day/night M12 demo camera. Roberts says "We tested the Mobotix M12 inside, outside, in

cold environments, and in hot environments around the park district. We really had a feel for the camera after that."

Looking for independent feedback, Glenview decided to show video clips and images from their demo unit to the Glenview Police Department and established relationships with the security team at Abt Electronics. Both were impressed by the image quality.

Glenview's success

In 2009, Glenview Park District purchased eleven cameras for the Glenview Ice Center, six cameras for its maintenance garage, and installed several others at its dog park, skate park, and field houses.

Pleased with the results, Mr. Roberts says "the Mobotix product allows us to purchase a camera and decide just how far to take it (a result of the decentralized surveillance approach). We are planning on integrating several Mobotix cameras into our voice over IP phone system. We will also use the cameras at various sites to open doors/gates or turn on lights as well as use standalone cameras on some of our isolated field houses."

Griffon will help Glenview upgrade analog cameras to Mobotix at its community center later this year. Roberts says "We've used the Mobotix cameras we had in place

to get buy in for the other projects we are planning. It wasn't hard when we can easily pull up a live image from any of our IP cameras."

Griffon and Glenview have developed a strong working relationship. Mr. Grefenstette says "Glenview is an important client and our firm will do everything possible to ensure Glenview is happy with the technology and support from us."

To learn more about IP Megapixel surveillance cameras or the decentralized security approach, contact Griffon Systems:

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About Griffon Systems:
 Based in Westchester, Illinois, Griffon Systems was founded in 2004 by Paul Grefenstette (President) to help the firm's clients solve diverse business needs through the use of high-quality video surveillance. Griffon's deep experience working with both IP Megapixel and traditional surveillance products enable the firm to design robust solutions that drive real value for its clients.