
WAUKEGAN PARK DISTRICT

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Greg Petry Earns Mastery-Level Certification for Park and Recreation Professionals

Waukegan, IL (December 19, 2011)...Greg Petry, Executive Director of the Waukegan Park District recently earned the Certified Park and Recreation Executive (CPRE) certification granted by the National Certification Board in conjunction with the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA). The CPRE program recognizes advanced skills and competencies related to the professional practice and delivery of park and recreation programs and services. Mr. Petry is among the first ever to earn this new certification along with four other park district directors in Illinois.

To earn the CPRE certification, individuals must hold a current Certified Park and Recreation Professional (CPRP) certification, meet specific requirements for education and experience, and successfully pass an exam covering a comprehensive set of topics including communication, finance, human resources, operations and planning.

Mr. Petry has been the Executive Director of the Waukegan Park District since 1994; having been promoted from the Superintendent of Parks a position he had held since 1987. Previous to his work with the Waukegan Park District, Petry worked at three other area park districts,

Highland Park, Mundelein and Park Ridge. Mr. Petry obtained a Bachelor of Science degree, magna cum laude, from Manhattan College in 1978 and a Master of Science degree in Parks and Recreation from Pennsylvania State University in 1981.

CPRE establishes a national standard for managerial, administrative and executive parks and recreation professionals and focuses on the practical knowledge and current real-world skills necessary in today's changing park and recreation environment. It signifies to the public that the leaders of park and recreation agencies seek to uphold the highest standards of service for the communities they serve.

For more information about the CPRE, go to www.nrpa.org/cpre.

About the Waukegan Park District

Established on December 26, 1916, the district has 47 properties and 720 acres of land, which includes 18-hole Bonnie Brook and 9-hole Greenshire Golf Courses. The District operates the Field House Sports and Fitness Center, the Jack Benny Center for the Arts, the Waukegan SportsPark, the Waukegan Skate Park, the Waukegan BMX Track, recreational centers, an outdoor swimming pool, outdoor sports fields, picnic areas, playgrounds, and sports courts including basketball and tennis. A full range of programs and services are offered year round for all ages including special populations. Cultural events are provided by the Waukegan Symphony Orchestra and Concert Chorus, the Bowen Park Theatre Company, and the Waukegan History Museum. The award-winning District employs 60 full-time staff and over 250 part-time, year round, seasonal and temporary employees. The District is a member of the National Recreation

and Park Association (NRPA), Illinois Association of Park Districts (IAPD), and Illinois Park and Recreation Association (IPRA). The District holds IAPD Distinguished Agency and Park District Risk Management Agency Accreditations and maintains a Level A Loss Control Program.

The National Recreation and Park Association is a national not-for-profit organization dedicated to advancing park, recreation and conservation efforts that enhance quality of life for all people. Through its network of 20,000 recreation and park professionals and citizens, NRPA encourages the promotion of healthy lifestyles, recreation initiatives, and conservation of natural and cultural resources. For more information, visit www.NRPA.org. For digital access to NRPA's flagship publication, *Parks & Recreation*, visit www.parksandrec-magazine.org.

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