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# WAUKEGAN PARK DISTRICT

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**To: All Media**

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## **Waukegan Park District Sweeps IPRA Awards**

**Waukegan, IL** (January 30, 2012) The Waukegan Park District received top honors from the Illinois Park and Recreation Association in four categories at Friday's award banquet.

**Greg Petry, Executive Director of the Waukegan Park District received the Robert Artz Distinguished Service Award.** According to IPRA, the award recipient's efforts must have had a lasting value and must have created an awareness of the importance of parks and recreation among his/her colleagues and the community in which the person works. Bill Clevenger, from Decatur Park District stated, "... (Petry) is an instrumental member of the IAPD Joint Legislative Committee; his service has been invaluable in the success of the Joint Legislative Breakfasts. He has played a key role in promoting legislative action for the benefit of parks, recreation, and conservation. Officials know him, trust him, and believe him when he advocates for our Illinois Park Districts. Because of his leadership, character, and enthusiasm, his park district has flourished, winning state and national awards for facilities, programs and services. Other park

districts seeking a new executive director have approached him, but his response continues to be: “My work in Waukegan isn’t finished yet.”

**Wayne Motley received the Mike Cassidy Community Service Award** recognizing his contributions during 17 years as a Waukegan Park District Board Member. This annual award is presented to a commissioner whose volunteer service to his or her community emulates the vision and voluntary efforts demonstrated by Mike Cassidy to improve the quality of life for those in his community. Recipients of the Commissioner Community Service Award demonstrate the highest example of community service, personal integrity and ingenuity. There is no doubt that Wayne has committed himself to make Waukegan a great place to live, work and play. In addition to his role on the park board, he has volunteered thousands of hours for a variety of community organizations. As a former soccer player and referee, Wayne’s goal was to establish a community sports complex. He certainly championed that project and after 20 years of persistence, and despite much controversy and resistance, his vision was realized last summer when the Waukegan SportsPark opened. Like Mike Cassidy, for whom the award is named, Wayne also believes in the importance of “doing something good for the community, and contributing something for the future.”

**The Waukegan SportsPark received the Illinois Association of Park and Recreation Outstanding Facility and Park Award** which honors outstanding and unique achievements in the design and developments of parks and recreation facilities. The SportsPark has also been recognized with the Illinois Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects Merit Award and the Lake County Stormwater Management Commission Best Management Practices/Development Project of the Year Award. Gewalt Hamilton was awarded the Special Achievement Award in the 2012 by the American Council of Engineering Companies of Illinois- Engineering Excellence Awards Competition and the Project of the Year Award by the American Public Works Association- Chicago Metro Chapter for its design of the Waukegan Sports Park.

**Roosevelt Park received the Illinois Parks and Recreation Outstanding Conservation Program** for its management and restoration of the Waukegan River and wetlands and the

stabilization of its banks. This top award recognizes outstanding and innovative achievement in environmental conservation projects or programs. Roosevelt's rain garden, its permeable paved parking lot, educational signage, trails, elevated boardwalk through the wetlands, and gathering spaces as well as volunteer activities contributed to the award.

“This has been exceptional year for the Waukegan Park District,” said Patricia Foley, President of the Board of Commissioners noting other top awards won earlier this year, the Cultural Arts Division received the Arts in the Park from the Illinois Association of Park Districts and Arts Alliance Illinois and Susie Schreiber received the Barb King Award for Environmental Stewardship from the National Recreation and Park Association.



### **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.