

# WAUKEGAN PARK DISTRICT

## PRESS RELEASE

### **Mike Trigg Awarded Illinois Parks and Recreation Association Community Impact Award**

**Waukegan, IL (January 26, 2017)** – Mike Trigg was awarded the statewide Illinois Park and Recreation Association (IPRA) 2016 Community Impact Award last week. The award recognizes his leadership and overall impact to the community as well as his many contributions to the parks and recreation profession.

As Superintendent of Parks for the Waukegan Park District, Mike Trigg's efforts have led to regional, state and national recognition for Waukegan Park District (WPD) parks, facilities and sports fields. He is a member of the IPRA Parks and Natural Resources Section and active on the Environmental Subcommittee. As a graduate of the National Recreation and Parks Association Green School, his knowledge and expertise are applied daily. Mike led the WPD's sustainability assessment using the IPRA Environmental Report Card; a Carbon Management and Sustainability Plan was created from this information. The District's Strategic Plan incorporates sustainability as a major theme. His "Green Team" develops, leads and monitors WPD sustainable practices. Mike partners with other agencies to further environmental stewardship in Waukegan including:

- An annual recycling event with the Solid Waste Agency of Lake County collects between 30,000-40,000 pounds of household recyclables.
- Partnering with the City, he obtained and implemented a \$60K Emerald Ash Borer Grant from the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus to replace ash trees on city and parklands.
- His collaboration with the Waukegan Harbor Citizens' Advisory Committee resulted in grants of \$1.5M to restore sensitive habitat in Bowen Park.
- As a Center for Conservation Leadership mentor, he is training a new generation of environmental stewards.
- He just completed a 12 year leadership cycle with the Sports Turf Managers Association, and as the immediate past president, he chaired the nominating committee.
- In 2016, he was recognized with the 10<sup>th</sup> Congressional District of Illinois Leadership Award: Friend of the Environment.

- His ongoing leadership, commitment to excellence and passion for sustainability continue to impact individuals, our community and his profession.



Waukegan Park District President George Bridges congratulated Mike Trigg saying, “Waukegan has outstanding parks and facilities. Their construction, maintenance and upkeep can be directly attributed to Mike’s knowledge, leadership and management skills. We are proud of you and your many accomplishments!”

## About the Waukegan Park District

Established on December 26, 1916, the district has 48 sites and more than 735 acres of land, including the 18-hole Bonnie Brook and 9-hole Greenshire Golf Courses. Properties are managed to the highest environmental and conservation standards. Facilities operated by the district include 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, disc golf course, dog exercise area and agility course, outdoor sports fields, picnic areas, playgrounds, and sports courts including basketball, tennis and pickleball. A full range of programs and services are offered year round for all ages, from infants to seniors as well as special needs populations. Healthy lifestyles, wellness initiatives, and a connection with the outdoors and nature are integrated throughout programs, services, and special events. Cultural events are provided by the Waukegan Symphony Orchestra and Concert Chorus, and the Waukegan History Museum. There is something for everyone! The award-winning District employs 61 full-time and over 230 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 maintains national accreditation from the NRPA Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA), Illinois Association of Park Districts (IAPD) Distinguished Agency accreditation and Park District Risk Management Agency (PDRMA) accreditation and maintains a Level A Loss Control Program. The district was a NRPA Gold Medal Finalist in 2012 and 2013, and awarded the NRPA National Gold Medal Award for Excellence in Park and Recreation Management in 2013.

1/18/17/Comm. Relations

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