

# Park Happenings

## Waukegan Park District – Good Environmental Stewards

A need for creating the Waukegan Park District, well over 100 years ago, arose when citizens began to realize that Waukegan's beautiful and diverse natural areas were being lost and threatened as the city was growing. After the District was formed, the first commissioners acquired lands of great natural beauty to preserve them for future generations to enjoy.

Over the last 100 years, the District has taken great pride in the basic principle of preserving and conserving green spaces. This commitment to the environment can be seen in many ways. Here are a few recent examples:

- In 2013, the District removed 450 ash trees infected with the non-native eastern Asia beetle, the Emerald Ash Borer from our parks. To replace the trees that have

been removed, 285 new trees have been planted throughout our parks and more trees are scheduled to be planted in the future- In 2017, 100 Centennial trees will be planted.

- In 2013, the District, with assistance of a Great Lakes Restoration grant, restored the Glen Flora Ravine in Bowen Park by removing all non-native and invasive plants. This action has helped make this ravine one of the best in the Illinois.
- Roosevelt Park has undergone many changes over the years to make it more environmentally friendly:

- The dam was remodeled to change the water elevation from an open water pond to a vegetative wetland.

- The half sediment basin was converted into a wetland to improve pollutant removal and prevent sediment from moving downstream to Lake Michigan.

- Invasive species were removed.

- To reduce storm runoff in the Waukegan River, the parking lot was lined with permeable pavers and a rain garden was planted.

The Waukegan Park District is proud to be good environmental stewards. We hope that the actions taken in conservation and preservation will help make the parks environmentally stronger for future generations to enjoy.

## Mike Trigg Wins Tenth District Leadership Award

The Waukegan Park District's own Superintendent of Parks Mike Trigg was honored with a Tenth District Leadership Award in the Friend of the Environment category.

Mike led the WPD sustainability assessment using the IPRA Environmental Report Card. His "Green Team" develops, leads, and monitors WPD sustainable practices and partners with other agencies to further environmental stewardship. An annual recycling event with the Solid Waste Agency of Lake County collects between 30,000-40,000 pounds of household recyclables.

Each year, he mentors a high school student for the Center for Conservation and Leadership, an environmental stewardship certificate program. Mike is a recognized leader in his profession having received local, regional and national awards; a number of his projects have been recognized regionally for their beneficial impact on Waukegan's environment. Waukegan Park District President George Bridges stated, "The Park Board of Commissioners and staff are very proud of this recognition; this honor acknowledges Mike's outstanding leadership, service and contributions to the Waukegan Park District and our community."



The leadership awards are about recognizing everyday heroes that make our community an amazing place to live, work and play. They promote the public good and civic service by recognizing leaders in our community. There were more than 200 nominees, and thousands of votes selecting the winners.

The Friend of the Environment Award is given to someone who has worked diligently to keep our air, water and habitat clean for future generations. This individual works to improve our environment and encourages others to join the cause—a perfect fit for Mike Trigg.

## Bowen Park, Re-establishing Habitats for the Monarch Butterfly and More

Several gardens at Bowen Park are scenic sanctuaries that enhance the beauty of Bowen Park and provide habitat for one of our area's imperiled species, the Monarch Butterfly.

- The butterfly garden in the Children's Garden located behind the Jane Addams Center at Bowen Park teaches day campers and families about a butterfly's lifecycle and demonstrates the perfect habitat for Monarch butterflies to thrive.
- Monarch Watch recognizes a garden near the Bowen Park Greenhouse as a certified Monarch Way-Station. The garden was planted in 2014 with the help of Greenwood Elementary School students.
- The Bowen Park restoration project that began in 2015 is one of the most significant projects to support Monarchs. Working closely with landscape architects Hey and Associates, Inc., the Hofflander Wildflower Refuge and surrounding area

has been replanted with native species that help Monarchs and other wildlife thrive.

All of these gardens provide habitat for successive generations of Monarchs and help sustain their migration.

You too can help the Monarch by planting these native plants near your home: Common Milkweed, Butterfly Weed, and Swamp Milkweed. All help nourish Monarch butterflies and caterpillars and help complete the life cycle. Another resource that you can use at home is a rain barrel. It not only enables you to recycle rainwater; it reduces the need to water from the hose, provides cleaner water to your garden and reduces the risk of spraying off eggs laid on leaves.

It is important to also keep in mind that your garden at home can be taken care of without harsh pesticides that in turn kill Monarchs and other insects that help your



garden grow. You can find safer garden fertilizers and pest control products at the local hardware store or use natural methods to add nutrition to your garden and reduce pests by simply researching the internet. Learning about Monarchs and helping to save them can involve the whole family and be fun too. For more information about Monarch conservation efforts, please visit: <http://www.nrpa.org/our-work/Three-Pillars/conservation/parks4monarchs/>

## Green Program Initiatives at the Waukegan Park District

Green Initiatives at the Waukegan Park District The Waukegan Park District reaches out to partner organizations for knowledge, volunteers and funding in order to offer fun and engaging environmental programs for free or at a very affordable rate. Below are the results of these efforts. For Earth's Sake programs have been offered since spring 2009. Volunteers from Chicago Wilderness, the Waukegan Harbor Citizens' Advisory Group, Illinois Audubon, New Allies for Culture and Nature and the Waukegan Park District provide informational and experiential environmental stewardship classes that support the No Child Left Inside Initiative.

The Children's Garden, located behind the Jane Addams Center in Bowen Park, was designed by the park district and constructed by Midwest

Generation employees (now NRG Energy) as a community project in 2011. This garden inspires in children a lifelong love of growing and caring for living things and an appreciation for the environment in a playful and informal setting. The Children's Garden enables families to spend time together and partake in nature related activities.

In 2014, the Park District began to offer free hands on environmental education workshops to Waukegan Elementary School students as an outreach initiative. To date we have met with more than 1,000 students in their classrooms providing this needed education.

Each May, the Waukegan Park District is proud to host the Live Green Family Festival. It offers activities related to outdoor recreation, nature

exploration, and natural science and most importantly, reconnects our urban community with nature. The goal is to instill the love and desire to protect and care for the environment in a fun and engaging way.

Lastly, through the past five years, we have increased our initiatives to offer year round family programs with an environmental and science focus. Most programs are free and are related to creating or discovering something through the use of science or nature exploration. Nearly 2,500 people have taken part in the programs we have offered. The Park District and our partners NRG Energy, North Shore Gas, Lake County Prairie Foundation, and Hey Associates have all contributed to make this possible.

# Park Happenings

## National River Cleanup Day

As we celebrate our Centennial as a Park District, we want to continue our stewardship of the Waukegan River which is the backbone of several of our parks. Join the national effort to clean up river banks and surrounding land by yourself or with a team from your organization, church, school or business.

Meet at Roosevelt Park on Saturday, May 13 from 12:30-3:30pm at 520 S. McAlister Avenue in Waukegan. We will provide refreshments, tools, bags and gloves. Bring a strong back and a smile. Registration is preferred at <https://www.americanrivers.org/river-cleanup/waukegan-river-cleanup-centennial-program/> Hope to see you there!



## WAUKEGAN PARK DISTRICT OUR COMMITMENT TO YOU

### MISSION STATEMENT

The Waukegan Park District is committed to providing parks, facilities and leisure opportunities to our culturally diverse population through leadership with community involvement, dedicated staff and sound management.

### VISION STATEMENT

An innovative park district that creatively adapts to our evolving community and provides exceptional parks, recreation and cultural arts that benefit all.

### VALUES STATEMENT

- **Accountability...** We will work to achieve the most effective and efficient use of our financial resources while striving for the best return on the use of our assets.
- **Excellence...** We will strive for the best in everything we do.
- **Integrity...** We will practice steadfast adherence to a high moral and ethical code, and we will reliably deliver on what we say we are going to do.
- **Service Oriented...** We will focus our efforts on our customers and will operate the District based on the needs of the community.
- **Working Together...** We will work WITH one another.
- **Sustainability...** The Board and staff will use a collaborative and cooperative team based approach that results in the best possible decisions for the long term greater good of the entire community.



9.6.16



## Waukegan Park District Youth Baseball & Girls Softball

### Youth Baseball

Register at the Belvidere Recreation Center only  
 Registration Dates: February 10, 11 24 & 25  
 Hours: FR 6-8pm, SA/SU 12pm-2pm (later times available with prior registration)  
 Games are played on Waukegan Park District fields  
 Fees:

Pinto	Age 6-8	\$120
Mustang	Age 9-10	\$140
Bronco	Age 11-12	\$150
Pony	Age 13-14	\$175
Colt	Age 15-16	\$205

For more information, please call Charles Paddock at 847-366-7654 or [charleswkgdn@yahoo.com](mailto:charleswkgdn@yahoo.com)

[www.waukeganyouthbaseball.com](http://www.waukeganyouthbaseball.com)

### Girls Fast Pitch Softball #20301201

Player Evaluations 5/23/17 @ Belvidere Park

Ages 7-9	5pm	-1A
Ages 10-12	6pm	-1B
Ages 13-16	7pm	-1C

Practices: TU & TH  
 Games: MO-FR  
 Belvidere Park  
 Fees: \$40/\$47

Cut-off age will be determined by player's age as of December 31, 2015. For more information, please call Jerry Banks at 847-782-3627.

# WAUKEGAN PARK DISTRICT

## Job Fairs

Now Hiring: Full Time, Part Time & Seasonal Staff!

**Friday, February 24**  
**10am-1:30pm**

TWO LOCATIONS:

Waukegan High School-Brookside Campus  
2325 Brookside Ave

Waukegan High School-Washington Campus  
1011 Washington St

**Wednesday, March 22**  
**11am-7pm**

The Field House Sports Fitness & Aquatics Center  
800 Baldwin Avenue

Now is the Best Time to Apply for Summer Jobs!

### On-site interviews for:

- Parks Maintenance
- Summer Camps
- Lifeguards
- Swim Instructors
- Front Desk
- Recreation
- Custodial

For more information, contact Mike Mayfield at 847-360-4710 or [mmayfield@waukeganparks.org](mailto:mmayfield@waukeganparks.org)



For golf course or banquet jobs, contact Golf Visions Management, Inc. at <http://www.waukegangolf.org/employment/>  
For lifeguard jobs, contact Jeff Ellis Management at <https://jeffellismanagement.com/jobs/apply-now>

*\*In order to be hired at the Waukegan Park District, individuals must pass a preemployment drug and alcohol screening and a background check. The Waukegan Park District is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate against any individual on the basis of race, sex, creed, religion, marital or parental status, age, sexual orientation, national origin, political affiliation, mental and/or physical handicap or any other characteristics protected by law.*



Apply online at [www.waukeganparks.org/employment](http://www.waukeganparks.org/employment)

# WAUKEGAN PARK DISTRICT



**Hablamos Español**



**Carlos Valentin**  
Lunes-Viernes 8:30am-5pm  
847-360-4789