

WAUKEGAN PARK DISTRICT

PRESS RELEASE

Waukegan Park District's Superintendent of Parks Mike Trigg Retiring after 31 Years

Waukegan, IL (March 16, 2017) – Mike Trigg, Superintendent of Parks has announced he will retire on March 31, 2017. An open house is being planned at the Parks Maintenance Facility, 2221 Ernie Krueger Circle, Waukegan from 2-5pm on Friday, March 31, 2017. The public is invited to join the celebration, congratulate Mike and wish him well.

Mike has worked at the Waukegan Park District for 31 years, and his leadership as Superintendent of Parks has led to regional, state and national recognition for Waukegan Park District. Two premier facilities, the Field House Sports, Fitness and Aquatics Center and the Waukegan SportsPark were built during his tenure. Roosevelt and Bowen Parks have received statewide recognition for the implementation of Best Management Practices for environment and habitat sustainability in the Lake Michigan watershed. His collaboration with the Waukegan Harbor Citizens' Advisory Committee resulted in federal grants of \$1.5M to restore sensitive habitat in Bowen Park.

Mike has been active in professional associations at regional, state, and national levels. He just completed a 12 year leadership cycle with the national Sports Turf Managers Association and, as the immediate past president, chaired the nominating committee.

He has partnered with local organizations to advance sustainability within the community. Working with the Solid Waste Agency of Lake County (SWALCO), the annual community recycling day 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. He serves as a Center for Conservation Leadership mentor, training a new generation of environmental stewards.

In 2010, the Sports Turf Managers Association presented Mike Trigg with its highest recognition, the Dirk Ericson Founders Award. In 2016, he was recognized with the 10th Congressional District of Illinois Leadership Award: Friend of the Environment and the Illinois Parks and Recreation Association statewide Community Impact Award.

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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