

---

# WAUKEGAN PARK DISTRICT

## PRESS RELEASE

### **Waukegan History Museum to Host Waukegan Lakefront History and Nature Tour**

**Waukegan, Illinois (July 19, 2021)** – The Waukegan History Museum and Lake County Audubon Society invite the community to a guided walking tour showcasing the history and nature of the Waukegan Lakefront on Saturday, July 24 at 10am. The tour will begin at the Stiner Pavilion at the Waukegan Municipal Beach, located at 201 E. Sea Horse Drive. The tour is appropriate for families. In case of inclement weather, the tour will be canceled.

Coinciding with the tour, during the month of July, the Waukegan History Companion App will be incorporating the Lake County Audubon Society's Sharing Our Shore - Waukegan Beach Stewardship Program into the monthly Waukegan Quests, a new feature encouraging users to participate in history challenges to earn digital badges and medals. The beach stewardship program allows participants to learn about birds, including birds commonly seen at the Waukegan Municipal Beach. The Sharing Our Shore – Waukegan Beach Stewardship Program's self-guided walk is also featured on the Waukegan History Museum Companion App.

Users will be required to create a profile to participate in the Waukegan Quests. Users can complete the challenges in one day or throughout multiple days during the challenge window. To prove the mastery of the monthly quest, users will receive a digital badge on their profile screen once all the challenges for the month have been completed.

The Waukegan History Museum is operated by the Waukegan Park District and Waukegan Historical Society and is the repository for all of Waukegan's rich history.

In 2020, the Waukegan Park District partnered with the Waukegan Historical Society to share local history through the Waukegan History Museum Companion App found under "Activities" on the Waukegan Park District's mobile app or at [waukeganparks.org/historycompanion](http://waukeganparks.org/historycompanion). The mobile app is free and available on the Apple App Store and Google Play Store.

The Waukegan History Museum Companion App also gives users the opportunity to participate in virtual history exhibits and self-guided history tours of different locations in Waukegan, including parks, statues, and historic landmarks. Users are also able to read short histories and see photographs of individuals and places with important significance in Waukegan's history. The Waukegan History Museum Companion is curated by Bryan Escobar, Arts & History Specialist.

### **About the Waukegan Park District**

Established on December 26, 1916, the district has 50 properties and more than 740 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, Fitness and Aquatics Center, the Jack Benny Center for the Arts, the Waukegan's Greg Petry SportsPark, the Waukegan Skate Park, the Waukegan BMX Track, recreational centers, disc golf course, dog exercise area and agility course, outdoor sports fields, picnic areas, playgrounds, splash pads, 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 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 employs 63 full-time and over 230 part-time, seasonal, and temporary employees and is recognized by the IPRA as an Exceptional Workplace. Accreditation is maintained 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). The District has received Government Finance Officer Association awards for Distinguished Budget Presentation and Certificate for Excellence in Financial Reporting for ten consecutive years. The District was awarded the NRPA National Gold Medal Award for Excellence in Park and Recreation Management in 2013 and named a NRPA Gold Medal Finalist in 2012, 2013, 2019, and 2021.

JP/05/10/2021

### **About the Waukegan Historical Society**

The Society is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit that was established in 1968. For the past 50 years the Society has promoted Waukegan's history through education programs, scholarship, exhibits, and events. The Society operates, in partnership with the Waukegan Park District, the Waukegan History Museum and the Raymond Research Library and Archives. School outreach is a priority of the Society. In the past five years, over 700 free programs on Waukegan's history have been presented in the schools to over 22,000 students. The Society supports student scholarship in history. Over 1,600 high school students from Waukegan and the surrounding communities have utilized the Society's Library and Archives for the Chicago Metro History Fair, with several projects advancing to the National History Day competition. For the past two years, the Society has received awards from the Illinois State Historical Society for its innovative exhibits.

Josue Pasillas, MPA  
Communications Supervisor  
Waukegan Park District  
(847) 360-4789  
jpasillas@waukeganparks.org  
waukeganparks.org