## Park Day Gelebration

From July 5-7 1909, the Waukegan Park Day Association held the Waukegan Park Opening Celebration in today's Bowen Park. Fred Buck, Mayor of the City of Waukegan and member of the Waukegan Park Day Association invited the community to the former site of the "Haines Farm" to help convince people the land should be a park. The idea for the event was to increase funds enough to purchase the land to become a public park.

This three day fair was endorsed by city officials and many local businesses, and opened by booming cannons fired by the gunboat USS Nashville in Waukegan Harbor. While large crowds gathered on the grounds that July and enjoyed themselves, the land did not become a public park at the time because it was determined to be too far from the city.









