

# WAUKEGAN PARK DISTRICT

## PRESS RELEASE

### Waukegan SportsPark's Softball Field Named Field of the Year

**Waukegan, IL (February 12, 2014)** – Representatives of the Waukegan Park District were on hand last month to receive the top award from the Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA) for the 2014 Softball Fields in the Schools and Parks division. Noel Brusius, the Waukegan Park District Sports Turf Manager, submitted the nomination and accepted the award from STMA President David Pinsonneault. “This confirms Noel Brusius’ talent and skills; he is a recognized leader in sports field management and we are fortunate to have him managing all the fields at the SportsPark,” said Terry Duffy, President of the Waukegan Park District Board of Commissioners. The Waukegan SportsPark received this prestigious award for soccer fields in 2012.



The Sports Turf Managers Association is comprised of 2,600 men and women professionals who manage sports fields worldwide. A panel of 11 judges independently scored entries based on playability, appearance of surfaces, utilization of innovative solutions, effective use of budget and implementation of a comprehensive agronomic program.

### **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, outdoor sports fields, picnic areas, playgrounds, and sports courts including basketball and tennis. 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, the Bowen Park Theatre Company, and the Waukegan History Museum. There is something for everyone! The award-winning District employs 59 full-time and over 250 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), the Illinois Association of Park District (IAPD) Distinguished Agency accreditation and the Park District Risk Management Agency (PDRMA) accreditation and sustains 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.

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