

WAUKEGAN PARK DISTRICT

PRESS RELEASE

Waukegan Park District Wins Government Finance Officers Award for Seventh Consecutive Year

Waukegan, IL (March 5, 2018) –The Waukegan Park District received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) for its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for the fiscal year ended April 30, 2017.

“The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by the government and its management,” according to GFOA award letter. The Financial Reporting Achievement Award recognizes Jon Beckmann, Superintendent of Finance & Administration, as the individual responsible for the award-winning Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. It is the seventh consecutive year the Waukegan Park District has been awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting.

Earlier in 2017, the Waukegan Park District Budget was recognized with the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the GFOA. According to George Bridges, President of the Waukegan Park District Board of Commissioners, “This recognition by the GFOA for Park District financial management acknowledges the high level of excellence the Waukegan Park District delivers. Jon and his staff do a great job leading the rigorous budget and

audit processes. These awards validate the District's ongoing efforts and commitment to excellence and transparency. Thank you, Jon Beckmann and the Finance staff for all you do!"

An impartial panel of finance professionals judges the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report to ensure the document meets the program's high standards of financial reporting and in the "spirit of full disclosure" clearly communicates the organization's financial story and motivates potential users and user groups to read the report. The Government Finance Officers Association is a nonprofit professional association serving more than 17,500 government finance professionals with offices in Chicago, IL, and Washington, D.C.

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, Fitness and Aquatics Center, the Jack Benny Center for the Arts, the Waukegan 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, 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.

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