

WAUKEGAN PARK DISTRICT

PRESS RELEASE

Waukegan Park District's Manager of Community Relations Theodora Anderson Recognized by the Illinois Park and Recreation Association with the Statewide Community Impact Award

Waukegan, IL (January 23, 2018) -- Theodora "Teddy" Anderson, Waukegan Park District's Manager of Community Relations, was honored by the Illinois Park and Recreation Association (IPRA) with the statewide Community Impact Award at the Illinois Association of Park Districts/Illinois Park and Recreation Association Soaring to New Heights Conference. The Community Impact Award was awarded to Teddy in recognition of her excellence in promoting parks and recreation in the community.

As the Manager of Community Relations, Teddy's efforts have led to important partnerships between the Waukegan Park District and key community leaders and organizations. Teddy led the Waukegan Park District's Community Engagement Project to enhance community by bringing leaders together from the faith community, not-for-profit organizations, government and institutions, businesses, and media to establish new communication channels, identify needs, and discuss general strategies for action including possible collaborations.

In addition to her role at the Waukegan Park District, Teddy serves as a commissioner on the City of Waukegan's Planning and Zoning Commission, founder and ex officio member of the Waukegan Parks Foundation, member of the Rotary Club of Waukegan, member of the Latino Coalition of Lake county, and co-founder and member of the Waukegan Arts Council, among other organizations.

Waukegan Park District President George Bridges congratulated Teddy Anderson saying, “The Waukegan Park District’s strong community partnerships can be attributed to Teddy’s leadership and commitment to the community. We are proud of Teddy for her outstanding accomplishment!”

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.



Debbie Trueblood, Executive Director of IPRA, Teddy Anderson, and Rita Flecher, Chair of IPRA Board of Directors

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