

WAUKEGAN PARK DISTRICT

PRESS RELEASE

Summer Youth Jobs Program

Waukegan, IL (June 21, 2018) – The Waukegan Park District summer youth program began in 2016 with 14 jobs and has grown to 46 jobs this summer. Twenty six youth ages 14-17 are working in the parks department, maintaining playgrounds and beautifying the parks, thanks to a Lake County Workforce Development Program partnership with the City of Waukegan. They will work at the District from June 18- July 27. Another 20 youth are working in the recreation department, leading summer camp activities and cleaning facilities. They began June 11 and will work through August 3. Marc Jones, President of the Waukegan Park District Board, stated, “I wish to thank our partners, Lake County Workforce Development and the City of Waukegan for enabling us to triple the number of available summer jobs for youth. We understand that the more youth we empower with the ability to work, be productive, and earn an honest wage enhances not only those employees, but the community as a whole. By exposing these young people to the wonderful field of Parks and Recreation, they may feel inspired to pursue careers in the field and return to our District after college as future managers, superintendents or perhaps even an executive director.”

For most of the youth, participation in the summer youth program is a first job. There are not only obvious financial benefits, but also life lessons. These young adults learn good work habits, teamwork, leadership, and most important of all, they are involved in improving their community. Commissioner George Bridges summarized the program saying, “This is a great program initiated by the Park District that focuses on the children of our community. Not only does this give these youth an opportunity to earn money while cultivating a good work ethic, it allows them to work with staffers that are true role models.” All of the jobs are 20 hours per week and the workers are paid minimum wage.

About the Waukegan Park District

Established on December 26, 1916, the district has 50 properties and more than 736 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, 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 62 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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Contact:

Theodora Anderson
Community Relations
Waukegan Park District
(847) 360-4726
tanderson@waukeganparks.org
www.waukeganparks.org