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# WAUKEGAN PARK DISTRICT

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**To:** All Media

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### Live Green Family Festival Attracts Families

**Waukegan, IL (May 2, 2013)** ... The inaugural Live Green Family Festival held on Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup> in Bowen Park attracted more than 1200 attendees. This new Earth Day celebration gave families the opportunity to reconnect with nature, discover, and learn how exciting outdoor recreation can be as well as explore the importance of protecting the Earth. Children had fun decorating a flower pot and then planting a marigold in them, digging around in the Children's Garden and planting seeds, seeing and touching small mammals at the reptile exhibit, creating their own compass, a beeswax candle, and taking part in exciting science experiments. Families also enjoyed spending time together learning about outdoor cooking, how to set up a campsite and venturing into the Bowen Park ravine to learn about its ecosystem. The warm sunny day was a perfect invitation and helped the Waukegan Park District bring 10 million kids to nature and the outdoors as part of the National Recreation and Parks Association and National Wildlife Federation campaign to connect kids with nature. Sponsors that helped make the event a success included Advanced Disposal, Vista Health System, NorStates Bank, Waukegan Harbor Citizens' Advisory Group, Larsen's Florist, and Home Depot. A special thank you goes out to the thirty volunteers that provided their time and skills to make the day a success.



### **About the Waukegan Park District**

Established on December 26, 1916, the district has 47 properties and 720 acres of land, which includes 18-hole Bonnie Brook and 9-hole Greenshire Golf Courses. The District operates 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, 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 and special populations are included. Many special events are offered throughout the year, many are complimentary. Cultural events are provided by the Waukegan Symphony Orchestra and Concert Chorus, the Bowen Park Theatre Company, and the Waukegan History Museum. The award-winning District employs 54 full-time staff 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 Districts' (IAPD) Distinguished Agency accreditation and the Park District Risk Management Agency (PDRMA) accreditation and sustains a Level A Loss Control Program. In 2012, the district was named a Gold Medal Finalist.