

Park Happenings

The Early History of Bonnie Brook Golf Course

The origins of Bonnie Brook Golf Course date back to the early 1920s when Ben Lowenmeyer, a Chicago businessman, had the idea for a real estate development on the northwest side of Waukegan that included a private golf course. The bulk of the land that Lowenmeyer selected for his development was J. Herbert Gould's 240 acre farm. At the time, the Gould's farm was the main milk producer for local dairies including Brummand Dairy. Lowenmeyer chose the land because he felt that nature had been forming an almost perfect topography for a beautiful golf course.

Designing the golf course started in early summer of 1922. Lowenmeyer turned to James Foulis for the layout of the 18-hole course. Foulis, recognized as the first golf professional in the western United States, was also a highly regarded golf course architect. In 1924, a fairway was built as a showcase to potential buyers and investors. More fairways and greens were completed later that year along with the widening and deepening of the creek that flowed through the property.

By 1927, the subdivision surrounding Bonnie Brook Golf Club was being touted and advertised as one of the most desirable places to live in Waukegan and even on the North Shore. The early success of the real estate development stalled at the onset of the Great Depression.

Residents urged the Waukegan Park District Board of Commissioners to purchase the golf club and turn it into Waukegan's first municipal course. The commissioners



were wary about the idea at first, with concerns not only about spending \$160,000 during the Depression, but also about the course's location as it was far away from the city. A petition on the matter was reportedly signed by hundreds of residents and this helped convince the commissioners to acquire the golf course.

In 1931, Bonnie Brook Golf Course was purchased by the Waukegan Park District and it has operated as one of the top public golf courses in the Midwest ever since.

Does Your Child Love a Challenge, the Outdoors, Physical Activity and Having Fun?

The First Tee

The First Tee is a national junior golf program now found in all 50 states and the Waukegan Park District is proud to offer it to Waukegan residents. The program encourages youth to try their hand at the game and while doing so learning key life lessons.

The First Tee is a junior golf program with the mission: To impact the lives of young people by providing educational programs that build character, instill life-enhancing values and promote healthy choices through the game of golf. The program promotes nine positive character traits.

Honesty: the quality or state of being truthful; not deceptive. Golf is unique from other sports in that players regularly call penalties on themselves and report their own score.

Integrity: strict adherence to a standard of value or conduct; personal honesty and independence. Golf is a game of etiquette and composure. Players are responsible for their actions and personal conduct on the golf course even at times when others may not be looking.

Sportsmanship: observing the rules of play and winning or losing with grace. Players must know and abide by the rules of golf and be able to conduct themselves in a kind and respectful manner towards others even in a competitive game.

Respect: to feel or show deferential regard for; esteem. In golf it is important to show respect for oneself, playing partners, fellow competitors, the golf course, and for the honor and traditions of the game.

Confidence: reliance or trust. A feeling of self-assurance. Confidence plays a key role in the level of play that one achieves. Players can increase confidence in their

abilities by being positive and focusing on something they are doing well regardless of the outcome.

Responsibility: accounting for one's actions; dependable. Players are responsible for their actions on the golf course. It is up to them to keep score, repair divots, rake bunkers, repair ball marks on the green, and keep up with the pace of play.

Perseverance: to persist in an idea, purpose or task despite obstacles. To succeed in golf, players must continue through bad breaks and their own mistakes, while learning from past experiences.

Courtesy: considerate behavior toward others; a polite remark or gesture. A round of golf should begin and end with a handshake between fellow competitors. Players also should be still and quiet while others are preparing and performing a shot.

Judgment: the ability to make a decision or form an opinion; a decision reached after consideration. Using good judgment is very important in golf. It comes into play when deciding on strategy, club selection, when to play safe and when to take a chance, the type of shot players consider executing, as well as making healthy choices on and off the golf course.

See page 58 for more information about The First Tee Program.



Citizen Science: Beneficial Bees

Did you know bees are responsible for much of your food, not just honey? Bees are cooperative, social insects that create nests called hives that contain up to 80,000 individual bees. Bees are one of the few animals that communicate with one another about danger and location of food. When bees drink nectar and gather flower pollen, they fertilize plants to provide one third of our food supply. Honey made from nectar is used to feed their young and has been “stolen” by humans and other animals for more than 8,000 years. A pound of clover honey is estimated to be the food reward from 8.7 million flowers according to ecologist Bernd Heinrich in a National Geographic Article, April 2016.

Honeybees were brought to North America from Europe in the 1600s, and now compete with native bees for food; many native bees are close to becoming extinct. All bees face challenges not limited to: pesticides, loss of habitat, genetically modified agricultural and ornamental plants, global warming, disease and the Varroa mite.

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP BEES!

Plant things that bees like

Bees prefer flowers that are blue, purple or yellow. Avoid plants that are “double.” Plants that attract bees are: Clover, Sage, Salvia, Oregano, Lavender, Ironweed, Yarrow, Yellow Hyssop, Alfalfa, Honeywort, Dragonhead, Echinacea, Bee Balm, Buttercup, Goldenrod and English Thyme. Bees also like flowering trees.

Bees need water

Place a shallow dish of water out for bees, ideally with slanted sides to prevent drowning. A clay flowerpot saucer works well.

Provide bee habitat

Native bees, unlike honeybees, make use of many kinds of shelter: abandoned animal burrows, dead trees and branches and underground nest tunnels. Wood nesting bees can be helped by setting out blocks of wood with holes of various sizes. Providing a mound or two of loose earth particularly close to a water source is like opening a rent-free apartment complex for burrowing bees. Hosting a few bee shelters will give you the opportunity to watch your little residents thrive.

Eliminate garden pesticides

Pesticides are bad for humans. They're worse for bees. Investigate organic and natural means of pest control. Moving in the direction of organic gardening and natural lawn care is a healthy choice. Those dandelions provide early spring food and the clover found in many lawns is a delicious source of pollen and nectar throughout the season. Vibrant, chemical-free plants and gardens are a friendly invitation to wild bees.



Let your veggies bolt

If at all possible, allow a few leafy vegetables in your home garden to “bolt,” or go to seed, after harvest. Seeding plants are a bee’s best chance to stock up on food before the colder months. Unlike their wasp and yellow jacket cousins, which die out each winter, real bees slow down and wait for spring. Making sure their larder is stocked will help them snap back once the weather warms.

Support your local beekeepers

Seek out your local beekeepers and buy their honey. There are health benefits to eating local honey, and keeping small beekeepers in business is good for everyone. You're likely to find them selling honey at local farmer's markets and weekend flea markets. Treat yourself to some filtered or comb honey and enjoy one of nature's treasures.

One of the best things you can do is tour a local beekeeper's hives with your kids. Teaching children the interdependence of living creatures is something which will stay with them forever. You'll probably put a smile on some beekeeper's face, too.

<http://www.gpnc.org/honeybee.htm>

<http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2015/05/building-bees/mann-text>

<http://www.rollingstone.com/politics/news/what-is-killing-americas-bees-and-what-does-it-mean-for-us-20150818>

<http://science.time.com/2013/08/09/the-trouble-with-beekeeping-in-the-anthropocene/>

<http://www.mnn.com/earth-matters/wilderness-resources/stories/5-ways-to-help-our-disappearing-bees>

Park Happenings

Benefits of Outdoor Play

Outdoor free play develops physical, emotional, social, and cognitive skills. Waukegan Park District playgrounds are designed to attract children and encourage them to be fit and healthy. Outdoor play provides essential experience and development:

- **Physical**—Children learn reflex and movement control, develop fine and gross motor skills, and increase flexibility and balance.
- **Emotional**—Children build self-confidence and esteem, experiment with emotions, and release emotions by “playing out” their hurts and traumas.
- **Social**—Children learn how to share, play with others and alone, and communicate with peers.
- **Cognitive**—Free play affects a child’s confidence, intelligence and ability to articulate. It also aids in brain and skill development such as judgment, reasoning and creativity.

Finally when children play outdoors they experience a greater connection to nature.

<http://voiceofplay.org/benefits-of-play/>

Play Safe – Have Fun!

Did you know the Waukegan Park District has a person dedicated to coordinate installation, repairs, inspections and preventative maintenance for district playgrounds, equipment and surfacing? To keep up with safety standards, manage capital improvements and ensure the 32 playgrounds are safe and in compliance with regulations, Rafael Ayala completes monthly inspections and maintenance for all District playgrounds. He coordinates a team of vendors and staff who together evaluate the playground assessments, documentation and recommendations to assure the playgrounds are safe. Ayala is a National Recreation and Park Association Certified Playground Safety Inspector (CPSI) and he recently won the 2015 Outstanding Park Employee Award from the Midwest Park Executives Association.

Falls are the most common type of playground injury, accounting for more than 75% of all playground-related injuries. Lack of or improper supervision is associated with almost half of playground-related injuries. Here are some safety tips while at the playground.

- Actively supervise children on playgrounds. It won’t be hard – they’ll probably be calling for you to watch them climb, jump and swing.
- Take your kids to playgrounds with shock-absorbing surfaces such as rubber, synthetic turf, sand, pea gravel, wood chips or mulch. If your child falls, the landing will be more cushioned than on asphalt, concrete, grass or dirt.
- Dress appropriately for the playground. Remove necklaces, purses, scarves or clothing with drawstrings that can get caught on equipment and pose a strangulation hazard. Even helmets can be dangerous on a playground, so save those for bikes.
- Ensure your children are on age appropriate equipment and using it properly. Pay attention to signage in the parks which tells you what age should use the equipment. Toddler and preschool equipment is well marked.

Following these simple guidelines will ensure a wonderful time in the park.



Welcome!

For your play enjoyment, please obey the following rules or you may cause injury to yourself or others. Adult supervision is required for use.

Playground Safety Rules

- The playground equipment in this area is for use by children ages 5–12.
- Inspect play area before starting play. WARNING! Play equipment and surfacing may become hot which can cause severe burns on young children—check surfaces by hand before allowing children to play.
- If you notice any broken equipment or anything that requires immediate attention, please call 847-360-4725.
- No running, pushing or shoving.
- Do not use equipment when wet.
- No bicycle helmet use while on play equipment as it can cause head entrapment and strangulation.
- No clothing with drawstrings, hoods or toggles should be worn while on the play equipment.
- Bare feet may cause injury. Proper footwear is required.
- No bicycles, roller blades or skateboard use in the playground area.
- No pets allowed.

Play safe—have fun! To report safety hazards, call the Parks Department 847-360-4725.



We appreciate your cooperation.

WAUKEGAN PARK DISTRICT
www.waukeganparks.org

WAUKEGAN PARK DISTRICT OUR COMMITMENT TO YOU

MISSION STATEMENT

The Waukegan Park District is committed to providing parks, facilities and leisure opportunities to our culturally diverse population through leadership with community involvement, dedicated staff and sound management.

VISION STATEMENT

An innovative park district that creatively adapts to our evolving community and provides exceptional parks, recreation and cultural arts that benefit all.

VALUE STATEMENT

- **Accountability...** We will work to achieve the most effective and efficient use of our financial resources while striving for the best return on the use of our assets.
- **Excellence...** We will strive for the best in everything we do.
- **Integrity...** We will practice steadfast adherence to a high moral and ethical code, and we will reliably deliver on what we say we are going to do.
- **Service Oriented...** We will focus our efforts on our customers and will operate the District based on the needs of the community.
- **Working Together...** We will work WITH one another.
- **Sustainability...** The Board and staff will use a collaborative and cooperative team based approach that results in the best possible decisions for the long term greater good of the entire community.



The Waukegan Park District is Turning 100 Years Old on December 26, 2016

The Waukegan Park District Board of Commissioners and the Waukegan Parks Foundation invite you to celebrate with them and enjoy a special birthday FIREWORKS SHOW at Belvidere Park at 5pm on December 26, 2016.

We are collecting photos of people in Waukegan Parks over the past 100 years. Your treasured family photo album may contain a special picture that captures what parks have meant to family members and possibly the community. Please forward your photos to Jen Dumas, Waukegan Park District—BRC, 214 S. Lewis Avenue, Waukegan, IL 60085 or jdumas@waukeganparks.org. We promise to care for the photos as if they were our own and return to them to you after making a copy.

Stop by the Centennial Tent at summer and fall events to reminisce and record your special memories of Waukegan parks and activities through the years.



WAUKEGAN PARK DISTRICT



Hablamos Español



Carlos Valentin
Lunes-Viernes 8am-5pm
847-360-4789