

# WAUKEGAN PARK DISTRICT

## PRESS RELEASE

### Waukegan Park District Commemorates Arbor Day

**Waukegan, IL (April 19, 2017)** . . . The Waukegan Park District will observe Arbor Day on Friday, April 28, by planting oak trees at 9:30am in Hinkston Park, 810 North Baldwin Avenue. Seniors who are part of the SilverSneakers™ program and who walk at the Field House Sports, Fitness and Aquatics Center will help with the tree plantings. Red Oak tree seedlings will be given away to those attending. Trees are one of the few renewable resources on the earth. We invite you to join the park district in planting new trees this Arbor Day. The public is encouraged to attend and participate in the 2017 Arbor Day Celebration.

Oak trees have captured the hearts and imagination of human beings for centuries. These trees represent strength and stature, they clean the air and water, reduce air temperature, flooding, and energy usage. Oak trees in parks provide enjoyment, recreational, and educational opportunities for all ages.

Almost 100 years before the idea of Earth Day, J. Sterling Morton suggested a campaign for tree planting. By 1894, his movement for planting trees had spread to every state in the nation. Today, Arbor Day is celebrated in all 50 states and in many other countries. Actual dates for the event differ for each area depending on planting times. Illinois celebrates Arbor Day the last Friday of April each year, the same date as National Arbor Day.

*“Other holidays repose upon the past; Arbor Day proposes for the future.” J. Sterling Morton.*

## **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, an outdoor swimming pool, 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.

3/3/17/Comm. Relations

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