

# WAUKEGAN PARK DISTRICT

## PRESS RELEASE

### **WAUKEGAN PARK DISTRICT CELEBRATES NATIONAL RIVER CLEANUP® DAY Saturday, May 13 from 12:30-3:30pm Roosevelt Park**

**Waukegan, IL (May 11, 2017)** –The Waukegan Park District will celebrate National River Cleanup® Day on Saturday, May 13 from 12:30-3:30 by cleaning up the Waukegan River and its banks between Roosevelt and Washington Parks. Those interested in helping, should meet at the Roosevelt Park Playground, 520 S. McAlister Avenue, for registration. Staff will be available for registration beginning at noon and a short orientation will begin at 12:30pm.

Dress for the weather and wear comfortable clothing with long sleeves, long pants and shoes that will provide support on the steep river/ravine banks. If you have work gloves, please bring them. All volunteers must sign a volunteer agreement form. To speed up the registration process, bring your completed volunteer agreement form to the event. The forms are available online at: [www.waukeganparks.org/volunteers](http://www.waukeganparks.org/volunteers) and will also be available at the event. Please note that parents will need to designate a supervisor age 16 or over for volunteers under the age of 15. For more information about the event, please call Tim at 847-360-4755 or visit: [www.waukeganparks.org/mc-events/national-river-cleanup-day-at-the-waukegan-river](http://www.waukeganparks.org/mc-events/national-river-cleanup-day-at-the-waukegan-river).

The Waukegan River is the backbone of several Waukegan parks and an important community resource. This community stewardship project will focus on the river itself and its banks. Trash and invasive species will be removed to improve habitat and water quality within the Lake Michigan watershed.

National River Cleanup® is a key initiative for American Rivers. Since its inception in 1991, more than 1.3 million volunteers have been engaged, participating in thousands of cleanups across the country. The cleanups covered more than 252,694 miles of waterways and removed more than 25 million pounds of litter and debris. The Waukegan Park District is excited to participate in this national endeavor.

#### **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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