

# WAUKEGAN PARK DISTRICT

## PRESS RELEASE

### **Waukegan Park District Does Not Increase Tax Extension**

**Waukegan, IL (April 14, 2017)** – The Waukegan Park District announces that it will maintain the same level of property tax extension as in the previous tax collection year. Last fall, during the tax levy process, the Board of Commissioners instructed staff not to increase the tax extension of the Park District for property owners. The Board approved a tax levy and bond abatement ordinance that reflects just that. This year's aggregate tax extension will be \$10,402,254 compared to \$10,402,260 in 2016. This slight decrease, due to an abatement and discretionary tax cuts, along with the District's 8.25% increase in Equalized Assessed Evaluation (EAV), caused the aggregate tax rate for the Park District to decrease from 1.11613 to 1.026911.

It was the intent of the Board of Commissioners to provide taxpayers relief this year and it resulted in taxpayers saving approximately \$408,000. George Bridges, Waukegan Park District President stated, "The Waukegan Park District is a fundamental part of this community and always has the best interest of every member as our priority. Having the ability to provide this tax relief to our taxpayers without a reduction in services, staff or programs is another reason why we continue to be an award-winning organization on both the state and national level."

#### **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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