

# WAUKEGAN PARK DISTRICT

## PRESS RELEASE

### **Waukegan Park District Receives \$2.5 Million State of Illinois PARC Grant Check**

**Waukegan, IL (January 4, 2018)** . . . The Waukegan Park District is pleased to announce that it received the \$2.5 million check from the State of Illinois Park and Recreational Facility Construction (PARC) Grant late last month. The awarding of the grant was announced in November 2014 by then Governor Pat Quinn at a ceremony in Waukegan. Even though PARC grants were placed on hold in early 2015, the District continued with construction of the indoor aquatic center at the Field House, 800 N. Baldwin Avenue which opened December 2, 2016.

“We are pleased to receive the \$2.5 million from the State of Illinois and grateful for this program designed to stimulate economic growth in Illinois communities,” stated Waukegan Park District President George Bridges. As a result of the aquatic center, Field House membership continues to grow, the number of participants in the SwimSmart program has quadrupled, North Shore Gas supports free water safety and swim lessons for Waukegan children ages five to six years old, and the Waukegan Parks Foundation is offering all second graders in Waukegan elementary schools a free field trip to the Field House which includes a water safety and swim lesson. The new aquatics center hosts Waukegan High School swim meets and is home to the Waukegan Dolphins swim team.

#### **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, 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.

11/1/17/Comm. Relations

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