

# WAUKEGAN PARK DISTRICT

## PRESS RELEASE

### **Waukegan Park District Wins Award for Budget Preparation**

**Waukegan, IL (October 24, 2018)** – The Waukegan Park District announces that it has received the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Distinguished Budget Preparation Award for its 2018-2019 budget. To receive the award, the District had to satisfy nationally recognized guidelines for effective budget presentation. The guidelines assess how well the District's budget serves as a policy document, financial plan, communication device and operations guide. Budget documents must meet criteria in all four categories. This award reflects the commitment of the commissioners and staff to meet the highest principles of governmental budgeting and represents a significant achievement. The District has received the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for eight consecutive years.

Waukegan Park District President Marc Jones stated, "The Waukegan Park District is exceptional as demonstrated by this award. Commissioners and staff strive to provide outstanding parks, facilities, and recreational opportunities for the community at great value. Thanks to our Superintendent of Finance and Administration Jon Beckmann and his staff, especially April Yarza and Kalina Garcia, for their terrific job in creating an understandable budget, a valuable tool that communicates the plan for the upcoming year. This recognition is well-deserved, congratulations!"

The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada is an international professional organization of more than 18,000 appointed and elected local, state, and provincial-level government officials and finance practitioners. The GFOA's Distinguished Budget Preparation Awards Program is the only national awards program in governmental budgeting.

### **About the Waukegan Park District**

Established on December 26, 1916, the district has 50 properties and more than 737 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's Greg Petry 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 62 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.

10/24/18 Comm. Relations

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