

WAUKEGAN PARK DISTRICT

PRESS RELEASE

Waukegan Park District Recognized with Two Awards by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada

Waukegan, Illinois (February 5, 2020) – The Waukegan Park District is pleased to announce that the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) has recognized the Waukegan Park District with the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting and the Popular Annual Financial Reporting Award.

For eight consecutive years, the Waukegan Park District has received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for preparing a comprehensive annual financial report that evidences the spirit of transparency and full disclosure. Comprehensive annual financial reports are reviewed by selected members of the GFOA professional staff and the GFOA Special Review Committee, which comprises individuals with expertise in public sector financial reporting and includes financial statement preparers, independent auditors, academics, and other finance professionals. The Comprehensive Annual Finance Report is available at waukeganparks.org/cafr.

For the first time ever, the Waukegan Park District was awarded the Popular Annual Finance Report Award for publishing a readily accessible and easily understandable popular annual finance report. In order to be eligible to receive the Popular Annual Finance Report Award, the Waukegan Park District was required to receive the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting. Popular annual financial reports are reviewed by selected members of the GFOA professional staff and by outside reviewers with experience in governmental accounting and financial reporting. The Popular Annual Finance Report is available at waukeganparks.org/annualreport.

GFOA Executive Director Chris Morrill congratulated the Waukegan Park District, “Meeting the high standards required to win both awards is a mark of distinction. With this achievement, Waukegan Park District joins with a small percentage of U.S. park districts that have won both these prestigious awards.”

Waukegan Park District Executive Director Jay Lerner stated, “The Waukegan Park District Board of Commissioners and staff are committed to meeting the highest principles of financial reporting and transparency. It is a great honor to receive these two awards. Superintendent of Finance Jon Beckmann, Superintendent of Community Relations Teddy Anderson, and their staff are to be congratulated for this remarkable achievement.”

Waukegan Park District President Marc Jones stated, “The awards from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada reflect the Waukegan Park District’s outstanding stewardship of financial resources and commitment to transparency. These awards would not be possible without the dedication and commitment to financial excellence of our staff.”

About the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada

Government Finance Officers Association is a major professional association servicing the needs of over 20,000 appointed and elected local, state, and provincial-level government officials and other finance practitioners. It provides top quality publications, training programs, services, and products designed to enhance the skills and performance of those responsible for government finance policy and management. The association is headquartered in Chicago, Illinois, with offices in Washington, D.C. For more information about GFOA and this and other awards programs, please visit GFOA.org.

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, awarded the NRPA National Gold Medal Award for Excellence in Park and Recreation Management in 2013 and named a 2019 Gold Medal Finalist.

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