

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 (April 22, 2020) – 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 nine 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. 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 second year in a row, the Waukegan Park District was awarded the Popular Annual Financial Reporting Award for publishing a readily accessible and easily understandable popular annual financial report. In order to be eligible to receive the Popular Annual Financial Report Award, the Waukegan Park District was required to receive the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting. Reports are reviewed by selected members of the GFOA professional staff and by outside reviewers with experience in governmental accounting and financial reporting. The Waukegan Park District's Popular Annual Financial Report is available to the public online at waukeganparks.org/annualreport.

The GFOA established the Popular Annual Financial Reporting Awards Program in 1991 to encourage and assist state and local governments to extract information from their comprehensive annual financial report to produce high quality popular annual financial reports specifically designed to be readily accessible and easily understandable to the general public and other interested parties without a background in public finance and then to recognize individual governments that are successful in achieving that goal.

Waukegan Park District Executive Director Jay Lerner stated, "The Board of Commissioners and staff are committed to meeting the highest principles of financial reporting and transparency. It is an honor for the Waukegan Park District to receive both awards again. Theodora Anderson, Jon Beckmann, Theodora Anderson, Kalina Garcia, Stacey Jozefiak, Mike Pavelich, Sally Sandine, Alice Swank, Jean Williams, and April Yarza are to be commended for this outstanding accomplishment recognizing their exemplary work."

Waukegan Park District President Marc Jones stated, "The Waukegan Park District is one of only five park districts in the country to receive both awards, reflecting our continued

commitment to transparency with the community we serve. This award would not be possible without the staff's exceptional financial reporting. Our staff are truly the best of the best."

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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