

# WAUKEGAN PARK DISTRICT

## PRESS RELEASE

### **Waukegan Parks Foundation Awarded \$5,000 Target Public Safety Grant**

**Waukegan, Illinois (September 9, 2020)** – The Waukegan Parks Foundation is pleased to announce it has received a \$5,000 Target Public Safety Grant. The funds from the grant will support the Waukegan Park District’s Kids Bike Safety Rodeo held during Touch a Truck/National Night Out, an annual free event co-hosted with the Waukegan Police Department.

The Kids Bike Safety Rodeo promotes bike safety among children, including where to ride a bike and the proper use of a helmet. Once a child successfully completes the Kids Bike Safety Rodeo, they will receive a certificate that allows them to get a free fitted helmet funded through the Target Public Safety Grant. Children and parents will also receive information that will encourage bike, fire, stranger, and social media safety.

Touch a Truck/National Night Out, features activities and more than twenty vehicles, including dump trucks, police vehicles, buses, and more. With over 2,000 attendees annually, the event strengthens relationships between the community, Waukegan Park District, and Waukegan Police Department.

Target Public Safety Grants are managed locally by the Assets Protection Teams at Target stores and distribution centers and are awarded to eligible organizations across the country to support crime prevention programs, community safety, and youth engagement initiatives. For questions regarding the Target Public Safety Grants, contact Target at [corporateresponsibility@target.com](mailto:corporateresponsibility@target.com).

Waukegan Parks Foundation President Nathan Hintz stated, “Thanks to Target, the Waukegan Parks Foundation will be able to support the Waukegan Park District in expanding the Kids Bike Safety Rodeo to reach more children in our community. The funds will allow us to purchase bicycles for use at the event every year and helmets to distribute to local children. We are pleased to be a partner in generating bike safety awareness and encouraging its practice in our neighborhoods!”

#### **Waukegan Parks Foundation**

Through a diverse group of highly dedicated volunteers, the mission of the Waukegan Parks Foundation is to build on the strength and positive perception of the Waukegan Park District by supporting targeted educational, environmental, and health-based programs that stimulate philanthropy in the Waukegan community and further enhance the Waukegan Park District. More information regarding the Waukegan Parks Foundation can be found at [waukeganparks.org/foundation](http://waukeganparks.org/foundation).

## **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, splash pads, 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 63 full-time and over 230 part-time, 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 has received Government Finance Officer Association awards for Distinguished Budget Presentation and Certificate for Excellence in Financial Reporting for eight consecutive years. The district was awarded the NRPA National Gold Medal Award for Excellence in Park and Recreation Management in 2013 and named a NRPA Gold Medal Finalist in 2012, 2013, and 2019.

TJA/5/13/20

Josue Pasillas  
Communications Supervisor  
Waukegan Park District  
(847) 360-4789  
jpasillas@waukeganparks.org  
waukeganparks.org