
WAUKEGAN PARK DISTRICT

PRESS RELEASE

Waukegan Park District and City of Waukegan Hosting Virtual 22nd Annual Waukegan Polar Bear Plunge

Waukegan, Illinois (December 10, 2020) – In its twenty-second year, the Waukegan Polar Bear Plunge will be a unique virtual experience. The Waukegan Park District and the City of Waukegan are partnering to host virtual plunge drawings and a Plunge @ Home Video Contest, in place of the traditional plunge at the Waukegan Municipal Beach. As always, the proceeds from the Waukegan Polar Bear Plunge will benefit the Special Recreation Services of Northern Lake County – Waukegan, helping individuals with disabilities participate in recreation programs.

Individuals can register for the Virtual 22nd Annual Waukegan Polar Bear Plunge at waukeganparks.org/plunge. Individuals who register by ordering a commemorative event shirt for \$20 or hoodie for \$50 will also have the option to participate in the following virtual competitions:

- **Virtual Plunge Drawings**
There will be virtual plunge drawings for prizes from local businesses. Individuals who register by Sunday, January 3 at 5pm will be automatically entered in the virtual plunge drawings. Individuals who register by Sunday, December 13 at 5pm will receive an additional chance to win through an early-bird virtual plunge drawing.
- **Plunge @ Home Video Contest**
Participants can go the extra mile with their own plunge at home video! The plunge at home videos must be recorded at a place of residence and must include at least one of the following: water, ice, snow, or all. All contest rules and a required waiver are available at waukeganparks.org/plunge. A video with all the submissions will be published on Facebook on Friday, January 1 at 10am. Viewers will be asked to vote for their favorite Plunge @ Home video. To participate in the Plunge @ Home Video Contest, videos must be submitted by Sunday, December 27 at 5pm.

Pledges, sponsorships, and donations are additional ways to contribute funds. All details for the 22nd Annual Waukegan Polar Bear Plunge are available at waukeganparks.org/plunge. For more information, contact Kari at krobinson@waukeganparks.org or (847) 360-4763.

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.

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