
WAUKEGAN PARK DISTRICT

PRESS RELEASE

Waukegan History Museum Companion Features Waukegan Women's History

Waukegan, Illinois (March 9, 2021) – The award-winning Waukegan History Museum Companion on the Waukegan Park District's mobile app will highlight stories of the many women who have made an impact on Waukegan's history. Stories will include history about women's suffrage, school leadership, politics, and more. Historical content is compiled from the Waukegan Historical Society's John L. Raymond Research Library at Lilac Cottage in Bowen Park.

The first featured story is about Bowen Country Club, focusing on the work that social reformer Jane Addams and American philanthropist Louise deKoven Bowen did in Waukegan, Illinois to establish and run an extension of Hull House, a settlement house in Chicago, Illinois. In 1911, as the Hull House was continuing to grow in both size and influence, Addams believed that a place in the country was necessary for the women and children of Hull House to go in the summer and on winter weekends. Bowen volunteered to endow a camp in the country and the search began along the North Shore. By 1912, the camp opened and became a vital extension of Hull House in Waukegan until 1963 when the camp moved to Wisconsin. That same year, the property was sold to the Waukegan Park District and became Bowen Park. The property is now listed on the National Park Service's National Register of Historic Places.

Today, Bowen Park, located at 1800 N. Sheridan Road, is situated on over 61 acres of land and includes a beautiful ravine, large playground, fitness path, pavilion, among other amenities.

In 2020, the Waukegan Park District partnered with the Waukegan Historical Society to share local history through the Waukegan History Museum Companion found under "Activities" on the Waukegan Park District's mobile app or at waukeganparks.org/historycompanion. The mobile app is free and available on the Apple App Store and Google Play Store.

About the Waukegan Park District

Established on December 26, 1916, the district has 50 properties and more than 740 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 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 employs 63 full-time and over 230 part-time, seasonal, and temporary employees and is recognized by the IPRA as an Exceptional Workplace. Accreditation is maintained 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). 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/01/27/21

About the Waukegan Historical Society

The Society is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit that was established in 1968. For the past 50 years the Society has promoted Waukegan's history through education programs, scholarship, exhibits, and events. The Society operates, in partnership with the Waukegan Park District, the Waukegan History Museum and the Raymond Research Library and Archives. School outreach is a priority of the Society. In the past five years, over 700 free programs on Waukegan's history have been presented in the schools to over 22,000 students. The Society supports student scholarship in history. Over 1,600 high school students from Waukegan and the surrounding communities have utilized the Society's Library and Archives for the Chicago Metro History Fair, with several projects advancing to the National History Day competition. For the past two years, the Society has received awards from the Illinois State Historical Society for its innovative exhibits.

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