
WAUKEGAN PARK DISTRICT

PRESS RELEASE

Waukegan Park District Opens New Playground at Corrine J. Rose Park

Waukegan, Illinois (April 22, 2021) – The Waukegan Park District officially opened the new playground at Corrine J. Rose Park (formerly Belvidere Park). Located at 412 S. Lewis Avenue, Rose Park was improved with a new three-story playground, featuring accessible amenities and skyscraping towers with fully enclosed skyways providing extreme physical challenges for children while ensuring safety.

The playground, named Extreme Generation (XGEN) and made by Miracle Recreation, incorporates an exhilarating gravity rail and towering pinnacles that are nearly thirty feet high with some of the tallest and longest enclosed slides in the country. The playground is separated into two play areas, one for children from two to five years old and the other for children from five to twelve years old.

During the planning process of the new playground, accessibility was a top priority. The playground includes an Alta Glide Inclusive Glider, a swaying, bouncing wheelchair-accessible glider, and an Inclusive Whirl, a spinner that is built level with the ground, making it easy to board with space for up to two wheelchairs at once.

Jeremiah Johnson, President of the Board of Commissioners, stated, “The play structures incorporated into the new playground at Corrine J. Rose Park give children the opportunity to climb high and test their limits. We’re excited to see local children enjoying the new and improved playground”

Jay Lerner, Executive Director, stated, “The new and exciting playground at Corrine J. Rose Park will be a destination for the community. With a gravity rail, challenging skyways, and accessible features, the innovative play structure will ensure that more children have the chance to feel the exhilaration of moving through space in fun, enriching ways.”

Belvidere Park was renamed in 2018 to honor Corrine J. Rose, the Waukegan Park District’s first female executive director and former commissioner, known locally as the "First Lady of the Parks" for her dedication and contributions to parks in Waukegan.

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.

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