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# WAUKEGAN PARK DISTRICT

## PRESS RELEASE

### **Waukegan Park District Partners with Faith in Place to Distribute Milkweed to the Community, an Effort to Support Monarch Butterfly Populations**

**Waukegan, Illinois (April 20, 2021)** – The Waukegan Park District has partnered with Faith in Place to distribute milkweed to the community at no cost on Saturday, April 24 from 12pm to 2pm at the Urban AgLab at Bowen Greenhouse, located at 1800 N. Sheridan Road in Bowen Park. Milkweed is essential for the survival of monarch butterflies, which have faced a significant decline in migratory habitat over the past twenty years due to shifting land uses.

The Waukegan Park District and Faith in Place are encouraging the community to plant milkweed at their homes to support monarch butterfly populations. Without milkweed, monarch butterflies cannot complete their life cycle nor reproduce, leading to a population decline.

Faith in Place is a nonprofit organization that empowers Illinois people of all faiths to be leaders in caring for the Earth, providing resources to educate, connect, and advocate for healthier communities.

More details, including registration, are available at [waukeganparks.org/migration](http://waukeganparks.org/migration). For more information, contact Maria Contreras at [mcontreras@waukeganparks.org](mailto:mcontreras@waukeganparks.org) or (847) 360-4708.

#### **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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