
WAUKEGAN PARK DISTRICT

PRESS RELEASE

Waukegan Parks Foundation and Waukegan Park District Open Percussion Playground

Waukegan, Illinois (June 24, 2021) – The Waukegan Parks Foundation and the Waukegan Park District officially opened the Percussion Playground at Corrine J. Rose Park. Located at 412 S. Lewis Avenue, the Percussion Playground, made by Percussion Play, features nine outdoor musical instruments, including drums, chimes, marimbas, and xylophones. The instruments were inaugurated with a performance by the Waukegan High School Percussion Ensemble.

The Percussion Playground is the Waukegan Parks Foundation’s first capital project. The Waukegan Parks Foundation desired to support and complement Waukegan’s vibrant and strong musical traditions found in schools, churches, and the Waukegan Park District’s cultural arts programs. The innovative project enables people of all ages to explore music.

According to Play Illinois, musical experiences accelerate child development intellectually, socially, and emotionally as well as enhance overall motor skills, language, and literacy.

North Shore Gas was the lead donor with a contribution of \$30,000 to the special playground, kickstarting the Waukegan Parks Foundation’s capital campaign goal to raise \$89,000. Platinum donors included the Waukegan Parks Foundation, Waukegan Park District and the Henry Pfau Callahan Foundation and Callahan Family. The project was supported by an additional 56 donors, including local families and individuals.

Nathan Hintz, President of the Waukegan Parks Foundation, stated, “The Waukegan Parks Foundation is grateful for the support from numerous community partners and individuals, especially North Shore Gas, who helped make the Percussion Playground a reality. Music in a playground stimulates a child’s curiosity, encouraging them to discover new sounds and rhythms. After years of focusing our efforts on water safety among local students, there is no better location for our capital project than next to the new SplashZone at Corrine J. Rose Park.”

Jacqueline Herrera Giron, President of the Waukegan Park District Board of Commissioners, stated, “The Percussion Playground will make a hands-on musical experience accessible to more families in our community. The Waukegan Park District is thankful for the Waukegan Parks Foundation’s efforts to realize a unique musical play area at Corrine J. Rose Park.”

Jay Lerner, Executive Director of the Waukegan Park District, stated, “The Percussion Playground will be another amenity for families at Corrine J. Rose Park. With this outstanding project, the Waukegan Parks Foundation will truly make an impact in the lives of local children through the outdoor musical instruments.”

About the Waukegan Parks Foundation

The Waukegan Parks Foundation was founded in 2015 as a 501(c)3 corporation. It is a diverse board of highly dedicated volunteers providing support for educational, environmental, and health-based programs that enhance the Waukegan Park District and community. An ongoing Foundation project is the Second Grade Field Trip Program. Field trips are offered to all Waukegan second grade students, from both public and private schools, to the Field House Sports, Fitness & Aquatics Center for a water safety and introduction to swimming experience. More than 3,000 students have been impacted by the program.

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 ten 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, 2019, and 2021.

JP/05/10/2021

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