
WAUKEGAN PARK DISTRICT

PRESS RELEASE

Waukegan Park District Enhancing Park Safety

Waukegan, Illinois (July 9, 2021) – The Waukegan Park District is reinforcing its commitment to providing safe parks for the community using enhanced safety measures. Please note that all parks close at dusk unless there is a registered activity.

For many years, the Waukegan Police Department has provided security evenings and nights after parks are closed. Beginning last month, additional patrols were added using Signal 88 Security, a private company. Another added safety measure is the strategic placement of portable sensors to count vehicles, note entry time, measure vehicle speed, traffic flow, and gather information on those entering parks with roadways after hours. Police Park Patrol and Signal 88 Security provide the Waukegan Park District with daily reports of any unauthorized activities when parks are closed.

Signal 88 Security patrols parks throughout the night following the police patrols. The private security company is contracted for the summer months as the district continues to monitor and evaluate after-hours activity in the parks and implement proactive prevention and safety strategies.

Information gathered from the patrols and sensor equipment will assist in identifying unauthorized use, potential criminal activity and increase the effectiveness of security measures.

Residents are encouraged to call the police if they notice or suspect unauthorized or criminal activities are taking place in any park at any time, day or night. Watchful neighbors are an important element in protecting parks and keeping them safe for the community.

Using these and other additional strategies and enhanced safety measures, the Waukegan Park District remains committed to providing safe parks for the community to enjoy.

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.

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