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# WAUKEGAN PARK DISTRICT

## PRESS RELEASE

### **Waukegan Park District to Host Nature's Classroom Discovery Day**

**Waukegan, Illinois (July 27, 2021)** – The Waukegan Park District invites local families to explore and discover the natural world at the Nature's Classroom Discovery Day on Saturday, July 31, 2021 from 9:30am to 11:30am at Nature's Classroom in Bevier Park, located at 2255 W. Yorkhouse Road. Free hands-on activities will be available for all attendees, including nature crafts and a scavenger hunt. The Kohl Children's Museum Mobile Learning Lab will be on-site with hands-on learning experiences.

A Monarch Rescue Wildflower Seed Mix and pollinator plants will be distributed to attendees (while supplies last). The Waukegan Park District is encouraging the community to plant and grow pollinator plants at their homes to support monarch butterfly populations. Without milkweed, monarch butterflies cannot complete their life cycle or reproduce, leading to a population decline.

A variety of free and low-cost programs for families are offered at the Waukegan Park District's Nature's Classroom. More details are available at [waukeganparks.org/nature](http://waukeganparks.org/nature).

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### **About the Waukegan Park District**

Established on December 26, 1916, the district has 53 properties and more than 742 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, Jack Benny Center for the Arts, Waukegan's Greg Petry SportsPark, Waukegan Skate Park, BMX Track, SplashZone, Percussion Playground, 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. We offer something for everyone!

The District is a member of the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), Illinois Association of Park Districts (IAPD), Illinois Park and Recreation Association (IPRA) and the Park District Risk Management Agency (PDRMA). The District employs 64 full-time and nearly 200 part-time, seasonal, and temporary employees and is recognized by the IPRA as an Exceptional Workplace.

Nationally accredited by the NRPA Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) and State accredited through the IAPD Distinguished Agency Accreditation. The District has received Government Finance Officer Association (GFOA) awards for Distinguished Budget Presentation and Certificate for Excellence in Financial Reporting for ten consecutive years and received the coveted GFOA Triple Crown Award recognizing the District's Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting, Popular Annual Financial Reporting and Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for 2019. The Waukegan Park District was awarded the NRPA National Gold Medal Award for Excellence in Park and Recreation Management in 2013 and named a Gold Medal Finalist in 2012, 2013, 2019, and 2021.

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