
WAUKEGAN PARK DISTRICT

PRESS RELEASE

Waukegan Park District Recognized with Triple Crown for Financial Reporting

Waukegan, Illinois (August 18, 2021) – The Waukegan Park District has been recognized by the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) with the prestigious Triple Crown. The Triple Crown recognizes governments who have received the GFOA's Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting, Popular Annual Financial Reporting Award, and Distinguished Budget Presentation Award.

The Waukegan Park District is one of only three park districts in the United States and Canada to receive the 2019 Triple Crown. The Waukegan Park District published three in-depth financial reports outlining how taxpayer dollars are managed, invested, and spent: the annual budget, popular annual financial report, and annual comprehensive financial report. All three financial reports are available at waukeganparks.org.

Jacqueline Herrera Giron, President of the Waukegan Park District Board of Commissioners, stated, “Receiving the Government Finance Officers Association’s Triple Crown is a reflection of the Waukegan Park District’s exceptional stewardship of financial resources. Thanks to our staff’s commitment to meeting the highest principles of financial reporting and transparency, the Waukegan Park District is honored to be among the best park districts in the country once again.”

Jay Lerner, Executive Director of the Waukegan Park District, stated, “It is an honor for the Waukegan Park District to be just one of three park districts in the United States and Canada to earn the Government Finance Officers Association’s Triple Crown. The Board of Commissioners and our staff are to be congratulated for this outstanding achievement recognizing responsible and transparent fiscal practices.”

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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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