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# WAUKEGAN PARK DISTRICT

## PRESS RELEASE

### **Waukegan Park District to Host Free GO WAUKEGAN Walks**

**Waukegan, Illinois (August 16, 2021)** – The Waukegan Park District will be hosting three GO WAUKEGAN Walks in 2021. Held at two parks and downtown, the walks are free events intended to encourage the community to walk at least thirty minutes every day.

In collaboration with the Lake County Health Department, the Waukegan Park District launched GO WAUKEGAN, a community initiative designed to improve the health and wellness of local residents by enhancing and increasing the shared experience of walking through activities, education, and collaboration.

The GO WAUKEGAN Walks will be held on the following dates:

- Saturday, August 28 from 8pm to 9pm at Bevier Park, 2255 W. Yorkhouse Road
- Saturday, October 23 from 9am to 10am at Hinkston Park, 810 Baldwin Avenue
- Saturday, December 4 from 6pm to 7pm in Downtown Waukegan\*

\*The walk on Saturday, December 4 will be held in conjunction with the City of Waukegan's Tree Lighting Ceremony hosted by Waukegan Main Street.

The first walk of 2021 will be the Glow Walk at Bevier Park. With a glow theme, the event will provide a walk through the park at night with safe activities. The 2019 Glow Walk was awarded the Division II Outstanding Program or Special Event Award at the 2020 Illinois Association of Park Districts/Illinois Park and Recreation Association Soaring to New Heights Conference.

Additional events will be held as part of the GO WAUKEGAN community initiative. These include the 2021 George Bridges 5K Run/Walk on Saturday, September 18 from 9am to 11am at the Field House Sports, Fitness & Aquatics Center and the 2021 Turkey Trot on Saturday, November 13 from 10am to 11am at Waukegan's Greg Petry SportsPark.

Pre-registration is not required to participate in the walks. In case of inclement weather, walks will be postponed until a new date has been determined. More details are available at [waukeganparks.org/gowaukegan](http://waukeganparks.org/gowaukegan).

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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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