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# WAUKEGAN PARK DISTRICT

## PRESS RELEASE

### **Waukegan Parks Foundation to Host Big Splash 2.0 Fundraiser**

**Waukegan, Illinois (August 31, 2021)** – The Waukegan Parks Foundation (WPF) invites the community to the Big Splash 2.0 Fundraiser on Friday, September 10, 2021 from 5:30pm to 8pm at the SplashZone, located in Corrine J. Rose Park at 412 S. Lewis Avenue. The event marks the official kick off for the WPF’s fundraising campaign supporting the Waukegan Park District’s efforts to build a healing garden at Victory Park. The healing garden, which will be just steps away from Vista Medical Center East, will honor local first responders and frontline healthcare workers who continue to serve our community during the pandemic.

The Big Splash 2.0 Fundraiser will feature food, drinks, fun activities, and live music by the Blues Family Robinson. A silent auction will give attendees the opportunity to bid on a variety of donated gifts from local partners, including accommodations for a trip to North Carolina and a gourmet dinner. Tickets are \$60 per person.

Recently, the Foundation and Waukegan Park District officially opened the Percussion Playground at Corrine J. Rose Park. The Percussion Playground features nine outdoor musical instruments, including drums, chimes, marimbas, and xylophones.

Nathan Hintz, Foundation President, stated, “The Waukegan Parks Foundation is grateful for the support from the community. This has been an exciting year of growth for the Foundation, including our successful fundraising campaign to install the Percussion Playground at Corrine J. Rose Park. As an all-volunteer organization, all funds raised at the Big Splash 2.0 Fundraiser will allow us to continue to grow. We are excited to continue supporting our founding program, providing the important life skill of water safety to more than 1,200 local students, and for new opportunities like the healing garden at Victory Park.”

Jacqueline Herrera Giron, President of the Waukegan Park District Board of Commissioners, said, “The Waukegan Park District is thankful for the continuing contributions from the Waukegan Parks Foundation. Their involvement benefits our community immensely.”

Jay Lerner, Executive Director of the Waukegan Park District, stated, “Since its founding, the Waukegan Parks Foundation has worked diligently to raise funds for scholarships, initiatives, and projects that benefit those in our community. The Waukegan Park District is proud to have a strong partnership with this outstanding volunteer organization.”

More details, including tickets, are available at [waukeganparks.org/foundation](http://waukeganparks.org/foundation).

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### **About the Waukegan Parks Foundation**

Through a diverse group of highly dedicated volunteers, build on the strength and positive perception of the Waukegan Park District by supporting targeted educational, environmental, and health-based programs that stimulate philanthropy in the Waukegan community and further enhance the Waukegan Park District.

### **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.

TJA/07/22/2021

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