
WAUKEGAN PARK DISTRICT

PRESS RELEASE

Waukegan Park District Celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month with Special Programs

Waukegan, Illinois (September 15, 2021) – The Waukegan Park District will celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month with several in-person and virtual programs from Wednesday, September 15 to Friday, October 15. The programming will honor Latinxs and their contributions to arts, culture, and local history.

The following special programs will be offered during Hispanic Heritage Month:

- Local Latinx History on the Waukegan History Companion App
- Floral Crown Art Making Video Inspired by Frida Kahlo
- Various Arts, Crafts, and Activities at the Child Care Center in the Field House Sports, Fitness & Aquatics Center
- Learn about the Waukegan Park District En Español with Mano a Mano Family Resource Center on Wednesday, September 15 from 4:30pm to 5:30pm
- God’s Eye Hispanic Craft on Friday, September 24 from 5:30pm to 6:30pm
- Sugar Skull Workshop on Saturday, October 2 from 10am to 12pm
- Ready with Me on Saturday, October 2 from 10:30am to 11:15am
- Sugar Skull Workshop on Saturday, October 9 from 10am to 12pm

According to the National Archives, Hispanic Heritage Month began as "Hispanic Heritage Week" under President Lyndon B. Johnson in 1968 and was then expanded to “Hispanic Heritage Month” by President Ronald Reagan when it was enacted into law in 1988. September 15 is the start of Hispanic Heritage Month because it is the anniversary of independence for multiple Latin American countries including Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. Mexico's independence day is on September 16 and Chile's independence day is on September 18.

More details, including registration, are available at waukeganparks.org/herenciahispana.

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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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