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# WAUKEGAN PARK DISTRICT

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## PRESS RELEASE

### **Waukegan Park District Hosting Food for Paws Holiday Food Drive for Local Animals**

**Waukegan, Illinois (November 19, 2021)** – The Waukegan Park District is giving back to the community with the Food for Paws Holiday Food Drive from Monday, November 22 to Sunday, December 5. The annual collection of pet food and supplies benefits Waukegan Animals Getting Saved (WAGS). Donations will be accepted at the Field House Sports, Fitness & Aquatics Center, located at 800 N. Baldwin Avenue.

WAGS is a local non-profit organization formed to collect donations and supplies for the Waukegan Police Department's Animal Control. The organization's volunteers are passionate about helping the animals of Waukegan. Assistance provided includes basic veterinary care, spay/neutering, adoption assistance, and community education.

Jacqueline Herrera Giron, President of the Waukegan Park District Board of Commissioners, stated, "The Waukegan Park District's community impact extends past exceptional parks, facilities, programs, and events. Today, we ask for compassion for our local pets through the Food for Paws Holiday Food Drive. Every effort counts in our community."

Jay Lerner, Executive Director of the Waukegan Park District, stated, "Our community truly shares the joy during the holiday season. The Waukegan Park District is very grateful for the generosity of those who recognize the importance of helping neighbors with pets in need."

Wayne Walles, Waukegan Chief of Police, stated, "The Waukegan Police Department's Animal Control is thankful for the Waukegan Park District's Food for Paws Holiday Food Drive. The pet food and supplies donated by the community helps families in need keep the pets they love."

The Waukegan Park District is accepting several items, including unopened cans and bags of pet food, food bowls, pet medicine, beds, toys, collars, and leashes. All donations are tax-deductible. More details, including a list of accepted items, are available at [waukeganparks.org/paws](http://waukeganparks.org/paws). For more information, contact Jen Dumas at [jdumas@waukeganparks.org](mailto:jdumas@waukeganparks.org) or (847) 360-4705.

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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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