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# WAUKEGAN PARK DISTRICT

## PRESS RELEASE

### **Waukegan Park District Recognized with Distinguished Budget Presentation Award**

**Waukegan, Illinois (December 15, 2021)** – For the eleventh consecutive fiscal year, the Waukegan Park District has been recognized by the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) with the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award. The award honors the commitment of governing bodies and staff to meeting the highest principles of governmental budgeting.

The GFOA established the Distinguished Budget Presentation Awards Program (Budget Awards Program) in 1984 to encourage and assist state and local governments to prepare budget documents of the very highest quality that reflect both the guidelines established by the National Advisory Council on State and Local Budgeting and the GFOA's best practices on budgeting and then to recognize individual governments that succeed in achieving that goal. There are over 1,700 participants in the Budget Awards Program.

To receive the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award, the Waukegan Park District had to meet nationally recognized guidelines for effective budget presentation. The guidelines are designed to assess how well an entity's budget serves as a policy document, financial plan, operations guide, and communications tool. Budgets must be rated "proficient" in all four categories, and in the fourteen mandatory criteria within those categories, to receive the award. The Waukegan Park District's annual budget is available at [waukeganparks.org/budget](http://waukeganparks.org/budget).

Jacqueline Herrera Giron, President of the Waukegan Park District Board of Commissioners, stated, "It is an honor for the Waukegan Park District to receive the Government Finance Officers Association's Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the eleventh consecutive fiscal year. The honor reflects our commitment to responsible and transparent fiscal practices."

Jay Lerner, Executive Director of the Waukegan Park District, stated, "Receiving the Government Finance Officers Association's Distinguished Budget Presentation Award once again recognizes the Waukegan Park District's exceptional stewardship of financial resources. The Board of Commissioners and staff are to be commended for this outstanding achievement."

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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.

TJA/07/22/2021

## **Government Finance Officers Association**

Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) advances excellence in government finance by providing best practices, professional development, resources and practical research for more than 21,000 members and the communities they serve.

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