
WAUKEGAN PARK DISTRICT

PRESS RELEASE

Waukegan Park District Celebrates Black History Month

Waukegan, Illinois (January 26, 2022) – The Waukegan Park District will celebrate Black History Month with several programs and events throughout the month of February. The special programming will honor African Americans and their contributions to arts, culture, and local history.

The following programs and events will be offered during Black History Month:

- **Waukegan History Museum Pop-Up Exhibit on display from Tuesday, February 1, 2022, to Monday, February 28, 2022 (Free)**
The pop-up exhibit will feature stories of Waukegan’s African American past, including the Underground Railroad, early pioneers and leaders, the segregated community of Frog Island, and the desegregation of Whittier School.
- **Waukegan’s African American Historical Sites Self-Guided Tour on the Waukegan History Museum Companion App available on Monday, February 1, 2022 (Free)**
New for Black History Month, the Waukegan History Museum Companion App will feature a self-guided tour that will take participants to important historic sites that help tell Waukegan’s African American story.
- **Who Am I? on Thursday, February 17, 2022, from 6pm to 7pm (Free)**
Through a variety of interactive puzzles, informational cards, and games, participants learn about historic Black figures who left a lasting impact on the world.
- **Soul Food with Sylvia on Saturday, February 19, 2022, from 10am to 12pm**
Sylvia England, Founder and Executive Director of the African American Museum at the England Manor, will demonstrate the cooking of a traditional soul food dish.
- **Poetry Slam on Friday, February 25, 2022, from 6pm to 7pm (Free)**
Participants will learn about influential Black poets and have the opportunity to read their favorite poem written by a Black poet or themselves.

In addition, the Waukegan History Museum will be offering free outreach programs for local classes and community organizations: “Waukegan and the Underground Railroad” and “Influential African Americans in Waukegan”.

More details about the Waukegan Park District’s special programming during Black History Month, including registration, are available at waukeganparks.org/blackhistorymonth.

###

About the Waukegan Park District

Established on December 26, 1916, the Waukegan Park District (WPD) 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 WPD 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 need 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 WPD 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). They employ 64 full-time and about 235 part-time, seasonal, and temporary employees and are 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 WPD has received Government Finance Officer Association (GFOA) awards for Distinguished Budget Presentation and Certificate for Excellence in Financial Reporting for eleven 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 WPD 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.

SS/01/20/22

Contact:

Josue Pasillas, MPA
Communications Supervisor
Waukegan Park District
(847) 360-4789
jpasillas@waukeganparks.org
waukeganparks.org