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# WAUKEGAN PARK DISTRICT

## PRESS RELEASE

### **Waukegan Park District Accepting Park Use Permit Applications**

**Waukegan, Illinois (March 1, 2022)** – The Waukegan Park District is now accepting park use permit applications for rentable outdoor facilities, including designated green spaces, seven pavilions, one formal garden gazebo, and one bandshell. Park use permits help accommodate groups to avoid overcrowding, resulting in enjoyable experiences in the parks. This year, reservations can be made online, via mail, and in person.

A park use permit is required for:

- any group of 26 or more individuals.
- any group renting a designated green space, pavilion, gazebo, or bandshell.
- events or gatherings with equipment brought into a park.
- publicly advertised events or gatherings.
- events or gatherings that will impact normal public use of a park.

Reservations are granted on an application-review basis and can be made:

- online at [waukeganparks.org/permits](http://waukeganparks.org/permits).
- via mail to the Belvidere Recreation Center and the Jack Benny Center for the Arts.
- in person at the Belvidere Recreation Center and the Jack Benny Center for the Arts.

Additional information, including the park use permit guide and application, is available at [waukeganparks.org/permits](http://waukeganparks.org/permits).

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## **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, 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. Arts and cultural activities are provided by the Jack Benny Center for the Arts, Waukegan Symphony Orchestra and Concert Chorus, and the Waukegan History Museum. We offer something for everyone!

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 WPD employs 64 full-time and about 235 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 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 WPD'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.

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