
WAUKEGAN PARK DISTRICT

PRESS RELEASE

Waukegan Park District Acquires Building for Special Recreation Services

Waukegan, Illinois (April 8, 2022) – The Waukegan Park District has acquired the building at 540 S. McAlister Street. Located adjacent to Roosevelt Park, the building will be repurposed into an accessible facility with expanded programming space for Special Recreation Services of Northern Lake County – Waukegan. The renovation is expected to be completed by early 2023.

Special Recreation Services of Northern Lake County (SRSNLC) is an intergovernmental cooperative entity that provides community recreation to persons with disabilities in the member park districts of Lindenhurst, Waukegan, and Zion. The Waukegan Park District has been a member of SRSNLC since 2000. It is the mission of SRSNLC to educate citizens to become responsible, productive, healthy, and contributing members of our society by preparing them through recreation with a dynamic and caring environment, which excites them and invites them to participate.

Jacqueline Herrera Giron, President of the Waukegan Park District Board of Commissioners, stated, “The new facility is a wonderful opportunity for the Waukegan Park District. Special recreation services are essential for many individuals with special needs in our community. From summer camp programs to fitness programs, the new facility will provide expanded space for special recreation events, programs, and services.”

Jay Lerner, Executive Director of the Waukegan Park District, stated, “The Waukegan Park District is very delighted to make this building the future home for our special recreation services after minor renovations are completed this year. The building being located next to Roosevelt Park and being able to increase our programming space for special recreation services made this an easy decision for the district. We look forward to providing more programs and opportunities with this acquisition.”

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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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