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# WAUKEGAN PARK DISTRICT

## PRESS RELEASE

### **Waukegan Park District to Host 2022 Plant & Flower Days**

**Waukegan, Illinois (May 24, 2022)** – The Waukegan Park District is hosting the 2022 Plant & Flower Days on Friday, May 27, 2022 from 4pm to 6:30pm and Saturday, May 28, 2022 from 11am to 2pm at the Urban AgLab at Bowen Greenhouse, located at 1800 N. Sheridan in Bowen Park. From cucumbers to sunflowers, there will be many plants, vegetables, flowers, and herbs available for individuals to purchase with a donation of \$4 per item. All proceeds will support the operations and programs at the Urban AgLab at Bowen Greenhouse.

All vegetables, flowers, and herbs are grown on-site. New this year, individuals who donate \$50 or more will be entered into a drawing for a chance to win a pre-planted herb garden box, built and designed by members of the Waukegan Park District's Garden Club.

Milkweed will be available. The Waukegan Park District is encouraging the community to plant milkweed at their homes to support monarch butterfly populations. Milkweed is essential for the survival of monarch butterflies, which have faced a significant decline in migratory habitat over the past twenty years due to shifting land use. Without milkweed, monarch butterflies cannot complete their life cycle nor reproduce, leading to a population decline.

More information is available at [waukeganparks.org/greenhouse](http://waukeganparks.org/greenhouse).

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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 66 full-time and 290 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 in 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, 2021 and 2022.

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