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# WAUKEGAN PARK DISTRICT

## PRESS RELEASE

### Waukegan Park District to Host Park Community Days

**Waukegan, Illinois (May 4, 2022)** – The Waukegan Park District will host Park Community Days to give residents an opportunity to beautify their local parks. Volunteers will participate in various park enhancements, including mulching, painting, trash clean up, and more. The goal is to host Park Community Days in every ward of Waukegan, in cooperation with the aldermen.

Park Community Days will be held on the following dates from 9am to 11am:

- Saturday, May 7, 2022 at Bowen Park, 1800 N. Sheridan Road
- Saturday, June 25, 2022 at Country Lane Park, 3353 N. Country Lane
- Saturday, July 9, 2022 at Clearview Park, 1523 N. McAree Road
- Saturday, July 23, 2022 at Arbor Park, 1151 Pleasant Hill Gate
- Saturday, July 23, 2022 at Diversity Park, 4499 W. Hill Avenue

Supplies and water will be provided by the Waukegan Park District. All volunteers are required to submit a completed volunteer agreement form. More information, including the volunteer agreement form, is available at [waukeganparks.org/parkcommunitydays](http://waukeganparks.org/parkcommunitydays).

Jacqueline Herrera Giron, President of the Waukegan Park District Board of Commissioners, stated, “Parks build community and provide options for individuals of all ages to improve their physical and mental health. The Park Community Days will be a great opportunity for neighbors to develop a sense of community responsibility and make a difference locally.”

Jay Lerner, Executive Director of the Waukegan Park District, stated, “The Park Community Days will bring neighbors together to enhance parks in their own neighborhoods. Parks have the power to strengthen communities, so it is important for us to take pride in our local parks. Together, we can beautify the parks that are gathering places for neighbors, families, and social groups.”

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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 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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