
WAUKEGAN PARK DISTRICT

PRESS RELEASE

Waukegan Park District Recognized with Award from the Government Finance Officers Association

Waukegan, Illinois (July 7, 2022) – The Waukegan Park District has been recognized by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) with the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting, the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting. This is the thirteenth year the Waukegan Park District has received this award for preparing an annual comprehensive financial report that evidences the spirit of transparency and full disclosure.

The GFOA established the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting Program in 1945 to encourage and assist state and local governments to go beyond the minimum requirements of generally accepted accounting principles and prepare annual comprehensive financial reports that evidence the spirit of transparency and full disclosure and then to recognize individual governments that succeed in achieving that goal. The goal of the program is not to assess the financial health of participating governments, but rather to ensure that viewers of their financial statements have the information they need to do so.

Reports are reviewed by selected members of the GFOA professional staff and the GFOA Special Review Committee, and is composed of individuals with expertise in public sector financial reporting and includes financial statement preparers, independent auditors, academics, and other finance professionals.

Janet E. Kilkelly, President of the Waukegan Park District Board of Commissioners, stated, “The Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting reflects the Waukegan Park District’s commitment to financial transparency. It is truly an honor to receive this award once again.”

Jay Lerner, Executive Director of the Waukegan Park District, stated, “The staff of the Waukegan Park District are to be commended for this award from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada. This achievement would not be possible without their dedication to meeting the highest principles of financial reporting and transparency.”

The Waukegan Park District’s annual comprehensive financial report is available at waukeganparks.org/financialreport.

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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 the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Triple Crown Award for receiving the GFOA's Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting, Popular Annual Financial Reporting Award, and the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award. The WPD was awarded the NRPA National Gold Medal Award for Excellence in Park and Recreation Management in 2013, and was named a Gold Medal Finalist in 2012, 2013, 2019, 2021 and 2022.

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