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# WAUKEGAN PARK DISTRICT

## PRESS RELEASE

### Waukegan Park District Celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month

**Waukegan, Illinois (September 15, 2022)** – The Waukegan Park District will celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month with several programs and events from Thursday, September 15, 2022 to Saturday, October 15, 2022. The special programming will honor Latinxs and their contributions to arts, culture, and history.

The following programs will be offered during Hispanic Heritage Month:

- **Local Latinx History on the Waukegan History Museum Companion App** available on Thursday, September 15, 2022 (Free)
- **Hispanic Heritage Month Family Swim Night** on Saturday, September 17, 2022 from 4pm to 6pm at the Field House Sports, Fitness & Aquatics Center
- **Parents' Night Out** on Friday, September 23, 2022 from 5:30pm to 9pm at the Field House Sports, Fitness & Aquatics Center
- **Sugar Skull Workshop** on Saturday, October 1, 2022 from 10am to 12pm at the Jack Benny Center for the Arts (Free)
- **Zumba Night: Celebrating Latin Hits** on Wednesday, October 5, 2022 from 6pm to 7pm at the Field House Sports, Fitness & Aquatics Center (Free)
- **Sugar Skull Workshop** on Saturday, October 8, 2022 from 10am to 12pm at the Jack Benny Center for the Arts (Free)
- **Sugar Skull Workshop** on Saturday, October 15, 2022 from 10am to 12pm at the Jack Benny Center for the Arts (Free)

According to the National Archives, Hispanic Heritage Month began as "Hispanic Heritage Week" under President Lyndon B. Johnson in 1968 and expanded to "Hispanic Heritage Month" under President Ronald Reagan when it was enacted into law in 1988. September 15 is the start of Hispanic Heritage Month because it is the independence day for multiple Latin American countries, including Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. Mexico's independence day is on September 16 and Chile's independence day is on September 18.

More information about the Waukegan Park District's special programming during Hispanic Heritage Month is available at [waukeganparks.org/herenciahispana](http://waukeganparks.org/herenciahispana).

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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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