
WAUKEGAN PARK DISTRICT

PRESS RELEASE

Waukegan Park District Hosting 12th Annual Food for Paws Holiday Pet Food Drive

Waukegan, Illinois (November 21, 2022) – The Waukegan Park District is hosting the 12th Annual Food for Paws Holiday Pet Food Drive from Monday, November 21, 2022 to Friday, December 9, 2022. The annual collection of pet food and supplies benefits Waukegan Animals Getting Saved (WAGS). Donations will be accepted at the Field House Sports, Fitness & Aquatics Center, located at 800 N. Baldwin Avenue.

WAGS is a local non-profit organization formed to collect donations and supplies for the Waukegan Police Department's Animal Control. The organization's volunteers are passionate about helping the animals of Waukegan. Assistance provided includes basic veterinary care, spay/neutering, adoption assistance, and community education.

Janet E. Kilkelly, President of the Waukegan Park District Board of Commissioners, said, "The Food for Paws Holiday Pet Food Drive extends the joy of the holiday season for local pets. From treats to blankets to toys, every donation will make a difference in many homes in our community."

Jay Lerner, Executive Director of the Waukegan Park District, noted, "Through the Food for Paws Holiday Pet Food Drive, the community comes together to help neighbors with pets in need. The Waukegan Park District is grateful for the generosity of individuals who support the annual collection."

Chief Keith Zupec of the Waukegan Police Department, stated, "The Waukegan Police Department's Animal Control appreciates the efforts of the Waukegan Park District to collect food and supplies through the Food for Paws Holiday Pet Food Drive. The donations from the community help families in need keep the pets they love."

The Waukegan Park District is accepting several items, including unopened cans and bags of pet food, food bowls, pet medicine, beds, toys, collars, and leashes. All donations are tax-deductible. More information, including a list of accepted items, is available at waukeganparks.org/paws.

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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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