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31 Days of Fun in Waukeee for National Park and Recreation Month Month-long celebration highlights the impact of parks and recreation

Waukeee, Iowa - Green spaces, community events and recreation opportunities play an important role in keeping Waukeee a vibrant, desirable place to live and work. This July, Waukeee Parks and Recreation joins park and recreation professionals across the country to celebrate [National Park and Recreation Month](#).

Growing and Enhancing Community

92 percent of U.S. adults agree it is important for youth and young adults to have access to employment opportunities. Park and recreation departments across the country are among the biggest employers of youth.

“This summer, Waukeee Parks and Recreation has employed [insert number of staff] of youth and young adults in essential positions not only for the community, but as a starting point to grow skills and experiences that will serve them for future career opportunities, said Matt Jermier, Parks and Recreation Director.”

In addition to helping connect people to nature and healthy activity, Waukeee Parks and Recreation are environmental stewards who advocate for and protect our most precious public resources – our land, water, trees and open spaces.

Parks staff incorporate sustainability practices, such as using a recirculation system for the splash pad and irrigating out of retention ponds. In addition, inclusivity and accessibility are focus areas. Triumph Park includes one of the nation’s largest inclusive playgrounds and a Miracle League field, so people of all ages and abilities can play together. Many playgrounds include play equipment to, such as a swing design to hold a parent with an infant or small child, to make play more accessible.

“The mayor and city council continually prioritize parks and recreation as critical to our community,” Jermier said. “We’ve steadily added new neighborhood parks, and it’s exciting to see many years of extending and adding trails creating a connected trail system that enables travel to and from neighboring communities.”

The new Stratford Crossing Park currently under construction will serve the growing neighborhoods in northwest Waukeee and we’re in planning stages for Spring Crest Park. A new trail amenity with bike fix-it station and butterfly garden will soon offer trail users a place to rest along the Heart of the Warrior Trail.

Explore and Celebrate with Waukee Parks and Recreation

Residents and visitors can find 31 ways to enjoy Waukee parks and programming in July in this [downloadable calendar](#). People of all ages and abilities will find something to enjoy.

Community members are invited to explore and share how parks and recreation has benefitted them and positively impacted their quality of life. Follow and use #WhereCommunityGrows on social media to see and share how local park and recreation professionals are improving quality of life in their communities.

Visit Waukee.org/NPRM to learn more about Park and Recreation Month.

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Key stats

- 84 percent of U.S. adults seek high-quality parks and recreation when choosing a place to live.
- 275 million people in the United States visited a local park or recreation facility at least once during the past year.
- Nearly three in four U.S. residents have at least one local park, playground, open space or recreation center within walking distance of their homes
- Nearly three in four people agree equity should be an extremely or very important goal for their local park and recreation agency
- Nine in 10 people agree parks and recreation is an important service provided by their local government.
- Living close to parks and other recreation facilities is consistently related to higher physical activity levels for both adults and youth. Moreover, parks provide a connection to nature, which studies demonstrate relieves stress, strengthens interpersonal relationships and improves mental health. In the United States, [86 percent of adults](#) think it is helpful that they and their families have access to the outdoors and nature during stressful times.
- Local public park and recreation agencies in the United States generated nearly \$218 billion in economic activity and supported almost 1.3 million jobs that boosted labor income by more than \$68 billion from their operations and capital spending in 2019.
- Local park and recreation agencies employed more than 385,000 full-time and part-time employees in 2019, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. That translates to almost \$49 billion of operations spending by the nation's more than 10,000 local park and recreation agencies.
- Four in five U.S. adults say access to a nearby park, playground, open space or recreation center is an important factor in deciding where they want to live.

Resources

- [2022 Engagement with Parks Report](#), National Recreation and Park Association
- [Sustainability in Parks and Recreation Report](#), National Recreation and Park Association
- [The Economic Impact of Local Parks Report](#), National Recreation and Park Association
- [Parks and Recreation: Advancing Community Health and Well-Being](#), National Recreation and Park Association

About Waukee Parks and Recreation

[Waukee Parks & Recreation](#) works so others can play. The department plans and runs a variety of programs and events to provide fun and engaging experiences at affordable costs. They connect the community and enhance quality of life through green spaces and recreational opportunities. The department maintains 18 City parks, 23 miles of trails, Sugar Creek Municipal Golf Course, courts, ball fields and rental facilities.

About National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA)

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) is the leading not-for-profit organization dedicated to building strong, vibrant and resilient communities through the power of parks and recreation. With more than 60,000 members, NRPA advances this mission by investing in and championing the work of park and recreation professionals and advocates – the catalysts for positive change in service of equity, climate-readiness, and overall health and well-being. For more information, visit nrpa.org. For digital access to NRPA's flagship publication, Parks & Recreation, visit parksandrecreation.org.