

## **DEI Corner Blog: Gurnee Park District Celebrates Pride Month**

As we welcome the month of June, we also welcome Pride Month, a time to celebrate, remember, and continue the progress toward equality and acceptance for the LGBTQ+ community. Here at the Gurnee Park District, where the heart of our mission lies in fostering a welcoming environment for all members of our community, we embrace the significance of this month by reflecting on its origins and celebrating its importance.

Pride Month is celebrated every June to honor the 1969 Stonewall Uprising in Manhattan, a turning point for the LGBTQ+ rights movement in the United States. The first Pride march in New York City, known as the Christopher Street Liberation Day March, took place on June 28, 1970, marking a historic moment of activism that has since inspired the global quest for LGBTQ+ rights and recognition (Library of Congress, n.d.).

Since those courageous days of protest, Pride Month has become an international celebration of love, diversity, and acceptance. What started as a fight for rights has grown into both a global movement for equality and an opportunity for individuals to embrace their identities. Across towns, cities, and nations, June now shines with rainbow flags, parades, and events that commemorate the journey of the LGBTQ+ community.

Here at Gurnee Park District, we believe that our parks, programs, and events are enriched by the diversity of our community. Pride Month is a special time to showcase that belief, inviting families and residents of all ages to come together and celebrate the beauty of diversity, the strength of community, and the power of inclusivity.

As we celebrate Pride Month, both the joyous and the challenging aspects of the LGBTQ+ experience are acknowledged. It's a time to honor the progress made, support those who still face struggles, and educate our community on the importance of acceptance and empathy. We stand committed to creating a safe, welcoming space for every individual to be themselves, free from judgment.

To the families, friends, and allies in our community, join us in making this Pride Month a memorable celebration of love, diversity, and unity. Here's to a month filled with joy, acceptance, and a rainbow of possibilities!

Sources: Library of Congress. (n.d.). About | Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Pride Month. [website] Available at: [<https://www.loc.gov/lgbt-pride-month/about/>]