



# Greener Glenview Bulletin

JANUARY 2022

Information, ideas, and events about environmental sustainability

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## VILLAGE OF GLENVIEW WINTER PREPAREDNESS BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Our first article this month relates to a timely seasonal topic: Village of Glenview Winter Preparedness. The Greenest Region Compact, the framework guiding our work, has a goal of protecting and improving water quality by using "sensible salting strategies to decrease chloride contamination." So, learning how the village balances environmental stewardship with resident safety during snowy & icy weather was an appropriate subject of Greener Glenview's inaugural Green Drinks program held on December 6, 2021.

At this meeting, Glenview Public Works staff addressed village practices and ice-melt products used during snowy and icy weather.

In 2019, the Cary Institute for Ecosystem Studies published Road Salt: The Problem, The Solution, and How to Get There. The report describes the impacts of road salt pollution and identifies best management practices to minimize road salt use while keeping roads safe. (continued on p. 2)

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## VILLAGE OF GLENVIEW WINTER PREPAREDNESS BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (CONTINUED FROM P. 1)

Public Works Director Phil Perna and Deputy Director Joe Kenney discussed how village practices conform with that report's recommendations.

- The village's snow plan is reviewed annually, including anti-icing/de-icing material use. The village uses calcium chloride, which has the best melting qualities but isn't the best for the environment. Thus, the goal is to minimize use of rock salt.
- Decisions about when and how to treat the roads are based on technology inputs such as pavement temperature sensors, onsite cameras, and a weather forecasting service.
- Two preventative actions minimize road salt runoff and damage to parkway trees from road salt bounce: 1) Pre-treatment with GEOMELT, a salt brine blended with other materials including corn by-products, and 2) pre-wetting salt before roadway application.
- Parkway trees are selected for salt tolerance and no protective wrapping of trees is necessary. Evergreens are particularly sensitive to road salt and are not planted in village parkways.
- Equipment calibration and variable application rates also reduce the amount of salt used. Different salt strategies are used based on roadway conditions and local forecasts. For example, there are some salt runs during which the Village only salts major intersections or roadway centerlines.
- Proper salt storage and good housekeeping practices in the event of a spill prevent runoff at the Public Works facility where the salt is stored.

According to Joe Kenney, the village has considered all the recommended best practices and follows most of them. In a follow-up email, he specified the practices that aren't followed: the two plow types recommended in the report haven't met the Village's standards for level of service; and, there are no "low salt/no salt" areas identified due to resident expectations regarding snow/ice response and because Glenview is not upstream from a public water supply. Illinois EPA does not require the Village to test the waterways for salt pollution.

In addition to questions about winter preparedness, attendees asked about the education of residents and enforcement of the ban on toxic coal tar sealants, the lead line replacement program, and enforcement of the weed ordinance, particularly where the weeds are invasive.

For information on road salt alternatives and salt application tips for homeowners, see page 11 of the [Road Salt report](#).

## TO BAN...OR NOT TO BAN GAS-POWERED LEAF BLOWERS

Winter just started but we're already thinking about warm weather.

Complaints about the noise from gas-powered leaf blowers (GPLB) rose during the COVID-19 era with more people working (or trying to work) from home.



In December, the Village of Glenview joined a new working group of a dozen neighboring municipalities to discuss whether, and how, to restrict the use of GPLB. Led by Highland Park Village Manager Ghida Neukirch, the group will consider the issue from health, climate, and economic points of view before issuing recommendations by the end of 2022.

Current restrictions on GPLB range from noise ordinances such as Glenview's, which is enforced on a complaint basis, to seasonal bans in place since the 1990s, to complete bans currently being phased in.

A December webinar hosted by Go Green Wilmette featured speakers from the Respiratory Health Association of Chicago, the Illinois Landscape Contractors Association, and six area suburbs that have enacted leaf-blower ordinances. The webinar, attended by nearly 80 Village staff, appointed and elected officials, and key advocates from 26 communities, can be [viewed on YouTube](#).



## JUDY BECK GRANTS

On December 17, Greener Glenview submitted two proposals for a Judy Beck Grant. The proposals are consistent with Greener Glenview's mission to preserve and enhance our natural and built environment.

### **GLENVIEW 2030**

Glenview 2030 is a proposal for a sustainability fair addressing our built environment. The Climate and Equitable Jobs Act 2021 sets a goal of 40% clean power in Illinois by 2030. In addition, the Greenest Region Compact, which the Village signed in November of 2020, provides a framework for transitioning to lower-carbon living. The fair will bring together vendors and exhibits—from electric vehicle demos to energy-efficient architecture—all focusing on practical strategies for adopting renewable energy and cost-saving efficiencies in how we live and work.

### **"COMMUNITY SCIENTISTS" PILOT PRIVATE PROPERTY TREE CENSUS**

The other proposal addresses our natural environment. "Community Scientists" Pilot Private Property Tree Census builds on the 2021 Village and 2020 park district public property tree inventories, where 30% of Glenview's trees are located. Understanding the age, species diversity, and health of our tree canopy is important for natural resources & climate change mitigation planning. This pilot program would create and train a 'community science' corps to begin collecting data on the 70% of trees on private property. The data would be shared with the Village and incorporated into the Morton Arboretum's Chicago Region Trees Initiative database.

This is the second year of the grant program, funded by the family of the late long-serving Glenview Park District Commissioner. Announcement of the grant awards will occur in early February.



## LOCAL UPDATES

### VILLAGE RENAMES NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

Glenview's Natural Resources Commission has been renamed the Environment and Natural Resources Commission (ENRC). The renamed commission's jurisdiction and authority remain the same: Investigate and recommend actions to the village board that will "...preserve, conserve, enhance, and protect the environment, natural resources, and environmental values of the Village including the quality of land, air, and water and the interrelationships that exist among and between them and all living things within the limits of the Village."

The ENRC is the most appropriate body to recommend policies and practices regarding the implementation of many Greenest Region Compact goals.

Notably, only the name is changing-- no language has been added to expand the role of the commission in addressing sustainability issues such as energy or green building standards.

[Read the Village Staff Recommendation.](#)



### RECYCLE YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE

Want to recycle your Christmas tree and lights? The Public Works Department has a collection box for lights at its Shermer Rd. location. Lights can be recycled until February 22. Through January 31, Christmas trees can be dropped off at various locations throughout the village.

[For more information](#)

### VILLAGE BOARD ADOPTS 2022 BUDGET

On December 7, the Village Board of Trustees adopted the 2022 budget. The budget includes \$2.4 million for inventorying and replacing lead service lines that are part of Glenview's drinking water distribution system. A cost-sharing program between the village and homeowners for replacing lead service lines on private property is part of that \$2.4 million initiative. This issue was the subject of a November 20 post on our website.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### All About Energy

Tuesday, January 11, 1:00–3:00 p.m.

Sponsor: Go Green Illinois

Online: [Register here](#)

Topic: Energy efficiency, renewable energy, CEJA (Climate and Equitable Jobs Act) implementation.

### Bringing Nature into Your Landscape

Tuesday, January 11, 10:00–11:00 a.m.

Sponsor: Northbrook Garden Club

Presenter: David Eubanks

Online: To register, email the Northbrook Garden Club to register and receive the link ([nbkgardencub@gmail.com](mailto:nbkgardencub@gmail.com)). Please include your name, zipcode, and how you heard about the program.

David Eubanks has worked as a distinguished environmentalist and landscape designer in the Chicago area for 30 years. His projects range from butterfly gardens to rain gardens to native shorelines & prairies. Learn ways to choose native plants that will make a difference while adding beauty to your landscape.

### Native Plants for Shade Gardens

Tuesday, January 11, 7:00–8:00 p.m.

Sponsor: Glenview Gardeners

Presenter: Peggy Simonsen, Chicago Living Corridors

Location: Glenview Public Library Multipurpose Room

Most of us have some shade in our yards, but many people are completely uninspired with what they plant there. Peggy Simonsen will introduce many beautiful native plants for shade in all seasons, emphasizing the value of locally native plants for our weather, birds, pollinators, and the environment. She will encourage you to replace turf grass (that doesn't do well in shade anyway) and expand beyond hostas and lily of the valley with dozens of beautiful alternatives. Peggy is on the Board of Directors of Citizens for Conservation and Chair of their Community Education Committee. She has a wooded acre yard with more than 200 species of native plants.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Climate Change and the North Shore

Wednesday, January 12, 1:00–2:00 p.m.

Online: [Register here](#)

Dr. Don Wuebbels, international climate scientist and University of Illinois professor emeritus, will discuss the U.N. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change 2021 Report and its implications for the North Shore. Dr. Wuebbels led a 2019 assessment of climate change on the Great Lakes and co-led a 2021 special assessment of the impacts of climate change on the state of Illinois. He was a coordinating lead author for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) that shared in the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize.

### Friends of the Forest Preserve Stewardship Volunteer Work Days: January 2022

9:00 a.m.–Noon.

Advance registration is required.

- Saturday, January 8: [Kent Fuller Air Station Prairie](#)
- Saturday, January 15: Harms Flatwoods (Woods Drive & Golf Road, across from the Holocaust Museum, Skokie)
- Saturday, January 15 and 29: Watersmeet Prairie Grove (Winnetka Rd., 3/4 mi. east of Wagner Rd.)
- Sunday, January 16: Harms Woods East (South Harms Woods parking lot (Groves 1 & 2), on the west side of Harms Road, first lot north of Golf Road)
- Saturday, January 22: Glenview Woods (small parking lot on the west side of Harms Road, just south of Glenview Road.)
- Sunday, January 30: Blue Star Woods, Glenview (on Lake Ave. between Wagner and Harms Rds.)

### Environment and Natural Resources Commission Meeting

Monday, January 24, 7:00 p.m @ Village Hall

### Greener Glenview Organizational Meeting

Thursday, February 10 @ 7:00 p.m. Location TBA