



# Greener Glenview Bulletin

## JANUARY 2026

Greener Glenview was busy and productive in 2025. Here are some numbers to show our accomplishments in three areas: Education, Collaboration & Action, and Advocacy!

### Greener Glenview 2025 • A Year in Numbers

#### EDUCATION



**350+**  
attendees at  
Greener Glenview  
programs\*



**100+**  
native Garden  
Walk visitors



**500+**  
bulletin subscribers;  
11 issues



**3,400**  
website visitors with  
8,200 pageviews

#### ADVOCACY



**225**  
signed petition for  
limits on gas-powered  
leaf blowers



**\$10,000**  
village budget for 2026  
Food Scraps Drop-off  
Program



**Numerous**  
GG remarks to ENRC  
and Village Board

#### COLLABORATION & ACTION



**\$3250**  
Judy Beck grants  
awarded for GG work



**150**  
families donated  
items for SportSwap



**324**  
people shopped at  
SportSwap (SS)



**\$1,205**  
SS proceeds; 50%  
donated to Glenview  
Park District Foundation



**225+**  
households registered  
for Food Scraps Program



**18,495**  
pounds of food waste  
diverted from landfills



**6**  
partners: GV Public  
Library, Park District,  
Public Works, Gardeners,  
Chamber of Commerce,  
SWANCC

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## Happy 2026!

Is it your New Year's resolution to become more involved in the community? To be active in making Glenview more sustainable? Greener Glenview is looking for more residents who want to help lead the way. Please send us an email to let us know of your interest! We welcome your involvement and input.

And. . .YES! **The community food scrap drop-off program will continue through 2026.** See article below.



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## Draft Sustainability Plan Available for Comment

The first draft of Glenview's sustainability plan was presented to the Environment and Natural Resources Commission December 15 by the consultant Blue Strike Environmental. Based on the feedback provided by the commissioners and the public, a revised plan will once again be up for discussion at the February ENRC meeting.

### Plan Summary

The Plan addresses actions in four focus areas:

1. Buildings & Energy
2. Transportation & Mobility
3. Resource Conservation
4. Green Community

Specific actions are proposed to occur within timeframes that are Near Term (2026-2027), Mid Term (2028-2034), or Long Term (2035-2040).

In lieu of setting implementation priorities in each of the four categories, the plan identifies Prioritization Criteria (p. 56) based on 1) affordability, 2) greenhouse gas reduction potential, 3) community support, 4) staff capacity, 5) benefits to natural habitats. Primary responsibility for implementation would either come from the village or the (inadequately defined) “community”.

Many of the recommendations relate to actions the Village can take to make its own operations more sustainable. For example, several recommendations address how the village can reduce its greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. As the Plan shows, Village operations are a miniscule contributor to Glenview’s total GHG emissions. Yet this plan does not address what the village government could do to reduce GHG emissions more broadly in the community.

### **ENRC Commission Reaction to the Plan**

At the December 15 ENRC meeting, the commissioners and members of the public presented very specific comments on the plan. All agreed that the design of the plan is artistic and beautiful. However, **commissioners and the public both pointed out what was missing: specific goals to be achieved, responsibility for leadership, timeframe, and budget.**

Among the commissioners’ comments:

- How will goal setting be accomplished?
- Will the community be surveyed regarding prioritization?
- Impact on the quality of life should be considered when setting priorities.
- How have other communities ensured that there is annual progress on recommendations?
- Purchase of the most energy efficient vehicles should not be reliant on the availability of Federal funds.
- How do these goals compare with the Greenest Region Compact?

- Where are the “community” volunteers going to come from?
- Timeline for implementation of many action is too far out.
- Funding of sustainability initiatives should come from the Village -- not be grant-dependent.

### **Greener Glenview: Three Concerns about Plan**

We concur with the commissioners observations and offer these thoughts about our major concerns:

#### **Concern #1**

The plan continues to assume that the “community” will initiate or lead a significant number of actions, while the village supports community actions ‘as appropriate’. “Community” strategies, on the other hand, are said to depend on the decisions and participation of local partners including residents, businesses, organizations, and other governmental agencies.

Here are few examples of actions that would be “community” initiated: ▪

- Clearly identify and promote EV charging stations with wayfinding and informational signage
- Create information for the public regarding differences in EVs vs ICEs in terms of cost, lifecycle emissions, and necessary operational maintenance
- Coordinate with School Districts to support recycling and compost opportunities at all facilities

It is unclear what “community” they’re talking about. Not only is this reliance on “community” unrealistic, it relieves the village of the responsibility to initiate action on its own. The village has the financial and personnel resources to address these tasks, all of which fall within the scope of what a municipality is responsible for and should be expected to do.

#### **Concern #2**

The plan relies on federal grants to fund the action items. This issue of funding was initially addressed in August when the consultant presented the initial draft of sustainability *recommendations* to the ENRC. At that time, the commissioners were very clear that implementation of the plan should be based on village funding specified in the annual budget, and NOT be reliant on federal grants.

**Yet, the draft plan continues to rely on grants as the primary funding source.** The commissioners and a member of the public familiar with USEPA grants reiterated the tenuous nature of any USEPA grant funding under the current federal administration. The commissioners restated their position that

sustainability initiatives should be funded from Village funds [Note: Such funding is available through the Corporate Fund, Capital Projects Fund and the Permanent Fund.]

### **Concern #3**

Why is it necessary to wait 10 years to complete even some simple measures?

### **Bottom Line**

The Plan document is expertly designed and includes recommendations in four categories. However, a beautiful appearance is no substitute for being intentional and workable. This draft plan checks off the box that Glenview, like our surrounding North Shore communities, finally has a sustainability plan. But it is far from providing a path toward meaningful action. The village's new part-time sustainability consultant will be more effective if the plan sets forth clear goals, with timelines and suggested budget for achieving them.

According to the current draft, the part-time coordinator's role may well be to spend time writing grant applications. Given the current reliance on grant funding, implementation of the Plan will NOT be related to any genuine prioritization. In this proposed funding scheme, implementation is more like a lottery. If the Village receives a grant, action will be taken. If a grant proposal is not funded, then action won't occur.

### **Feedback from the public**

**IIt is important that the ENRC and village staff receive comments from the public.** If you've been meaning to weigh in, now's the time. After the ENRC gives its approval (advisory in nature), it will be sent to the New Development Commission (NDC). Once approved there, it will go to the Board of Trustees for final adoption. This may take another 4-5 months.

Attend the next ENRC meeting. Email Doug Hammel, Deputy Director of Community Development at [dhammel@glenview.il.us](mailto:dhammel@glenview.il.us). **Your voice matters. Your silence also sends a message.**

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## Proper Battery Disposal Now Required by Law in Illinois

### Excerpt From the Village's Friday, January 9 E-news:

Beginning Jan. 1, Illinois law requires battery manufacturers to fund and manage the collection, transportation and recycling of most batteries. The law applies to **lithium-ion batteries** found in laptops, power tools, cell phones, and bigger items like e-bikes and drones, as well as common **AAA, AA, C, D and 9-volt batteries, and button or coin batteries** found in things like TV remote controls, wall clocks, watches, toys and flashlights.

Residents should avoid throwing batteries into their garbage and recycling bins, and instead drop them off at [nearby dropoff sites](#). The Home Depot (2850 Patriot) and Staple's (1509 Waukegan) are both designated drop-off locations in Glenview.

The [Recycle Coach](#) has already been updated to reflect this information, and the [Solid Waste Agency of Cook County](#) has additional guidance and resources related to batteries. See (and sign up for) [SWANCC's latest monthly newsletter](#):

### Additional information

If you attended Greener Glenview's Fall program on Recycling Fact and Fiction, you learned that frequent fires sparked by lithium batteries occur at recycling facilities. Improper disposal of batteries is an occupational and environmental hazard.

Under the 2024 state law called Portable and Medium-Format Battery Stewardship Act (P.A. 103-1033), battery producers must fund and manage the collection, transportation and recycling of certain batteries. Effective January 1, 2026, it is illegal for consumers to throw them in the garbage and recycling bins. In addition to Home Depot and Staples, batteries can be dropped off at Lowe's in Northbrook.

Which batteries are covered and which are exempt can be found in Section 10 ("Definitions") of the law [here](#). A recent Chicago Tribune article [summarizes the law](#).



## Recycling and Composting Updates

### Recycling

Dispose of **unwanted holiday lights** in an environmentally responsible way. Residents can drop off holiday lights for recycling at the **Public Works Service Center** at the northeast corner of East Lake Avenue and Shermer Road, **through Jan. 30**. A marked receptacle is outside the center at curbside for collection. All string lighting and extension cords are acceptable for recycling. Garland, live greens, wreaths, and other non-recyclables are not accepted in the bins for lights.

### Give the tree a green goodbye

You don't have to throw your real Christmas tree in the trash. The tree is biodegradable, which means it can be easily reused or recycled for mulch. **Trees can be dropped off until January 31** at these designated collection points:

- Glenview Public Works, 2498 East Lake Avenue
- Johns Park, 2101 Central Road
- Flick Park, 3600 Glenview Road
- Cunliff Park, 540 & Echo Lane
- Cole Park, 1031 Kenilworth Avenue
- Willow Park, 2600 Greenwood Avenue
- Gallery Park, 2001 Patriot Boulevard

Alternatively, **residents in single family homes, duplexes and multifamily properties that have opted into the Village's refuse and recycling program can put trees, wreaths and garlands out with the regular garbage during the month of January**. Groot will collect them at no additional charge. All

ornaments, lights and tinsel should be removed from trees. Do NOT cover the tree with a plastic disposal bag.

Multifamily dwellings that are not part of the Village's waste contract should refer to their management companies for the appropriate method of disposal.

### Composting

Effective February 1, Greener Glenview's community food scrap drop-off program will be managed by the Village of Glenview. The bins will remain at the same locations: Public Works and the library (by the Kiss & Ride turnaround). **REMINDER—If you participated in this program, [please respond to Greener Glenview's survey about your experience](#).** Your feedback will be helpful to the village as well as the Illinois Food Scrap and Composting Coalition. A summary will be presented in our February 2026 bulletin.

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### Reminder: Items you can recycle at Village Hall

Here are the items you can recycle at Village Hall, Monday-Friday from 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

- Light bulbs: CFLs and Fluorescent tubes only. Halogen bulbs and incandescent bulbs are NOT accepted. Incandescent bulbs can be thrown in the garbage.
  - Old shoes
  - Ink cartridges
  - U.S. Flags
  - Toiletries for USO
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## Want to Try Out Induction Cooking?

You can now check out a single-burner induction cooktop from the Glenview Public Library's *Library of Things*. If you are thinking about changing from a gas stove to an induction stove, here's your chance to take a test drive! Induction cooking is quicker, more efficient and less costly than electric, and better for indoor air quality than gas. Learn more about induction stoves here:

[Consumer Reports on induction stoves](#).

[Electrify Now](#) webinar on induction

cooking <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=weYIJ0oK6VU>

### **More about the GPL's *Library of Things*.**

The Glenview Public Library's Library of Things is a selection of nontraditional items developed in support of the library's mission to enrich, educate, and inspire Glenview's diverse community. Started in 2017, the collection has grown to 69 items, including digital items ranging from a thermal camera and vehicle code reader, to a sewing machine and a ring-toss game for when the grandkids come to visit.

Need an item short-term, or just want to try something out? The Library of Things might have it, free for checking out with your Glenview Public Library card.

While the collection cannot be comprehensive, community suggestions are welcome. Suggested purchases are reviewed based on factors such as anticipated use, cost, durability, maintenance and storage needs and cleanability/suitability for shared use. The "things" in the collection are perfect for a try-out before you purchase, or things you'll use short-term.



## Reducing Pollution in Our Communities

**WHEN:** Tuesday, January 13 @ 1 to 3 PM

**WHERE:** Virtual

**SPONSOR:** Go Green Illinois

At this meeting, we will learn more about pollutants in our communities and what local groups can do about them. Speakers will include: Water Pollution--Cam Davis, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District; Air Pollution--Kelly Nichols, American Heart Association; and Pesticides--Mark Clifton, North Shore Mosquito Abatement District.

Click [here](#) to register and receive the zoom link for the meeting.

Go Green Illinois meets bi-monthly to discuss topics such as climate education in our schools, tackling overconsumption, plastics, and much more. Video recordings of past meetings are available [here](#).

## Proven Plants for Small-Scale Native Gardens

**WHEN:** Thursday, January 15 @ Noon to 1 PM

**WHERE:** Virtual

Held in partnership with [The Pizzo Group](#), this Conservation@Home webinar highlights effective native plants for landscape design by looking at the ecosystems where they naturally thrive. By focusing on each species' "happy place" — its ideal soil, moisture, light, and plant community — you'll learn how matching plants to their native habitats boosts resilience and long-term success.

[REGISTER](#)

## Intergenerational Care for Land and Community

**WHEN:** Wednesday, January 21 @ 6 to 7 PM

**WHERE:** You Tube Live (link provided with registration)

In this Wild Ones free national webinar, [Robin Wall Kimmerer](#), author, botanist, and founder of Plant Baby Plant, joins youth leader and Nurture Natives founder [Esther Bonney](#) for an intergenerational conversation about belonging, reciprocity, and native plant action. Together, they will explore questions such as: How do we create opportunities for young people to have a voice and feel empowered, even when they are not homeowners or decision makers? What kinds of relationships and mentorships help people stay engaged in native plant work over decades? Why do stories, shared practices, and community invitations matter just as much as plant lists? Robin and Esther will reflect on what invites people into this work, what keeps them here, and what elders and youth have to teach each other.

[Click here to register](#). This webinar will be recorded and shared with registrants after the webinar premiere.

## Restoration Work Day at the Kent Fuller Air Station Prairie/Tyner Center

**WHEN:** Saturday, January 24 @ 9:00 to 11:00 AM

**WHERE:** Kent Fuller Air Station Prairie

**SPONSOR:** Glenview Park District

Assist in the restoration efforts at Kent Fuller Air Station Prairie by helping with a variety of restoration activities such as removing non-native invasive plants or collecting seed. Bring work gloves if you have them. For families and individuals ages 8+. Volunteers under 15 must participate with an adult. Volunteers under 18 must have a waiver signed by a parent or guardian. To receive an application/waiver in advance please contact [grove.volunteers@glenviewparks.org](mailto:grove.volunteers@glenviewparks.org).

## North Branch Restoration Workdays

All workdays are 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

[To register for any of these workdays](#)

### **Watersmeet Prairie Grove**

**WHEN:** Saturday, January 17 @ 9:00 AM to Noon

**WHERE:** This site is located in the village of Northfield on Winnetka Road, east of Wagner Rd. Park on Avon Avenue. Meet near the Forest Preserve sign, across the road from Avon. For more information contact John Berg at (815) 919-4916 and Eileen Sutter (773) 706-4533 or [Watersmeet](#).

**Harms Woods**

**WHEN:** Saturday, January 24 @ 9:00 AM to Noon

**WHERE:** Meet at the forest preserve Glenview Woods parking lot on the west side of Harms Road, just south of Glenview Road. For more information or to volunteer contact:

[Jane and John Balaban](#)

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