



# Greener Glenview Bulletin

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February 2023

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Happy Valentine's Day!



## Save The Date!

Our next Greener Glenview meeting is March 6 @ 7 PM in the next Greener Glenview meeting -- Glenview Public Library Community Room East. Please join us as we need input and your help on several upcoming projects!

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## Great News!

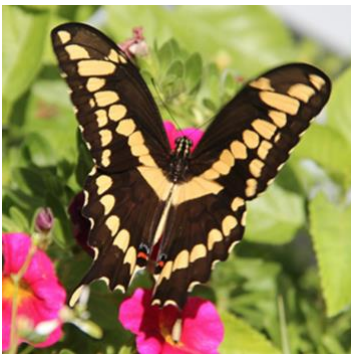
January was a terrific month for Greener Glenview!

On January 17, we received a Village of Glenview Environmental Sustainability Award in the category of education and outreach.

On January 20, we learned that both of our Judy Beck grant proposals would be funded.

Come to the March 6 meeting to learn the details of these projects and how you can help implement them.

## Grant #1: Native Habitat Glenview



The purpose of Natural Habitat Glenview (NHG) is to help Glenview become healthier, greener, and more wildlife friendly. Through education and collaboration, NHG will work to get individual properties--residential, business- or civic-owned--certified by the [National Wildlife Federation](#) (NWF) as a place for wildlife to access food, water, shelter, and a place to raise young.

Scientists have documented dramatic reductions in songbirds and insect life crucial to the pollination of crops. Every habitat garden helps replenish resources for wildlife such as bees, butterflies, birds, and amphibians—both locally and along migratory corridors.

We need our members to get involved! Greener Glenview is looking for volunteers to become ambassadors to certify their own yards and to help spread the word about the project in their neighborhoods. [Contact us](#) if interested! More details to come at the March 6 meeting.

## **Grant #2: Hidden in Plain Sight: How Noise, Artificial Light, and Traffic Impact the Environment and Human Health**



The goal of Hidden in Plain Sight is to create an understanding of the sustainability concerns caused by noise, artificial light, and traffic. How our village deals with these issues will play a more central role in determining what kind of community we become.



In 2022, six major and minor 'business development' proposals were proposed in Glenview. Residents in the six affected neighborhoods expressed their hyperlocal concerns about how rising levels of noise, artificial light, and traffic would impact the environment and their quality of life.

These issues are likely to be raised again when the Signode and Scott Foresman property redevelopment plans are made public.

To date, it has been the powerful anecdotal experiences and fears of nearby residents that have sometimes influenced the land use decisions of commissioners and trustees. What has been missing from their deliberations is scientific information on the effect of (ever-increasing) traffic, noise, and artificial light on human health (both mental & physical), the environment, and overall quality of life.

To bring a greater understanding of these non-traditional "pollutants" to the public

and decision-makers, The Hidden in Plain Sight project will present three programs that share the latest research on their environmental and health impacts. The programs will also examine how developers, village staff, and commissioners address these issues.

[Contact us](#) if working on this project interests you. More details to come at the March 6 meeting.

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## Disappointing News

Glenview's Sustainability Coordinator, Molly Laycob, resigned after 5½ months on the job. Greener Glenview enjoyed Molly's energy, enthusiasm & knowledge, and appreciated the monthly dialogue we had with her.

Her departure is a setback for a coordinated path forward on sustainability issues. The village's RFP (Request for Proposal) to develop a sustainability plan contract is being finalized. Will its issuance be delayed until a new sustainability coordinator is hired? As of this writing, there is no job opening yet posted on the village website.

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## Public EV Charging Stations Coming to Glenview?



At the January 23 meeting of the Environment & Natural Resources Commission, Community Development Department planner Michelle House requested direction from the ENRC regarding the installation of electric vehicle charging stations at select public property locations throughout Glenview.

Planner House summarized the village's research on the types of chargers, installers, business models (lease, own, maintenance), revenue models, and

suggested locations, as well as the locations of charging stations on private property in Glenview and the experience of other communities with charging stations on public property. The 74-page report [can be found here](#).

ENRC commissioners asked some fundamental questions and recommended the Village seek feedback from other stakeholders in the village, such as the park district and the library, as well as ask local businesses about their experiences with charging stations in their parking lots. They also asked about the goal of the project, and how and when the Village would evaluate its success.

**Tell us what YOU think!** [Take Our Survey](#)

Greener Glenview believes that residents can provide valuable input to decision-makers regarding the use of public funds for this purpose and the location of the charging stations.

We ask all our members to complete [this survey](#). The result will be discussed at the March 6 Greener Glenview meeting @ 7:00 p.m. in the library's Community Room East.

Please forward [this survey](#) to friends and neighbors in the community.

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## No Mow Notice and Registration Info



If you're making plans for landscaping services this summer, don't forget the Village will once again be organizing a No Mow 'til Mother's Day initiative to help support the local ecology, the habitats of pollinators, and area wildlife.

Residents are invited to skip mowing their lawn or a portion of their lawn and be exempt from lawn mowing code enforcement through Mother's Day on May 14.

All residents wishing to participate must register in the program -- even if you participated in 2022. The application will be available on the [Village website](#) on March 1, and residents can either use their lawn sign from last year or stop by Village Hall to pick up a new one.

All residents participating in the program must have the lawn sign displayed in front of their house to be exempt from code enforcement. The Village will publish reminders to sign up in eGlenview and on social media when applications are available.

For more information, visit [glenview.il.us/nomow](http://glenview.il.us/nomow) or contact Natural Resources Manager Robyn Flakne at [rflakne@glenview.il.us](mailto:rflakne@glenview.il.us).

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## Illinois Proposed Ban on Disposable Styrofoam Containers



On January 24<sup>th</sup>, Illinois State Senator Laura Fine introduced SB100, prohibiting (with some exceptions) the sale or distribution of disposable food containers composed in whole or in part of polystyrene foam.

The full text and status of the legislation can be found [here](#).

The House version of this bill (no number yet assigned) will be introduced by Illinois Representative Jennifer Gong-Gershowitz.

The force behind this bill is the Coalition for Plastic Reduction (CPR). The Coalition is planning a Lobby Day in Springfield on Wednesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>. Members of



CPR's coalition can be found on their [draft fact sheet](#). If you support this legislation, contact [Sen. Fine](#) and [Rep. Gong-Gershowitz](#).

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## Behind the Scenes with Ken Wexler, Environmental Team Chair, Glenview Park District



Greener Glenview recently sat down with Ken Wexler at his Community Park West office to learn about the park district's approach to sustainability. Though Ken's title is Park Planner, his responsibilities and passion extend to all things environmental. In a 2022 Glenview Public Library presentation, Ken highlighted a surprising range of GPD's [sustainability practices](#).

By way of background, the Glenview Park District owns, maintains, and operates more than 845 acres. This acreage includes schools' outdoor recreational areas that are used for park district activities. The GPD receives 7.8% of our property tax dollars.

### **Q. Describe the Park District's Environmental Team.**

It was created 14 years ago by former Executive Director Chuck Balling and longtime former park district commissioner Judy Beck, and Lorin Ottlinger, now the Director at The Grove. The team includes representatives of all park district facilities (ice rink, tennis club, Wagner Farm, The Grove, golf facilities, etc.) as well as staff responsible for operations and maintenance. We meet quarterly to share ideas for improvement in best practices for sustainability.

When we began, we received Environmental Management System training through a series of workshops on the breadth of environmental issues, for example, energy use, integrated pest management, and recycling. Employees are encouraged to suggest improvements to the district's environmental performance. The goal is to use best practices throughout the district to reduce pollution and improve health quality, conserve energy, recycle & reduce waste, and of course, be a natural resources steward.

### **Q. What are some of the current projects?**

We're reviewing bid packages for several maintenance projects:

- Installation of second-generation permeable pavers in the parking area of Hawthorne Glen Park to reduce stormwater runoff. In placing permeable pavers, we look for areas that tend to flood. Permeable pavers let water seep into rain gardens or the river rather than running off into storm sewers.
- Replacement of the Tyner Center roof beneath the solar panels. When the roof was constructed 20 years ago, some of the solar bracket fasteners penetrated the roof membrane which led to water damage;
- Maintenance contract for landscape planting beds. This contract is a result of our integrated pest management (IPM) practices where we want to use mechanical approaches to removing weeds. We follow the Illinois Department of Public Health and Illinois Department of Agriculture guidance and don't use any chemicals on playgrounds, at schools, and at dog parks. Due to our limited use of chemicals, don't be surprised to see dandelions in the parks.

The Park District is very focused on trees. We recently completed an inventory that identified 22,000 trees on GPD property, including those at The Grove. Each tree's GIS coordinates, size, and health are documented. This information will guide decisions about spring & fall tree planting to ensure the diversity (currently 140 species) and health of the urban canopy.

To conserve energy, LED lighting has been installed at Splash Landings, parking lots, Community Park West, Flick Park Sports Lights & elsewhere. At the Park Center Parking Lot, we have reduced our energy use from 42,000 kilowatts to 8,000 kilowatts. We've added additional electric lawn and tree care equipment (e.g. battery-powered chain saw) and converted our vehicle fleet to propane.

**Q. What about electrifying the vehicle fleet or installing solar panels on building rooftops?**

Supply chain issues and high demand have made it difficult to acquire pickup trucks of any kind. The Ford 150-Lightning electric vehicle would be the most suitable for our needs, but new vehicle availability is limited and very expensive. We keep watching for opportunities.

Regarding rooftop solar...though some park districts have installed rooftop solar, it didn't make financial sense for us due to the long payback period. Instead, the park district works with an energy broker to purchase renewable energy credits (RECs) to match 100% of our energy use. We are one of the first in the area to have electricity sourced solely from renewable energy.



**Q. Are there ways Greener Glenview members can help the park district with its environmental efforts?**

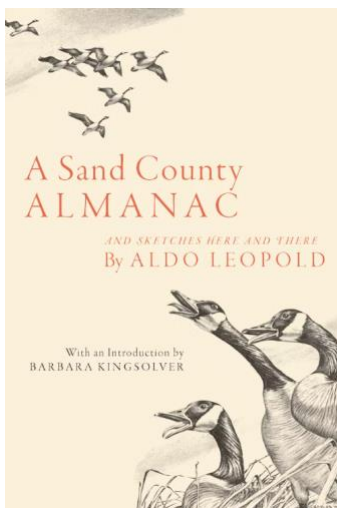
YES! There are two initiatives related to two particularly invasive species that the park district needs help in implementing.

The newest invasive species is the Spotted Lanternfly. It's beautiful but very destructive. The University of Illinois Cooperative Extension Service is asking residents to be on the watch for these insects and to report any sightings to them. Greener Glenview can help with educating the public. First spotted in Pennsylvania in 2014, it has been moving west and has been discovered near Ft. Wayne, Indiana. Read about it the lanternfly [here](#).

The other invasive species is buckthorn, which constitutes about 30% of the urban canopy in our region. The park district has a buckthorn eradication program around the park perimeters. Homeowners whose properties abut the park perimeters frequently have buckthorn hedges, especially under utility lines. The park district would like to replace the buckthorn at the park perimeters with high-quality bushes and trees such as viburnums, dogwoods, and witch hazel. However, buckthorn is an aggressive and prolific spreader, and its presence on the adjacent private property interferes with the new plantings. Greener Glenview can help educate residents on how to permanently remove buckthorn.

[For more information on the environmental principles and policies guiding park district practices](#)

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## Re-Introducing the Grove Literary Society

**WHEN:** Wednesday, February 8, 7:00-8:00 PM

**WHERE:** Redfield Estate @ The Grove

**SPONSOR:** Grove Heritage Association

The Grove Literary Society continues the Kennicotts' legacy of education by hosting a book club to discuss the natural history of the Chicagoland area.

The first book is the benchmark text by Aldo Leopold in the area of land use ethics, *A Sand County Almanac*. This book is written in very simple terms but carries a deep meaning. The first session held on Wednesday, January 11, was an introduction focusing on Leopold's background and why he wrote the book. Monthly meetings at the Redfield Estate will continue on the second Wednesday for the next four months.

To catch up on January's discussion, watch the latest Leopold biography, *Green Fire*. You can buy the movie or just [watch it free online](#). The film uses examples from Glenview and Chicago to demonstrate why Leopold's lessons are still relevant today.

[REGISTER](#)

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### The ABCs of EVs

**WHEN:** Tuesday, February 7 @ 6:30 to 8:30 PM

**WHERE:** Online

**SPONSOR:** Vernon Area Public Library

Electric vehicles are rapidly moving from a niche product to serving the mass market. Whether you are committed to an EV as your next vehicle or just want to learn more, this is an opportunity to answer your questions about charging, do some myth-busting and help decide which type of EV is right for you.

[Register](#)

## **The Grove Literary Society: Sand County Almanac Discussion**

**WHEN:** Wednesday, February 8 @ 7 to 8 PM

**WHERE:** Redfield Estate, The Grove

**SPONSOR:** Glenview Park District

See the description above.

[Register](#)

## **Wild and Scenic Film Festival**

**WHEN:** Friday, March 3; Doors open @ 6:30 and show starts @ 7 PM

**WHERE:** Rotary International, 1560 Sherman Avenue, Evanston

**SPONSORS:** Evanston Environmental Association (EEA) and the city of Evanston.

Bring the whole family to see a line-up of the best in environmental and adventure short films covering a variety of topics relevant to those concerned about the future of our planet. In-person only screening.

[For more information or to buy tickets](#)

## **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, February 18 and March 4

**WHERE:** Winnetka Road at Avon Road

### **Harms Woods East**

**WHEN:** Saturday, February 12

**WHERE:** Harms Woods South parking lot (Groves 1 & 2) on the west side of Harms Rd. In event that lot is flooded, meet at Harms Woods Central parking lot (Groves 3 & 4) on the west side of Harms Road.

### **Blue Star Memorial Woods**

**WHEN:** Sunday, February 19

**WHERE:** South side of Lake Ave. between Wagner Rd. and Harms Rd.

