



# Greener Glenview Bulletin

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**February 2025**

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## **A Three Time Winner!**

For the third consecutive year, Greener Glenview has received a Village of Glenview Environmental Sustainability Award. What's better than one award? Two! Many thanks to the Greener Glenview volunteers who spearheaded the two projects winning the awards and all the volunteers who made them a success.

In the **Education and Outreach** category. . .the award goes to Attea Middle School 8th grader Arushi Bedekar and Greener Glenview volunteers Janelle and Omar Kheshgi. Arushi had a vision of a pollinator garden at the entrance to Attea, enlisted the support of Attea Principal Diana O'Donnell and worked with Janelle and Omar to design and install the garden. Arushi not only enlisted the help of classmates and after-school club faculty to make the garden a reality, she took responsibility for keeping the new plants well-watered over the summer. Arushi is

a self-starter and exhibits the strengths that her generation can offer. She is a wonderful example of the Power of One person to make a difference. Many thanks to Janelle and Omar, the heart and work horses of our Glenview Native Habitat initiative.

In the **Innovation** category. . .the award goes to the Glenview Park District and Greener Glenview volunteer and board member Ann Yoshida, who has organized the SportSwap event the past two years. This event does take a village: Ann coordinates with 20+ Greener Glenview volunteers and park district staff to work their magical publicity campaign and handle the set-up/take down of tables. SportSwap keeps used equipment out of the landfill and enables others to buy it at low cost or with credit vouchers from items they donate. In the past two years, nearly \$2,000 has been raised and donated to the Glenview Park Foundation's Recreation Leisureship Program. This fund covers the cost of participation in park district programs by those families who find it difficult or otherwise impossible to register their children district due to financial constraints.

Mark your calendars: The 2025 SportSwap will be held August 22-24.

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## Leaf Blowers in Glenview

We've lost count of how many of you have contacted us over the past three years regarding regulation or an outright ban of gas-powered leaf blowers, both for noise and environmental reasons. We hear you and have asked the Village staff why no

action has been taken. It is time to take very tangible action and elevate this issue to Village decision makers now, before the landscaping season begins.

Here are the facts. In 2022, Glenview's then-assistant director of public works (who left the Village at the end of 2024) participated in the Regional Leaf Blower Working Group. This group -- comprised of 22 members from 11 North Shore municipalities, representatives from the landscape industry, and Go Green Illinois leaders -- sought to bring coherence in approach to the regulation of this equipment. Their 66-page [Final Report](#), released in December 2022, described best practices to consider when a community decides to limit gas-powered leaf blower use.

**There has been no public discussion by our village government of the report since it was released over two years ago.** As a result, no additional measures have been taken. The existing noise ordinance (Sec. 98-374(b)(9)) simply limits landscape work to certain hours: Monday-Saturday 7:00 a.m.-7:30 p.m. or sunset, whichever is earlier; Sunday, 9:00 a.m.- 7:30 p.m. or sunset, whichever is earlier.

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## Sign Our Petition to Regulate Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers

### [SIGN THE PETITION](#)

Greener Glenview is asking residents to sign a petition to request the Village of Glenview impose restrictions on gas-powered leaf blowers. The use of gas-powered leaf blowers causes significant negative impacts on the environment and human health. These negative impacts include:

#### **Air pollution**

These blowers emit harmful pollutants like carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides, volatile organic compounds (VOCs), and particulate matter, which contribute to smog and can cause respiratory problems, particularly for vulnerable populations like children and the elderly.

#### **Noise pollution**

The loud noise generated by gas leaf blowers can disrupt daily life, causing stress, hearing damage, and sleep disturbances for nearby residents. In addition, the noise interferes with concentration for those working or studying at home.

### **Climate change**

The emissions from gas leaf blowers contribute directly to greenhouse gas emissions, contributing to climate change.

### **Ecological disruption**

Blowing away leaf litter can disrupt the natural ecosystem by disturbing insects and other small animals that rely on it for shelter and food sources. Leaf blower use can be fatal to insects living in the foliage.

### **Health concerns**

The leaf blowers' hurricane-force winds kick up dust containing pesticides and herbicides, spores, pollen, animal feces, tire residue, and heavy metals. Inhaling the fine particulate matter emitted by leaf blowers can lead to respiratory issues like asthma attacks, particularly for individuals with pre-existing conditions.

Many surrounding communities including Northbrook, Wilmette, Winnetka, Glencoe, Kenilworth, Highland Park, Lake Bluff and Evanston have imposed bans or restrictions. It is time for Glenview to do the same for the health of residents and protection of the environment.

[SIGN THE PETITION](#)

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The Village of  
**Glenview**

## **Glenview Environmental Sustainability Plan -- February Opportunities!**

Work on Glenview's Sustainability Plan has started. Glenview's consultant, [Blue Strike Environmental](#), is conducting the following public outreach efforts:

**WHAT:** Blue Strike presentation to the Environment Natural Resources Commission

**WHEN:** Thursday, February 20 @ 7:00 PM, Village Hall

This meeting is open to the public and we encourage all our readers to attend in person. (Unlike the village's other commission meetings, ENRC meetings are not livestreamed or recorded.)

**WHAT:** Blue Strike will hold invitation-only focus group meetings. Greener Glenview will be participating

**WHEN:** Friday, February 21

**WHAT:** Blue Strike will have a table at the Resident Open House at the Park Center

**WHEN:** Saturday, February 22 @ 10:00 AM to Noon

Given the Saturday usage of the Park Center, they hope to reach a broad cross-section of Glenview's population. If you can't attend the February 20 ENRC meeting to learn what Blue Strike has done so far and what their plans are, please stop by the Resident Open House on February 22.

THE MORE VOICES THE BETTER! Planning for a future open house event at Village Hall is underway.



## **Make Your Yard More "Natural" -- Plant Natives!**

Spring is around the corner. It's not too early to think about how you can help your landscape to provide essential ecological services and create a more

hospitable environment for native plant and animal life. Check out these guides from the [Homegrown National Park Initiative](#)

Image Source: Homegrown National Park Initiative



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### **Ideas for the Greener Glenview Bulletin?**

We realize that the Greener Glenview monthly bulletin has a hyperlocal focus: what action is or isn't being taken by our board, commissions, and staff, what Greener Glenview is doing, and how you can help. Plus, we list programs and events we think you'd like to attend.

What's missing? Maybe in January you were hoping to see a list of new ideas for your annual "one new habit" to adopt to live more sustainably this year. Or maybe you're interested in knowing what's going on in Glenview's neighboring villages. To that end, we invite you to take a look at the latest edition of [Go Green Northbrook's monthly newsletter](#).

If you have suggestions for what you'd like to read in the Greener Glenview bulletin, or what you'd like to contribute, [send us an email](#). We're listening.

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## **Twilight in the Garden of Hope: Nature as Inspiration**

**WHEN:** Wednesday, February 19 @ 7:30 PM

**WHERE:** Zoom

**SPONSOR:** Climate Action Evanston and Friends of the Forest Preserve

This program features Kathy Ruttenberg, Multidisciplinary artist (sculpture, painting, and animation), about other perspectives on the environment. She is an accomplished, acclaimed multidisciplinary artist working in sculpture, painting, and animation. Her fantastical humanistic and nature installations have been displayed on Broadway in New York City, and are permanently installed in the Tisch Children's Zoo in New York's Central Park and Battery Park and in the Mamiraua Sustainable Development Reserve in Amazonas, Brazil. Her work has been exhibited around the world.

[REGISTER NOW! \(ZOOM\)](#)

## **Bees Beyond Honey: Understanding Native and Managed Pollinators**

**WHEN:** Thursday, February 20 @ 6:00 to 7:00 PM

**WHERE:** Virtual

Join Wild Ones for a free Webinar, "Bees Beyond Honey: Understanding the Roles of Native and Managed Bees in Pollination," featuring Sam Droege, Wildlife Biologist, U.S. Geological Survey (USGS); Dave Hunter, Founder & Owner, Crown Bees; and Lora Morandin, Associate Director, Pollinator Partnership. The

presentation will explore the diverse roles bees play in ecosystems, the challenges they face, and the delicate balance between managed and wild pollinators. Don't miss this opportunity to broaden your understanding of bees and their vital contributions to biodiversity. This webinar will be recorded and available to watch after the premiere.

[Learn more and register](#)

## Native Gardening for Birds

**WHEN:** Monday, February 24 @ 7:00 to 8:30 PM

**WHERE:** Glenview Public Library

Chicago Bird Alliance president Judy Pollock will speak about attracting birds to your yard with native plants, shrubs, and other bird-friendly features.

[REGISTER](#)

## Solar 101 for Homeowners in Illinois

**WHEN:** Wednesday, February 26 @ 7:00 to 8:30 PM

**WHERE:** Wilmette Public Library, 1242 Wilmette Road

Find out how you can shine with solar energy! In this discussion with an Illinois Solar Education Association Solar Ambassador, you will learn: How solar energy works in Illinois; the benefits and challenges of residential solar energy;; the upfront costs and long-term savings, including current financial incentives in Illinois; the benefits and challenges of community solar subscriptions; resources for finding reputable installers. If you are not in the market for rooftop solar because your roof is too shady, come anyway and bring a friend, neighbor or family member with a sunny roof.

Consider installing solar panels on a second home, if you have one.

## Wild Things Conference

**WHEN:** Saturday, March 1 @ 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM

**WHERE:** Stephens Convention Center, 555 N. River Road, Rosemont

The Wild Things Conference celebrates the volunteers, nonprofits, governments, and partners working together to care for the nature and wildlife in their communities. Recognized as one of the nation's largest networks of people engaged with nature, the community is made up of stewards, advocates, educators, volunteers, and professional staff, all working together to promote and protect prairies, woodlands, wetlands, wild yards, and natural parks of Illinois, the Great Lakes, and the Upper Midwest.



The biennial conference is the largest conservation gathering the in Midwest, regularly drawing nearly 2,000 attendees for the single-day event. The 2025 Conference will focus on innovative, adaptive solutions to the climate and biodiversity crisis and the importance of human interventions.

[Visit the conference website for updates and to register.](#)

## **North Branch Restoration Workdays**

All workdays are 9:00 AM to Noon

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

### **Harms Woods**

**WHEN:** Sunday, February 22 @ 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 (847) 644-8184

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