



Greener Glenview Bulletin

JUNE 2022

Information, ideas, and events about environmental sustainability

GREENER GLENVIEW NEXT MEETING

We hope you'll be there in person at the library Monday, June 13th, 7 to 8:30 pm, for Greener Glenview's bimonthly meeting. Gather with other members of Greener Glenview to hear updates and then provide your input on several Greener Glenview initiatives.

HOLDING TRACK IN GLENVIEW: ISSUE HEATING UP AGAIN

A proposed merger between Kansas City Southern Railroad and Canadian Pacific Railroad has caused Metra to reopen the discussion of a freight train holding track in Glenview.

In 2018, the Village of Glenview commissioned a study that concluded that resignaling the tracks to keep freight traffic moving was a better solution than building a holding track near residential and hospital properties.

Fortunately, Village staff and elected officials are watching closely now as the discussion resumes.

[Read more](#)

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UPCOMING PROGRAM -- RECYCLING: MYTH AND REALITY

Confused or cynical about recycling?

Greener Glenview will present an expert panel providing a straight talk on recycling at the Glenview Park Center, Lakeview Room, Tuesday, June 21st, 7:00-8:30 p.m. Topics include which materials can and cannot be recycled by Groot, Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) operations & emerging technologies, the markets for the various types of recyclable materials, and current controversies and new directions in the field.

Confirmed speakers include:

- Christina Seibert, Executive Director of the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC)
- Mary Allen, SWANCC's Recycling and Education Director
- Javier Erazo, District Manager of Waste Connections, operator of the MRF that accepts Groot's recycling materials.

Additionally, a village representative will give an overview of residential and commercial recycling in Glenview.

This event is being co-sponsored by the Glenview Park District and the Village of Glenview.



GLENVIEW'S PLAN FOR NATURE GETS AN UPDATE

Glenview's Plan for Nature is being updated this year. This is worthy of applause.



This year's update will review progress toward the native landscaping and zoning and development goals set out in the 2008 Plan. The update will revisit the 99 sites the earlier plan prioritized, some of which are no longer available, and will assess numerous new properties for attention. The update will also feature an expanded discussion about the ecological value of smaller spaces and outreach to private property owners.



The draft of the updated technical report (which is the basis for the Summary) will be presented at an ENRC meeting in the fall, with public comment sessions and Board presentation to follow. Stay tuned to the Village e-news and to this space for dates.



In the meantime, do yourself a favor and read the 2008 Plan for Nature Summary. This summary, based on the 2008 technical report, succinctly reviews the wilderness moraine where Glenview sits. As the plan states, "While we are familiar with the gray infrastructure of streets and pipes that make our suburban lifestyle possible, we tend to be less aware of our green infrastructure and the need to protect and maintain it."



[Read the first Plan now](#) before the release of the update.

SAVE THE DATE FOR GLENVIEW'S GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE BIKE TOUR

After you've read the Plan for Nature summary, mark your calendar to ride along on the Green Infrastructure Bike Tour Sunday, August 31st.

The tour, led by Glenview's Natural Resources Manager Robyn Flakne, will take you to many of the sites mentioned in the Plan. Along with viewing beautiful sites, you'll learn about stormwater mitigation as you view Gallery Park which has a stormwater lake as its main feature, native plantings in a rain garden and in detention basins, green roofs, permeable pavements, and more.

Watch the Glenview e-newsletter and this space for registration details.

JUNE VIDEO OF THE MONTH: ELECTRONIC WASTE

In conjunction with Greener Glenview's June 21 Recycling: Myth and Reality program, this month's video is about a different approach to recycling. This provocative 10-minute TED talk is about the 'Right to Repair' movement. [View video.](#)



WHICH NEARBY SUBURBS RESTRICT LEAF BLOWERS?

Greener Glenview's April Green Drinks program featured an update on the Working Group on Leaf Blower Regulation. The group is meeting to discuss ways to reduce the health and environmental harms caused by the widespread use of gas-powered leaf blowers which emit an oily mix of exhaust that raises CO₂ and contributes to ozone pollution. Their hurricane-force winds stir up particulate that contributes to breathing problems for people who suffer from COPD or asthma and destroy beneficial pollinator shelters.

A questioner at Green Drinks asked which suburbs in the area have ordinances restricting leaf blower use. The Working Group is updating the database of area suburbs' ordinances regarding leaf blower use, and when the update is complete, Greener Glenview will post the whole list.

In the meantime, here is a partial list of neighboring suburbs that have seasonal bans on gas-powered leaf blowers. It is important to note that electric leaf blowers are allowed as long as they are not charged with fossil fuel-powered generators. Some ordinances also include decibel range limits. Currently, Glenview's pertinent regulation on leaf blowers is the noise ordinance that limits noise to certain times of the day. The ordinance does not set a decibel limit.

- Evanston: Seasonal ban on gas- and propane-powered leaf blowers. Beginning April 1, 2023, Evanston will completely ban the use of gas- or propane-powered leaf blowers. See ordinance language [here](#).
- Glencoe: Seasonal ban on gas-powered leaf blowers. Glencoe's Sustainability Task Force recommends a total ban on gas-powered leaf blowers starting in 2024. Ordinance language [here](#).
- Highland Park: Seasonal ban on gas-powered leaf blowers. Ordinance language [here](#).
- Kenilworth: Seasonal ban on gas-powered leaf blowers. Village notice [here](#).
- Wilmette: Seasonal ban on gas-powered leaf blowers. Ordinance language [here](#).
- Winnetka: Seasonal ban on gas-powered leaf blowers. Village notice [here](#). To help Winnetka residents comply with the seasonal leaf blower ban, the Winnetka chief of police asks landscaping services licensed in Winnetka to sign a pledge that they will comply with the restrictions. Landscapers who sign the pledge are listed on the Winnetka website. [Landscapers in Winnetka](#) who've pledged to obey the seasonal leaf blower ban.

ENFORCING GLENVIEW'S ENVIRONMENTAL ORDINANCES

On open burning

We all want to enjoy the use of our property during our too-short spring, summer, and fall seasons. Sometimes, actions by our neighbors deprive us of this enjoyment.

Have you ever had to go inside or close your windows because your neighbor is burning waste? Does someone in your household have a respiratory condition that's worsened by smoke?



If so, please inform your neighbor that **burning landscape and other waste is illegal and makes them subject to a fine of not less than \$100 and not exceeding \$1,000.**

Share this information with anyone who is still open burning in Glenview. It describes the prohibition on open burning and the penalty provision. Alternatively, you can call in a complaint to the village. If you call in during regular business hours, you will reach the Resolution Center. Request that an inspector speaks with the offending resident. More likely than not, your neighbor is unaware that a ban on open burning exists.

If the burning occurs after hours, you can call the non-emergency police department number.

Consider the use of this information in the same way you might participate in a neighborhood watch program. Only this neighborhood watch is grounded in keeping our air as clean as we can. Besides creating the fine particulate matter that penetrates deeply into our lungs when inhaled, burning waste puts climate-changing pollutants in the air.

What we do locally matters. In the words of former Vice-President Al Gore, "Job number one is to stop using our skies as an open sewer. . ."

ENFORCING GLENVIEW'S ENVIRONMENTAL ORDINANCES (CONTINUED)

On weeds

While mighty stands of phragmites (frag-meye-tees) are majestic-looking, they are highly invasive and should be eradicated. Phragmites do not allow local birds to nest, nor do they feed local beneficial insects. They clog drainage and can block access to bodies of water that hunters and fishers would normally visit.

One place you may have seen these robust stands of grasses is near the Costco gas station. Taxpayer dollars are spent by the Glenview Park District to control their spread in the nearby Air Station Prairie and by the Village of Glenview to control the spread in the Techny Basin.

Help to eliminate phragmites in the area by calling the Village of Glenview Resolution Center. Ask the Village to enforce its weed ordinance for the tall phragmites stand near Costco. (The area in question by Costco is actually owned by Fields Auto. As the owner, the company is responsible for taking care of the weeds on its property.) You don't have to leave your name when you call.

[Click here](#) for more info about phragmites.

Village of Glenview Resolution Center (847) 724-1700

Non-emergency police (847) 729-5000



JUNE'S GREEN TIP OF THE MONTH: BYOB TO FARMERS MARKET



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Tired of having to bring home one plastic clamshell after another to enjoy fresh produce? This summer, reap the full benefit of buying unpackaged fresh produce at the farmers market.

[Read more!](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Greener Glenview Bi-Monthly Meeting

Date: Monday, June 13 @ 7:00–8:30 p.m.

Location: Glenview Public Library Community Room West

Hear updates and provide input on several Greener Glenview initiatives. RSVP to greenerglenview.org. Drop-ins welcome.

Recycling: Myth and Reality

Date: Tuesday, June 21

Location: Glenview Park Center, Lakeview Room 7:00–8:30 p.m.

Confused or cynical about recycling? Greener Glenview will present an expert panel providing a straight talk on recycling.

Topics include:

- which materials can and cannot be recycled by Groot
- MRF operations & emerging technologies
- the markets for the various types of recyclable materials
- current controversies in the field
- and more.

RSVP to greenerglenview@gmail.com, Drop-ins welcome.



UPCOMING EVENTS (CONTINUED)

Conversation About End-of-Life Options

Date: Wednesday, June 8 @ 7:00 PM

Location: Virtual

Go Green Wilmette hosts this presentation exploring end-of-life choices, including the environmental impact of conventional burial versus natural burial. Learn from the founders of Casper Creek Natural Cemetery how your sustainable end-of-life decisions will benefit the planet and leave you and your loved ones with peace of mind.

[For more information and to register](#)

Community Resource Fair

Date: Saturday, June 11 @ 9:30 to 11:30 AM

Location: Glenview Community Park Center

This fair gathers together organizations including Greener Glenview, League of Women Voters, The Department of Veterans Affairs, and offices of elected officials who serve the needs of residents at the township, state, and federal level.

Organized by State Senator Laura Fine and State Representative Jennifer Gong Gershowitz.

UPCOMING EVENTS (CONTINUED)

North Branch Restoration Project

Restoration Workday at Kent Fuller Air Station Prairie

Date: Saturday, June 11 @ 9:00 AM to Noon

[For more information and to register](#)

Restoration Workday at Blue Star Memorial Woods

Date: Sunday, June 12 @ 9:00 AM to Noon

[For more information and to register](#)



Evanston Environmental Association 2022 Garden Walk

Date: Sunday, June 26, 1:00 to 5:00 PM

[For more information and to register](#)

TreeKeepers at the Glenview Farmers Market Green Table

Date: Saturday, July 2, 8:00 AM to Noon

Location: Wagner Farm

TreeKeepers will be assisting the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District in the distribution of free Oak Saplings at the Farmers Market Green Table all morning. The Openlands Treekeepers program trains volunteers across Chicago and the suburbs to care for our urban tree canopy. Stop by to ask questions about tree care, and take home a sapling.