



Greener Glenview Bulletin

May 2023

Local Environmental Regulation

Have you ever wondered about which sections of Glenview's Municipal Code apply to matters related to the environment? So has Greener Glenview, which is why we are starting this series. Each month, Greener Glenview will focus on a different environmental topic addressed in the current municipal code. Note: The authors are not attorneys; we are simply citing those sections of the Code that appear to be relevant.

Smokes and Odors

This month, the focus is on smoke and odors. In some neighborhoods, the open burning of landscape waste and other combustible materials is an ongoing issue, even where homeowners have landscaping services. These are the problems with open burning: (1) The smoke poses a health threat to those with respiratory conditions; (2) Sensitive neighbors must protect themselves by staying indoors with windows closed, and are thus deprived of their right to enjoy the use of their property; (3) The smoke contributes to air pollution.

WHAT THE MUNICIPAL CODE SAYS: Briefly, the municipal code states that "*The open burning...on any public or private property within the Village is unlawful and prohibited; . . .this subsection shall not apply to the noncommercial cooking of food in outdoor fireplaces or grills* [Sec. 58-34]." Additionally, "*The emission of odors or odor-causing substances which exceed the odor threshold at or beyond the lot lines is prohibited*" [Sec. 98-377]. Note to those living in unincorporated Glenview: Cook County ordinance prohibits the open burning of landscape waste because (1) Glenview prohibits it, and (2) Unincorporated areas are within 1,000 feet of municipal boundaries. [Cook Co. ordinance, Chapter 30 (Environment), Sec.30-385]

IN OTHER WORDS . . . According to a village official, your grill, outdoor fireplace, and fire pit are for cooking--but not for getting rid of confidential papers, particle board (yes, we've seen that) or anything else you feel like burning--like landscape waste. Groot, the Village's residential waste hauler, offers both a pay-by-the-bag and seasonal yard waste subscription programs.

ENFORCEMENT Violation of the code may result *in a fine of not less than \$100 nor more than \$1,000* [Sec. 1-16]. But first, there needs to be a complaint--meaning you have to file a formal complaint with the Village. Without a formal complaint, no one from the inspectional services department will investigate. Most of us probably prefer to "let it pass" or don't want to create problems with the neighbors. Without formal complaints, the Village doesn't know that there is a problem.

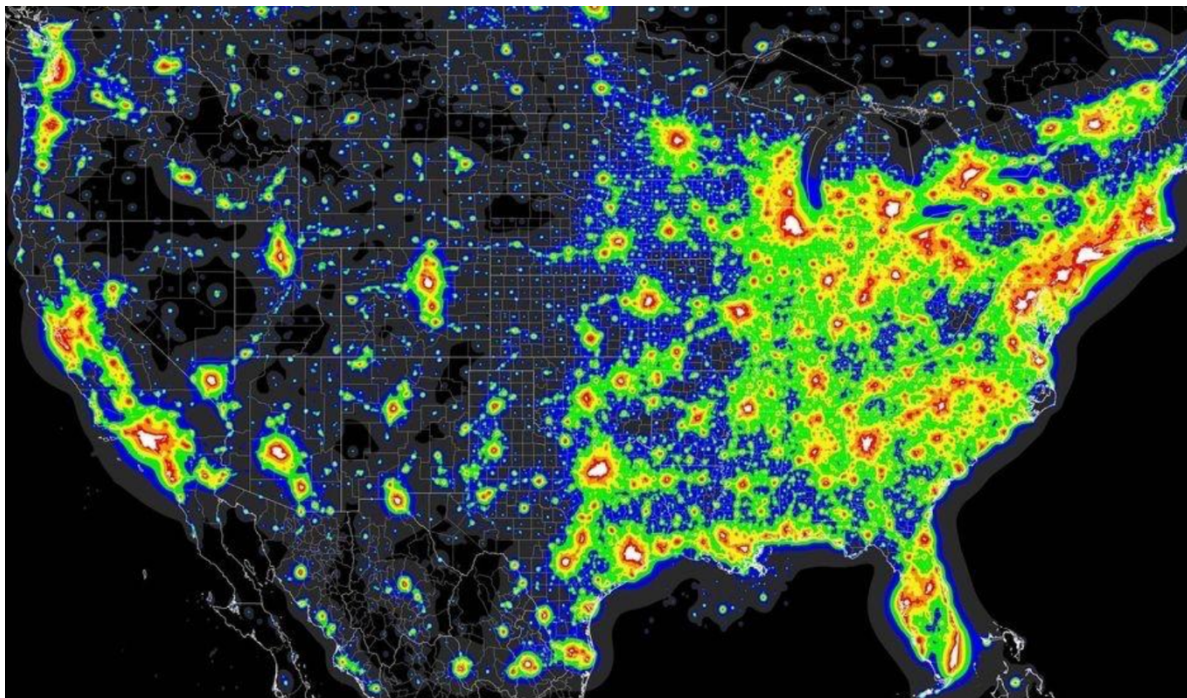
In lieu of filing a formal complaint against their neighbors, several Greener Glenview members have shared the attached sections of the relevant ordinances with their neighbors. This effort has generally been successful in stopping the burning during daytime. However, open burning often occurs at night when it's more difficult to identify the location of the smoke and odors. While some neighbors have not been happy to learn about the ordinances, others have been appreciative and explained that they just didn't know the regulation existed.

HERE'S THE QUESTION: Is it reasonable to expect residents to read the municipal code to figure out what activities are and aren't permitted? Or, should the Village take the initiative in educating residents? Quoting from the Purpose section (98-371) of Glenview's Zoning Performance Standards: *"The land in the Village and surrounding areas is predominantly devoted to residential use. People who reside in such area have chosen the location because of the suburban atmosphere, free from objectionable noises, smoke, odors, vibrations, and other irritants that are frequently found in more urban locations. The performance standards contained in this article are designed to minimize operations that would disrupt the existing suburban atmosphere."* Widespread community education is a necessary first step in creating an atmosphere where we can individually and collectively realize the goal of breathing clean air. Who is responsible for leading that educational effort?

GLENVIEW'S ENVIRONMENTALLY-RELATED CODES

[SMOKE & ODORS: Chapter 58 \(Solid Waste\), Ch. 98 \(Zoning-Article VIII, Performance Standards\)](#)

Everything is Illuminated



Summary: The Impact of Artificial Light on the Environment and Human Health

On April 10, more than 40 attendees learned about the environmental and human health impacts of artificial light at night (ALAN) from an Argonne scientist who's been studying the issue since 2006. The program was recorded and will be posted on the Greener Glenview website once editing has been completed.

Some of the major points include:

- The night sky and darkness are critically important to human society and the environment: aesthetically & spiritually; historically & culturally; for recreational, scientific, military & economic pursuits, and in terms of biological & ecological health.
- Melatonin is an important regulator of the circadian rhythm (biological clock) in all living organisms. Exposure to ALAN interferes with melatonin production. In humans, melatonin disruption affects sleep and has been linked to obesity, decreased immune function, and breast and prostate cancer.
- All living things evolved according to the natural cycles of light and dark. By altering the night-time light levels, ALAN alters and can cause mismatches in migration, feeding habits, finding mates, reproduction, predator avoidance, and communication.

- Most insects are active at twilight/dawn or at night. Like some animals, many insects are attracted to lights. Night-time lighting interferes with their behavior and is a contributor to the recent dramatic decline of insects. Because so many animals and plants depend on insects for food or pollination, this decline has serious implications for both humans and ecosystems.
- The color of outdoor lights impacts animal activity. Harsh bluish-white lights are more damaging to humans and other animals than softer yellowish-orange lights. Avoid Warm White, Bright Light and Daylight LEDs. Use Soft White bulbs with Kelvin rating of 2700 or lower.
- Light pollution can be ameliorated by turning off lights, redirecting illumination through shielding, and using lower Kelvin bulbs, among other things.

[Here is the handout from the presentation](#) that addresses the impact on insects and what can be done to reduce light pollution.

Finally, here is a sampling of the many written comments submitted by attendees following the program:

"...It would be great if our kids could see the stars again someday."

"Overlit areas and misdirected ALAN have many detrimental effects that should be understood and mitigated or eliminated if possible. I would be in favor of regulation to do this".

"I am sad because I cannot see stars and am concerned about the impact of all of our lights on insects and birds. I am afraid for the future."

"...Light pollution mitigation is often easy and inexpensive and has many benefits."

"How can Glenview be a model community to embrace night skies and the benefits to the environment?"

A special thank you to the members of the New Development Commission and the Environment & Natural Resources Commission who attended the presentation.

Greener

Glenview hopes that the information learned will be considered in future discussions and recommendations.

Timing is Everything

Plan to Light Six Pickleball Courts at Valley Lo

The relevance of the April 10 presentation became clear during the second night of a public hearing on a proposal by the Valley Lo Sports Club.

The Development Adjustments Commission (DAC) is considering the proposed installation of six pickleball courts and an asphalt parking lot on a ridge abutting the West Fork of the North Branch of the Chicago River. Their plan calls for twelve 20' light fixtures to be installed on the courts and eight 14' fixtures in the parking lot. Play would be allowed up to 11:00 p.m. and some parking lot lights would remain on all night.

Several Valley Lo homeowners who attended the April 10 program used information learned there in offering comments to the DAC. Many Valley Lo homeowners have been vocal in their opposition due to the potential impacts of the lights and noise on their homes and quality of life.

Concerns for the West Fork of the North Branch of the Chicago River

Other concerns expressed by residents and non-residents focused on the lighting, noise, and stormwater impacts on the West Fork. The West Fork has been designated as a high-priority area for wildlife in village documents and by the Friends of the Chicago River. It is a well-known birding destination because of the diversity of birds (including State threatened species) and as a migration pathway.

The Valley Lo proposal did not acknowledge the West Fork as a neighbor or consider the impacts of their proposal on that section of the river. On the other hand, compelling oral and written testimony (including photos) were provided by a number of individuals with expertise, explaining why this reach of the river is environmentally significant.

As consideration of the Valley Lo proposal has demonstrated, residents have concerns about the impact of developments on our natural areas and human health.

Robust Review of Village Ordinances Needed

There should be a robust review of Village ordinances and the process by which environmental and human health concerns are taken into account by the staff, commissioners, and trustees.



Glenview Native Habitat

A program of Greener Glenview

News from Glenview Native Habitat

Ten more certified gardens in April!

Congratulations and thank you to the ten additional properties in Glenview who certified their gardens with the National Wildlife Federation in April. We are almost halfway to our goal of helping 100 properties get certified this year. Certified gardens come in all sizes from pollinator borders along a fence, to a condo balcony with native plants in pots, a water dish, a hummingbird feeder, and a "bee hotel" for example. When we reach 250 certified sites, we'll apply to have Glenview certified as a Community Wildlife Habitat™ by the National Wildlife Federation.

One of the new certifications this month is a faith community. If your faith community has already planted a pollinator garden, please suggest that they apply for certification. If you want to encourage your congregation to add native plants to the landscape, email us at greenerglenview@gmail.com, and we will help you start the conversation. Learn more by viewing Sacred Grounds: How to Green Your Place of Worship on the Glenview Native Habitat resources page.

After No Mow 'til Mother's Day, keep supporting pollinators

Your lawn could be a haven for pollinators all summer if you'll just take it easy and mow and spray less often. The typical turf grass lawn is an ecological dead zone for bees, butterflies, moths and other insects important for our food web. An update of the research that started the "now mow May" movement shows that mowing less often throughout the summer--every two or three weeks--is most beneficial to pollinators. Mow high, and mow less often. Read more here.
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-solutions/2023/04/22/long-grass-helps-bees/>

Solve the wet spot in your yard—and save money, too

If you have drainage problems in your yard, maybe from a downspout or sump pump discharge, a rain garden can help by absorbing and filtering water before it runs off into the storm sewer. The Village of Glenview offers a subsidy to encourage this sustainable way of mitigating stormwater runoff. Under the program, started in 2007, the village will pay half the cost of your rain garden up to \$1,000. A rain garden is planted with deep-rooted native plants that can solve stormwater issues while attracting birds and pollinators. (See suggested plant list <https://www.glenview.il.us/about/Documents/rainplanting.pdf>).

"Are you going to save the world with one rain garden?" asked Kent Fuller, chairman of the village's Natural Resources Commission in 2007. "No, but it gets you thinking about how you can turn stormwater into a useful resource, and if enough people put them in, it will make a difference".

When your rain garden is installed, certify it at the National Wildlife Federation, and help us reach our goal of certifying Glenview as a Community Wildlife Habitat.

[Read more about the rain garden subsidy here.](#)

NOTE: According to Glenview's Engineering Standards Manual...

Rain gardens shall be a minimum of two-hundred (200) square feet if utilized for sump pump or downspout collection. Sump or downspout discharge outlet shall be exposed into rain garden and not buried. The rain garden shall be depressed six (6) inches below grade and consist of a filtration zone with a minimum six (6) inch topsoil layer over a minimum twelve (12) inch topsoil/sand mix layer. An optional perforated six (6) inch rigid PVC pipe (wrapped in fabric) underdrain system may be provided at the downstream side of the rain garden and installed a minimum of six (6) inches below the ground surface. The proposed plantings shall be from the Village approved native planting list and documentation shall be provided to the VEM for review (see Table 3).

[Read more](#)

Learn more about Native Habitat Gardens

Join Greener Glenview for this program.

WHAT: Monarch and Pollinator Gardens

WHEN: Thursday, May 11 @ 7-8 p.m

WHERE: Glenview Public Library Community Room

When it comes to pollination, honey bees get a majority of the attention, but many other insects play a role in pollination, too. University of Illinois Natural Resources, Environmental, and Energy Program Coordinator Val Kehoe, will discuss the different native pollinators and how to make your landscape attractive to them, including habitat and design tips.

GNH needs volunteers

Want to help the Glenview Native Habitat project? [We need volunteers](#) for our many activities this spring and summer. [Volunteer here](#).

GNH wants your photos

[Send us your pictures](#) of wildlife and native gardens around Glenview. Please include the date, location, and any details we should know.

Celebrating International Compost Awareness Week: May 7-13



Resources at the Illinois Food Scrap and Composting Coalition

[The Illinois Food Scrap and Composting Coalition \(IFSCC\) website](#) lists a variety of educational and social programs as well as opportunities to get local compost at.

Go Green Morton Grove Compost-Palooza Party and Tour

WHEN: Saturday, May 13 @ 2-4 PM

WHERE: 5631 Church St., in Morton Grove

You'll learn about the container-swap service available year-round through Collective Resource Compost and the seasonal yard waste tagalong option available through Groot. See examples of things like vermicomposting, too. After that, attendees will take off to explore the yards of eight Morton Grove neighbors who have volunteered to demonstrate their compost operations. Each stop of the eight stops on the self-guided tour will tell a unique story about reducing waste. Along the way, you'll see a butterfly garden, a National Wildlife Certified Habitat, people who harness the power of worms, and more!

Composting Food Scraps in Glenview

If you want to participate in Groot's food scraps composting program in Glenview, you will need to enroll in the landscape waste collection service. To subscribe, contact Groot directly by calling (800) 244-1977. The season subscription cost must include the cart rental to take part in both food scraps and yard waste removal service.

Get Locally Made Compost in Skokie

WHEN: Sunday, May 7 @ 1 to 4 PM and Wednesday, May 10 @ 5 to 7 PM

WHERE: The Talking Farm, 3669 Howard St., Skokie.

Collective Resource Compost will be opening up its Spring Finished Compost Giftback to the public. Participants must bring their own containers in which to take home their \$1-a-gallon, made-in-Illinois compost. This is also an opportunity to purchase compost without also purchasing a plastic bag.

Register and check their Facebook page the day of if rain is predicted.



Friends of the Greenbay Bird Trail: Spring Bird Walk

WHEN: Monday, May 8 @ 8:30 AM to 11 AM

WHERE: Glencoe Golf Club, 621 Westly Road, Glencoe

Tim Joyce, of Glenview's Wild Birds Unlimited, will lead a bird walk along the Glencoe Golf Club's forested borders adjacent to the Chicago Botanic Garden. Dress for the weather and ground conditions. Bring binoculars and a small notepad. Tim will reserve time for birding, feeding, and landscape questions.

The walk will not be canceled for light rain. A cancellation notice will be sent if storms are forecasted. Rain date is Thursday, May 11 at 8:30 -10 AM. Participation is limited to 15. To register (required), send an email to fgbtprogram@att.net.

Go Green Illinois: Sustainable Food Management

WHEN: Tuesday, May 9 @ 1 to 3 PM

WHERE: Zoom

Learn about successful waste reduction and composting programs for municipalities, schools, restaurants, and multifamily buildings, and discuss ways to reduce food waste at the community level including food scrap collection and compost options. Expert speakers include Jen Nelson and Becky Brodsky (Seven Generations Ahead); Jenny Grossman (Skokie's Sustainability Coordinator); and Mary Beth Schaye (Collective Resources).

Register now if you will attend the meeting, but please cancel your registration if you cannot attend so we do not exceed our registration maximum.

Basics of Composting

WHEN: Wednesday, May 10 @ 6 to 7 PM

WHERE: Zoom

Are you new to composting and want to learn all your options? Join Kate Carney - Community Outreach Coordinator for Cook County Department of Environment and Sustainability to learn all about it!

[To register or for more information](#)

Monarch and Pollinator Gardens

WHEN: Thursday, May 11 @ 7-8 p.m

WHERE: Glenview Public Library Community Room

When it comes to pollination, honey bees get a majority of the attention, but many other insects play a role in pollination, too. University of Illinois Natural Resources, Environmental, and Energy Program Consultant, Val Kehoe, will discuss the different native pollinators and how to make your landscape attractive to them, including habitat and design tips.

Chicago River Day

WHEN: Saturday, May 13 @ 9 AM to Noon

WHERE: Techny Basin and Downtown

The Village will have two clean-up sites this year – one at the Techny Basin and another in Downtown Glenview. For the Techny Basin site, meet at the Aldi parking lot off Willow Road at 9 a.m. For the Downtown cleanup site, meet at the public parking lot adjacent to the Oil Lamp Theater (1733 Glenview Road) at 9 a.m. Note: The Techny Basin is much larger so more volunteers will be needed there. Pre-registration is highly recommended for participation. Learn more and pre-register at chicagoriver.org.

Free Document Shredding Events

WHEN: Saturday, May 13 @ 8 to 10 AM

WHERE: Wintrust Bank & Trust locations

WHEN: Saturday, May 13 @ 11 AM to 1 PM

WHERE: Northview Bank & Trust, 245 Waukegan Road, Northfield

Limit three boxes/bags per person. Wintrust Community Banks assume no liability for shredded items.

WHEN: Saturday, May 13, 9 AM to Noon

WHERE: Morton Grove Public Works, 7840 Nagle Ave. Sponsored by SWANCC

(Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County)

Native Plant Sales

Go Green Park Ridge and Maine East High School

Friday, May 12 @ 4:00-6:00pm

Saturday, May 13 @ 9:00am-Noon

Maine East High School (Dee & Dempster parking lot)

Over 50 species of native wildflowers, grasses, and sedges!

- \$4 each - individual 2.5" x 3.5" deep pots (plants grown by [Agrecol](#))
- Native plant gardeners available for design consult at pickup
- Proceeds to benefit [Maine East High School Ecology Club](#) (outdoor nature spaces) & Go Green Park Ridge

[For more information](#)

Go Green Wilmette

Saturday, May 13 , 9:00am-11:00am

Gillson Park, Lake and Michigan Aves.

Plants will be available first come, first serve. The sale will be in the Gillson Beach parking lot. They will have a large variety of plants and plenty of volunteers to help you make your selections. Click [HERE](#) for a list of the plants they expect to have for sale this year.

Lake County Forest Preserves

WHEN: Saturday, May 20, 9 AM to 3 PM; Sunday, May 21, 10 AM to Noon

WHERE: [North Bay Pavilion](#) within [Independence Grove](#) in Libertyville.

As you shop, learn about eco-friendly practices to benefit your home, wallet, and community. Experts will be available at the sale to answer questions. Choose from 100-plus species. Inventory is limited. Plants are not restocked overnight—the best plant selection will be on Saturday. We encourage shoppers to bring their own boxes to transport plants home. [To shop online and get ordering details](#)

The Grove Restoration Workday

WHEN: May 28

WHERE: 1421 Milwaukee Avenue, Glenview

Reservations are required to attend so we can plan appropriate Work Day activities. Please RSVP to meredith.suangka@glenviewparks.org to reserve your spot. Work parties may be canceled if there is inclement weather.

North Branch Restoration Workdays

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

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

Kent Fuller Air Station Prairie

WHEN: Saturday, May 13

WHERE: Compass and Lehigh Roads, Glenview. Meet at the Interpretive Center

Blue Star Memorial Woods

WHEN: Sunday, May 13

WHERE: Parking is on parking on Wilmette Ave just east of Harms Rd; walk over to the woods at the marked pedestrian crossing.

Harms Woods

WHEN: Sunday, May 21

WHERE: Meet at the Glenview Woods parking lot on the west side of Harms Road, just south of Glenview Road.

Watersmeet Prairie Grove

WHEN: Saturday, May 6, 13, 27 and June 3

WHERE: This site is located in the village of Northfield near the Glenview border. On Winnetka Road, east of Wagner Rd. Park on Avon Ave, a side street to the north of Winnetka Road. Meet near the Forest Preserve sign, across the road from Avon

