

# GLEN ELLYN PARK DISTRICT

## Environmental Advisory Committee

### Meeting Highlights

February 22, 2022



#### **Follow up on recommendations of the February 25, 2021 EAC meeting**

Water Quality Flag: Erin Kennedy explained to earn this flag, the Park District only needs to pursue one last item, a staff training. The training could be in person, live via Zoom, or a pre-recorded training could be sent to staff to watch by a specified date. Staff will follow up on the pre-recorded option.

Library Walking Wednesdays and collaboration on Nature & Forest Therapy Walk: Manager Frigo emailed Christina Keasler on these topics 2/23. The Glen Ellyn Public Library is still interested in pursuing these, and conversations need to continue to plan for summer and fall programs.

Incorporation of QR codes in signage: This will may be incorporated on future signage, but content needs to be kept up to date.

Creation of a Junior Naturalist program: Staff to keep this idea as an option

Grandparent/grandkid programs: Ideas included earning a badge, citizen science, seed collecting/planting/monitoring with a milkweed example. Staff will try to offer some of these this summer or fall.

Citizen science opportunities, iNaturalist app: Staff shared information on upcoming citizen science middle school camp, increasing volunteer opportunities in this area, and that a grant for bioacoustics equipment was recently submitted.

#### **Upcoming programs and projects**

Spring offerings: Staff listed the planned programs found in the Spring 2022 Playbook

Summer camps: Staff listed the planned programs found in the Summer Camp Guide

On-going & future projects: Manager Troia shared information on lighting upgrades at the Community Centers and Holes & Knolls (LEDs, occupancy and daylight sensors, dark sky complainant fixtures).

Manager Troia shared that money has been allocated this year for improvements to Churchill Park. Improvements could include interpretive signage, invasive plant control, and enhanced outdoor learning spaces.

Manager Troia mentioned components of the OSLAD grant application for the Lenox property, which include pickle ball courts, a community garden, pavilion, and additional trails.

Manager Frigo provided an update on holiday light recycling program. The 2021 effort collected ~2,700 lbs., and 2022 collection is estimated to be over 4,000 lbs.

Manager Frigo shared information on Lake Ellyn Park's oak tree health. Oaks are facing several challenges, and the Park District wants to be proactive in monitoring plausible causes of decline. The Park District has been working with the Public Works Department to obtain samples from select trees to test for oak wilt, have consulted with experts on oak diseases and treatment options, and has had on-going conversations with staff from the Morton Arboretum, who have agreed to help provide guidance along with performing root rot tests and training for staff or volunteers. A monitoring program for assessing tree health in the park will be created for 2022.

### **Committee suggestions and comments**

Jacquelyn Casazza shared information about the Village's upcoming downtown business district upgrades, including tree removal and creation of improved spaces for future trees. She stated that trees may be in the spotlight the next few years, and there could be opportunity to educate the community on tree health and importance. Others on the committee agreed that tree educational campaigns would be worth it.

Remic Ensweiler stated that College of DuPage will be doing a native plant sale this spring, over fifty species will be available. If the Park District wanted to consider another eco-movie in a park, a documentary on native plants could be coordinated with plant sales.

Jacquelyn Casazza shared preliminary details of a Park District and Go Green Glen Ellyn partnership to host a used sports equipment swap and sale, an idea that this committee has talked about over the years. This is planned for April 16, 2 – 5 pm, at Ackerman Sports and Fitness Center's indoor turf field. More details are forthcoming. Erin Kennedy stated that SCARCE can help publicize the swap/sale.