



**GLEN ELLYN
PARK DISTRICT**

LOOKING BACK

A YEAR IN REVIEW

2020 ANNUAL REPORT



ABOUT THIS REPORT

The Glen Ellyn Park District's 2020 Annual Report provides highlights of the District's accomplishments, finances, activities, events, and projects undertaken during 2020. It also provides an overview of where we intend to go in 2021.

The financial data in this report represents preliminary numbers as of the publication date of this report. The 2020 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) is typically finalized in June and can be viewed in its entirety online at www.gepark.org/CAFR once available. Residents may also obtain paper copies of the reports at the Spring Avenue Recreation Center, 185 Spring Avenue, Glen Ellyn, IL.

Questions or feedback concerning any of the information provided may be directed to Executive Director, Dave Harris at dharris@gepark.org or Superintendent of Finance and Personnel, Nick Cinquegrani at ncinquegrani@gepark.org.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Park District's mission is driven to foster diverse, community-based leisure opportunities, through a harmonious blend of quality recreation programs, facilities and open space which will enhance the quality of life into the future.

BACKGROUND

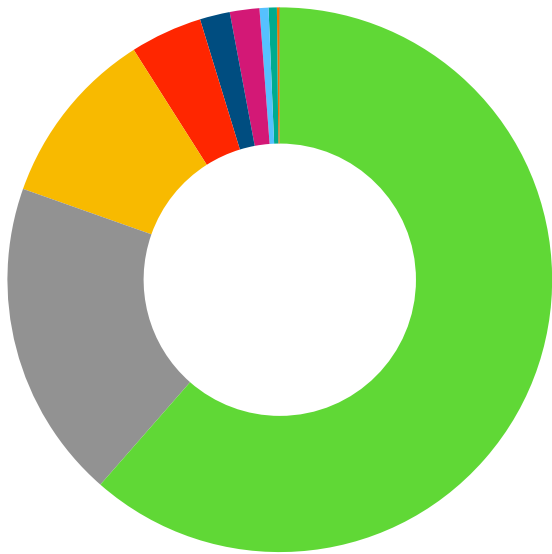
Established in 1919, the Glen Ellyn Park District is a separate governmental entity and serves over 37,500 residents who live within the District's 10.6-mile service area. This service area closely aligns with the boundaries of the Village of Glen Ellyn, while also incorporating parts of Lombard, Glendale Heights, Carol Stream, and Wheaton.

Park District operations are funded by revenue generated through program fees, tax dollars, grants, donations, and other sources. These funds provide for the acquisition, development, and maintenance of natural areas, parks, and leisure time facilities. The District also plans, develops, and implements a wide range of recreational programs and activities that reflect all age groups and diverse interests.

REVENUE ANALYSIS

FISCAL YEAR 2020

Preliminary financial activity for the 2020 fiscal year through 2/5/2021. Totals are net of transfers.



REVENUE

Property Tax Receipts	61.45%	\$5,414,542
Program Fees	18.97%	\$1,671,272
Charges for Services	10.58%	\$932,375
Rentals	4.28%	\$376,959
Other Taxes	1.78%	\$157,154
Miscellaneous Income	1.75%	\$154,649
Grants & Donations	0.53%	\$46,803
Interest Income	0.49%	\$43,301
Concessions	0.14%	\$12,718
Licenses & Permits	0.03%	\$2,235

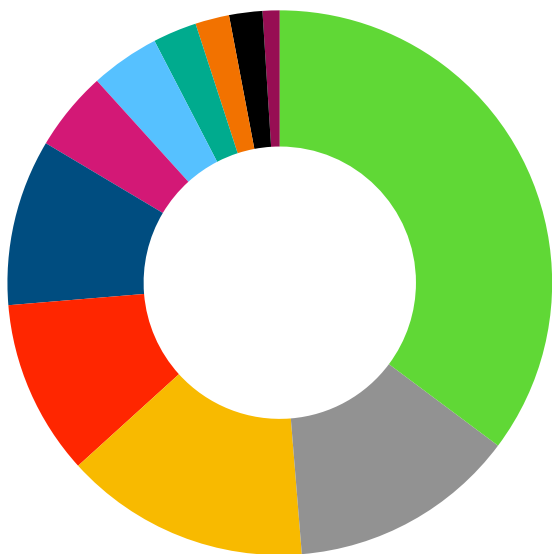
%	\$
61.45%	\$5,414,542
18.97%	\$1,671,272
10.58%	\$932,375
4.28%	\$376,959
1.78%	\$157,154
1.75%	\$154,649
0.53%	\$46,803
0.49%	\$43,301
0.14%	\$12,718
0.03%	\$2,235

TOTAL

\$8,812,012

EXPENDITURE ANALYSIS

FISCAL YEAR 2020



EXPENSES

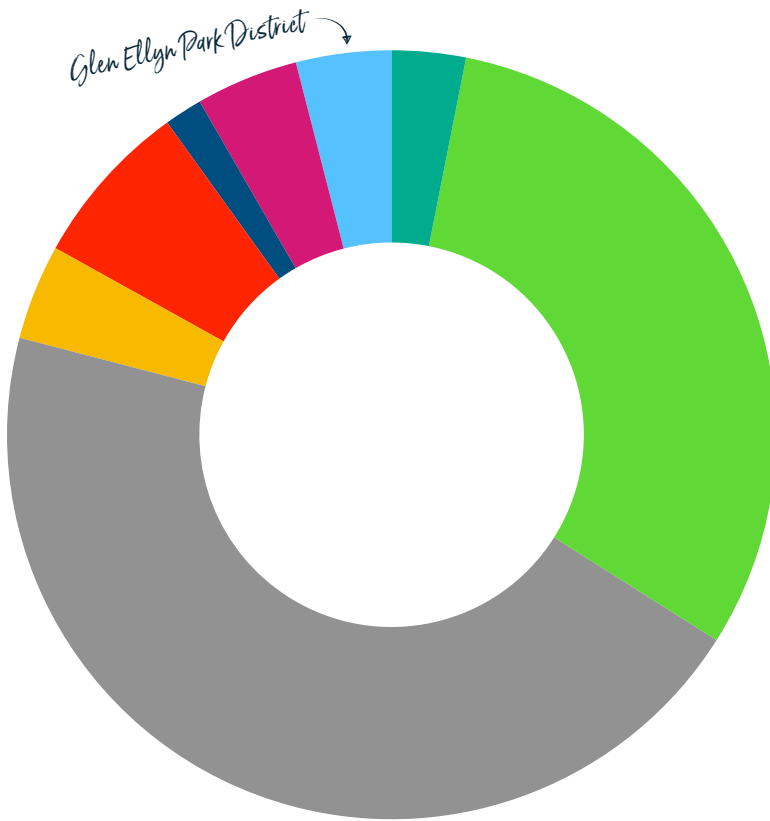
Salaries & Wages	35.20%	\$2,974,384
Special Recreation	13.51%	\$1,141,053
Debt Service	14.56%	\$1,230,242
Contractual Services	10.41%	\$879,683
Employment Expenses	9.87%	\$834,146
Materials & Supplies	4.73%	\$399,683
Utilities	4.11%	\$346,855
Miscellaneous	2.60%	\$219,840
Insurance	2.02%	\$170,504
Equipment	1.97%	\$166,773
Building & Landscaping	1.02%	\$85,795

%	\$
35.20%	\$2,974,384
13.51%	\$1,141,053
14.56%	\$1,230,242
10.41%	\$879,683
9.87%	\$834,146
4.73%	\$399,683
4.11%	\$346,855
2.60%	\$219,840
2.02%	\$170,504
1.97%	\$166,773
1.02%	\$85,795

TOTAL

\$8,448,959

YOUR TAX DOLLARS



The graph on the left shows how your 2019 tax bill (paid in 2020) is allocated among the various taxing districts in Glen Ellyn. The Park District represents ~4% of the total tax levy.

● **College of DuPage:** 2.9%

● **School District 87:** 30.4%

● **School District 41:** 45.7%

● **GE Public Library:** 4.3%

● **Village of Glen Ellyn:** 6.8%

● **Milton Township:** 1.5%

● **DuPage County Services:** 4.4%*

*Includes DuPage County, Forest Preserve, DuPage Airport, and Mosquito Abatement

● **GE Park District:** 4.16%

OPERATING BUDGET

In a typical fiscal year, the operating budget is approximately \$12 million dollars of which ~45% is funded by property tax revenue. The remaining ~55% is generated from program user fees, grants, fundraising, and rentals. Since the outset of the pandemic, the District has refunded or credited nearly \$1.4 million due to cancellations and suspension. To offset the financial impacts, the District has:

- Reduced full-time staff by 12.5% to 28 employees
- Furloughed over 100 part-time staff in spring, many of whom were brought back as programming and operations expanded
- Deferred or eliminated \$1+ million in capital improvement projects

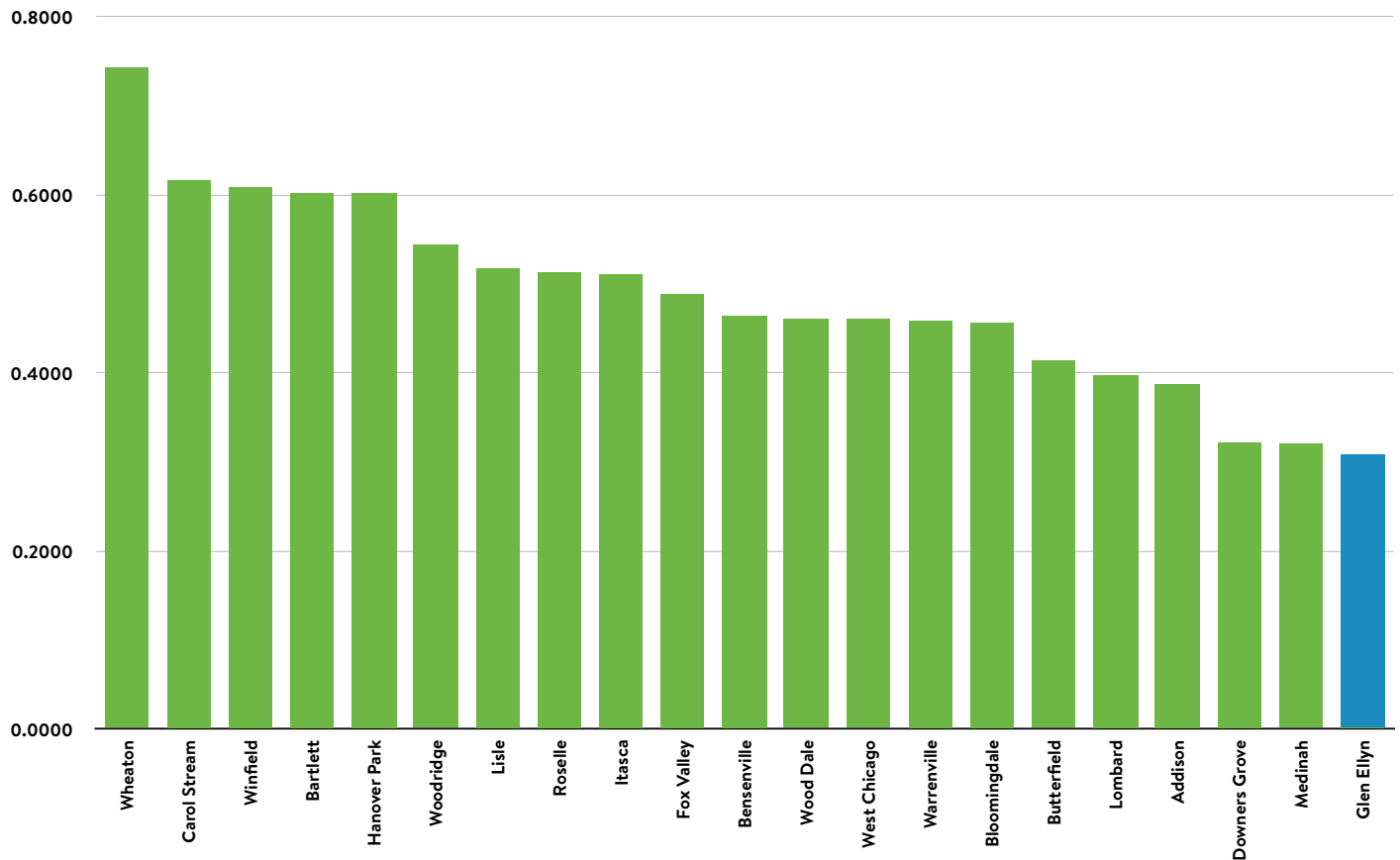
COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT (CAFR)

The District has received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting award from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) for its CAFR each year since 2008.

AA+ BOND RATING FROM STANDARD POOR'S

The Park District continues to maintain a strong AA+ bond rating, which reflects strong and sound financial practices and may lower interest rates on bond issues. The District is one of only a few Illinois Park Districts to achieve this rating or equivalent.

PARK DISTRICT TAX RATE COMPARISON



FISCAL STEWARDSHIP

MOST RECENT PARK DISTRICT TAX RATE COMPARISON

Glen Ellyn Park District's property tax rate of 0.3057 per \$100 of property assessed value remains at the low end of all park districts in DuPage County including:

- Addison
- Bartlett
- Bensenville
- Bloomingdale
- Butterfield
- Carol Stream
- Downers Grove
- Fox Valley
- Hanover Park
- Itasca
- Lisle
- Lombard
- Medinah
- Roselle
- Warrenville
- West Chicago
- Wood Dale
- Woodridge
- Wheaton
- Winfield

SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY



OVER 1,200

bags of food and toiletry donations and more than \$2,000 collected for Glen Ellyn Food Pantry.



451 UNITS

of blood collected at 11 blood drives. These units helped save up to 1,353 lives.



51 RESIDENTS

received a total of \$13,942 in scholarships to access recreational, sports, and wellness programs.



500+ TOYS

collected at our drive-thru toy drive in partnership with The Alliance of Legends.

RECREATING RESPONSIBLY



24,182

total program enrollments.



150+ FREE

social distancing friendly events, programs, contests, printables, and more.



12,998

views of free fitness videos made available for community use.



16,000

rounds of mini golf played while following Restore Illinois Plan guidelines.

CREATING A GREENER GLEN ELLYN



263 ACRES

maintained each week at 29 community and neighborhood parks.



700 PLANTS

added to Maryknoll Park's pollinator garden and meadow.



261

native trees and shrubs sold at the 3rd annual Native Tree & Shrub Sale.



3.4 TONS

of pumpkins composted at the District's first Pumpkin Smash event.



We Support Local

ASSISTING OUR GLEN ELLYN BUSINESSES

In 2020, the District's efforts included loaning picnic tables to several local restaurants for outdoor seating, providing green space for private fitness businesses to enable those entities to conduct outdoor classes, and assisting with promoting downtown events and activities.

BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

ACKERMAN PARK IMPROVEMENT PROJECT PHASE IV

Phase IV concluded in August 2020 and included installation of new backstops, field fencing, seat walls, planters, tables, player benches, and permeable pavers in the hub plaza. Improvements were also made to grading and drainage, the infield mix to make the fields more playable, and the concession building was renovated. Earlier improvements included an irrigation system, over 1 mile of walking/running trails, a synthetic turf field, bioswales, and an outdoor fitness area. The efforts to improve the park were started in 2014 when a master plan of the property was developed and approved. Over the past six years, most of the recommendations have since been implemented, all within the yearly operational budget of the District.



MARYKNOLL PARK NATURAL AREA IMPROVEMENTS

The District was awarded a grant through the ComEd Green Region Program to assist with a natural area improvement project at Maryknoll Park. A garden at the entry has been enhanced and expanded with pollinator container plants and select areas of turf in the park are being converted to a pollinator prairie.

DEMONSTRATION GARDENS

DuPage Foundation's Glen Ellyn Fund awarded its first round of funding to a new "Sustainable Garden Initiative." The project, proposed by the Village of Glen Ellyn Environmental Commission, created two permanent demonstration gardens to inspire and inform visitors to Lake Ellyn and Village Green Parks, and builds upon Glen Ellyn's annual "Sustainable Yard Tour."



BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

LAKE ELLYN SELF-GUIDED TREE TOUR

Interactive tree tags were installed on legacy trees throughout the park, allowing visitors to learn detailed information about each tree. The Lake Ellyn Self-Guided Tree Tour was generously funded thanks to an anonymous donation.



SUNSET POOL SAND PLAY AREA

The small playground within the gates of Sunset Pool had a sand surface below the playground. For the past several seasons, this area has been closed due to sand wasps and rendered unusable. Over the winter months, sand has been removed and replaced with a soft blue playground surface. This area will now be available as a break from swimming for younger children.

OTHER NOTABLE PROJECTS

Ackerman SFC Indoor Turf Replacement

The original indoor turf material at Ackerman SFC, which was at the end of its useful life, was replaced. The installation was completed while the facility was closed due to the pandemic.

Maryknoll Parking Lot Renovation

The District received very competitive pricing, incurring a savings of nearly \$50,000. This project was advanced to earlier in the season while many of the park's facilities were closed.

Flagpole Installation

A 35' high flagpole was installed near the entrance of Ackerman SFC. Thank you to Adam Bodzioch, who donated and installed the flagpole as part of his Eagle Scout project!

Lake Ellyn Floating Restorers

Additional floating restorers (islands) were added to Lake Ellyn. These serve to filter the lake water while also providing increased habitat for birds above and fish below.

BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

2021 Projects and Initiatives

Co-Op Park Renovations	Following discussion and engagement with nearby residents, the playground and park are set for renovations this spring. Improvements will include a new playground, A.D.A. enhancements, and improved connectivity. Community engagement has taken place, construction plans have been developed, and the project was bid for pricing in January. The playground equipment was previously purchased through a grant opportunity and has already been received by the District. Construction is targeted for April/May 2021.
Frank Johnson Center Study	As the facility is beyond its useful life and in need of significant attention, the District reviewed several options including relocation. After review, a decision was made to have the operation remain at its current site and to develop renovation plans that could potentially be implemented within the next ten years. As part of the long-range capital planning process, a facility evaluation will occur in 2021 to identify needs, deficiencies, and workable solutions for the facility and site. These will be incorporated into a masterplan that will be phased over the next 5 years and incorporated into our financial plans.
Lake Foxcroft Parking Lot and Pathway	Improvements to the asphalt trailways and parking lot are planned for 2021, as part of routine asphalt maintenance. Parking spots will neither increase nor decrease along Lambert Road.
Newton Park Improvements	The Glen Ellyn Park District was recently awarded an Illinois Department of Natural Resources OSLAD funding assistance grant for the renovation of Newton Park in 2020. The award of this grant will specifically be utilized to replace the 25-year-old playground while significantly expanding accessibility features, adding features to the skate park, completing a trail connection that will allow for one large loop around the perimeter of the park, improving drainage to reduce stormwater runoff, incorporating native plantings and a sensory garden, regrading the outdoor ice-skating area, and adding interpretive and wayfinding signage. The improvements will serve a diverse demographic, will be multi-generational, fully accessible, and will promote community engagement with outdoor activities.

<p>Sunset Concession Deck and Shade Canopy</p>	<p>Pool participants can look forward to additional seating opportunities. A shade canopy is planned adjacent to the concession building. Underneath, an area previously turf grass will be converted to a hardscape plaza with tables.</p>
<p>Village Green South Lot</p>	<p>As part of routine asphalt maintenance, the south parking lot of Village Green Park will be resurfaced and striped in 2021. There will be no change in number of available parking spaces nor layout of the lot.</p>
<p>Village Green Park Back Area</p>	<p>The open grass area beyond baseball fields 3, 4, and 5 has had drainage challenges over the years resulting in reduced usage and maintenance challenges. In collaboration with the Village of Glen Ellyn, drainage from the open space area to Lambert Lake will be repaired. Work is anticipated to be done in late winter/early spring to not interrupt any programs or activities.</p>
<p>Village Green Park Pickleball Court Expansion</p>	<p>As the sport of Pickleball continues to increase in participation and interest, the existing tennis court at Village Green Park will be converted to additional Pickleball courts. Layout of the new courts is still to be determined. Work is anticipated to occur in the spring.</p>



ACCORDING TO A SURVEY BY THE ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION OF PARK DISTRICTS,

9 OUT 10
 Illinoisans agree that park districts and open spaces improve local property values in their communities.

Rethinking Recreation

Below are just a few examples of the many ways District staff adjusted and adapted during the ongoing pandemic to continue providing fun recreational outlets for our community while also following guidelines and recommendations from local health organizations and the Restore Illinois Plan.



Community Zoofari & Dinosaur Expedition

Families searched for zoo and dinosaur displays created by their neighbors.



Learn & Play

A remote learning day camp to support students in need of a monitored location.



You've Been Grinched

Candy canes delivered by the Grinch to resident homes.



Keep it Glowing at Home

More than \$3,600 raised for Lurie Children's through lantern sales.



Gus in the Park & Sneaky Snowman

Free scavenger hunts in the parks.



Self-Guided Tours

Seasonal tours available for Ackerman and Churchill Parks.



Santa on the Stoop

Distanced porch visits with the big guy, Santa!



Holiday Lights Map

A digital map for the community of holiday light displays around town.



Toys for Tots Drive with Character

Drive-thru drop-off toy drive with Thor, Spider-Man, and more.



Glen Ellyn Strong Virtual 5K

Proceeds from shirt sales donated to the Glen Ellyn Food Pantry.



Spook Trail

Socially distant scares on the trail through Ackerman Woods.



Pumpkins on Main

Pumpkin carving class and contest, and festive display at Main Street Rec. Center.



Summer Service Corps

This dedicated group of recent high school graduates and college students put in around 1,000 collective hours on park improvement projects this summer. Service Corps members were hired from the District's pool of seasonal summer staff that had lost their original positions due to pandemic-related closures. The group completed tasks ranging from mulching playgrounds to painting picnic tables to collecting litter. We are grateful for their hard work and contributions to our community's green spaces.



Resident Advisory Committees

CITIZENS' FINANCE

The Park Board initiated and formed the Citizens' Finance Committee, comprised of Glen Ellyn professionals in the financial and business community, whose task was to oversee and provide guidance regarding District finances. The committee has been instrumental in reviewing, advising and establishing financial direction and oversight. These efforts have contributed to the financial stability of the District both present and for the future. *Thanks to Leo Lanzillo, Art Pech, Charlie Prisco, Don St. Clair, John Vitalis, Michael Graham, Mike Hoban, and Tom Lettenberger.*

ACKERMAN SFC

Formed in 2015, the committee is comprised of Ackerman SFC users and members whose task is to provide guidance and advice regarding the facility. *Thanks to Adam Smith, Beth Lilly, Gina Walch, Jim Cantore Jr., John Nevins, Katie Kline, Mark Reinke, Marion Michel, and Mary Carrier.*

ENVIRONMENTAL

Formed in 2016, the committee is comprised of users and members whose task is to provide guidance and advice regarding environmental efforts throughout the Park District. *Thanks to John Bower, Jacquelyn Casazza, Remic Ensweiler, Christina Keasler, Janet Kuefler, SCARCE representative, and Carrie O'Halloran.*

YOUTH SPORTS

Formed in 2018, the committee is comprised of key stakeholders whose task is to provide ideas, input and feedback regarding Glen Ellyn Park District's youth athletics programs. *Thanks to Aaron Bare, Andy Humble, Karen Clements, Kurt Mika, Dave Larrance, Mary Beth Bletsas, Mike Jackert, Mike Semprevivo, and Pete Danielewicz.*



Value of the *Glen Ellyn Park District*

While some aspects of quality of life cannot be measured, the Glen Ellyn Park District provides many quantifiable benefits to its residents. Here is an overview of some of the outstanding parks and facilities that our residents can enjoy:

29
PARK SITES

21
PLAYGROUNDS

18
ATHLETIC FIELDS

13
TENNIS COURTS

7.5
BASKETBALL COURTS

4
OUTDOOR ICE RINKS

4
MILES OF TRAILS

1
OUTDOOR FITNESS AREA

PLATFORM TENNIS FACILITY
PICKLEBALL COURTS
SKATEBOARDING FACILITY
SPLASH PARK
MINIATURE GOLF COURSE
SWIMMING FACILITY
SPORTS & FITNESS COMPLEX
DOG PARK
SAND VOLLEYBALL COURTS
BASEBALL/SOFTBALL FIELDS
SLED HILL
INDOOR MULTI-USE TURF
FREE, ANNUAL EVENTS

Partnerships

The District actively develops relationships with other government agencies, not-for-profits and businesses in order to benefit residents through cooperative services, programs and facilities.

■ WDSRA

The Western DuPage Special Recreation Association (WDSRA) is a collaboration of nine park districts including Glen Ellyn, Wheaton, Carol Stream, Naperville, Winfield, West Chicago, Roselle and Bloomingdale. WDSRA offers programming, direction, and support for special needs patrons in relation to recreation. Programs include assistance to special needs participants in Park District programs, adapt-a-sports, life skills, special events and fitness/well-being.

■ Glenbard High School District 87

The Glen Ellyn Park District and District 87 have a combined intergovernmental agreement allowing shared use of facilities and fields. This benefits both organizations while maximizing community assets and minimizing expenses.

■ Glen Ellyn School District 41 and Community Consolidated School District 89

The Park District and School Districts 89 and 41 have intergovernmental agreements allowing some shared use of facilities and fields. Additionally, the Park District provides maintenance services for some of their properties.

■ Glen Ellyn Public Library

We have a longstanding partnership with the Glen Ellyn Public Library. Efforts include reading programs, participation in special events, the StoryWalk, and more.

■ Kiwanis Club of Central DuPage

In partnership with Kiwanis Club of Central DuPage, the Park District staged six food collection drives at Ackerman Sports & Fitness Center in 2020.

■ Village of Glen Ellyn

The Park District and the Village collaborate and partner to improve services and reduce expenses. Examples include stormwater management, snow removal storage, fuel purchase, road salt, open space, planning and development, environmental services, special events, and programming.

■ Cooperative Programs

The Park District works with other local park districts, as well as organizations within the community, in order to offer a wider variety of programs to our residents.

■ The Conservation Foundation & SCARCE

The Park District partnered with The Conservation Foundation on the 3rd Annual Native Tree & Shrub Sale and with SCARCE on a Pumpkin Smash event at the Village Green Park Community Garden Plots.



OVER 1,200

bags of food and toiletry donations were collected for Glen Ellyn Food Pantry at drive-thru food drives offered in partnership with Kiwanis Club of Central DuPage.

Friends of Glen Ellyn Parks Foundation

Founded in 2015, Friends of Glen Ellyn Parks is the charitable arm of the Glen Ellyn Park District and raises funds for people, projects, and parks. Donations received enable the Foundation to achieve its mission of assisting the Glen Ellyn Park District in preserving open space, improving Park District assets, and funding scholarships to help enrich the lives of people in our community.



HOW YOU CAN HELP

The simplest way to contribute to the Friends of Glen Ellyn Parks is through cash gifts to the Foundation. Creative gifts of assets can also include stocks, bonds, real estate, and personal property. All donations that we receive are tax deductible as charitable contributions.

GET INVOLVED

The Friends of Glen Ellyn Parks is currently seeking interested community members to serve on the Foundation's Board. For more information on how you can help advance the Foundation's Mission, please contact Dave Harris at (630) 942-7255 or dharris@gepark.org.

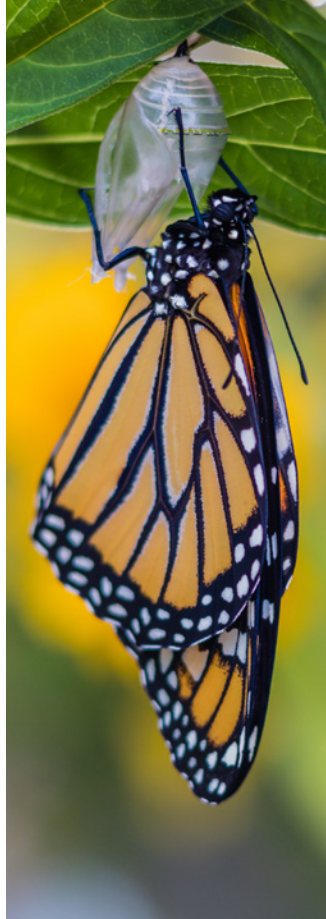
Glen Ellyn Cares Soccer Scholarship Fund

The Glen Ellyn Cares Soccer Scholarship Fund was developed to provide financial assistance to players in need.

The fund aims to diminish and/or eliminate economic, logistic, and cultural obstacles, and enable Glen Ellyn community members to participate in the GEYSO, Lakers, and Midwest soccer clubs.

100% of donated funds go towards player fees, uniforms, equipment, transportation and other direct costs for program participation.

In 2020, Glen Ellyn Cares assisted 8 players with \$4,500 in funds, allowing the players and their families to not only experience a tremendous soccer opportunity but more importantly make lifelong friends, develop life skills and be active community members.



The scholarship program is available to all Glen Ellyn Park District residents that qualify. Scholarship funds can be used for non-contractual camps and classes, pool passes, trips, preschool, fitness, athletics, etc., where fees are required. Funds are not eligible for equipment purchases or rental fees. Residents who qualify are eligible to receive up to \$400 maximum per person per calendar year (January 1-December 31) based on need and availability of funds.

Applicants must be able to provide proof of residency and income as defined on the application. Copies of the application are available at gepark.org/financial-aid or by visiting the Spring Avenue (185 Spring Avenue) or Main Street (501 Hill Avenue) Recreation Centers.

A completed application form along with copies of supporting documents must be returned in person or mailed to: Executive Assistant, Glen Ellyn Park District, 185 Spring Avenue, Glen Ellyn, IL 60137. Please allow up to 3 weeks for the application process. Applicants will be notified by letter or phone of the decision made concerning the scholarship.

If you have further questions, call (630) 858-2462.



**GLEN ELLYN
PARK DISTRICT**

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

*Parks & Activities
for Everyone*

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Executive Director

Dave Harris
dharris@gepark.org

Superintendent of Finance & Personnel

Nick Cinquegrani
ncinquegrani@gepark.org

Parks Project Manager

Nathan Troia
ntroia@gepark.org



REFERENCE DOCUMENTS & DOWNLOADS

Lake Ellyn Park Master Plan

www.gepark.org/plans

Ackerman Park Master Plan

www.gepark.org/plans

Board Agendas & Minutes

www.gepark.org/board-meetings

2020 Park District Budget

www.gepark.org/budget

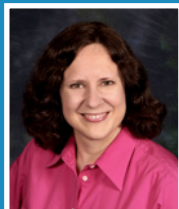
BOARD *of* COMMISSIONERS



Michael Ward
President



Alex Durham
Vice President



Julia Nephew
Treasurer



Ben Stortz



Kathy Cornell



Paul Bischoff Jr.



Rob Weber