This past year has been a productive period for our Park District. Many large projects have been completed in 2016, including the historic restoration of the Lake Ellyn Boathouse, modernization and installation of new athletic lights at Ackerman Park, installation of shade/safety structures at Village Green (thanks to Glenbard West for contributing partial funding), construction of a new picnic shelter at Maryknoll Park and sediment removal from Lake Ellyn.

In addition, the website has a new look with added components, such as a park map with amenities and an event calendar. I would like to acknowledge the Village of Glen Ellyn for their efforts to improve storm water management at Lake Ellyn. Collaborating with the Village, the chance of future flooding in the areas around Lake Ellyn Park has been greatly diminished.

I am extremely pleased to report that the Glen Ellyn Park District Board voted to allow the referendum debt that funded the majority of the expenses to construct the Ackerman Sports & Fitness Center to retire. As a result of the unanimous vote, residents of the Park District will realize, on average, an estimated 7.5% reduction on the Park District portion of their 2016 tax bill (payable in 2017) and an approximate savings of 27.5% on their 2017 tax bills (payable in 2018).

Finally, it has been a privilege and honor to serve you as one of your Glen Ellyn Park District Park Board Commissioners. I thoroughly enjoyed my time representing you and am very proud of the accomplishments that the District achieved. I would like to say thank you to the community, my fellow Board members (particularly Commissioners Nephew and Creech, both of whom I have served with for 8 years), and Park District staff.

Jay Kinzler, President
Board of Commissioners
Glen Ellyn Park District

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.
The annual operating budget produces **surplus revenue** which contributes to capital replacements and improvements such as parking lot repairs, playground replacements, and athletic field maintenance.

**REVENUE:** Total $13,677,366*

**EXPENSES:** Total $12,116,216*

*Preliminary financial activity for the 2016 fiscal year through 1/20/2017. Totals are net of transfers and debt service activity.
YOUR TAX DOLLARS

In 2016, the Glen Ellyn Park District was awarded an AA+ bond rating.

» One of only a few Illinois Park District’s to achieve this rating or equivalent.

» Reflects strong & sound financial practices.

» May allow for lower interest rates on bond issues.

Did You Know?

The Park District’s tax rate is lower than all surrounding comparable communities such as:

- Addison
- Butterfield
- Carol Stream
- Lisle
- Lombard
- Warrenville
- Wheaton
- Winfield

- College of DuPage: 3.3%
- School District 87: 30%
- School District 41: 44.7%
- Village of Glen Ellyn: 6.5%
- Milton Township: 1.5%
- DuPage Co. Services: 4.5%*
- GE Public Library: 4.2%
- GE Park District: 5.30%

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

The Park District was able to refinance outstanding bonds, saving the taxpayers approximately $86,000 between 2017 and 2021 largely due to its strong fund balance and AA+ bond rating.
LOOKING FORWARD INTO 2017...

» Newton Park Parking & Traffic Plan

» Two Additional Platform Tennis Courts

» Athletic Advisory Committee

» New Recreation Programs and Special Events

» Village Green Tennis Court Resurfacing

» Ackerman SFC Parking Lot Improvements
  Subject to release of $439,000 state grant that has been withheld since 2014.

» Spring Avenue Recreation Center Parking Lot Improvements

» Lake Ellyn Park Playground Replacement
  Along with improvements including park amenities, natural areas, interpretive signage, and lighting. 50% of the cost is funded by an O.S.L.A.D grant.

» Removal of House at Babcock Park to Expand Green Space

» Prairie Path Park Improvements
  Improvements in collaboration with Glen Ellyn Public Library, Village of Glen Ellyn and Rotary Club of Glen Ellyn. The Rotary Club of Glen Ellyn is providing a grant of $10,000 and in kind services.
The historic restoration of the Lake Ellyn Boathouse was completed in July 2016 - just in time for the annual 4th of July festivities. The Boathouse restoration came after several years of discussion, public meetings and refinement. The $2.85 million capital improvement project concentrated on restoration of the Lake Ellyn Boathouse to its historic beauty, including replacement of the roof and the addition of a flood protection wall. The project also included landscape enhancements and a stand-alone restroom near the playground.

The master plan is an exciting vision that reflects the consensus to retain and enhance what makes it a great community park - to "polish the gem." It provided for a historically authentic restoration of the Boathouse, achieving listing the building on the National Register of Historic Places, local Historic Landmark Designation, as well as attaining LEED certification Gold Level.

Upgrading Lake Ellyn Park and the Boathouse was identified as a top priority for the Park District in the 2012 Community and Attitude Interest Survey and prioritized by the Park Board of Commissioners. After a collaborative and inclusive process involving residents, neighbors, stakeholders and community organizations in order to establish priorities and direction for the Lake Ellyn Park improvements, the Park District has identified funding and pursued implementing the restoration of the Boathouse and its surrounding elements.

Thanks to all who contributed to this truly team effort!

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**LAKE ELLYN BOATHOUSE**

**DID YOU KNOW...**

- The Boathouse was constructed in 1937 under the Works Project Administration.
- The solar panels on top of the pergola (trellis) provides up to 14% of the electrical demand for the building.
- Irrigation system uses water from Lake Ellyn.
- Perimeter exterior wall serves as flood protection.
- Landscape around the building was specified to be drought resistant and able to tolerate extreme exposure to water.
- The Boathouse is rented or programmed over 130 times a year.
- The District received an $85,000 anonymous donation which contributed to an irrigation system utilizing Lake Ellyn water and interpretive signage. Thank You!
Glen Ellyn Park District events bring the community together. These 2016 events are just a sampling of the activities that were made possible through your tax dollars and generous donations from our sponsors.

» Touch-a-Truck
Kids get their hands on the big trucks they see driving around town including dump trucks, fire engines, and police cars.

» Movies in the Parks
Families enjoy evenings under the stars in our community and neighborhood parks all summer long with six free family-friendly movies to watch! In the spring, fall and winter, indoor movies are shown on the turf at Ackerman SFC or in the gym at Main Street Recreation Center.

» Summer Jazz in the Park
Relaxing nights out with wonderful music provided by the Glen Ellyn Jazz Ensemble playing Big Band tunes. A touch of Ravinia in Glen Ellyn!

» Afternoon Festivities
16th year of family-friendly fun after the Fourth of July parade with penny carnival games, rides, food and live music. Over 1,200 community members attended in 2016.

» Poochapalooza
The 6th annual dog-focused event featuring
SkyDogz disc dogs, pet-friendly vendors, a pet costume contest, musical sit, and raffles.

**Boo Bash**
Kids enjoy a trick-or-treat trail complete with costumed characters at the annual Boo Bash.

**Zumbathon for Susan G. Komen**
This fitness dance party brings the Zumba community of Glen Ellyn together to support Susan G. Komen for the Cure. This year’s event raised $215 for the fight to end breast cancer.

**Chocolate, Cheese & Wine Tasting**
Adults age 21+ enjoy chocolate, cheese, food and wine samples from around the world. Introduced in 2015, this event is in partnership with the Glen Ellyn Chamber of Commerce.

**Inaugural Pumpkin Flotilla Fest**
Produced in partnership with the Rotary Club of Glen Ellyn, attendees enjoy pumpkin carving demos, activities, music and more. The evening ends with the lit Pumpkin Flotilla on Lake Ellyn.

**Inaugural Trick-or-Treat Climb**
Costumed kids take on the challenge of climbing the Ackerman Alps and collect treats along the way. The higher they climb - the better the prizes!

**Turkey Trot**
28 years of burning off calories before sitting down to Thanksgiving dinner. Over 350 runners participated in this year’s race, collecting many bags of food donations for the Glen Ellyn Food Pantry.

**Mom Prom**
Over 200 sons and moms enjoy an evening of dancing, games, and ice cream at the Main Street Recreation Center. Don’t worry, Dads! We still host the Daddy Daughter Dance.

**Tween Nights**
Tweens (ages 8-12) enjoy a pizza party and activities at Ackerman SFC including: dodgeball, volleyball, kickball, soccer & more.

**The District also assists many groups in the community with their events:**
Alliance of Downtown Glen Ellyn, Glenbard West Boosters, District 41 PTA(s), Backyard BBQ, WDSRA, Chamber of Commerce, Glen Ellyn Historical Society, Glen Ellyn Public Library, Kiwanis of Central DuPage, Glen Ellyn Kiwanis, Glen Ellyn Lions Club, Glenbard South Post Prom, Glenbard West Post Prom, Glenbard District 87 advanced placement testing & college placement testing, Rotary Club of Glen Ellyn, Glen Ellyn Junior Women’s Club, Glen Ellyn League of Women’s voters, People’s Resource Center, Teen Connection, Shop with a Cop and more!

**Supporting Local Businesses**
The Park District reinvests back into the community by supporting local businesses and vendors whenever possible.

Activities at the Park District, such as special events and tournaments, attract crowds from within and around the community. Increasing the number of visitors to Glen Ellyn helps to build and stimulate the local economy.
BY THE NUMBERS

» Bringing the Community Together
• 98 special events offered by the Recreation Department (51 of which were free to attend!)
• 8 parks included in the Trails & Trivia challenge, designed to get kids (and adults) outdoors
• 501 wristbands sold at Afternoon Festivities
• 50 pumpkins were carved by participants in the for the inaugural Pumpkin Flotilla
• 1,800+ community members registered for at least one special event (excludes free events produced by the District)

» Well-Maintained Parks
• 263 acres maintained each week at 29 different community and neighborhood parks
• Over 100 newly planted trees
• 27 trees removed due to emerald ash borer
• 5 days of ice skating at Lake Ellyn, 1 at Lake Foxcroft, 16 on the Newton hockey rink and 15 on the Newton ice skating rink
• Around 40 acres of natural areas actively managed for invasive plant species

» Staying Fit
• 4,695 fitness members at Ackerman SFC
• 50+ group fitness classes offered each week
• 851 running enthusiasts in the Freedom Four™
• Over 115,000 fitness & walking track member visits in 2016
• 23% increase in personal training revenue

» People Serving our Community
• 7 volunteers on the Board of Commissioners
• 7 volunteers on the Ackerman SFC Committee
• 7 volunteers on the Citizens Finance Committee
• 8 volunteers on the Environmental Committee
• 28 full-time employees District-wide
• 609 part-time and seasonal employees

In 2016, the Glen Ellyn Park District employed over 200 Glen Ellyn residents at our facilities. Employment at the Park District is often the first work experience for teenagers in the community!

» Communicating with You
• 1 redesigned Park District website launched
• 1 Instagram account launched
• 262 pages in seasonal programs guides
• 14,000+ Activity Guides delivered to residents each season
• 65+ District eNewsletters delivered to inboxes
• 3rd Park District “Looking Back” Report created
• 175,540+ visits to www.gepark.org
• 150,530+ visits to www.AckermanSFC.com

» Splish Splash!
• 4,368 pool memberships sold
• 300 kids in Gators swim program

» On the Financial Side
• Due to the retirement of referendum debt, the Park District portion of your 2016 tax bill (payable in 2017) is forecasted to reduce approximately 7.5%, on average, and an additional 21.4% the following year.
• The Park District estimates to have a positive surplus in operations of more than $1.1 million that will be used to fund capital replacements and improvements in future years. Generating surplus from operations reduces the Park District’s reliance on the issuance of debt.
• $8,000+ dollars raised for scholarships through programs and special events
• 189 families experiencing financial hardships assisted with $37,000+ in scholarship funds

» Time to Celebrate!
• The Glen Ellyn Park District turned 97!
• Ackerman SFC celebrated it’s 6 year anniversary
• Lake Ellyn Boathouse turned 79 years old
• The FREE Block Party Wagon was utilized by residents 52 times from April to November 2016.
• The Chicago Cubs won the World Series!
Founded in 1919, the Glen Ellyn Park District (GEPD) spans approximately 10.6 SQ MILES and serves more than 36 K RESIDENTS in DuPage County and Milton Township. GEPD owns or manages 29 PARK SITES with active recreational amenities, 4 miles of trails, a swimming facility, two recreation centers, one sports complex and over 263 ACRES of open space.
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** parks
- **21** playgrounds
- **18** athletic fields
- **14** tennis courts
- **7.5** basketball courts
- **4** outdoor ice rinks
- **4** miles of trails

Platform Tennis Facility
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

According to a survey by the Illinois Association of Park Districts, 9 out of 10 Illinoisans agree that park districts and open spaces improve local property values in their communities.
The Glen Ellyn Park District is dedicated to helping sustain plant life for future generations by protecting and restoring indigenous natural communities such as prairies, woodlands and wetlands. Restoration projects at the Glen Ellyn Park District are primarily focused on the removal of invasive non-native plants and reintroducing native trees and plants. This year:

- 90 different species of native plant seeds were harvested or donated
- Around 500 volunteers helped with natural area restoration projects
- 100+ oak saplings were planted in a small nursery and will be transplanted into parks once they get larger

**Prescribed Burns**
Six prescribed burns were conducted in 2016. Prescribed fire stimulates growth of native plants and grasses while reducing invasive trees and non-native, weedy plant species. Burns were performed at Ackerman Park, Churchill Park, Glen Ellyn Manor Park, and Maryknoll Park.

**Problem Based Learning (PBL)**
Staff worked with School District 41 on eight different problem-based learning projects related to natural resources including topics such as: creating animal habitats, flood prevention, gardening, human environmental impacts, invasive species, native plant species, waste reduction in schools, and wind and solar energy.

**Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)**
The District continues to remove dead and hazardous ash trees from parks and natural areas. On-going efforts are made to seed/plant a diverse native understory of trees and shrubs in wooded areas affected by EAB.

**Turf Conversion Project**
The Park District began the process of replacing 2.7 acres of turf with native plants at Maryknoll Park. The area was burned this fall and native seeds were installed. Over 50 native trees and shrubs were planted in groupings around the perimeter. This will reduce mowing, herbicide and fertilizer use, while creating habitat and providing a “rough” area for disc golfers – as the area lies among the course.
GLEN ELLYN: The Village of Volunteers

The Park District is truly fortunate to have a large number of community members who give freely of their time, working behind the scenes to help make our programs successful. We would like to thank each and every person whose time and talent have made our agency what it is today.

In 2016, the Glen Ellyn Park District Board of Commissioners recognized the following individuals for their dedication, efforts, volunteerism, and commitment to the Glen Ellyn Park District.

Dain Colliander  
Ryan Bodzoich  
Mike Formento  
Carl Cepuran

Elise Brinich  
Isabella Main  
Ethan Cepuran  
Melissa Koenig

Michel Koenig  
Gary Mayo  
Bill Cleaver  
Dan Minkus

THANK YOU, GARY MAYO!

A special thank you to Gary Mayo for serving on the Park District Board of Commissioners from 2011-2016 and his years of volunteerism in Glen Ellyn. “No one is more cherished in the world than someone who lightens the burden of another.” - Author Unknown
Resident Advisory Committees

CITIZENS’ FINANCE COMMITTEE
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 review, 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, Allison DeMong, Michael Graham, Fred Bachman, Tom Lettenberger, Charlie Prisco, Don St. Clair.

ACKERMAN SFC ADVISORY COMMITTEE
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 Beth Lilly, Dan Anderson, Egil Fossilen, Gina Walch, Mark Reinke, Mary Carrier, and Viktoria Himsel.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE
Formed in 2016, the committee is comprised of users and members whose task is to provide guidance and advice regarding environmental efforts throughout the District.

Thanks to Dawn Pearce Bley, Gail Bode, Janet Kuefler, Carrie O’Halloran, Kaaren Oldfield, Diane Padilla-Sup, Kayla Wheeler, and Andrew Van Gorp.

PART-TIME & SEASONAL STAFF
Thanks to the over 600 part-time and seasonal staff members who serves in various capacities including: preschool teachers, camp counselors, lifeguards, referees, concession attendees, personal trainers, fitness attendees, park maintenance, desk attendants, recreation instructors, coaches, and many other positions.

CUSTOMER SERVICE
In 2016, staff implemented a new customer service initiative with a focus on values such as: Leadership, Efficiency, Attitude, and Fun. This initiative will positively impact our customer relations and you can begin to expect an even higher level of service from the Park District!
Community & Neighborhood
Parks & Facilities

**Athletic Lighting Improvements at Ackerman Park**
As part of the Ackerman Master Plan, the nearly 40-year-old existing athletic lighting for lower Ackerman Park (north of softball hub) was replaced. The new lighting will be more efficient and cost effective while lighting the entire lower open green space. This allows greater availability with field usage.

**Permanent Shelter at Maryknoll Park**
A second permanent picnic shelter was installed at Maryknoll Park. Due to the popularity and attendance of the park, the need for an additional permanent shelter emerged. Installation was completed in early fall and was funded through impact fees generated by nearby developments.

**Lake Ellyn Stormwater Improvements**
The Glen Ellyn Park District and the Village of Glen Ellyn collaborated on improvements related to Lake Ellyn and stormwater management. The inlet structures were dredged, receiving large amounts of sediment from the two catch basins. The earthen dam was reinforced while the weir was expanded. This increased the drainage capacity which will further reduce the likelihood of the lake over topping. Thanks to the Village of Glen Ellyn for securing the funding and grant for the dam/weir improvements.

**Lake Ellyn Boathouse & Central Corridor of Park**
After years of planning, including engagement with the community, the Park District respectfully restored the historic Boathouse and improved the central corridor of the park. That included the addition of a remote restroom near the playground.

The project was completed on time and under budget. It achieved listing on the National Historic Register, local landmark designation from the Village of Glen Ellyn Historic Preservation Commission and LEED Gold certification.
The Glen Ellyn Park District actively develops relationships with other government agencies, not-for-profits and businesses in order to benefit residents through cooperative services, programs and facilities.

**Glen Ellyn Stewardship Alliance**
The initiative will combine efforts to promote ecological restoration of land in our community that is owned by the Park District, College of DuPage, Forest Preserve District of DuPage County, and the Village of Glen Ellyn. Volunteers will gather monthly at rotating sites to learn, work and socialize.

**Rotary Club of Glen Ellyn**
The Glen Ellyn Park District and the Rotary Club of Glen Ellyn partnered to bring a new event to the community in 2016: Pumpkin Flotilla Fest. We will also collaborate, along with the Glen Ellyn Library and the Village of Glen Ellyn, to improve Prairie Path Park in 2017. Rotary is contributing a $10,000 grant towards those improvements which will include a story walk and outdoor ping pong table and chess table.

**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 direction, programming, and support for the 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 Park District and District 87 have a combined intergovernmental agreement allowing shared use of facilities and fields. This benefits both constituents while maximizing community assets and minimizing expenses.

**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. This year, the Park District was able to offer over 80 additional programs/events thanks to these efforts.

**Village of Glen Ellyn**
The Park District and the Village continue to collaborate and partner to improve services and reduce expenses. Examples include stormwater management, marketing, snow removal storage, open space, planning and development, environmental services, special events, and programming.

In 2016, the Village of Glen Ellyn worked with Park District staff to create a stilling basin in Churchill Park, to help offset erosion issues in the stream. Native trees, shrubs, plants and seeds were installed in the riparian zone once work was completed. In addition, the Village and Park District partnered on stormwater management improvements to Lake Ellyn. The District removed sediment from the inlets while the Village oversaw improvements to the weir/dam.

**Friends of Glen Ellyn Parks**
The Friends of Glen Ellyn Parks is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization which solicits support for the Glen Ellyn Park District throughvolunteerism, gifts and grants, and planned giving opportunities. A Board of Directors consisting of local community members acts to improve the quality of life for the residents utilizing the Park System.

Learn more: [www.gepark.org/friends](http://www.gepark.org/friends)
Athletics

The Glen Ellyn Park District is committed to offering diverse athletics opportunities for the community, including instructional classes, leagues and camps. We strive to provide quality experiences and facilities focused on developing skills, building confidence, and learning the values of teamwork and good sportsmanship. In 2016, there were:

- Approximately 11,000 registrations for athletic programs, camps and leagues
- Over 2,900 registered participants in Glenbard West, Glenbard South and Glen Crest Summer Camps
- Over 4,000 baseball, football, soccer, field hockey, lacrosse, softball, and basketball games scheduled and played

Tournaments & Special Events
The District also hosted twelve (12) tournaments and special events which showcased our many parks and facilities to players, teams and spectators from around the country including:

- Glen Ellyn Youth Rugby Middle School Jamboree
- Illinois Boys Lacrosse Association U9 Championship
- Glen Ellyn Phillies Invitational and All-Star Early Summer Girls Fastpitch Softball Tournament
- DeMarini Invitational Softball Showcase
- Glen Ellyn Classic Baseball Tournament
- GameDay USA Majestic Prospect Games Baseball Tournament
- GameDay USA National Championships Baseball Tournament
- GameDay USA All-Star Baseball Weekend
- West Suburban Youth Baseball League Championship
- Glen Ellyn Golden Eagles Football Jamboree
- Glen Ellyn Golden Eagles Cheer Showcase
- Glen Ellyn Lakers Fall Classic Soccer Tournament

Giving Back
In addition to Park District Staff, hundreds of volunteers assist with the administration of the athletics programs. Many of these individuals serve on Executive Committees representing their various organizations in order to provide direction and to assist with the various tasks, activities and events needed throughout the year.

Through their hard work and dedication, over $50,000 in athletic program sponsorships including cash, supplies and services was received. These results have helped supplement existing District efforts to fund program and facility improvements including:

- Complete infield renovations of Parkview East & West baseball fields
- Installation of shade structures for Village Green Fields #1, #2, #3 and #4 in cooperation with School District 89
- Installation of baseline fencing on Village Green Field #2 in cooperation with Glenbard West High School
- Relocation of flagpole at Village Green Park
- Replacement of Ackerman Park batting cage netting
- Purchase of heavy duty lacrosse goals for use on Newton Park synthetic turf field
- Creation of additional green space for soccer fields at Ackerman Park

Other initiatives in 2016 included implementation of imPact Concussion testing for the Lakers Travel Soccer program, expanding the AlphaBasketball Coaches Training program to include grades 1-3, continuing Positive Coaching Alliance (PCA) Training for all youth sports coaches and again having Certified Athletic Trainers on-site for all home football games throughout the season.
LEADERSHIP TEAM

Executive Director
Dave Harris
dharris@gepark.org

Superintendent of Finance & Personnel
Nick Cinquegrani
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Superintendent of Recreation
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Superintendent of Parks & Planning
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REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

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

2016 Park District Budget
www.gepark.org/budget