

# LOOKING BACK

A YEAR IN REVIEW

**2021 ANNUAL REPORT** 





## **ABOUT THIS REPORT**

The Glen Ellyn Park District's 2021 Annual Report provides highlights of the District's accomplishments, finances, activities, events, and projects undertaken during 2021. It also provides an overview of where we intend to go in 2022.

The financial data in this report represents preliminary numbers as of the publication date of this report. The 2021 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report is typically finalized in June and can be viewed in its entirety online at gepark.org/ACFR 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.

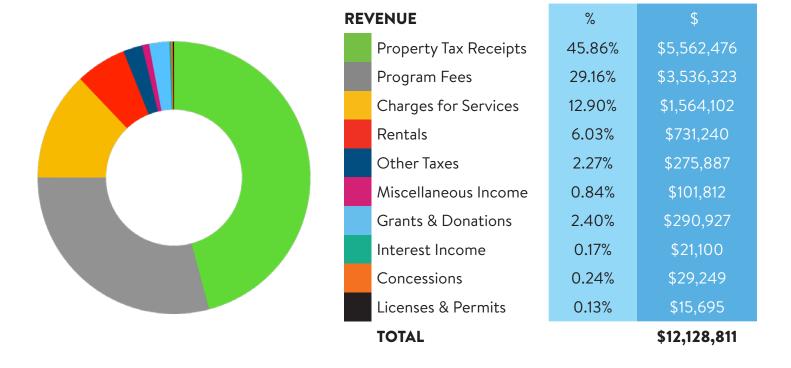
## **BACKGROUND**

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.

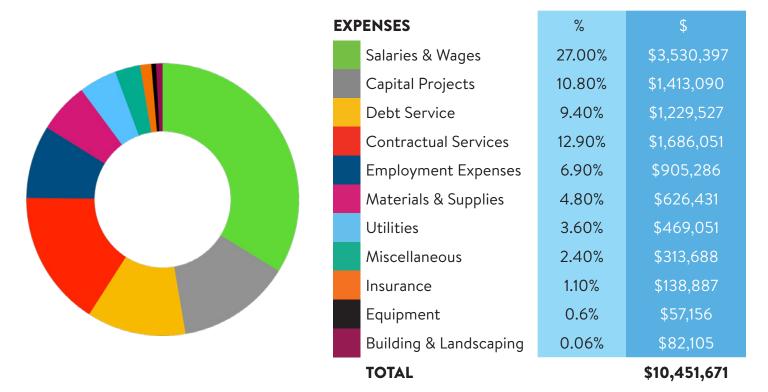
## **REVENUE ANALYSIS**

#### **FISCAL YEAR 2021**

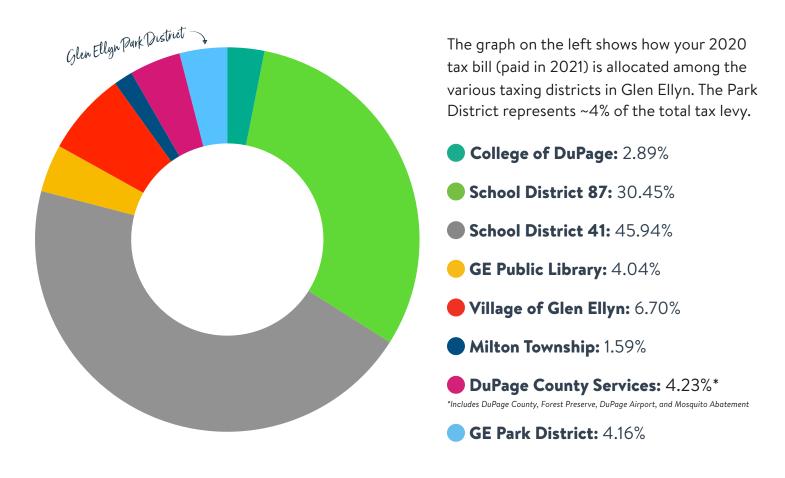


## **EXPENDITURE ANALYSIS**

## **FISCAL YEAR 2021**



## **YOUR TAX DOLLARS**



#### **OPERATING BUDGET**

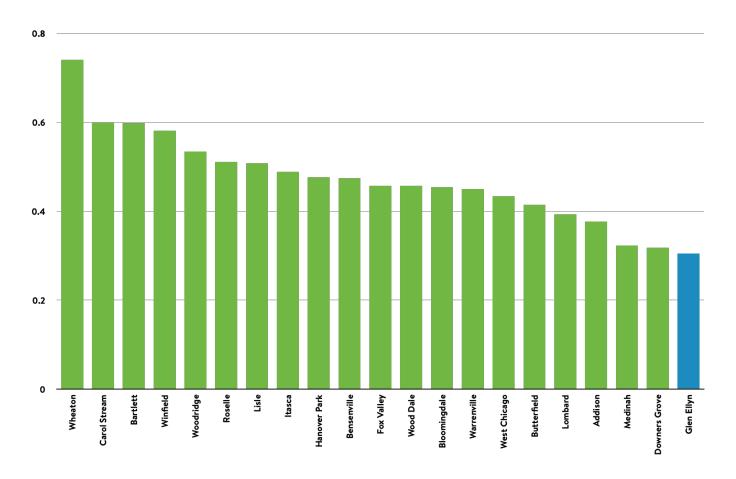
In a typical fiscal year, the operating budget is approximately \$12 million dollars of which ~45% is funded by property tax revenue. The remaining ~55% is generated from program user fees, grants, fundraising, and rentals.

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.

## ANNUAL COMPREHENSIVE FINANCIAL REPORT

Glen Ellyn Park District has received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting award from the Government Finance Officers Association for its Annual Comprehensive Financial Report each year since the District began applying in 2008.

## PARK DISTRICT TAX RATE COMPARISON



## FISCAL STEWARDSHIP

## MOST RECENT PARK DISTRICT TAX RATE COMPARISON

Glen Ellyn Park District's property tax rate of 0.3043 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**



~20,000 POUNDS of groceries collected for Glen Ellyn Food Pantry at drives held at Ackerman SFC and special events.



649 UNITS
of blood collected at 12
blood drives. These units
helped save up to
1,947 lives.



9 CLINICS

hosted at Ackerman
SFC offering Covid-19
vaccines, Covid-19
boosters, and/or flu shots.



600 + TOYS
collected at our toy
drive for Toys for Tots
in partnership with The
Alliance of Legends.

## **RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES**



**45,229** total program enrollments.



**100+ FREE** events and programs for the community.



23 THESPIANS took part in the District's inaugural theatre production, Annie Jr.



58 RESIDENTS
received a total of \$19,981
in scholarship funds to
access recreational and
sports programs.

## **CREATING A GREENER GLEN ELLYN**



**263 ACRES** maintained each week at 29 community and neighborhood parks.



**2,700 POUNDS** of holiday lights collected and recycled.



444
native trees and shrubs
sold at the 4th annual
Native Tree & Shrub Sale.



1,000+ PUMPKINS composted at the District's second Pumpkin Smash event.



# Nearly 20,000 pounds of groceries for Glen Ellyn Food Pantry collected by Park District in 2021

Glen Ellyn Park District collected a total of 1,776 bags, or roughly 19,536 pounds, of food and toiletry donations for Glen Ellyn Food Pantry in 2021. Items were collected over the course of 13 drives offered in partnership with Kiwanis Club of Central DuPage and State Representative Terra Costa Howard. As a result of these efforts, the Glen Ellyn Park District and its partners have been named the Pantry's largest donors through food drives in 2021.

"This was a record year for donations, and we are so appreciative of the Park District's efforts to host and coordinate drives, and deliver donations to the food pantry," said Rich Wloszek, procurement manager for the food pantry. "The food and toiletries donated helped support more than 4,000 of our neighbors at risk of hunger."

"To have donated almost 20,000 pounds shows the incredible giving spirit of the Glen Ellyn community," said Dave Harris, executive director for the Glen Ellyn Park District. "The District would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone that took time to donate in 2021 and to our partners. We are proud to have been able to help the food pantry towards its goal to 'make

hunger history' and support those in need in Glen Ellyn and the surrounding communities."

The park district will continue to host monthly food drives through November 2022 at Ackerman Sports & Fitness Center, 800 St. Charles Road. The first drive of this year took place on January 23 and resulted in an additional 500 pounds of groceries for the food pantry.

The Glen Ellyn Food Pantry provides essential groceries and support to people at risk of hunger through a collaboration of local churches and the broader community. The Pantry is dedicated to "making hunger history" in the 12 communities it serves: Addison, Bloomingdale, Carol Stream, Glen Ellyn, Glendale Heights, Lisle, Lombard, Villa Park, Warrenville, West Chicago, Wheaton, and Winfield. In 2021, The Pantry served 836,000 pounds of food to more than 4,000 neighbors, 35 percent of whom were children. Currently located in space at Grace Lutheran Church in Glen Ellyn, the Pantry was founded in 1979 and is a registered 501(c) (3) organization, 100 percent privately funded through grants and donations.

## **BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE**

## **2021 Completed Projects**

#### **CO-OP PARK RENOVATION**

Improvements included a new and expanded playground, new site furniture, ADA improvements, and a new park sign. The playground equipment was purchased through a grant opportunity. Construction was executed in April and May, with the new playground opening for Memorial Day weekend. An exciting addition to the neighborhood, to replace and upgrade a playground from 1996.





## VILLAGE GREEN PARK PICKLEBALL COURT EXPANSION

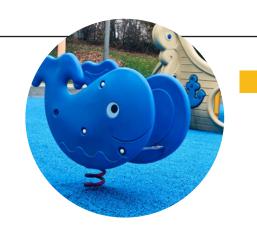
As the sport of pickleball continues to increase in participation and interest, the existing tennis court at Village Green Park was converted to additional pickleball courts. The layout of the new courts was determined in collaboration with representatives of the players. The west half of the courts was striped to have two properly spaced courts, including new nets and posts. This project was completed and opened to the public July 4.

#### **VILLAGE GREEN PARK BACK AREA**

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 was repaired in the spring and improved drainage has already been observed.

#### **SUNSET PLAY AREA IMPROVEMENTS**

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. The sand was removed and replaced with a soft blue playground surface in December 2020 and opened to the public during the 2021 pool season.



## **BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE**







#### LITTLE FREE LIBRARIES

Little Free Libraries have been added to Surrey Park in partnership with Glen Ellyn Public Library, and Co-Op and Lake Foxcroft Parks in partnership with the Glen Ellyn Public Library and Kiwanis Club of Glen Ellyn.

## SUNSET POOL PARKING LOT

The parking lot of Sunset Pool was resurfaced and striped as part of routine asphalt maintenance.

#### NEWTON PARK BASKETBALL COURT

The Newton Park basketball court was repaired and resurfaced with a color coating and new court lines.



CONCEPT ART

#### **SUNSET POOL DECK & SHADE CANOPY**

Pool visitors can look forward to an improved seating area in 2022.

A shade canopy was installed adjacent to the concession building in November.

Underneath, an area previously turf grass was converted to a hardscape plaza with tables.

## **BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE**

## 2022 Planned Projects

## Sunset Playground & Park Renovations

Installed almost 30 years ago, the Sunset Park playground is past its useful life and renovations are planned for 2022. Community engagement will likely occur in spring in the form of an open house. The District will pursue donating the existing equipment to a developing nation. Planned improvements include a new playground structure, ADA enhancements, a small shelter (tentative), and improved connectivity. Construction is targeted for late summer 2022.

## Lake Foxcroft Parking Lot and Pathway

Improvements to the asphalt trailways and parking lot are scheduled 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. 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, 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.

Playground construction will be completed in spring. Skate park design is proceeding with an open house anticipated in spring. Construction of the skate park and remaining elements will happen by late summer.

## Ackerman Sports & Fitness Training Room Rehab

Renovations will take place to the space previously occupied by Hard Gainers Athletics. The installation of a batting cage system has already been completed in 2022. Additional planned improvements include new flooring, painting, and installation of LED lights that will be much brighter and save energy and costs. The renovation project is to be completed in spring.

## Churchill Park Improvements

This 23.3-acre natural area park will be enhanced in 2022. Improvements include a comprehensive approach to upgrade interpretive signs, remove invasive plants, improve walking trails, and create an outdoor education teaching area. To be completed in summer/fall.

## Lake Ellyn Shoreline Project

Building upon the 2013 Lake Ellyn Master Plan, staff has begun efforts on a five-year period of improvements. Included in this five-year plan is a walkway between the Boathouse and fishing pier, providing more public access.

Construction has begun and will continue as the weather improves. The critical materials are available and ready to ship to the site. During construction, Lake Ellyn will be gradually lowered. However, only low enough to complete the work.

Substantial completion is targeted for May 1, weather dependent.

## Facility LED Improvements

The Glen Ellyn Park District continues to pursue eco-friendly green initiatives. Through a ComEd grant program, Spring Avenue Recreation Center, Maryknoll Clubhouse, Holes & Knolls Mini Golf, and the parking lots at Spring Avenue Recreation Center and Maryknoll Park will be upgraded to LED light fixtures which will not only save energy, but also taxpayer dollars.

These projects can result in an annual reduction of 80 metric tons of carbon dioxide. This is the equivalent of taking 15 cars off the road annually.





ACCORDING TO A SURVEY BY THE ILLINOIS

ASSOCIATION OF PARK DISTRICTS,

## **Community Survey**

## **RESULTS ARE IN!**

The Glen Ellyn Park District gave the community the opportunity to provide valuable feedback on facilities, parks, programs, and events via a blind survey conducted by aQity Research & Insights, Inc. Survey results indicate the Glen Ellyn community values parks and programs and overall the survey respondents are satisfied with the Park District. The survey questionnaire was completed and distributed by means of a random sampling equally distributed by mail to Glen Ellyn households throughout the community in September 2021. The survey was also made available online.

To view the survey results, visit: gepark.org/survey



## Thank You

to all community members who participated in the survey!

## Highlights



499 Glen Ellyn Park District residents **completed the survey**, which provides a statistically significant overview of the community as a whole.



Virtually all (93%) of respondents reported using or visiting a park, playground, or nature area in the last 12 months. Not surprisingly, the three most visited parks were Lake Ellyn, Ackerman, and Newton Parks.



When informed that the Glen Ellyn Park District represents 4% of Glen Ellyn's property taxes, residents on average rated the **overall value** they received at 8.0 on a 0-10 scale.



9 out of 10 respondents reported using or visiting a Park District facility within the last 24 months. Ackerman SFC, Sunset Pool, and the Lake Ellyn Boathouse were identified as the top visited facilities.



On a 0-10 scale, the Park District averages a **positive score** of 8.1, which is higher than the esteem rating for all other local agencies tested and far higher than the statewide benchmark of 7.2.



48% of households responded that they had participated in a recreation or athletic program offered by the District within the past 24 months. Of those who participated, 95% gave a favorable satisfactory score.

- Programs and events are considered the District's biggest strengths, followed by parks/trails and facilities. One-third of respondents could not identify any weaknesses or improvement needs for the District.
- Respondents were also asked a series of questions regarding actions the Park District could take and how willing they would be to support those actions with tax dollars. The majority of respondents were somewhat or very supportive.
- Areas of interest included Sunset Pool, open space and land acquisition, park improvements and maintenance of exisiting assets, and refrigerated outdoor ice skating.



# 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, 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 CJ Powers, Gina Walch, John Kuhlman, John Nevins, Katie Brown, Katie Kline, Marion Michel, and Sim Kurup.

#### **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, Jean Kent, 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 Craig Turner, Andy Humble, Mike Semprevivo, Debby Cernich, John McGurk, Rob Johnson, Mary Beth Bletsas, Mike Jackert, and Blaire Huerta.













# 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

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, Little Free Library installations, and more.

## ■ College of DuPage

College of DuPage and Glen Ellyn Park District cohosted an Eco-Movie in the Park and Sustainability Fair. Collections drives were also held to support the College's Fuel Pantry.

## Kiwanis Club of Central DuPage

In partnership with Kiwanis Club of Central DuPage, the Park District staged 12 food collection drives at Ackerman SFC in 2021 and installed Little Free Libraries at Lake Foxcroft and Co-Op Parks.

## ■ 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, the Polar Plaza, 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 virtual Earth Day Symposium, 4th Annual Native Tree & Shrub Sale, DuPage River Sweep, and a rain barrel and composter sale were offered in partnership with The Conservation Foundation. The District also partnered with SCARCE on the 2nd annual Pumpkin Smash event at the Community Garden Plots.



# 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 2021, Glen Ellyn Cares assisted 23 players with a total value of \$25,975, 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.



Glen Ellyn Park District

# ScholarShip PARKS & ACTIVITIES FOR EVERYONE

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: Scholarship Program, 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.

## **LEADERSHIP TEAM**

#### **Executive Director**

Dave Harris dharris@gepark.org

#### **Superintendent of Finance & Personnel**

Nick Cinquegrani ncinquegrani@gepark.org

## **Superintendent of Recreation**

Ryan Miller rmiller@gepark.org

#### Parks Project Manager

Nathan Troia ntroia@gepark.org



Lake Ellyn Park Master Plan gepark.org/plans

Ackerman Park Master Plan gepark.org/plans

**Board Agendas & Minutes** gepark.org/board-meetings

**2021 Park District Budget** gepark.org/budget

## BOARD of COMMISSIONERS



Alex Durham President



Julia Nephew Vice President



Kathy Cornell Treasurer



Ben Stortz



Paul Bischoff Jr.



**GLEN ELLYN** 

PARK DISTRICT

Rob Weber



Michael Ward