



## A Message From the President

It's been a great year for the Glen Ellyn Park District! As you will read on the pages that follow, much has been accomplished as we work hard to maintain all that we offer, and continuously improve what we do to help make Glen Ellyn such a great community.

From Ackerman Sports and Fitness Center to our large community parks to our smaller neighborhood parks, every element of our parks and facilities needs constant attention from our dedicated staff so that our residents can continue to enjoy the benefits of having these wonderful amenities available to them.

Your Park District offers something for everyone and the vast majority of people living within Park District boundaries take advantage of those offerings on a regular basis. I am particularly thrilled to see the number of kids participating in our sport programs and am always thankful for our volunteers who work tirelessly to make those programs possible. Speaking of volunteers, my hat goes off to my fellow commissioners who give their time freely to keep us progressing each and every year.

Looking forward into 2015, we have many exciting projects that will ensure our parks system continues to be the envy of many. We will install the District's first artificial turf field at Newton Park, enabling our young athletes to get far more use out of that precious land. Thanks to a large grant, we will also repair and improve the Safety Village at Spring Avenue Recreation Center.

In July, the Park District will begin the process of upgrading Lake Ellyn Park and restoring the Lake Ellyn Boathouse to its historical beauty. In addition, the parking lot located in front of Ackerman Sports & Fitness Center will be repaired in late summer. The final direction of these two projects will largely be dictated by the release of \$893,000 in grant money awarded to the Glen Ellyn Park District in recent months.

I truly believe that the Glen Ellyn Park District has a direct impact on the quality of life in our community. I hope you will take the time to enjoy the many parks, facilities, and programs that your Park District has to offer.

Sary Mayo

Gary Mayo, 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.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS











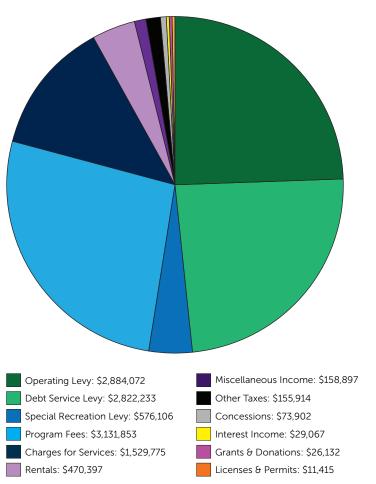


## ANOTHER **SUCCESSFUL** FINANCIAL YEAR

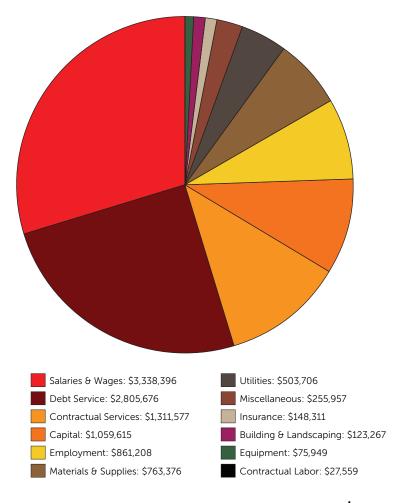
## 2014 Glen Ellyn Park District **REVENUES & EXPENDITURES**

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 \$11,869,768\*

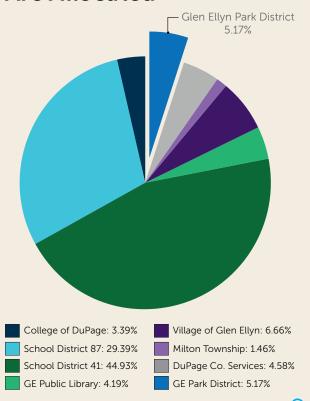


**EXPENSES:** Total \$ 11,274,596\*



## YOUR PARK DISTRICT

# How Your Tax Dollars Are Allocated



#### **Did You Know?**

The Park District's tax rate is **lower** than most surrounding comparable communities such as:

- Addison
- Carol Stream
- Lisle
- Lombard
- Warrenville
- Wheaton
- Winfield
- Wood Dale

The Park District refinanced existing bonds at a lower interest rate saving taxpayers about **\$180,000** over the next three years.

#### **Strategic Planning Outcome**

Several years ago, many of the current Park Board members prioritized stabilizing and solidifying the financial condition of the Glen Ellyn Park District while maintaining its current assets. This effort included achieving an operating budget that generates greater revenue than expenses, establishing and meeting the requirements of a sensible fund balance policy, creating an asset replacement account with funds generated through operations, developing an ambitious business plan for Ackerman Sports and Fitness Center, and resolving the Ackerman roof predicament. The Park Board initiated and formed the Citizen's Finance Committee, comprised of Glen Ellyn professionals in the financial and business community, whose task was to oversee and provide guidance regarding Park District finances. Finally, the District's

long-term capital replacement needs, along with a funding plan, were identified. As a result of these efforts, the Park Board is confident that the current financial condition of the Park District is very favorable and presents financial stability and the means for the District to maintain its current assets through user fees and its current operating tax levy while still offering and providing outstanding recreational opportunities and programs.

Most importantly, as a means to determine what the community desires, the Park District engaged the residents through an Attitude and Interest Survey completed in 2012. Several items were identified which provided direction to the District including making Lake Ellyn Park a priority: (1) maintaining and improving existing assets such as the heavily used Ackerman Park; (2) trails and connectivity; and (3) land acquisition. As a result of the strategic planning efforts based on financial projections and community feedback, the District established its abilities to maintain current assets while implementing moderate improvements that reflect the outcome of the community survey over the next ten years.

## AA+ BOND RATING FROM STANDARD POOR'S

In 2014, the Glen Ellyn Park District was elevated from an AA to an AA+ bond rating.

- **))** One of just 15 Illinois Park District's to achieve this rating or equivalent.
- » Reflects strong & sound financial practices.
- **))** May allow for lower interest rates on bond issues.

# **Community Events**

Park District events bring the community together. These 2014 community events are just a sampling of the activities that were made possible through your tax dollars and generous donations from our sponsors.

#### >> Bike Rodeo

Children learn safe bike habits and practice on a kid-sized course complete with miniature stop signs, crosswalks and more.

#### >> Touch-a-Truck

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

#### » Senior Resource Expo

A premier event which offers information to local residents about services available to individuals 55 years and older.

#### >> Movies in the Parks

Families enjoy evenings under the stars in our community and neighborhood parks all summerlong with six free family-friendly movies to watch, including Frozen! New this year, the Park District introduced an indoor movie on the turf at Ackerman SFC.

#### >> 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

14th year of family-friendly fun after the Fourth of July parade with penny carnival games, rides, food and live music. Over 800 community members attended in 2014.

#### >> Family Fun Night

21st year of free family-oriented entertainment including rides, games, music and crafts.

#### >> Poochapalooza

The 4th annual dog-focused event featuring disc dogs, pet-friendly vendors, sheep herding, and an agility training course.

#### >> Free Week at Ackerman SFC

During the 2nd annual Free Week, non-members enjoyed all the amenities the Ackerman Sports & Fitness Center has to offer such as rock climbing, an indoor multi-purpose turf, gymnasium, and fitness center.

#### >>> Turkey Trot

26 years of burning off calories before sitting down to Thanksgiving dinner. Over 400 runners participated in this years race, collecting 100 bags of food donations for the Glen Ellyn Food Pantry.

#### >> Arctic Blast

The 2nd annual day of frosty family fun and games in the park including: snow ball toss, snow art, hot chocolate, and roasted marshmallows.

## >> The District also assists many groups in the community with their events such as:

LLKpalooza, Alliance of Downtown Glen Ellyn, Glenbard West Boosters, District 41 PTA(s), Backyard BBQ, Spellapalooza, WDSRA, Chamber of Commerce, Glen Ellyn Historical Society, Glen Ellyn Public Library, DuPage Kiwanis, Glen Ellyn Lions Club, 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

- 60 special events offered by the Recreation Department (32 of which were free to attend!)
- 403 wristbands sold at Afternoon Festivities
- 675+ children and adults journeyed to the North Pole on five Polar Express Storytime Trains
- 10 boats "sunk" in the 21st Cardboard Regatta
- 2,000+ community members registered for at least one special event (exludes free events produced by the District)

#### >> Well-Maintained Parks

- 263 acres maintained each week at 29 different community and neighborhood parks
- Over 200 newly planted trees
- 79 trees removed due to emerald ash borer
- 35 days of ice skating at Lake Ellyn, Lake Foxcroft and the two Newton Park rinks
- 6 Glen Ellyn Park District parks adopted
- Around 40 acres of natural areas actively managed for invasive plant species



#### >> Staying Fit

- 3,292 fitness members at Ackerman SFC
- 50+ group fitness classes offered each week
- 893 running enthusiasts in the Freedom Four<sup>TM</sup>
- Over 240,000 visits to Ackerman SFC

#### >> People Serving our Community

- 7 volunteers on the Board of Commissioners
- 8 volunteers on the Citizens Finance Committee
- 28 full-time employees District-wide
- 669 part-time and seasonal employees

In 2014, 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

- 248 pages in seasonal programs guides
- 14,000+ Activity Guides delivered to residents each season
- 40+ District eNewsletters delivered to inboxes
- 5 Community Voice columns
- 80+ pages maintained on www.gepark.org
- 1st Park District "Looking Back" Report created

#### ) Our Online Presence

- 7,500+ patrons registered for at least one program in our improved registration system
- 168,122+ visits to www.gepark.org
- Two new websites developed (Ackerman SFC & the Glen Ellyn Gators Swim Team)
- 627 new "likes" and 200+ posts on Facebook
- 10,800+ views of the Virtual Activity Guides

#### >> Mini Golf!

Over 18,894 rounds of mini golf played



#### >>> Splish Splash!

- 4,022 pool memberships sold
- 393 in Gators swim program
- 651 kids learned to swim
- 13,951 visits to the Maryknoll Splash Park
- 125+ community members hired to work at Sunset Pool during the summer months

#### >> On the Financial Side

- \$479,290 received in funding from 2 grants
- Around \$180,000 will be saved over the next 3 years due to the Park District's AA+ bond rating
- 34% increase in rental revenue at Ackerman.

#### >> Happy Campers

- 2,492 kids participated in summer camps
- 46 different summer camps offered

#### >> Time to Celebrate!

- The Glen Ellyn Park District turned 95!
- Holes & Knolls celebrated it's 10 year anniversary
- Lake Ellyn Boathouse turned 77 years old
- 120 event rentals at the Lake Ellyn Boathouse with almost 10,000 guests
- The Park District's FREE Block Party Wagon was utilized by residents 51 times from April to November 2014.

#### >>> Scholarships

- \$11,000+ dollars raised for scholarships through programs and special events
- 200+ families experiencing financial hardships assisted with \$36,000 in scholarship funds

#### >> Jump, Swing, Dance and Tumble

- 222 kids participated in dance classes
- 480+ kids participated in gymnastics classes
- 39 birthdays celebrated with a gymnastic party

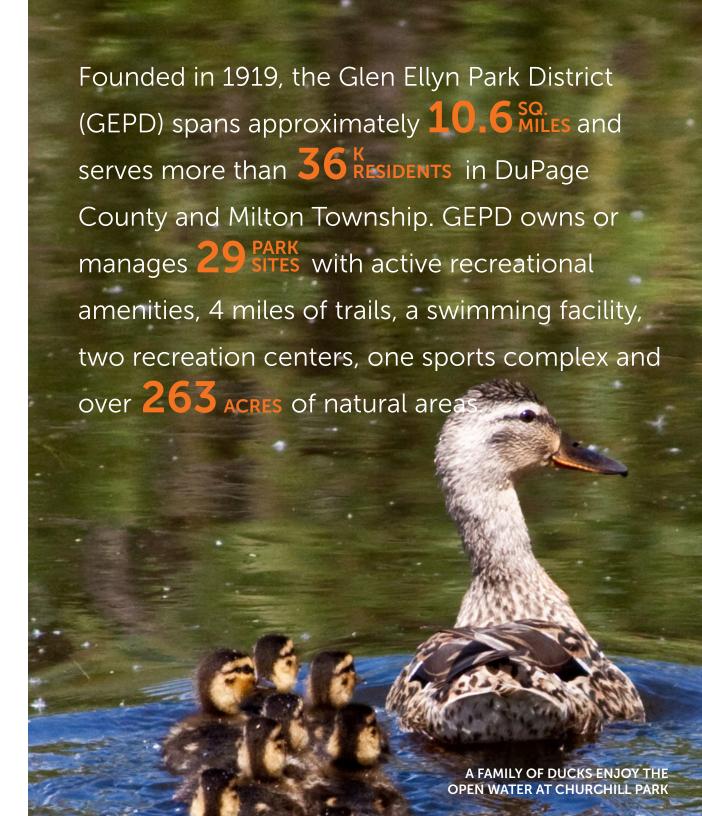
#### ) Grab Your Racquet

- 306 kids and adults participated in tennis lessons
- 234 platform tennis members
- 14 outdoor tennis courts available for use (8 of which are lighted courts and 2 which are clay)
- 4 platform tennis courts available at the Platform Tennis Facility (heated for year-round play)

#### » It's Easy Being Green

- 340 pounds of holiday lights kept out of landfills thanks to the holiday light recycling program with Elgin Recycling (www.elginrecycling.com)
- 70 lights (in parking lots, facilities, and shelters) switched out to LEDs
- 40 liquid soap dispensers replaced with a foambased product which uses less water and results in less waste





# >> THANK YOU TO **OUR VOLUNTEERS!** Over the course of 2014, over 400 individuals volunteered to assist in restoration efforts. within our natural areas from helping to collect seeds to clearing invasive buckthorn.

Natural areas like Churchill Park improve air and water quality for humans and create habitats for wildlife.

## **Natural** Area Restoration Projects

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:

- 150 different species of native plant seeds were harvested or donated
- Approximately two acres worth of mature buckthorn were cleared by community volunteers
- Around 40 acres of natural areas within our parks were actively managed for invasive plant species

#### >> 100 Tree Project

The District committed to planting 100 trees in 2014. To date, 140 larger trees have been planted within our parks which include a combination of native trees such as Hickories and Oaks, as well as ornamental trees like the Japanese Tree Lilac. Roughly 150 Oak and Wild Pear saplings were also planted in the natural areas at Glen Ellyn Manor Park and Churchill Park.

In addition, we've partnered with the Village of Glen Ellyn, a member of the

Suburban Tree Consortium, to improve the quality and selection of the newly planted trees.

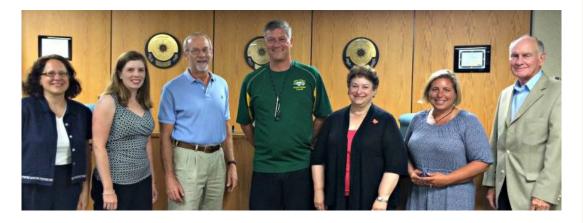
#### >> Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)

The District continues to remove dead and hazardous ash trees from parks and natural areas. In addition to the 100 Tree Project, on-going efforts are made to seed/plant a diverse native understory of trees and shrubs in wooded areas affected by EAB.

#### >> No Mow Zones

In 2014, the Park District began the process of restoring and recreating more naturalized communities within the no mow zones. Efforts have been made. in areas including the Maryknoll oak savanna, Lake Ellyn Park, and Churchill Park. These areas have been planned and intentionally placed to help promote the natural regeneration of the urban forest or prairie.













## **GLEN ELLYN** The Village of Volunteers

In 2014, 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.

**Ted Kus Kevin Cooke** Gina Walch **Debbie Travers Matt Halkyard Cindy Dayton Mark Meyers Judy Schier Diana Palermo** Chris Hallerud **Scott Gillenwater Tracy Gustello Mark Tennyson** St. Petronille School

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.

The Park District would like to thank each and every person whose time and talent have made our agency what it is today.

#### CITIZEN FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Park Board initiated and formed the Citizen's Finance Committee, comprised of Glen Ellyn professionals in the financial and business community, whose task was to oversee and provide guidance regarding Park 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 Don St. Clair, William Hupp, Chris Veldman, Leo Lanzillo, Tom Lettenberger, Art Schultz, Christina Fine, and Charlie Prisco. Also, thank you to past members Bill Loftus and John Johanneson.



## **Partnerships**

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.

## » Intergovernmental Agreement with High School District 87

The Glen Ellyn Park District and Glenbard High School District 87 entered into a long-term intergovernmental agreement for shared use of facilities and athletic fields. This partnership maximizes the use of community resources. District 87 contributes financially to the Park District to offset the disparity of needs, these funds are then reinvested back into the District, contributing to capital improvements and future asset replacements.

#### >> ANIMA

In 2014, Anima has set up their office operation on the second floor of the Main Street Recreation Center. The Park District is appreciative for the continued excellent relationship with this first class organization and wishes to congratulate Anima on their 50th anniversary!

#### >> 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.

#### >> Village of Glen Ellyn

The Park District, the Village of Glen Ellyn, and the Illinois League of Bicyclist partnered to create a "Biketo-Metra" guide through a shared grant opportunity. The "Bike-to-Metra" project produced a comprehensive guide with recommended bike routes within Glen Ellyn to the train station.

This is just one of many combined efforts with the Village which also includes Village Green Park, Co-Op Park, and snow removal storage. This summer, work was completed on the reconstruction of Lenox Road, which involved months of discussion and input resulting in a road that will be mutually beneficial for the Village, Park District, and the community.

#### >> 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 40 additional programs, including a boys part-time travel basketball team with the Glen Ellyn Titans, thanks to these efforts.

## Community & Neighborhood Parks & Youth Athletic Fields



#### **Danby Playground Replacement**

A new playground at Danby Park officially opened in October. We invite you to stop by to investigate, examine, and explore all the features the new playground has to offer, including: multiple slides, swings, and more.

We would like to thank all the neighbors that participated in the Danby Park survey that was sent out last spring. The results from the survey served as a guide to determine which areas the Park District should focus on in order to give users an outstanding park amenity that the entire neighborhood can enjoy. This follows the replacement of the Manor Park playground and is the second of a 20 year program to replace all playground. The next playground on the schedule is at Lake Ellyn Park.

#### Lake Ellyn Park & Boathouse Improvements

The Park District Board of Commissioners voted to engage Conservation Design Forum (CDF) and Farr Associates (Architecture, Planning and Preservation) to begin implementing phase 2 of the Lake Ellyn Master Plan. The \$2.7 million improvements, planned for 2015-2016, will concentrate on restoration of the Lake Ellyn Boathouse as well as park areas and amenities.

#### **Newton Park Synthetic Turf**

A synthetic turf field will be installed at the upper Newton football field in Spring, 2015. This was a collaborative effort between the Park District, School District 87, Golden Eagles, Lakers soccer, and Bulldogs lacrosse. It will serve community organizations including football, lacrosse, soccer, field hockey, and other activities.

#### **Ackerman Park: Great Western Trail Connection**

The Park District received a \$10,000 grant to help fund an official trail connection from the Great Western Trail into Ackerman Park.

#### Ackerman Park: Master Plan

After completion of the Ackerman Park Master Plan, the District will begin implementing some of the recommendations. In 2015, the two most northern softball fields will be converted to open space allowing for more soccer fields and flexibility to move and rest fields.

#### **Tennis Court Resurfacing**

Sunset Park tennis courts were resurfaced in 2014. Newton Park tennis courts are scheduled to be resurfaced for this year.

#### **Indoor Aquatic Center Referendum**

After thorough research over several years, the Park Board placed the issue of constructing an indoor pool on the ballot to allow residents the opportunity to decide. It was defeated 60.6% to 39.4%.

## **Thank You!**

The Glen Ellyn Park District would like to thank all of the organizations that help us with the Adopt-A-Park program!

- Glen Ellyn Manor: Laverne Street & Neighbors
- Lake Ellyn Park: Glen Ellyn Lions Club
- Midway Park: Midway Park Garden Society
- Maryknoll Park: Cub Scout Troop 246
- Stacy Park: Stacy Woods Home Owners Association
- Walnut Glen: Glen Ellyn Sustainability Group & Neighbors

The Glen Ellyn Park District's Adopt-A-Park program utilizes partnerships with local organizations to preserve, beautify and maintain Glen Ellyn's neighborhood parks.

### **Awards & Grants**

The Glen Ellyn Park District continually seeks alternative funding to offset expenses. The District was honored in 2014 to receive two substantial grants as well as awards for our facilities, transparency and financial reporting.

#### >> Sunshine Award for Transparency

In November 2013, the Glen Ellyn Park District received a "Sunshine Award" from the Illinois Policy Institute, a nonpartisan and nonprofit research organization, for achievements in government transparency. The Glen Ellyn Park District was one of the first park district in Illinois to receive the award.

#### >> Excellence in Financial Reporting

The Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) established the program to encourage and assist state and local governments to go beyond the minimum requirements of generally accepted accounting principles to prepare comprehensive annual financial reports that evidence the spirit of transparency and full disclosure and then to recognize individual governments that succeed in achieving that goal. The Glen Ellyn Park District has received the Certificate of Achievement for the past SIX consecutive fiscal years.

#### >> Spring Avenue Dog Park "BEST OF" Award

In August, the Park District's Spring Avenue Dog Park won the Readers' Choice award for **best dog park** in Chicago's Western Suburbs from Suburban Life

#### >> IGIG Grant for Parking Lot Improvements\*

The District was awarded a 2014 Illinois Green Infrastructure Grant (IGIG) for the amount \$439,290 from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency. With this support, the Glen Ellyn Park District will retrofit the Ackerman Sports & Fitness Center's 44,000-square foot, 145-car asphalt parking lot with interlocking permeable pavers and small areas of bioinfiltration to reduce runoff volumes and rates and improve stormwater quality.

#### >> \$40,000 Grant for Safety Village Repairs

In November, the Park District was awarded a \$40,000 grant from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity to be used for improvements to the Spring Avenue Safety area. The grant will provide 100% of funds needed to repair and improve the existing outdoor Safety Village area with a renovated surface and other new amenities enhancing children's first-time learning experience regarding bicycling along with other safety situations.

#### >> Open Space and Land Development\*

The Glen Ellyn Park District was awarded a \$400,000 grant from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. The OSLAD grant will fund a portion of the planned phase 2 improvements at Lake Ellyn which includes park enhancements and restoration of the Boathouse.

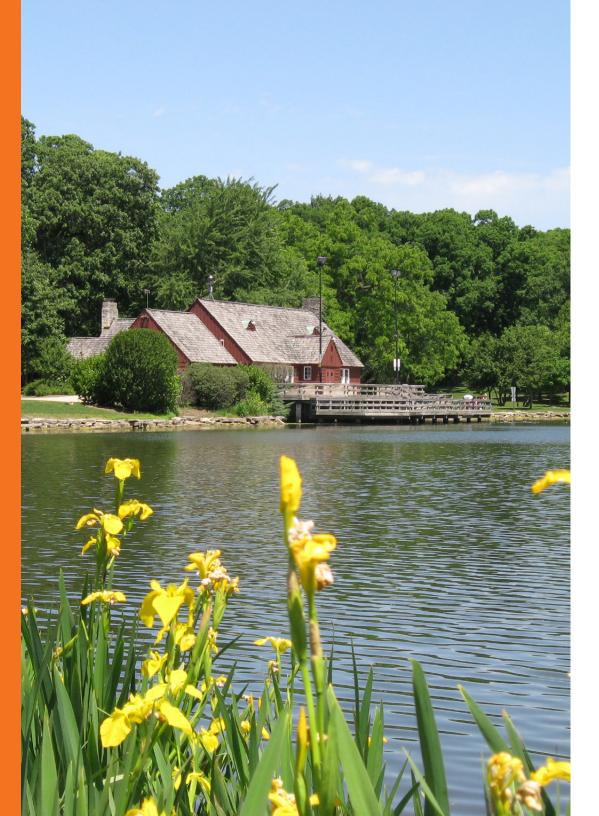






The Spring Avenue Dog Park won the Readers' Choice award for best dog park in Chicago's Western Suburbs!

<sup>\*</sup>All OSLAD and IGIG grants awarded in 2014 are being reviewed under the governor's executive order 15-08.



# LOOKING FORWARD INTO 2015...

- » Lake Ellyn Park & Boathouse: Restoration and Improvements
- >>> Lake Ellyn Park Playground Replacement
- » Newton Park Upper Field Synthetic Turf Installation
- >> Newton Park Tennis Court Resurfacing
- >> Ackerman Park Great Western Trail Connection
- » Ackerman Parking Lot Improvements
- » Ackerman Park: Two Softball Fields Converted to Open Space
- » Installation of Energy-Efficient Regenerative Filters at Sunset Pool Resulting in Reduced Water and Energy Consumption
- >> District-Wide Customer Service Program
- >> New Fitness Equipment at Ackerman Sports & Fitness Center
- » Ackerman Sports & Fitness Center Advisory Committee
- >> New Recreation Programs and Special Events

## 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:

**PARKS PLAYGROUNDS ATHLETIC FIELDS 7.5** 

**BASKETBALL OUTDOOR PICNIC MILES OF ICE RINKS SHELTERS TRAILS** 

**TENNIS** 

**COURTS** 

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 10 ILLINOISANS AGREE THAT PARK DISTRICTS AND OPEN SPACES IMPROVE LOCAL PROPERTY VALUES IN THEIR COMMUNITIES.

#### Reference Documents

**COURTS** 

The following documents are available online at the links listed below.

- 2009-2013 Comprehensive Plan http://gepark.org/assets/PDFs/Public%20Documents/MasterPlan2009-2013.pdf
- Lake Ellyn Park Master Plan http://gepark.org/assets/PDFs/Lake%20Ellyn%20Park/2013-01-14\_Lake%20Ellyn%20 Master%20Plan%20Final.pdf
- Ackerman Park Master Plan http://gepark.org/assets/PDFs/Park%20Plans/2014-Ackerman-Park-Masterplan.pdf
- Park Board Meeting Information, Agendas, Minutes, and Recordings http://gepark.org/boa\_meetings.htm
- Park Board of Commissioners Information http://gepark.org/boa\_board.htm
- 2014 Park District Budget http://gepark.org/assets/PDFs/Budget-Ordinance/121213ProposedBudget.pdf
- 2012 Community Attitude and Interest Survey Results http://gepark.org/assets/PDFs/Public%20Documents/ GEPD%20A&I%20Survev%20Results%202012.pdf

## **Leadership Team**

#### **Executive Director**

Dave Harris dharris@gepark.org

#### Superintendent of Finance & Personnel

Nick Cinquegrani ncinquegrani@gepark.org

#### **Superintendent of Recreation**

Kathleen Esposito kesposito@gepark.org

#### Superintendent of Parks & Planning

Dan Hopkins dhopkins@gepark.org



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Glen Ellyn Park District Board Meetings are open to the public and are held at the Spring Avenue Recreation Center. The regular board meetings begin at 7pm on the third Tuesday of each month. Workshop meetings are at 7pm the first Tuesday of each month.