



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.

PROFILE

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. The District is governed by an elected seven-member board; each serves a four-year term. The Executive Director, who is hired by the Board, manages day-to-day operations of the District, and oversees a staff of approximately 38 full-time employees, 125 part-time employees, and 364 seasonal employees.

About this Report

The Glen Ellyn Park District's 2024 Annual Report provides highlights of the District's accomplishments, finances, activities, events, and projects undertaken during 2024. It also provides an overview of where we intend to go in 2025.

The financial data in this report represents preliminary figures as of its publication date. The Annual Comprehensive Financial Report is typically finalized in June and can be viewed at gepark.org/financials 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 in this report may be directed to Executive Director Dave Thommes at dthommes@gepark.org.





OPERATING BUDGET

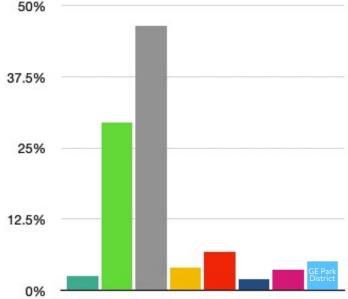
In a typical fiscal year, the operating budget is approximately \$13 million dollars of which approximately 40% is funded by property tax revenue. The remaining 60% (approximately) is generated from program user fees, grants, fundraising, and rentals.

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.





TAX BILL

The graph above shows how your 2023 tax bill (paid in 2024) is allocated among the various taxing districts in Glen Ellyn. The Park District represents approximately 5% of the total tax levy.

College of DuPage: 2.56%

School District 87: 29.52%

School District 41: 46.53%

GE Public Library: 4.08%

Village of Glen Ellyn: 6.68%

Milton Township: 2.00%

DuPage County Services: 3.60%*
*Includes DuPage County, Forest Preserve, DuPage Airport, and Mosquito Abatement

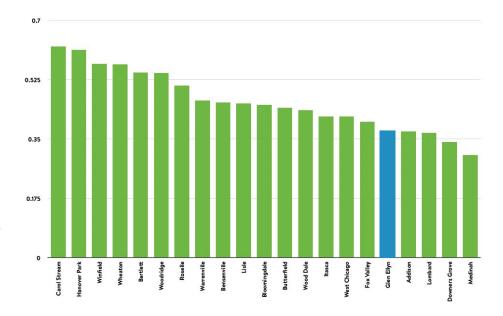
GE Park District: 5.03%

MOST RECENT TAX **RATE COMPARISON**

Glen Ellyn Park District's property tax rate of 0.3746 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
- Fox Valley
- Hanover Park
- Itasca

- Lisle
- Lombard
- Roselle
- Warrenville
- West Chicago
- Wood Dale
- Woodridge
- Wheaton
- Winfield



GRANTS AND **DONATIONS**

The Glen Ellyn Park District and Parks Foundation actively pursue grants, donations, and sponsorships to fund capital projects, enhance recreation programs, and support operational needs.

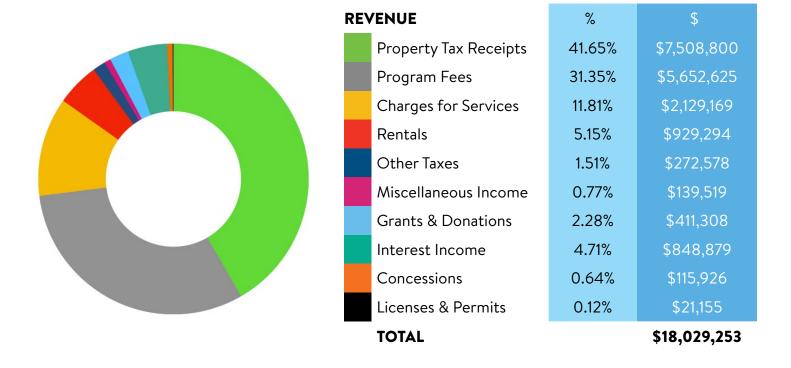
The District is grateful for the donations received in 2024.

2024 DONATIONS			
DONOR	PURPOSE	AMOUNT	
Go Green Glen Ellyn	Scholarship Program	\$850	
Go Green Glen Ellyn	Forestry Fund	\$750	

GRANTS AWARDED IN 2024			
GRANT SOURCE	PROJECT	AMOUNT	
DCEO	Ackerman Field renovation	\$323,600	
Go Green Glen Ellyn	Sustainable supplies for Foundation events	\$200	
County	Churchill Park improvements for removal of invasive plants	\$14,015	

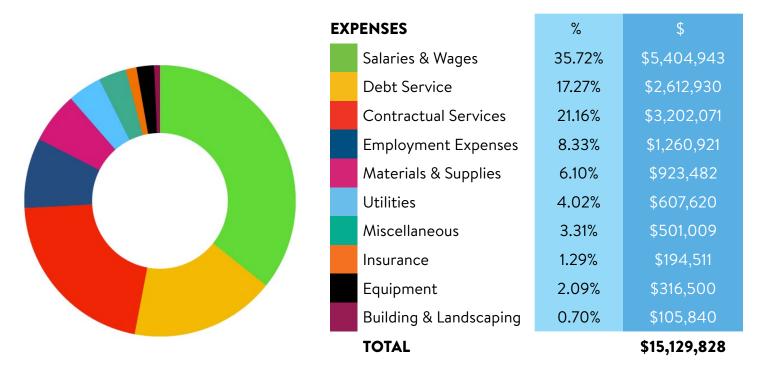
REVENUE ANALYSIS

FISCAL YEAR 2024



EXPENDITURE ANALYSIS

FISCAL YEAR 2024





PARTNERSHIPS

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

WDSRA

Western DuPage Special Recreation Association (WDSRA) is a collaboration of nine park districts, including Glen Ellyn, Wheaton, Carol Stream, Naperville, Winfield, West Chicago, Roselle, Warrenville, 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, adaptive, life skills, events, and fitness/well-being.

Glenbard High School District 87

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. The Park District also provides maintenance services for some of their properties.

■ Glen Ellyn Public Library

The District has a longstanding partnership with the Glen Ellyn Public Library. Efforts include reading programs, participation in events, the StoryWalk, Little Free Library installations, Donuts & Bingo, and more.

College of DuPage

Glen Ellyn Park District uses College of DuPage facilities for a variety of programs, including Cyclones Volleyball, lifeguard training, and indoor lap swimming for Ackerman SFC members (available as an add-on). In turn, College of DuPage uses Ackerman SFC to host various athletic programs during the winter.

Kiwanis Club of Central DuPage and Glen House Food Pantry

Monthly food drives were held at Ackerman SFC in partnership with the Glen House Food Pantry, the Kiwanis Club of Central DuPage, and State Representative Terra Costa Howard, serving those in need. A total of 1,756 pounds of donations was collected in 2024. The District also partnered with Kiwanis to offer free fish release events at Lake Ellyn and Lake Foxcroft Parks.

■ Village of Glen Ellyn

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

■ Cooperative Programs

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

■ The Conservation Foundation

The 7th Annual Native Tree and Shrub Sale and DuPage River Sweep were offered with The Conservation Foundation.

■ Glen Ellyn Parks Foundation

In partnership with the Glen Ellyn Parks Foundation, the

District offered the Fireworks from the Fishing Pier Raffle, Gator Race, and Photo Sessions with Santa.

■ Glen Ellyn Police Department

The District collaborated with the Glen Ellyn Police Department for National Night Out. Additionally, Ackerman Sports & Fitness Center hosted the annual 'Shop with a Cop' event.

■ Go Green Glen Ellyn

Two Sportswaps, OAKtoberfest, and the Solstice Walk at Lake Ellyn were offered in partnership with Go Green Glen Ellyn. They also provided volunteers for both the Native Tree & Shrub Sale and the Pumpkin Smash, arranged for Flat Can and Junkluggers Recycling to be at the event, and coordinated two community collection efforts to recycle packaging materials in partnership with the Park District and EcoShip Chicago.

SCARCE

The District partnered with SCARCE on the 5th annual Pumpkin Smash event at the Community Garden Plots.

Elgin Recycling

In partnership with Elgin Recycling, the Holiday Light Recycling program was available from November 2024 through January 2025, keeping 3,283 pounds of lights out of landfills.

■ League of Enchantment

The Toys for Tots Toy Drive with Characters, which collected

approximately 1,000 toys for DuPage County Toys for Tots, was offered in partnership with the League of Enchantment.

■ Versiti Blood Center of Illinois

Monthly blood drives were offered at Ackerman SFC in partnership with Versiti, saving approximately 510 lives.

Jewel-Osco

A vaccination clinic was offered in October at Ackerman SFC.

Secretary of State's Office

Two mobile Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) service events were held in partnership with the Secretary of State, one at Ackerman SFC in collaboration with State Representative Terra Costa Howard, and the other at the Main Street Recreation Center.

■ Glen Ellyn Garden Club

Stewards of the Austin Eischeid garden at Lake Ellyn Park.

■ Charlie's Corner Foundation

Since 2017, the District has partnered with Charlie's Corner Foundation on planning and staging the Glow in the Park Lantern Walk.

Sponsorships

Sponsorships by local businesses and organizations help support Park District programs, such as free events for the community, youth athletics, and the Park District Scholarship Program.



Building for the Future



Improvements to Meet Community Needs

The District currently maintains 29 parks, 21 playgrounds, and 300 acres of open space for community enjoyment, recreation, fitness, and leisure. These park resources—especially the most popular ones—periodically require replacement due to their life expectancy, daily wear and tear, and constant exposure to hot summers and freezing winters. We also need to keep up with demand as our community grows.

Non-Referendum Projects

DR. FRANK JOHNSON CENTER

COMPLETE

Built in the 1920s as an ice storage unit, the original maintenance facility had long surpassed its intended lifespan, prompting the need for a replacement. To address this, construction on a modernized facility began in summer 2023. This new, efficient facility plays an important role in supporting the Parks Department, which oversees and maintains over 300 acres of parkland, equipment, and buildings. Designed with efficiency in mind, the new facility is expected to serve its purpose for many decades to come. Construction was completed in April of 2024, and staff has completely moved in and is already seeing efficiency gains.

SECURITY CAMERAS

IN PROGRESS

Security cameras were added to Sunset Pool during the renovation, facing outward, including the parking lot, bike parking, and perimeter fence. No cameras will face the pool, and the cameras will not be used for any form of pool surveillance. As always, files are kept on a third-party encrypted server. Other locations across the District are being evaluated, as safety and security are a priority.

PANFISH PLAYGROUND

IN PROGRESS

The playground replacement project aims to refresh the existing site, replacing equipment that has been in place since 1996. Additionally, there is consideration for the potential inclusion of an open-air picnic shelter. This project is tentatively scheduled to be complete first thing in spring, as weather allows.



DOWNTOWN COMMUNITY PARK

IN PLANNING

The Village and the Park District are collaborating on the purchase, development, and operation of the downtown plaza.

A New Hub for Community Gatherings

In August 2022, the Village acquired the 45,000-square-foot property, situated at the intersection of Forest Avenue and Duane Street. Through an intergovernmental agreement, the Village will sell the property to the Park District to allow for the development of the Downtown open-land park and event space.

Design Reflecting Community Input

Public engagement has been an integral part of this project, ensuring that the design reflects the community's input and needs. The Park District's plan envisions transforming the site into a dynamic open space that seamlessly integrates with Prairie Path Park, creating a "front yard" for commuters, Prairie Path users, Downtown residents, and the entire Glen Ellyn community.

Phased Development

Together, the Park District and Village will contribute \$5 million toward Phase I land acquisition redevelopment costs. Anticipated Phase I redevelopment includes demolition of the existing structure, landscaping, natural grass event and reading lawns, picnic grove, seating nook, terraced seating, seating benches, site safety lighting, and elevated plaza to function as a stage. Construction on Phase I is expected to commence in 2026, pending design and permitting processes.

Securing Funding for Future Phases

The Park District is actively pursuing additional funding sources for future project phases, including an overhead covering for the stage, support buildings, stage sound system and lighting, and restrooms. Funding sources being explored include grants, private funding, corporate sponsorships, and in-kind donations.

Learn more at gepark.org/downtowncommunitypark »







Referendum Projects

The spring 2022 referendum garnered significant community support, with a favorable outcome of 63%. Following the election, the District quickly took action on the included projects. This involved selecting planning and construction consultants, forming internal teams to help with various projects, and updating the initial timelines presented during the referendum education campaign. The financial strategy has also been refined to make the best use of available funds.

Construction has been completed on several projects, including Ackerman SFC and Sunset Pool. Further planning is underway, with the anticipation that additional projects will begin construction as early as summer 2025.

SUNSET POOL IMPROVEMENTS

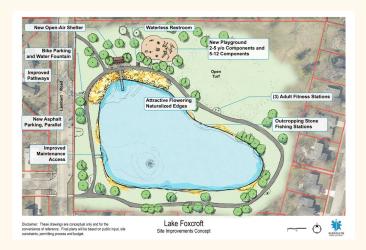
COMPLETE

Construction began at Sunset Pool in mid-August 2023. This allowed construction to begin while the weather was cooperative to provide the best opportunity for the pool to open for Memorial Day weekend in 2024. Improvements underway included a new splash pad, new water slide structure, new zero-depth water feature, new family changing areas, food service upgrades, additional shade structures, and updated infrastructure and mechanicals. This project was completed on time and on budget prior to pool opening season in 2024.

ACKERMAN SFC ADDITIONS

COMPLETE

Enhancements at Ackerman SFC are complete, including the construction of a new 6,000-square-foot gymnastics center, a 2,100-square-foot multipurpose room, and additional exercise space. The customer service center underwent improvements and was successfully completed in January 2024.



LAKE FOXCROFT

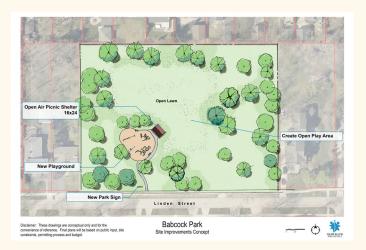
IN PLANNING

Design commenced in 2023, and construction is tentatively set for the fall of 2025. Planned improvements include a new open-air shelter, a new waterless restroom, improved pathways, additional fishing stations, new adult fitness stations, and a new playground. The permitting process is currently underway.



CHURCHILL IN PLANNING

Design is in progress, and preparations are underway for the permitting process. Planned improvements include a new outdoor education classroom, parking upgrades, improved pond access, a new waterless restroom, enhanced trails and boardwalks, removal of invasive plant species, and updated educational signage.



BABCOCK

IN PLANNING

Design began in 2023, with construction tentatively scheduled for spring 2026. Planned improvements include a new open-air shelter, enhanced green space with additional tree planting, and a new playground.



LENOX ROAD IN PLANNING

Planned improvements include a new boardwalk connecting the Ackerman Sports & Fitness Center parking lot to Ackerman Park, four new pickleball courts, a new outdoor classroom, new raised community garden beds, and new signage to connect guests to nature. Construction is tentatively scheduled for summer of 2025.

Enriching Lives

Events and Programs

In each of our four seasonal brochures and summer camp guide, the District offers hundreds of activities, programs, special events, trips, and sports leagues. Each year, the District aims to further expand offerings and increase recreational opportunities within our community.

New Activities in 2024:

- Coach O's Basketball Academy
- Basketball Training with Big 3 Sports
- Detailed Basketball classes for girls only
- True Lacrosse Boys Summer Lacrosse camps
- Inclusive Lakers Soccer
- Creative Clay-Makers
- Ackerman Arcade Night: 150 participants enjoyed arcade games, including Pac-Man, LED mini golf, and life-size Battleship. Cotton candy and popcorn were provided for attendees.
- Laser Tag Tournament: 12 teams (approximately 80 participants) registered for this tournamentstyle elimination event.
- Home Run Derby: A new event in 2024, with youth and adult divisions held at Village Green Park. Participants received a welcome gift of Big League Chew, Cracker Jacks, sunflower seeds, and eye black. Food and drink vendors were on-site. Winners received tickets to a Kane County Cougars game and a gift card to Dick's Sporting Goods.
- Starlight Studios offered engaging yoga programming, while the Art of Acting Camp provided creative opportunities for young performers.
- Puppypalooza welcomed 60 members to a special event at the Spring Avenue Dog Park

- The Winter Dance Showcase, held in Oak Brook Terrace, featured 30 participants and a packed audience of 130.
- The Autumn Craft Fair attracted 16 vendors and 300 visitors, creating a lively shopping experience.
- Seasonal fun was provided through events like the Magic Show, Animals Around the World, and Grandparents and Me Day of Bingo.
- Dog Days of Winter Break Camp introduced a one-day care option with a field trip, drawing a total enrollment of 95 over four days.

Removing Barriers to Program Accessibility

Alongside continuing to provide space at Ackerman SFC for the Western DuPage Special Recreation Association's (WDSRA) Adult Day Program, the Park District was able to offer recreational opportunities and program aides in partnership with WDSRA. There were 134 inclusion registrations for Park District programs in 2024, serving 29 residents. In addition to Park District programs, WDSRA programs served 56 residents with 538 registrations. WDSRA provided support for 116 programs.

WDSRA's Rec n' Roll program continues at Ackerman SFC, serving 23 participants between Monday and Friday.

Growing with the Community

Enrollment in fee-based activities steadily grows each year. The revenue from fee-based activities and events supports other District programs, services, and projects for the community.

Year	Enrollments
2022	42,886
2023	44,200
2024	44,715

SUNSET POOL

During the 2024 season, Sunset Pool offered a variety of new and returning programs and events. The Gators program welcomed a total of 419 swimmers who honed their skills, competed, and created lifelong memories. Sunset's swim lesson programs recorded over 800 registrations, helping swimmers gain confidence in the water while learning strokes, safety skills, and having fun. The Teen Splash Bash attracted 250 tweens for an exciting night filled with games, swimming, and music. New programs like Santa at Sunset, Mermaid Swim, and Superhero Swim collectively brought in 165 children for enjoyable evenings of meeting their favorite characters and relaxing at the pool. Additionally, the new Member Appreciation Nights garnered 244 registrations for a fun-filled evening exclusively for members at Sunset.

Sunset Pool had a successful summer season in 2024, selling a total of 3,783 pool passes, 735 five-visit passes, and 12,830 entry tickets. The lifeguard staff comprised 107 members, including 51 returning guards and 56 new hires. Throughout the season, Sunset Pool hosted 78 rentals, which included 27 facility rentals and 51 birthday parties.

MARYKNOLL PARK

The season at Maryknoll Park began with great success, highlighted by the Touch-a-Truck event,

which attracted over 1,000 children and their parents to explore various large vehicles. The Spring Clean Flea Market featured more than 40 vendors and drew hundreds of shoppers for a fun morning of browsing. Additionally, two sessions of Family Campout saw a total of 73 families camping under the stars, enjoying unlimited access to mini golf, the splash pad, and an exclusive movie in the park.

Holes & Knolls welcomed a total of 21,235 golfers this season. The park employed 51 staff members at the sunset concessions and admissions, overseen by 9 managers on duty. Of the total staff, 35 were returning employees, while 21 were new hires. Maryknoll Park is set to host 250 rentals throughout the 2024 calendar year, with facilities including the Maryknoll clubhouse, splash pad, pavilion, splash shelter, and a recently upgraded patio being booked consistently.

YOUTH ATHLETICS

Over 14,017 kids participated in youth athletics programs, including instructional classes, private lessons, house and travel leagues, tournaments, and summer camps in 2024. To meet the demand for programs, the District continued to expand athletics opportunities, including increased Chicago White Sox programming for the second straight year, additional instructional basketball classes and lacrosse camps, and a change in Taekwondo service providers.

To expand the District's available space, the District continues to partner with outside facilities, including College of DuPage, True Lacrosse, DuPage Training Academy, Glendale Heights Sports Hub, Naperville Yard, and D-Bat.

Additionally, the 6,000-square-foot gymnastics center expansion allowed staff to more than double the amount of gymnastics offerings compared to years past.

ACKERMAN SFC AND FITNESS

Ackerman SFC has completed its facility renovation as a result of the approved referendum that was passed by the community. New aspects are included below:

- Improved the front desk reception area.
- Improved staff office space and workstations.
- New athletic staff office space.
- New flooring and painting throughout the first floor of the facility.
- Removal of rockwall and replacement with a first-floor multipurpose room and second-floor cycle/group fitness studio.
- Addition of a 6,000-square-foot gymnastics center that also includes a new facility entrance, entry hallway, parent waiting area, and parent viewing area/birthday party room.
- Removal of childcare space and replacement with a stretching/recovery room as an extension of the current fitness center.
- The new parking lot is located on the east side of the facility.
- Parking lot repairs located on the east and north sides of Ackerman Park.

Ackerman SFC concluded 2024 with a total of 3,813 members and 65 weekly classes conducted year-round by the Ackerman SFC group fitness staff. Additionally, the team offered two classes at Spring Avenue Recreation Center, three aquatic classes at Sunset Pool, and one class at Lake Ellyn Park from Memorial Day through Labor Day. These seasonal offerings expanded Ackerman SFC's reach, bringing health and wellness opportunities to the broader community. In 2024, we launched several exciting new fitness programs, including Peak Performance Training.

The facility also expanded amenities by introducing a stretching and recovery room as an extension of the current fitness center. This new space is designed to enhance our members' wellness routines, providing a quiet and comfortable environment equipped for stretching, foam rolling, and other recovery-focused activities.

Our community engagement initiatives continued to flourish with events such as the "Be Kind to Your Mind" mental health awareness campaign and the "Hot to Go" breast cancer awareness event. The facility now offers numerous in-house programs and events, experiencing significant growth over the years. By the end of 2024, we recorded a total revenue of \$440,172.68, which includes income from programs, events, and gymnastics programming.

GENERAL RECREATION

The Recreation Department delivered effective, efficient, and high-quality programs, events, services, and facilities that enhanced the quality of life for Glen Ellyn residents and visitors.

In 2024, the Park District witnessed remarkable participation across a diverse array of programs. The theater productions of "SpongeBob" and "High School Musical" showcased the talents of 100 enthusiastic actors. Dance instruction and recitals inspired 564 students, while Preschool and Kindergarten Enrichment programs welcomed 209 eager learners for the 2024-25 school year. The beloved "Donuts and Bingo" event, in partnership with the Glen Ellyn Public Library, united 600 participants in joyful camaraderie. Early Childhood Camps embraced 869 young adventurers, while youth day camps thrived with 2,089 participants, including 1,288 in Camp Caravan and 801 in Turf & Surf. Adult day trips continued to foster connections, with 106 participants exploring new experiences across 17 journeys throughout the year.

The annual Freedom Four 4-Mile Run/Walk, held every July 4th, continued its growth in 2024, attracting over 1,000 participants—the highest number in recent years. With a change to a 4-mile course (previously 5 miles), the Turkey Trot also experienced a surge in participation, with approximately 700 participants compared to the usual 300.



Volunteer Support

The Glen Ellyn Park District is fortunate to boast a dedicated volunteer base that, once again, played a pivotal role in ensuring the smooth operation and growth of our programs this year. The Lakers Fall Classic, Gators Swim Team, along with all our youth sports, and the Park District's clay tennis courts, reaped the rewards of the invaluable contributions made by our community volunteers. Heartfelt thanks extend to all our volunteers and advisory committee members for their support.

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to Andy Eltzroth on being named the Glen Ellyn Park District Volunteer of the Year. You can read more about Andy's impact on the District by clicking here.



Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Initiatives

In 2024, the Park District established its Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) committee, composed of six full-time staff members from various District departments. During its initial phase, the committee focused on defining its mission and developing strategic initiatives to foster unity and inclusivity. Key accomplishments included the proposal of a Social Equity Policy for the District and the creation of the inaugural Hot Cocoa Hour, a staff engagement event designed to promote camaraderie during the holiday season.



Glen Ellyn Parks Foundation

Founded in 2015, the Glen Ellyn Parks Foundation is the charitable arm of the Glen Ellyn Park District and raises funds for people, projects, and parks. The 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. Learn about the Glen Ellyn Parks Foundation by visiting gepark.org/foundation.



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Park Board

Park Board meetings are held on the first and third Tuesday of each month at the Spring Avenue Recreation Center at 7 pm, unless otherwise noted.

Ben Stortz, President Julia Nephew, Vice President Kathy Cornell, Treasurer Alex Durham Mary Crickmore Michael Ward Rob Weber

Reference **Documents** and Downloads

The following documents are available online at gepark.org:

- Comprehensive Annual Financial Report
- Budget
- List of Parks
- List of Facilities
- Board of Commissioners
- Board Agendas and Minutes
- Master Plans
- Community Interest Survey