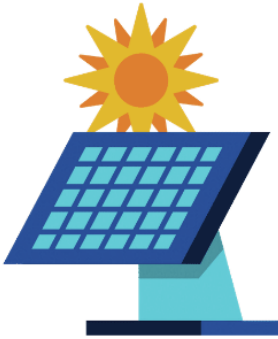




Greener Glenview Bulletin

JUNE 2024

Go solar now to get current payback rate from utilities



The tax rebates and incentives for installing rooftop solar reduce the initial outlay by about two thirds. And the rooftop array immediately begins paying off, because of *"one-to-one net metering,"* which provides full credit off of your electric bill for every kilowatt hour your system sends to your utility.

This one-to-one rate of return on net metering is due to change January 1, 2025. *All systems in place and operating by December 31, 2024, will continue at the current one-to-one net metering rate for the life of the system, typically 25 years.*

If you've been considering installing rooftop solar, now is the time to proceed. One installer has said that June is the cutoff date for assuring customers that their system will be installed and operating by the December 31 deadline.



ENRC talks fees in tree preservation ordinance update

We're lucky to live in a tree city for the enjoyment of the beauty, the shade, the cooling, the water absorption that trees provide. And this year, we'll be treated to cicadas.

The Environment & Natural Resources Commission (ENRC) is working to preserve and protect Glenview's private-property tree canopy by updating Glenview's tree preservation ordinance. At the May 20 ENRC meeting, Planning Division Manager Tony Repp and Community Development Director Jeff Brady led the discussion of fees required for removing and replacing healthy trees on private property. Note: There is no fee for removal of dead, diseased, dying or dangerous trees, though a permit is required.

The process is complicated but the goal is simple: to encourage tree preservation, and tree replacement when preservation is not possible. The commission supported:

- Creating a decision-tree (pun intended) for determining whether removal is allowed. For example, has the owner considered design alternatives that would spare the tree? Is the purpose of the renovation related to a family emergency of some kind?
- Creating a calculator for determining how many replacement trees can *realistically* be planted on the property (assuming 1,000 square

feet needed per tree); then assess fee in lieu for difference between trees required and trees actually planted. Structure fees in a way that encourages planting replacements. Current fee structure results in property owners forfeiting the escrow or paying the fee-in-lieu because it's cheaper than planting.

To offer feedback on the ordinance updates, plan to attend the next ENRC meeting June when Village staff will present a draft of this fee schedule for discussion and approval by the commission members. When the commission has finished its discussion and edits, the fully updated ordinance will be submitted to the Board of Trustees for approval, likely at the end of the summer.



Whose responsibility is it? School districts

This is the third in the series about the roles of our local institutions and individuals to care for the environment. This month's focus is on local school districts.

It's no easy task to figure out how Glenview's elementary and high school districts are addressing environmental sustainability. There are a couple reasons for this.

First, Glenview is served by six elementary school districts (East Maine 63; Wilmette 37 and 39; Glenview-Northbrook 30 and 31, and Glenview 34). It would take much research to determine what each of these districts is doing.

Second, their websites don't post such information. We are heartened by recent initiatives in D34 and D225. For starters, both districts have actively supported native gardens on school property. These gardens are one way to

begin the conversation about actions we need to take now to create a more livable future for our children and grandchildren.

District 225

District 225 has supported native gardening on school property for the last several years. In 2020, the Interact Club at GBS started a native garden with pollinator plants received from a 2020 Illinois Department of Natural Resources Grant. Just this month, Interact and the Environmental Science AP classes, with the active support of dedicated community gardener Debbie Sanders, added plants funded with the Wild Ones West Cook Garden for Nature Grant. Science classes have had the benefit of utilizing the garden for data collection, observation, and enjoyment.

District 225 is also taking a major step toward sustainability in the built environment. It was thoughts about controlling future energy costs that drove the board to approve a Guaranteed Energy Savings Contract at its April 29 meeting. This contract will involve the installation of more than 1,100 rooftop solar panels at Glenbrook North, and 350 panels on the pool roof at Glenbrook South. Over the life of the contract, D225 will not only be decreasing its monthly utility costs, but will reap guaranteed revenue from selling excess energy to ComEd, thereby creating a new revenue source to help fund capital projects. This long-term investment in clean energy technology demonstrates that doing right by the environment is compatible with saving, and even generating, money. Additionally, there are numerous potential technology and science curricula tie-ins with this project.

Pollinator Garden Planted at Attea Middle School

In D34, student activist Arushi Desai (right) approached Principal O'Donnell, about installing a pollinator garden at the school's main entrance. Arushi's mother, Chaula Desai, is an active member of Greener Glenview and a community solar professional. Chaula, Arushi and Janelle Khesghi, who leads our Glenview Native Habitat initiative, worked together to plan the garden



funded by Attea.

The planting took place at Attea Middle School on Tuesday, May 21. Students from the Hope Club and the Environmental Club planted the 50 plants that make up the pollinator garden. The plants included Butterfly Weed (5), Purple Prairie Clover (5), Purple Coneflower (5), Prairie Smoke (5), Dense Blazing Star (5), Prairie Dropseed (3), Bradbury's Monarda (5), Hairy Beardtongue (5), Slender Mountain Mint (2), Orange Coneflower (3), Aromatic Aster (5), and Little Bluestem (2).



The students were helped with soil preparation and planting by Omar Kheshgi, a master gardener and expert in native plants.

After planting, the natives were carefully watered by the students and gently patted into the ground.

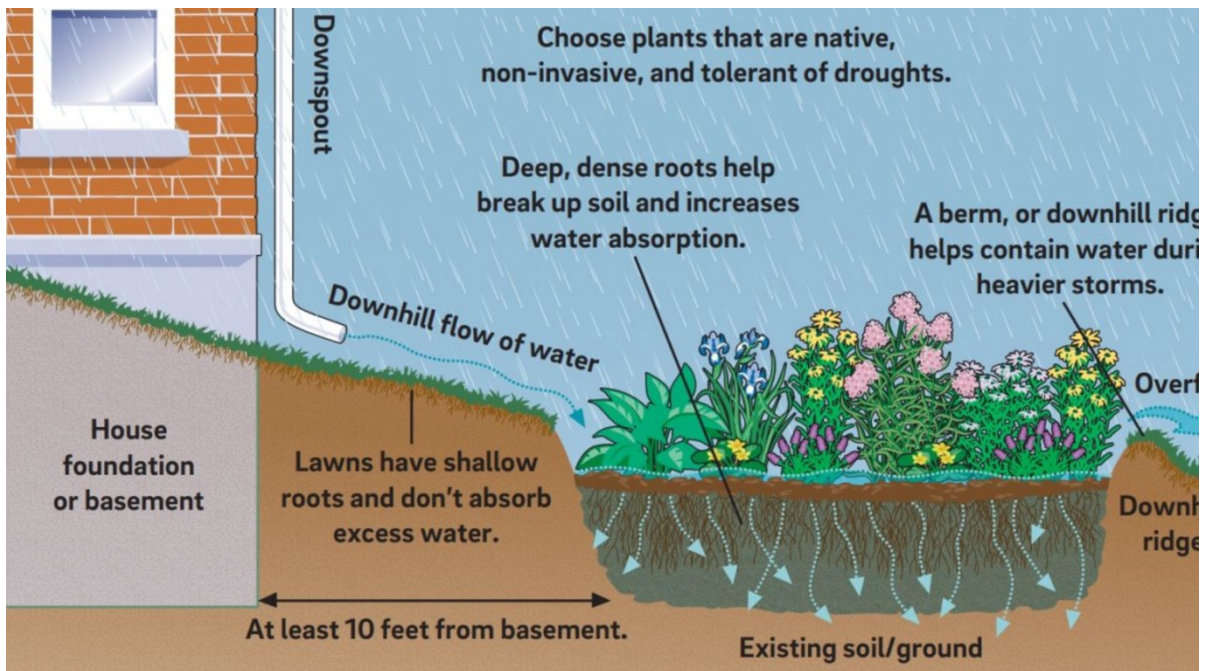
The students will need to put together a plan to water the garden every day (unless it rains) until established, including over the summer. Greener Glenview will be monitoring the progress of the garden and will post updates on the Bulletin and on our social media.



The next step is for the school to become certified as a native habitat garden. The goal of Greener Glenview's Glenview Native Habitat project is to build a corridor of native plant gardens across Glenview to protect and support pollinators. If you'd like to get started with a native garden or certify your garden, visit [GreenerGlenview.org](https://www.greenerglenview.org) to learn more.

The public is invited to visit the pollinator garden, located to the left of the main school entrance.

If you know of environmental initiatives within Glenview's schools, please share them with us at greenerglenview@gmail.com. We'd like to profile them in future editions of the Bulletin to, hopefully, inspire change someplace else.



Rain gardens -- do they work?

The Village of Glenview has a cost sharing program for residents who install rain gardens to detain and drain low spots in their yard. Rain gardens reduce the amount of water conveyed to the local storm water system, and filter the water that does drain, reducing pollutants that can end up in our rivers and streams. Since 2007 when the program was initiated, sixty-nine residents have used the program to save on installing rain gardens.

Greener Glenview contacted a few of these residents to hear why they installed the native gardens, and whether they achieved the purpose.

"We used to have an area right on the border of our yard that got really mushy, kind of a swamp, after a heavy rain. My neighbor spearheaded the project, and a vendor came and dug out the area, installed gravel and planted the garden. The

neighbor and I split the cost after the Village paid for half. That was in 2008. It's been a permanent solution—the area is still soaking up rain. One thing—just like in any other part of your yard, it needs some upkeep. It looks a little scruffy right now, with other plants that have invaded and crowded out the original plants."

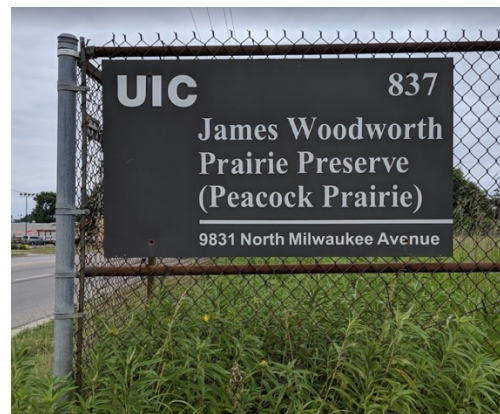
A family on Prairie had drainage pooling in their back yard from two neighboring properties. At the suggestion of the village, they installed the rain garden in 2017. *"Now that it's established—after some trial and error with plants—the garden is working. It has helped."*

Residents on Sunset Ridge submitted plans for the construction of an addition onto their home in 2022. *"Because we live in a flood zone, the Village mandated the installation of a rain garden which would ensure proper drainage and flow of rainwater. While a rain garden was not something we initially planned to incorporate into our yard, we have been pleasantly surprised at how much aesthetic beauty it has brought to our home."*

Image Source: [Philadelphia Water Department](#)

A Walk in James Woodworth Prairie

A few Greener Glenview members took a wet and wonderful walk through the James Woodworth Prairie on Memorial Day Sunday, hosted by Alan Molumby, Clinical Associate Professor, Department of Biology, UIC, director of James Woodworth Prairie.



The prairie is located on 9845 N. Milwaukee Avenue, next to McDonald's and across the street from the Salvation Army store.

What's so valuable about a prairie remnant right here in Glenview? It's the possibility of witnessing an ecosystem untouched by human development—a glimpse of how Illinois looked 600 years ago. The prairie also provides a rare opportunity for studying how native prairies protect and preserve our climate

that's changing because of development and habitat loss.

The prairie pulls carbon from the atmosphere and stores it underground. Its plants' roots control flooding by absorbing and filtering water before it gets to the stormwater system. And the prairie supports biodiversity, including insects essential to life on earth. There are animals at the prairie that live nowhere else, such as the chimney crayfish that burrows a meter down to the water table with a "chimney" to the top of the burrow.

Let us know if you'd like to take a tour of the prairie. But don't wait for the next tour. The prairie is open from 10 am to 2 pm every Saturday and Sunday through the summer. Once you go, you'll want to return again and again to see how it changes month by month. We encourage you to visit. Remember, studies show that being in nature improves mental health.

To learn more about the prairie, visit the website, <https://prairie.bios.uic.edu/> and read *Saving Peacock Prairie* by Bernice Popelka, available at the Glenview Public Library.



Neighborhood Ambassador Program Takes Off

This year, Greener Glenview was awarded a Judy Beck grant to launch the Neighborhood Ambassador Program. So far, over 20 native gardeners in Glenview have volunteered to talk with neighbors about native gardening—the benefits, their favorite plants, how to get started and, most important, the delights of adding a "prairie garden" to their landscape.

Glenview Native Habitat is Looking for More Neighborhood Ambassadors

GNH is looking for gardeners who will join our Neighborhood Ambassador team. As an ambassador, we're asking you to speak with friends and neighbors about planting natives and certifying their gardens. We'll provide everything you need. Interested? The next Neighborhood Ambassadors meeting is Monday, June 24 at the Glenview Public Library at 7 PM. Questions? Contact us. greenerglenview@gmail.com



The Mulch Center Discount!

Thank you to the Mulch Center for continuing to offer a discount to Greener Glenview members. Mention Greener Glenview when you order and you'll get a discount on the mulch and delivery costs.

[Order here](#)

Landscapers for Native Gardens

Several of our members sent us in names of landscaping companies or individuals who work with native plants. These aren't endorsements, but names to contact if you are interested in more information about native landscaping.

[Red Stem Landscaping](#) (Chicago)
Julia Bunn, [Spirited Gardener](#) (Evanston)
Karen Glennemeier, [Habitat Help](#) (Wilmette)
[Woods to Wetlands](#) (W2W) (Streamwood)



Glenview Native Habitat Neighborhood Ambassador Program Meeting

WHEN: Monday, June 24 @ 7:00 to 8:30 PM

WHERE: Glenview Public Library Multi Purpose Room

Hear about what's been happening in the Glenview Native Habitat and the Neighborhood Ambassador Program at this meeting for current ambassadors and all who would like to find out more. We're looking for more ambassadors to if you're interest, come to the meeting!

Community-Wide Mosquito Control: Climate Change, Resistance and Sustainability

WHEN: Wednesday, July 10 @ 7:00 to 8:30 PM

WHERE: Glenview Public Library Community Room East

Climate change has increased the range and distribution of mosquito & tick disease. Learn how our local governmental agency, the North Shore Mosquito Abatement District, has been adapting to address these challenges and the ecologically sound models being used to protect public health and the environment.

Restoration Work Days

Glenview Park District: Restoration Work Days

WHEN: Sunday, June 9 @ 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM

WHERE: The Grove

For all ages

Collect seeds or remove non-native, invasive plants to make way for native wildflowers, grasses and trees. No advance registration necessary—just bring your work gloves if you have them and meet at the Interpretive Center.

Email groverestoration@glenviewparks.org for more information including availability. Work parties may be cancelled if there is inclement weather.

WHEN: Saturday, June 22 @ 9:00 AM to Noon

WHERE: Kent Fuller Air Station Prairie

Assist in the restoration efforts at Kent Fuller Air Station Prairie by helping with a variety of restoration activities such as removing non-native invasive plants or collecting seed. Bring work gloves if you have them. For families and individuals Ages 8+. Volunteers under 15 must participate with an adult. Volunteers under 18 must have a waiver signed by a parent or guardian. To receive an application/waiver in advance please contact grove.volunteers@glenviewparks.org. Work days may be cancelled due to inclement weather.

[For more information about both workdays](#)

North Branch Restoration Workdays

All workdays are 9:00 a.m.-12:00 PM

[To register for any of these workdays](#)

Watersmeet Woods

WHEN: Saturday, June 15

WHERE: This site is located in the village of Northfield near the Glenview border.

Harms Woods (Glenview Woods)

WHEN: Saturday, June 23 and Sunday, July 7

WHERE: Meet at the forest preserve Glenview Woods parking lot on the west side of Harms Road, just south of Glenview Road. Contact Jane/John Balaban for more information 847-644-8184