

**APPROVED**

MINUTES OF AUGUST 1, 2023 LOCAL EFFICIENCY COMMITTEE MEETING  
GLENCOE PARK DISTRICT  
999 GREEN BAY ROAD, GLENCOE, ILLINOIS 60022

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm and roll was called.

Committee members present:

Carol Spain, President/Chair  
Stefanie Boron, Vice President  
Michael Covey, Treasurer  
Bart Schneider, Commissioner  
Jordan Spector, Commissioner  
Bob Kimble, Resident Member  
Julia Lissner, Resident Member  
Nicole Reifman, Resident Member

Staff present:

Lisa Sheppard, Executive Director and Secretary

Members of the Public in attendance who signed in or spoke: There was no one from the public in attendance.

Matters from the Public: There were no matters from the public.

Review Efficiency Committee Requirements and Park District Information: Executive Director Sheppard led the Local Efficiency Committee through the presentation attached to these minutes. The presentation included a thorough review of the Committee's purpose, a general overview of Glencoe Park District, as well as the District's shared services and partnerships, intergovernmental agreements, athletic affiliates, partnerships with not-for-profit organizations and for-profit businesses, efficient operations, community input, advisory groups, focus groups, awards and recognition, and benefits and services.

Discussion ensued and included discussing other community partnerships the District has in place, but were not presented. These include the cost of Independence Day events and the cost of the fireworks are split with the Village, that the District partners with the Village on the Memorial Day event, District 35 provides a speech pathologist that comes to our preschool programs and busing from District 35 to park district activities.

Some partnership suggestions include utilizing volunteers from the Friends of the Green Bay Trail in our projects, work with Glencoe Golf Club for resident rates, have a fitness club in the summer to extend Central School fitness club that takes place during the school year, and a partnership of utilities to see if there would be a savings. Other items discussed were the plans for the District to pursue National Accreditation, work with Library more to reduce redundancy, have an annual meeting with all Glencoe government officials to discuss ideas, work on other ways to share resources, coordinate community surveys, the community's desire for more events with a potential partnership on them, and bike accessibility.

The committee indicated that there was a lot of interesting information in the draft report and suggested actively marketing this information to highlight both the District and community accomplishments. Discussion ensued. The committee asked that the Mission, Vision, and Values be added to the report and sent to committee members.

The committee was asked to prepare for discussion on additional ideas and suggestions that could potentially increase accountability and efficiency at the next meeting.

Adjourn: Commissioner Schneider moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:23pm. Commissioner Spector seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

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Lisa M. Sheppard  
Secretary

# Local Efficiency Committee

August 1, 2023



## **Purpose**

The Glencoe Park District (“Park District”) formed its Committee on Local Government Efficiency on June 6, 2023 to study efficiencies and report recommendations regarding those efficiencies and increased accountability pursuant to 50 ILCS 70/1, *et seq.* (the “Committee”).

## **Committee Members**

Carol Spain, Board Commissioner and Chairperson

Stefanie Boron, Board Commissioner

Michael Covey, Board Commissioner

Bart Schneider, Board Commissioner

Jordan Spector, Board Commissioner

Julia Lissner, Resident Member

Nicole Reifman, Resident Member

Bob Kimble, Resident Member and Past Commissioner

Lisa Sheppard, Executive Director and Board Secretary



## General Overview of District

- The Park District was established by a referendum initiated and approved by the voters of the Village of Glencoe in 1912, and is one of the oldest Park Districts in the State of Illinois. All Illinois park districts, including Glencoe Park District, are governed by the Park District Code.
- *Governed by a Board of five Commissioners*
- Having a dedicated Board allows those elected representatives to remain focused solely on those facilities, programs, parks, and services.
- Because the Park District is a separate unit of local government, the revenue it generates can only be used for Park District purposes.
- The Park District does more with much fewer funding options. Unlike other units of local government that receive direct state funding as well as other numerous taxes, the Park District's only tax revenues come from a modest portion of a resident's overall property tax bill. In fact, despite its limited funding options, the District's share is only 7% of the local tax bill.



# List of Shared Services and Partnerships

The Park District works diligently to provide the best possible programs, services, and facilities to our community at the least possible cost.

One of the many ways the Park District achieves this goal is by partnering with neighboring Park Districts, school districts, other units of local government within or near the community, state, non-profit organizations, and for-profit corporations.

The following will be a comprehensive list of the current partnerships, agreements and other relationships.



# Northern Suburban Special Recreation Associations (NSSRA)

- By partnering together, local communities are able to effectively and efficiently deliver more successful program opportunities to community members who have special needs.
- By participating in NSSRA, the Park District networks with **thirteen** local governments to provide many more program opportunities for both NSSRA's programs or programs that are provided by the Park District.
- NSSRA utilizes all Park District facilities in addition to their own facility.
- In 2022, NSSRA provided 338 programs for people with disabilities in its 13 partner communities. Twenty-seven Glencoe Park District residents were served through these program offerings. Additionally, NSSRA supported six Glencoe Park District participants with 1182.79 hours of inclusive services in programs that were provided by the Park District.



## **Intergovernmental agreements with other Park Districts, forest preserve districts, conservation districts, or municipal recreation agencies**

- Northbrook Reciprocal Agreement for Aquatic Center/Beach Passes
- Northbrook Reciprocal Agreement for Dog Park
- Winnetka Reciprocal Agreement for Paddle Tennis
- Collaboration with other Park Districts on best practices: Because Park Districts are not in competition with one another, they are more willing than the private sector to share best practices. These best practices help to avoid unnecessary costs and deliver services more effectively and efficiently.





# Intergovernmental agreements with other units of local government

## Village of Glencoe:

- Shared Services Agreement: We provide mowing for Village sites and in return they perform the majority of our vehicle and equipment service and repairs with no labor costs (We pay for the price of parts.).
- Public Safety protection
- Joint projects such as the Lakefront Park Bluff Stabilization project: Splitting the costs 50/50 on a project we both have a vested interest in.
- Glencoe Golf Club: Shared equipment on an as needed basis and use of greenhouse



# Intergovernmental agreements with other units of local government

## School District 35:

- Agreement that allows for use of school facilities in exchange for athletic field maintenance
- Joint construction and maintenance of West School playground.
- Tennis court usage and maintenance.
- Assist with tree removal

## New Trier High School Transition Program:

- Use of programming space

## Library:

- Joint special events and programming



# **Intergovernmental agreements with other units of local government**

Village of Glencoe, District 35, Glencoe Library, and Glencoe Park District leadership teams meet monthly to discuss matters important to the entire Village.

Past collaborations include safety, COVID-19 Protocols, joint bid opportunities, and sustainability.



# Intergovernmental Agreements with the State of Illinois

- Illinois Funds (local government investment pools)
- **Grant Programs:**
  - OSLAD
  - PARC
  - BAAD
  - Bike Path
  - Urban and Community Forestry



# Athletic Affiliates

**Partnerships or agreements with athletic or similar affiliate organizations that operate sports or other leagues. Most of these organizations would be unable to construct and maintain their own sports fields.**

- Glencoe Youth Baseball and Softball
- AYSO Soccer
- Kenilworth-Winnetka Baseball Association (travel baseball)
- New Trier Travel Basketball
- Northshore Tennis League



# Partnerships with Community Non-Profits

- Glencoe Youth Services
- Glencoe Junior High Project
- Glencoe Junior Kindergarten
- Glencoe Rotary
- Glencoe/Winnetka/Northfield Chamber of Commerce
- Glencoe Community Garden
- Friends of the Green Bay Trail
- American Red Cross
- New Trier Township Food Pantry
- Knowledge Empowers Youth
- Congregation Hakafa
- Boy Scouts of America



# Partnerships with For-Profit Organizations

- Sarah Hall Theater Company
- Hot Shot Sports
- Life Sports
- Chess Scholars
- Pride DoJo
- Amazing Minds
- Many other private recreation providers



# Other Examples of Efficient Operations

- Use of Volunteers
- Youth Employment
- Joint Purchasing
- Reliance on Non-Tax Revenue





# Public Input from the Community

The Park District offers residents many opportunities to provide feedback. These include:

- The Board of Park Commissioners meets twice each month. Residents may provide public comment at every meeting.
- The Park District's annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance is available in tentative form at least 30 days prior to its adoption at an open Board meeting.
- The Park District's annual property tax levy is approved at an open Board meeting.
- Residents may contact or request information from the Park District by phone at 847-835-3030 or email at [info@glencoe parkdistrict.com](mailto:info@glencoe parkdistrict.com)



# Advisory Groups & Focus Groups

Citizen advisory groups and focus groups allow for community input and feedback including:

- Glencoe Beach and Lakefront Advisory Group
- Watts Advisory Group
- Early Childhood Advisory Group
- Short-term Task Forces (e.g. Dog Park Feasibility Group, Berlin Park Design Group, Playground Design Groups, etc.)

A variety of annual surveys are used to gather participant feedback including:

- 4 recreation program surveys
- 2 facility surveys
- 1 early childhood survey
- 1 fitness survey
- community survey (upcoming)

Public hearings are common ways to gather community input. Past public hearings include:

- Berlin Baseball Field
- Watts Recreation Center PARC Grant and redevelopment
- Lakefront Park redevelopment
- West Park redevelopment
- Pickleball court discussion
- Frank Lloyd Wright House relocation to Park District property



# District Awards and Recognition

## Park District Achievements/Awards

- 2023: IPRA Chairperson of the Board of Directors: Executive Director Sheppard  
GFOA Certificate of Achievement for Reporting
- 2022: Frank Lloyd Wright Spirit Award Winner
- 2019: NRPA National Gold Medal for Excellence in Park and Recreation  
Management Winner  
IAPD/IPRA Distinguished Accreditation  
IPRA Program of the Year for Beach S.A.F.E.
- 2018: NRPA National Gold Medal Finalist  
Aaa Bond Rating from Moody's Investor Services  
IPRA Exceptional Workplace Award
- 2017: IPRA Professional of the Year: Executive Director Sheppard  
NRPA National Gold Medal Finalist  
NSSRA Shining Star Partner Agency of the Year



# District Awards and Recognition

## Grants/Donation Received

2016:	Citizen Donation for Berlin Park	\$1,000,000
2019:	CMAP Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP-L) Grant	\$667,150
	IDNR Bicycle Path Grant	\$200,000
	Private Donation for Duke Park	\$300,000
2020:	OSLAD Grant for Duke Park	\$400,000
	Child Care Restoration Grants	\$194,000
2021:	PARC Grant for Watts Recreation Center	\$2,500,000
	IDNR BAAD Grant for Bluff Stabilization	In Progress
	Child Care Restoration Grants	\$214,000
2022:	USDA/IDNR UCF Grant for tree inventory/care management plan	In Progress
	Private Donations for Watts Recreation Center	\$100,000
	Child Care Restoration Grants	\$64,000
Yearly:	Tree and bench donations (annual average)	\$20,000



# Benefits and Services

The Park District serves the entire community from the youngest child to the oldest adult and all ages in between. It does so in a variety of ways.

## Facilities

The Park District offered the following facilities to the community last year:

Takiff Community Center	Watts Recreation Center and refrigerated ice rinks
Safran Beach House	Perlman Boating Beach
Holmes Warming House (Glencoe Youth Services Center)	Park maintenance buildings
99 acres of park land and 12 playgrounds	

The Park District offered the following park improvements since 2016:

2016:	Berlin Park Shelton Park Kalk Park - Phase 1	2017:	Astor Park Glencoe Fitness West Park
2018:	Old Elm Park Takiff walking path Vernon Park playground	2019:	Takiff Center early childhood playground Woodlawn Park and playground
2020:	Schuman Overlook at Glencoe Beach South Overlook at Glencoe Beach	2021:	Connect Glencoe Trail development Veterans Memorial Park Duke Park Kalk Park - Phase 2 Hazel Overlook repairs
2022:	Glencoe pier replacement Historically accurate renovation of the Halfway House and exterior of the Safran Beach House	2023:	Watts Recreation Center renovation Lakefront Park playground and Tennis Court renovation Beach Road crib wall replacement



# Benefits and Services

The Park District offered the following programs last year. Registration numbers are also provided.



## Additional Services

The Park District provided the following additional services to the community:

- Sustainable practice and education including interpretative signs, beekeeping, and education offerings
- Provide space in recreation centers for a variety of community groups and Village, library, and school district needs
- Use of the greenhouse for Friends of the Green Bay Trail, Glencoe Community Garden, and Glencoe Garden Club



# Benefits and Services

While the Park District is a special purpose district, its impact to the community is multi-faceted and far reaching. The Park District offers numerous benefits to the community it serves. Some of the key advantages of a Park District include:

- **Recreation and Leisure Opportunities:** Park Districts provide a wide range of recreational facilities and programs, including parks, playgrounds, sports fields, trails, beaches, fitness centers, and community centers. These amenities offer opportunities for physical activity, social interaction, and leisure activities for individuals of all ages and abilities.
- **Before and after school and summer programs** offer safe, convenient, and affordable child care options for working families during critical times when school is not in session.
- **Green Spaces and Environmental Preservation:** Park Districts contribute to the preservation of green spaces, natural habitats, and biodiversity within urban and suburban areas. Parks and open spaces serve as valuable ecological sanctuaries, promoting environmental education and appreciation of nature.
- **The Park District's open space and trees** help improve air and water quality and mitigate flooding.
- **Health and Well-being:** Access to parks and recreational facilities encourages a more active lifestyle, promoting and improving better physical health and mental well-being, thereby reducing health care costs.
- **Community Building:** Park Districts play a vital role in bringing communities together. Parks and recreational programs provide spaces where people from diverse backgrounds can interact, fostering a sense of community and social cohesion.



# Benefits and Services

- **Youth and Family Development:** Parks offer safe and supervised environments for children and teenagers to engage in constructive activities. They provide opportunities for skill development, teamwork, leadership, and character-building experiences.
- **Cultural and Educational Enrichment:** Park Districts often host cultural events, festivals, and educational programs, enriching the community's cultural and intellectual life. These events foster creativity, encourage artistic expression, and promote learning.
- **Economic Impact:** A well-maintained Park District can enhance property values in the surrounding area, making it an attractive place to live and work. Parks and recreational amenities can also attract tourists and visitors, boosting local businesses and the economy.
- **Active Aging:** Park Districts cater to the needs of older adults by offering programs specifically designed for seniors, promoting active aging, and addressing social isolation.
- **Environmental Education and Sustainability:** Many Park Districts focus on promoting environmental awareness and sustainability. They offer educational programs on topics like conservation, recycling, and sustainable practices to instill a sense of responsibility for the environment among community members.
- **Emergency Preparedness and Public Safety:** Park Districts often collaborate with local authorities to develop emergency preparedness plans and provide spaces that can be used for disaster relief or evacuation centers during emergencies.
- **Overall,** Park Districts play a crucial role in enhancing the overall quality of life for residents by providing opportunities for recreation, social interaction, education, and community engagement while contributing to environmental conservation and public health.





# Recommendations for Increased Accountability and Efficiency

Homework:

At the next meeting will discuss any ideas or suggestions that potentially could increase accountability and efficiency.

