

Lakefront Parking Task Force Meeting

September 16, 2026



Agenda

- Introductions and Meeting Etiquette
- Presentation of Lakefront History and Surrounding Communities
- Summary of Changes made for 2026 Season
- Review of Task Force Pre-Meeting Questions and Priority Issues
- Matters from the Public
- Other Business/Discussion



Introductions and Meeting Etiquette



Lakefront History

- **1869:** Lakefront Park Platted
- **1912:** Glencoe Park District formed and became the owner of land
- **1915–17:** Beach development begins
- **1928–31:** New beach house, piers and expanded amenities. More than **1,000 family passes** sold in 1931, with a reported **2,500 visitors on one July Sunday**
- **1942:** Beach access expanded following the Albon L. Foster case
- **1950s:** Lakefront Park amenities added
- **1960s:** Parking added around Lakefront Park
- **1969:** Perlman Park added for boating
- **1970s–90s:** Beach incorporated into camps, programming and community events
- **1997-2003:** Miscellaneous beach renovations made to beach house, playground, shelters, boardwalk, and trellis
- **2012:** Northbrook Reciprocity Agreement established and beach playground and sprayground improvements
- **2020:** COVID Pandemic impacting operations over 50,000 visitors that summer
- **2023:** Lakefront Park renovations to playground and tennis courts
- **2026-27:** Major lakefront renovations to Sun Shelters, Trellis, Playground, and Beach House



What This Tells Us

- **Heavy use is not new.** Glencoe Beach experienced substantial peak demand as far back as the early 1930s
- **Regional visitation is not new.** Historical records specifically describe the lakefront as popular with both residents and out-of-town visitors
- **The lakefront has always served multiple purposes.** Swimming, boating, playground use, camps, events and general recreation have all been part of its role
- **Infrastructure has evolved in response to use.** Beach houses, piers, boating facilities and renovations were added over time as community needs changed



Recent Beach Pass History

2019 and Before



**Daily Admission &
Season Passes allowed
7 days per week**



2020



Season Passes Only



2021 and After



Season Passes on Weekends
**Daily Admission on Weekdays
after 12 PM only**



10-year Annual Attendance Data

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Resident Pass Visit	3,206	2,784	4,258	38,253	17,591	8,425	10,507	12,857	10,717	10,995
Non-Resident Pass Visit	1,069	1,109	1,391	13,516	11,887	5,818	6,376	9,960	8,945	9,492
Total Pass Visits	4,275	3,893	5,649	51,769	29,478	14,243	16,883	22,817	19,662	20,487
Resident Daily Visit	4,565	7,221	4,424	-	434	944	991	1,109	919	1,043
Non-Resident Daily Visit	18,384	18,278	12,606	-	2,702	2,429	2,418	2,623	2,586	2,983
Total Daily Visits	22,949	25,499	17,030	-	3,136	3,373	3,409	3,732	3,505	4,026
Total Visits	27,224	29,392	22,679	51,769	32,614	17,616	20,292	26,549	23,167	24,513
# of Days in Season	101	101	101	108	101	101	101	101	101	108



Park District and Village Roles

Park District

- Authority for Glencoe Beach and Lakefront Park
- Establishes beach admission policies, fees, and hours
- Manages beach and boating operations

Village of Glencoe

- Authority for Street and Neighborhood Parking
- Establishes parking restrictions and regulations
- Manages pedestrian/traffic issues



Framework for Park District Operations

State Requirements and Laws

- Use of Public Parks & Beaches
 - What the Law Says
 - Illinois Human Rights Act
 - Equal Protection (U.S. Constitution)
 - What Park Districts Can Do
 - Charge reasonable higher non-resident fees
 - Require beach passes/daily admission
 - Use capacity limits for safety
 - What Park Districts Cannot Do
 - Prohibit non-residents
 - Make beaches “residents only”



Framework for Village Authority Over ROW

- Village-owned Public Right-of-Way
 - Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) Guidelines
 - Municipal Code
- Parking Citations
 - State Law & Local Ordinance
 - Local Signage Enforcement
- Sheridan Road is IDOT owned



General Village Parking Regulations

- General Parking Rules
 - No Overnight Parking Anywhere 2AM-6AM
 - No Parking one side of street
- Location Specific Rules
 - Lakefront Park – No Parking from 10PM-6AM
 - Other Park District Parks
 - School Zones
 - Houses of Worship
- Commuter Lots
- Downtown Parking



Lakefront Park Parking Inventory



Discussion/Questions



Neighboring Community Comparison Review



Sunrise Beach in Lake Bluff

- Village Street Parking Only
- Free
- No Priority for Resident
- Restriction for NR after 9 PM
- Amenities
 - None beside beach



Rosewood Beach in Highland Park

- Park District owned
- Lower Lot
 - Permit Required
 - Residents Only
- Upper Lot
 - Resident & Non-resident Permit
 - Hourly Parking Kiosk
 - \$15 per hour with maximum 4 hours
- Internal Ticketers
 - Only 10% of tickets paid during summer
- Amenities
 - Playground Only



Winnetka Beaches

- Park District owned
- Beach Pass or Village Sticker required to park in lots
 - Free with Village Sticker
 - Street parking
- Amenities
 - Limited non-beach amenities at all locations



Gilson Beach in Wilmette

- Park District owned
- Season Permit
 - Residents
 - Non-residents
- Daily Parking
 - Weekdays
 - Weekends
- Amenities
 - Wallace Bowl
 - Tennis Courts
 - Volleyball
 - Playground
 - Fitness Equipment
 - Lakeview Center
 - Walking Paths



Forest Park Beach in Lake Forest

- City owned
- Permit Required for all lots
 - Residents free with Village Sticker
 - Non-residents
 - If no permit must park at commuter lot 1.3 miles away
- Amenities
 - Overlook and walking paths



Kenilworth Beach

- Village Street Parking Only
- Free
- No Priority for Resident
- New Trier Parking Restrictions
- Amenities
 - None beside beach



Neighboring Community Comparison Review

Key Takeaways

- Parking approaches vary across North Shore communities
- Glencoe, Lake Bluff, and Kenilworth rely on street parking
- Other communities primarily use dedicated beach parking lots
- Permits, fees, and parking restrictions are used in different combinations
- Each community's approach reflects its local parking supply and lakefront layout



Discussion/Questions



2026 Changes

Glencoe Park District

- Extended Operating Hours by 1-hour until 8 PM
- Portable restroom service increased to three days per week.
- Increased frequency of garbage/litter removal in the park.
- Daily restroom cleaning will continue to take place during operating hours.

Village of Glencoe

- Doubled Fines within Beach Zone
- Modified No Parking Signage
- Added signage and pavement markings to the access ramps
- Overflow parking directed towards the Metra lots
- Resumed "Beach Closed" barricades at top of access ramps and Park & Hazel after hours
- Modified Public Safety assignments



Discussion/Questions



Survey Question #1

- In your opinion, what problem(s) are we trying to solve with lakefront parking?



Q1: In your opinion, what problem(s) are we trying to solve with lakefront parking?

The main problems identified regarding lakefront parking are:

- **Seasonal Parking Demand (26.7)**
- **Parking Regulation Strategies (26.7%)**
- **Resident Parking Allocation (20.0%)**
- **Traffic Flow Management (13.3%)**
- **Public Safety Measures (13.3%)**

Most comments were neutral in sentiment (75%), with a smaller portion expressing negative sentiment (25%). No comments were classified as positive. This suggests that respondents are primarily concerned with managing demand during peak seasons, ensuring fair allocation for residents, and improving regulations, traffic, and safety.

The overall tone is neutral, with some negative feedback.



Discussion/Questions

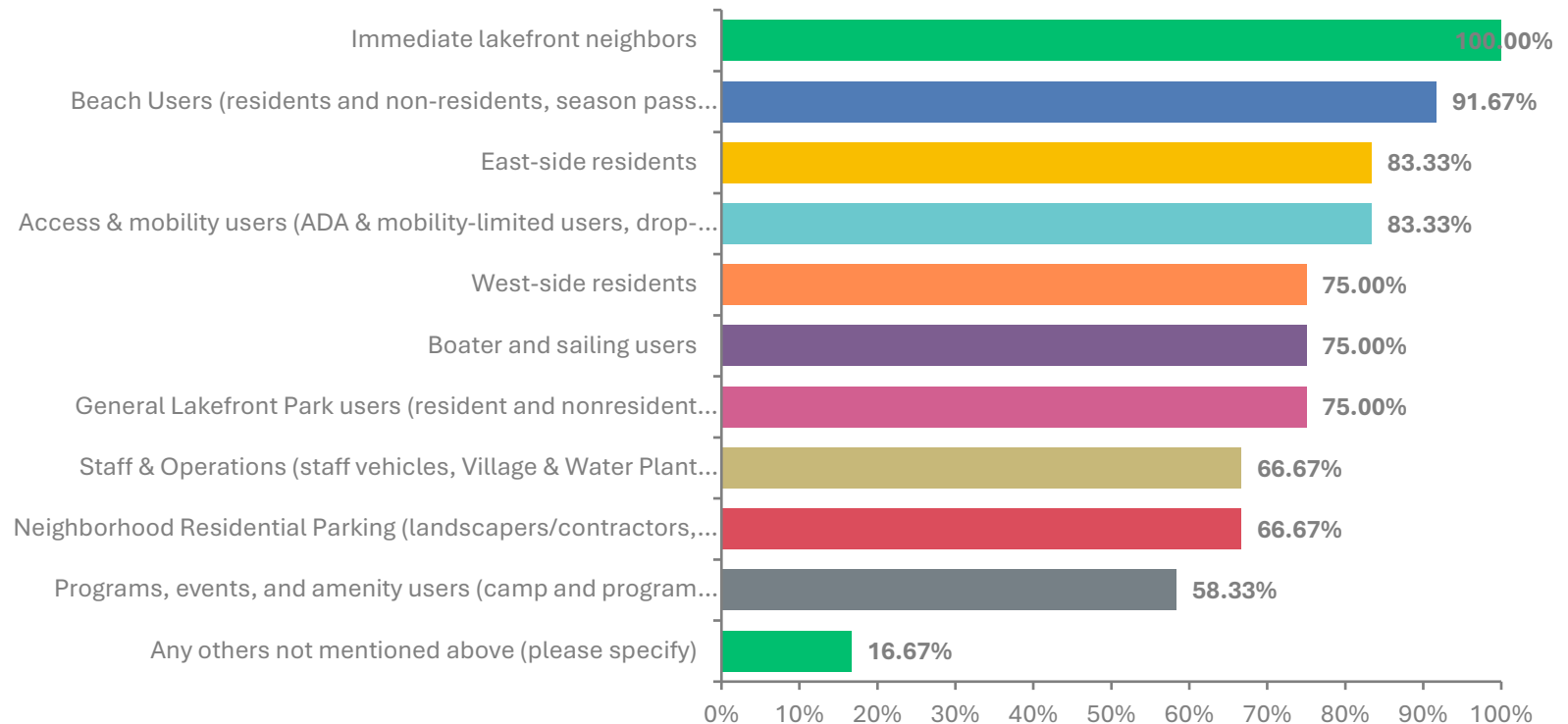


Survey Question #2

- Which of the following groups would you consider to be Lakefront Parking stakeholders?



Q2: Which of the following groups would you consider to be Lakefront Parking stakeholders? Select all that apply.



Discussion/Questions



Next Steps

Meeting Schedule:

- Wednesday, October 14 at 6:30 PM
- Wednesday, November 11 at 6:30 PM
- Wednesday, December 16 at 6:30 PM
- Wednesday, January 13 at 6:30 PM



Northbrook Agreement

Glencoe Residents

- Resident rates at Northbrook's two pools
- Resident rates at Northbrook's aquatics programs
- Resident rates at Northbrook's Dog Park
 - **2026 - 19 passes sold**
 - **2025 – 24 passes sold**

Northbrook Residents

- Resident rates at Glencoe Beach



Northbrook Reciprocity Pass Data

	2024			2025			2026		
	Revenue	Visits	Rev/ Visit	Revenue	Visits	Rev/ Visit	Revenue	Visits	Rev/ Visit
Glencoe Beach	\$51,048	1,965	\$25.98	\$49,172	1,798	\$27.35	\$53,235	2,152	\$24.74
Northbrook Pools	\$10,636	757	\$14.05	\$11,116	956	\$11.63	\$10,119	812	\$12.46



Type of Users - Parking Area



General Lakefront Visitors

- Resident Visitors
- Nonresident Visitors
- Short-Duration Park Users
- Long-Duration Users
- Scenic & Passive Recreation Users
- Off-Season Users



Programs, Events & Amenity Users

- Camp & Program Families
- Rental & Event Guests
- Boating & Sailing Users
- Tennis, Playground & Park Amenity Users



Access & Mobility Users

- ADA & Mobility-Limited Users
- Drop-Off / Pick-Up Vehicles
- Rideshare & Passenger Vehicles
- Walk-In Users Who Park Elsewhere



Staff & Operations

- Staff Vehicles
- Village & Water Plant Vehicles
- Maintenance, Contractor & Delivery Vehicles
- Public Safety / Emergency Vehicles



Neighborhood Residential Parking

- Landscapers / Contractors
- Household Service Workers / Caregivers
- Delivery / Service Vehicles
- Construction / Maintenance Crews
- Party / Gathering Guests
- Family Visitors / Houseguests



North Shore Lakefront Community Comparison

Community	Beach Hours of Operation	Parking Model	Overflow Parking Options	Notes on Location
Glencoe	10 AM-8 PM	• Village-owned street parking • ~96 dedicated spaces + neighborhood street parking • free	• Neighborhood Street Parking • Metra Lot about 0.5 mile away	• Tennis Courts, Playground, Overlooks • Beach is accessed down bluff by ramp
Lake Bluff	9 AM-7 PM	• Village-owned street parking • no dedicated beach lot • free	• Neighborhood Street Parking • Metra lot about 1 mile away	• No additional amenities • Beach is accessed down bluff by ramp
Highland Park	10 AM-6 PM	• Park District-owned Parking Lots • ~35-space resident lower lot + ~40-space paid upper lot • Permits/pay kiosk	• No seasonal neighborhood street parking • Metra lot about 0.7 mile away	• Interpretive Center/Meeting Space • Playground • Split access to beach depending on parking lot
Winnetka	9 AM-dusk	• Park District-owned Parking Lots • Tower ~35 spaces, Maple ~15 spaces, New Trier Parking Restrictions at Elder • sticker/pass required	• Neighborhood Street Parking • Metra lot about 1 mile away	• 3 swimming beach locations • Playgrounds • Beach is accessed down bluff by ramp
Wilmette	10 AM-8 PM	• Park District-owned Parking Lots • 200+ spaces • seasonal/daily fees	• Some seasonal neighborhood parking restrictions • No specific overflow parking lot options.	• Parking at beach level • Tennis Courts, playground, boating beach • Lakeview Center
Lake Forest	10 AM-6 PM	• City-owned Parking Lots • 100+ spaces; dedicated North and South beach lots • permit-controlled	• No neighborhood street parking • Metra lot about 1 mile away	• Playgrounds, pavilions • Overlook and walking paths • Parking at beach level
Kenilworth	10 AM-6 PM	• Village-owned street parking • New Trier Parking Restrictions	• New Trier Parking Restrictions on Neighborhood streets • No specific overflow parking lot options	• Very limited parking