



Glenview Park District: Comprehensive Master Plan Executive Summary

Charting Our Future: A 10-Year Plan for the Glenview Park District, May 2018 through April 2028

Executive Summary letter from Board President Robert Patton to Glenview residents in May 2018...

Together, we've charted our future!

This 10-year plan has been an entire year in the making and is the roadmap to the Glenview Park District's (GPD) responsible and continual improvement of our parks and recreation system and services. We listened carefully and are thrilled by how the community helped shape this vision, including its purpose-driven plan for implementation.

Developed in 1982, GPD's last Comprehensive Master Plan planned for the successful parks and recreation system we enjoy today. This new 2018–2028 plan reveals that our community is evolving, our needs are changing, our infrastructure is aging, and recreation trends are shifting. Residents also want GPD to care for our prized park system, meet today's recreation demands, and remain relevant.

We believe Charting Our Future accurately responds to GPD's current context and future position in the community. Even better, this plan is a living document that we will update regularly to achieve the targeted objectives in a fiscally responsible manner, and the Action Plan defines how we'll do it.

The implementation of the plan will follow GPD's Mission, Vision, and Guiding Principles, including the incorporation of sustainable practices into both our operations and park and facility improvements. Sustainable practices such as the use of recyclable materials, energy-efficient building systems, stormwater treatment, and native planting will be at the forefront of capital development and replacement project planning when appropriate.

As the strategies and Action Plan unfold, the objectives will advance until we accomplish the plan. If funding becomes more challenging than anticipated, the timing of the objectives may shift because we are committed to the sustainable future that you and our plan prescribe.

As our leadership team delivers key improvements to our community, please provide ongoing feedback, which we will incorporate as the plan advances.

We're excited for our collective future and remain steadfast in our commitment to high-quality parks and recreation. We appreciate your partnership and are grateful for your trust in us, the Glenview Park District.

Thanks for your help, and we'll see you at the park.

Introduction

GPD developed this plan, shaped by the community, to guide park, facility and program development decisions for ten years.

Purpose

The purpose of this Comprehensive Plan is to

- Assess existing parks, facilities, and programs;
- Determine community opinion about services and facilities;
- Identify GPD facility and program needs;
- Define strategic and measurable goals and objectives; and
- Provide an action plan to implement strategies over the next ten years.

Planning Process

The comprehensive planning process covered five key phases: Analyze, Connect, Envision, Prioritize and Implement.

The planning process began in fall 2016 with an extensive inventory and analysis of GPD's park and open space assets, indoor facilities, and community context. Analyzing the recreation programs provided insight into strengths, challenges and opportunities for current and future programming. Within the Connect phase, the District held outreach meetings, public surveys and an online forum to solicit input from staff, stakeholders, the Board of Commissioners and the community.

After completing these first two phases, the planning team met to envision the future and develop actionable strategies. Input from the Board of Commissioners and staff prioritized and incorporated these strategies into an action plan. GPD has undergone implementation, reporting and ongoing review over the past eight years, with two years remaining.

How to Use the Plan

GPD uses this Comprehensive Plan document as a guide to implement action items. The first two chapters provide recommendations for GPD's next ten years, and the last two provide supporting evidence of those recommendations gained through the Analysis and Connect phases. The Action Plan in Chapter Two is thought of as a "working list" that has been reviewed and updated as progress continues.

Since the Comprehensive Master Plan's inception, staff have been actively working on 51 initiatives. Of those 51 initiatives, 38 have been achieved and 13 are in process.

Current Progress

- Voters approved a \$17M referendum (64.5%) to renovate two facilities and create a \$1M open space fund. All projects are complete, and nearly three acres have been acquired.
- GPD invested \$289,744 to make all 13 field houses ADA-accessible and add five outdoor restrooms.
- GPD added outdoor automated external defibrillators at eleven sports fields through the support of a grant from the Jennifer Lynn Snyder Teen Heart Foundation.
- Following a 2020 field and court assessment, GPD added eight dedicated pickleball courts and 18 dual-lined courts, with four new pickleball courts set for completion in Spring 2026.
- Implemented Historic Wagner Farm's Master Plan with funding from an Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development grant (\$400,000) and Friends of Wagner Farm (\$100,000). New additions included a sensory garden and an accessible, interactive outdoor play space that focuses on our food sources.

- The renovated Glenview Community Ice Center’s estimated economic impact is approximately \$6.3 million annually. Usage increased by 60%.
- Provided more equitable use and opportunities for female figure skating and girls’ hockey. Implemented over 75 programs for female athletes, including four synchronized skating teams, in-house hockey clinics and leagues, 14 hours of public skating sessions per week, and expanded freestyle ice skating in a state-of-the-art facility. Expanded girls’ flag football and softball.
- Annexed 293 acres of industrial space into the Park District boundaries, expanding our property tax base and securing a stable funding source for the future.
- GPD redesigned The Grove, a National Historic Landmark, using referendum and state grant funds, partnered with the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History and opened a new Discovery Room in 2024 with a \$375,000 State Museum Grant.
- Secured State Capital Bill funds totaling \$1.1 million for a stormwater project, The Grove fish tank, Avoca Park development and Historic Wagner Farm exhibits.
- GPD added 17 acres of land using Land and Water Conservation Fund grants.
- Redesigned Glenview Tennis Club’s interior clubhouse space.
- Updated group fitness areas to create a modern spin studio and optimize the fitness floor layout.
- Completed a privately-funded connector road in Community Park West, partnering with the Village to improve access for tournaments and large events.
- Completed \$8 million construction of new Turf Care Maintenance Facility at Glenview Park Golf Club with a sustainable design and geothermal system.
- Developed a Management and Operations Plan for Park Center to maximize revenue potential
- Reconstructed the Central Street Bridge and trail connection with support from the Village of Glenview (\$100,000) and a \$225,500 Cook County Invest in Cook grant, preserving access to Judy Beck Park while minimizing taxpayer impact.
- Completed park-specific master plans for Indian Ridge, Swenson, Manor, Sleepy Hollow, Avoca and Willow Parks.
- Completed the Centennial Farm Exhibit at Historic Wagner Farm with a \$150,000 Illinois Department of Commerce grant and additional support from Friends of Wagner Farm and donors.
- \$8.2 million renovation of Splash Landings Indoor Aquatic Center is in progress, with help from a \$2.8 million PARC grant, investing \$4 million in matching funds. The facility will reopen in September 2026.

Future Plans to Complete

- GPD’s population grew from 58,000 to 61,523, prompting ongoing surveys and stakeholder input to adjust plans and align services with evolving community needs.
- Improve Flick and Roosevelt Outdoor Aquatic Centers.
- GPD is developing a master plan for the Glenview Park Golf Club, focusing on refreshing the site ingress and egress, on-course restrooms, renovation of outdoor amenities and indoor and outdoor banquet functions.
- GPD is developing plans for twelve parks to guide future improvements based on community input and feedback. **Six plans are complete**, two are in process and one more will begin later this year.
- Partnering with the Village to develop GPD’s first large community park in decades on a 56-acre former industrial site, expanding green space; improving environmental quality; and advancing our goal of a park within a 10-minute walk for every resident. This will be accomplished with community feedback included at every step of the process.
- GPD launched the beginning process of revising our 10-Year Comprehensive Master Plan.