

West Fork Green

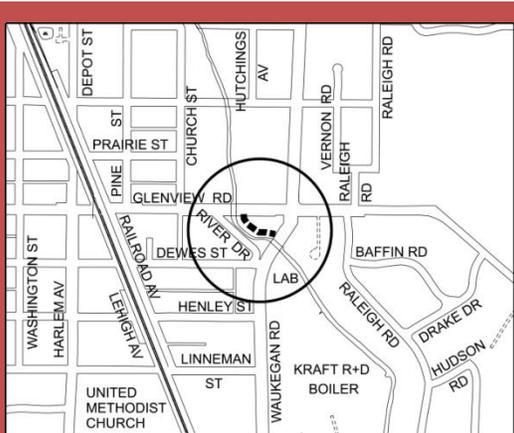
West Fork Green refers to a section of land in downtown Glenview (see map below) that was recommended for use as public open space by the Village's Downtown Master Plan. The parcel is east of the West Fork of the North Branch of the Chicago River (West Fork) in the heart of downtown Glenview, between the southeast wall of the Glenview Road bridge and the northeast wall of the Waukegan Road bridge.

Before the restoration project, about 400 linear feet of the east riverbank of the West Fork was 3 to 10 feet above the normal water level and showed significant signs of erosion, such as undermined turf grass and bank soil settlement. In addition, there was significant impact to soil and ground water in the area and quantities of invasive plants, particularly buckthorn.

The goals of this project were to improve water quality, enhance wildlife habitat, increase biodiversity and foster appreciation of the West Fork by the public by restoring and stabilizing the east riverbank.

To achieve these goals, the Village stabilized the slope of 400 linear feet of eroding streambank and installed two pool and riffle structures to provide habitat diversity and aeration of the river. Willow stakes were placed along the bank to promote a dense root system to stabilize the soil along a portion of the river. On the majority of the parcel, Boy Scouts helped to clear buckthorn. Other invasive species were selectively eliminated and the land was enhanced by

approximately an acre of native prairie vegetation. In addition, 17 native trees and 15 native shrubs were installed. The native prairie, woodland and wetland vegetation improves the area's habitat diversity and provides a more deeply rooted and locally adapted variety of plants than was previously found. Because the project is located in a central business district, it offers a quiet green respite to busy visitors.



Top: Location of West Fork Green
Bottom: Stabilization around the east bank of the river

Location: Glenview Road and River Road

Start of construction: Spring 2010

Construction complete: Spring 2010

Benefits:

- Less pollutants through reduced erosion
- Enhanced riparian habitat
- Creation of public green space

Open Space/Green Space: Areas of protected or conserved land or water in which development is indefinitely set aside.

Biodiversity: The degree of variation of life forms in a given area. It is a measure of the health of ecosystems.



The Village of
Glenview