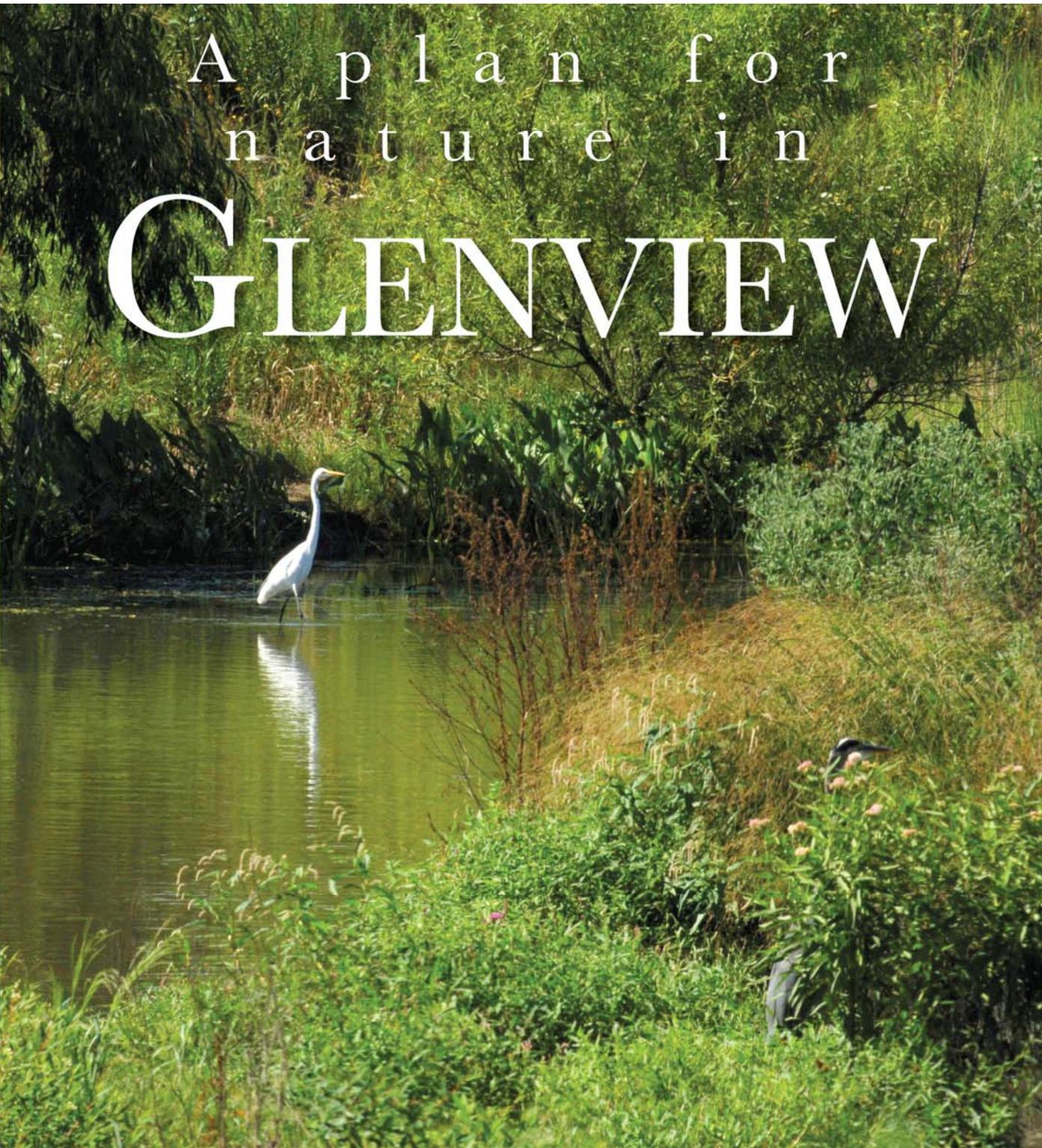


A p l a n f o r  
n a t u r e i n  
**GLENVIEW**



## **Ecological Health and Chicago Wilderness**

**Ecological health refers to the viability of nature and its many natural communities of plants and members of the animal kingdom including mammals, birds, amphibians, and insects. A healthy biological community contains diversity, and its many components exist within a dynamic balance of predators, prey, and natural processes. In addition to being part of our natural heritage, healthy ecosystems provide benefits by absorbing and filtering storm water, filtering air pollutants, storing carbon, and providing aesthetic value.**

**Within our suburban environment we have modified the forces of nature, but we have the ability to limit those modifications and restore many species that still survive in small numbers. Some live only in protected areas, but many can be restored throughout our Village.**

**The fragments of nature that survive in our yards and protected areas are part of “Chicago Wilderness,” a somewhat whimsical name given to those living resources by the Chicago Wilderness consortium of more than 200 member organizations. These organizations have joined in support of biodiversity within the Greater Chicago Region. Membership includes virtually all conservation organizations within the region including the Forest Preserves but also many organizations whose primary function is not conservation but whose activities impact nature.**

**The Village of Glenview was one of the first municipalities to become a member of the organization and has taken important steps to protect nature, as summarized in section 8.2.1.7. For more information on Chicago Wilderness and the biodiversity of our region, visit [www.chicagowilderness.org](http://www.chicagowilderness.org).**

## 8.2.1 A PLAN FOR NATURE IN GLENVIEW

*Intent:* The purpose of this plan is to draw attention to the natural resources of our Village and identify how our natural heritage can be protected and enhanced to improve ecological health and better contribute to our quality of life. The plan is built upon the information available in *A Plan for Nature in Glenview Technical Report*.



### 8.2.1.1 INTRODUCTION

Keep your eyes and ears open anywhere in the Village. Nature can be found in the most unexpected places. Golf courses, corporate campuses, backyards, roadsides, and neighborhood parks all provide open space that offers habitat for many native species. Larger preserves such as those of the Forest Preserve District of Cook County (Forest Preserves), The Grove National Historic Landmark (The Grove), and the Air Station Prairie provide habitats for hundreds more.

Natural resources are an essential part of our quality of life. They range from open space which gives a sense of spaciousness and “room to breathe;” to places for active and passive recreation; to plants that cleanse the air and water; to places that sustain important elements of our heritage and biological diversity. While we are familiar with our gray infrastructure of streets and pipes that support our suburban lifestyle, we tend to be less aware of our green infrastructure and the need to protect and maintain it. This plan is about

our living resources and the habitats that sustain them.

Glenview sits close to Lake Michigan on long low ridges known as moraines, left by the last glaciers about 10,000 years ago. Those ridges guide our three rivers: the Des Plaines, the West Fork of the North Branch of the Chicago River (West Fork), and the main stem of the North Branch.

Any point in Glenview is in a watershed - an area in which all water drains to the same body of water - of one of those rivers (see Figure 1). The moraines and rivers, along with local climate and soils, helped sustain diverse natural communities consisting of hundreds of kinds of native plants, which supported rich assemblages of insects, birds, and other animals. Most of those living things still exist within the Village, but in far smaller numbers and in danger of disappearing.



Map by Lynda Wallis

Figure 1. Glenview's watershed

Several regional plans have been developed within the Chicago area that address the importance of natural resources protection in our urban region. All of these plans stress the importance of local government in achieving natural resources protection. The regional plans include the North Branch Chicago River Watershed Project's *North Branch of the Chicago River Open Space (Green Infrastructure) Plan*, the Chicago Wilderness *Biodiversity Recovery Plan*, and the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning *2040 Regional Framework Plan*. Examples of local plans include *Biodiversity: A Plan for the Village of Schaumburg* and the City of Chicago's *Chicago Nature and Wildlife Plan*.

The *Village of Glenview Comprehensive Plan (Comprehensive Plan)* update of 2004 briefly reviewed our natural resources and the corridors within which many are located. As that plan states, "natural areas and natural resources contribute to the quality of life in the Village, and are part of a valuable living heritage that should be preserved and restored for the education and enjoyment of residents." During development of the *Comprehensive Plan* a natural resources subcommittee reported the lack of a thorough assessment of natural resources within the Village and recommended that both an assessment and a natural resources plan be developed following completion of the *Comprehensive Plan*. The ecological assessments have now been completed and provide the basis for *A Plan for Nature in Glenview (Plan for Nature)*. The *Plan for Nature* is supplemented by the detailed *A Plan for Nature in Glenview Technical Report (Technical Report)*. Chapters from the *Technical Report* are cited throughout the *Plan for Nature*.

## 8.2.1.2 CONDITION OF OUR NATURAL RESOURCES

### Historic Conditions

Before European settlement, the area that was to become Glenview consisted primarily of prairie, with woodlands east of the Des Plaines and the West Fork, as shown in Figures 2a and 2b at the back of this document. Marshy wetland areas were found scattered in these woodlands. Along the east side of the Des Plaines there were woodlands protected from prairie fires driven by the prevailing winds from the west, and similarly, the West Fork sheltered woodlands to its east. Historically, hot fires had kept trees out of the prairies except for scattered prairie groves of oaks and hickories similar to The Grove in Glenview. Fire was also a major factor in forming the open woodlands that characterized pre-settlement conditions. The open woodlands typically consisted of fire-tolerant oaks, while less tolerant species formed denser woods in wetter areas and protected areas.



Photo 1. Controlled burn at Air Station Prairie

Before settlement, stream channels were much less defined and not as deep as we see today. Much of the water from storms soaked into the soil and the limited runoff was slowed by natural vegetation. Development now inhibits absorption and rapidly transports a large percentage of storm water into stream channels that have been straightened and eroded into deep channels. In the early 1800s, the public land survey reported the main stem of the North Branch as being shallow and 30 to 50 feet wide and the West Fork variously as shallow and 13 to 25 feet wide or as a flooded wetland or slough. Historical ecological conditions of the Glenview area are detailed in Chapter 3 of the *Technical Report*.



## Current Conditions

Currently, the open woodlands of pre-settlement times scarcely exist due to clearing for agriculture, the invasion by fire intolerant species and by non-native species, and the suppression of fires that historically swept across the landscape. Some of the ancient oaks still can be seen in the Forest Preserves with their low horizontal branches killed by crowded masses of younger trees. The woodlands no longer support a diverse assemblage of herbaceous plants; nor are young oaks and hickories to be found. The lack of diversity is due to the heavy shade created by the invasive species and lack of burning.

Healthy woodland systems contain hundreds of plant species associated in complex communities as a result of ecological factors such as soils, moisture, availability of sunlight, and incidence of fire. The presence of trees alone does not constitute a woodland. In fact, many of our natural areas contain impoverished woodlands of mostly young growth and contain few, usually weedy, species. These areas provide limited habitat for insects, birds, and other animals, but fall far short of the habitat provided by healthy and diverse plant communities. In many respects our suburban neighborhoods with their many shade trees, shrubs, and turf grass constitute unassociated woody growth or ornamental plantings.

Examples of healthy and diverse woodland communities can be found as a result of restoration activities in The Grove and in the Harms Woods Forest Preserve.

Prairies are vanishingly rare due to easy conversion to farmland or invasion by brush and trees in the absence of fire. Glenview has the good fortune to have two high-quality prairie remnants in the Air Station Prairie and the James Woodworth Prairie.

Wetland and aquatic communities have been even harder hit. Most wetlands have been drained and the rivers have changed entirely. Physically, stream beds are far different, water quality has been degraded, and the volume and timing of flows are substantially different.

Before development of our area, our rivers were fed by many small tributaries, most of which flowed only during wet periods. These tributaries connected the streams to the landscape. Virtually all of these connections now flow through storm water pipes, many of which flow from storm water detention basins. Most of the basins contain mowed turf grass, which provides few ecological benefits.

Although conditions in our streams are now completely different, restoration is possible and valuable natural resources can be protected.

### **8.2.1.3 ECOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT RESULTS**

Three ecological assessments of natural resources within the Village have been conducted by consultants working with the Natural Resources Commission (NRC) and Village staff to provide baseline information for this plan:

1. Conditions in the West Fork are reported in *Ecological Assessment of the West Fork of the North Branch* and are summarized in Chapter 6 of the *Technical Report*.
2. Conditions in detention basins and areas related to Lake Glenview are reported in *Assessment of Areas Tributary to Lake Glenview* and are summarized in Chapter 5 of the *Technical Report*.
3. Conditions in other natural areas throughout the Village are reported in *Ecological Assessment of the Natural Areas of the Village of Glenview* and are summarized in Chapter 5 of the *Technical Report*.

## Land Cover Types

The ecological assessments classified Glenview's current open space into twelve land cover types, described in Chapter 4 of the *Technical Report*. The major categories are: Turf, Ornamental Plantings, Old Field, Agricultural Land, Prairie, Woodland, Wetland, Mud Flat, Detention Basin, Open Water / Lake, Stream/ River / Ditch, and Developed. Selected land cover types are discussed below.

### Prairie

Two high-quality prairie remnants survive within the Village in the Air Station Prairie and the James Woodworth Prairie. Other prairie-like grassland restoration areas are present in Community Park West, the Techny Basin, Gallery Park, and elsewhere in smaller amounts.



Photo 2. Air Station Prairie

### Woodland

Woodlands of various quality are widespread within the Village, but most are degraded in ecological terms such as lack of diversity caused by a variety of factors. High quality diversity is being restored in The Grove and in portions of the Harms Woods Forest Preserve.



Photos 3 & 4. Woodlands at The Grove before and after restoration

### Wetland

Wetlands survive along the rivers and a few other locations, primarily in parks and the Air Station Prairie. Most are degraded in ecological terms, but still provide significant natural resource value, having a role in providing habitat and in absorbing,

storing, and filtering storm water. They also have major potential for restoration to a higher quality natural resource.

#### Open Water/Lake

As with wetlands, open water areas are limited, but are of great importance in ecological terms. Lake Glenview and Valley Lo Lake are our largest bodies of water. Others are found as storm water control (e.g. detention basins) or amenity features in developments and golf courses. Lake Glenview has a naturalized shoreline, which provides valuable habitat and helps improve water quality.



*Photo 5. Lake Glenview*

#### River/ Stream/ Ditch

As noted above, our streams are degraded. Of the three major streams found in Glenview, the West Fork, including its two surviving open-water tributaries, the North and South Navy Ditches, offers the greatest opportunity for restoration.



*Photo 6. West Fork of the North Branch, Chicago River*

#### Shoreline and Mud Flat

Shorelines and mud flats occupy a very small area, but provide unusual and valuable habitat for resident and migratory shore birds and other aquatic creatures. They exist in a few places along the northern portion of the West Fork and in seasonal ponds and drainage ways. Examples are in the West Fork and on the Air Station Prairie.

### Detention Basin

Dry- and wet-bottom detention basins are scattered throughout the Village, and most presently offer little ecological habitat value. However, basins used for both detention and as recreational ball fields, as we often see in many of our parks, do provide Glenview with recreational opportunities. Conversion from turf grass bottoms or shorelines to native landscaping with native plants offers opportunities for improving and establishing additional habitat for wildlife and to improve the ecological health of our community. Good examples of naturalized dry-bottom basins are at The Grove, Community Park West, and Glenshore condominiums. The largest example is the Techny Basin.



*Photo 7. Techny Basin*

### **8.2.1.4 ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDORS**

As noted in the Village’s *Comprehensive Plan*, our moraines and streams form ecological corridors, which connect many of our natural resources. Corridors are a useful concept because they facilitate protection of linear landscape features such as streams, and connect isolated fragments into a larger context. By connecting separate “islands” of remnant natural areas, a corridor can provide visual continuity and allow the small remnants to function as a larger entity. The importance of a larger entity is that it allows organisms to move around, and if eliminated in one local area, to be reestablished from surviving populations within the larger area.

Glenview has four environmental corridors. Three are along our rivers, and one is along the Metra railroad tracks. All of these corridors have a north-south orientation, thereby offering feeding and resting locations along the routes of migratory birds. Our rivers are important natural resources, and their corridors provide some of our best natural habitat.

1. On the west side of the Village, the Des Plaines River corridor is heavily wooded and consists primarily of Forest Preserve lands. This protects the river and connects it to other Forest Preserve lands to the north and south. Nearby, The Grove is significant in its own right, but also is close enough to the Forest Preserve lands to be biologically connected to the corridor.

2. On the east side of the Village, the Forest Preserve lands form a heavily wooded corridor along the main stem of the North Branch, and connect to Forest Preserve lands to the north and south.
3. Midway between the two Forest Preserve corridors, the West Fork of the North Branch of the Chicago River forms our third corridor. The lands adjacent to the river are both publically and privately owned. At the north end, the Village has acquired land along the river for about half of the distance from Willow Road to Chestnut Avenue, and is working to restore the stream and nearby land. In that area, the stream is open to sunlight and resembles its earlier form when fires prevented trees from shading its banks and it was bordered by prairie meadows and open woodlands.

There is now an opportunity to restore and maintain many aspects of the West Fork's earlier ecology. This is particularly important because it is unlikely that the heavy woods along the other two rivers will ever be modified to return to their former open woodlands and prairie meadows. Within the West Fork corridor there are two tributaries that survive outside of pipes: the North and South Navy Ditches. As their names imply, they are dredged ditches, but they provide important opportunities for restoration to a more natural condition that allows for absorption, provides habitat, and increases water quality.

The West Fork is the smallest of our three streams, but it drains more than half of the Village (71%). Of the approximately 28.7 square miles within the entire West Fork watershed, about 9.4 are within Glenview. Our activities have a proportionately greater impact on this watershed. Land use is varied and much of it is privately owned. In the absence of forest preserves, it is up to Glenview to protect the West Fork.

4. Our fourth environmental corridor follows the Metra railroad tracks. This corridor provides a band of natural habitat along the tracks that connects with the Air Station Prairie and Gallery Park and provides a visual corridor of open space. It also maintains a historic element of Glenview's past as a small prairie community where the railroad was an important part of our existence. At its north end in Northbrook, the Metra corridor intersects with the West Fork corridor. At its south end, it continues through the Village of Golf and connects to the forest preserves along the North Branch. To the east, the Metra corridor is also linked to the West Fork Corridor by the North and South Navy Ditches.



*Photo 8. Metra railroad corridor*

### 8.2.1.5 GLENVIEW'S NATURAL AREAS

Ecological assessments and recommendations for 99 existing and potential natural areas have been completed. Specific details are provided in Table 3 (in Chapter 5) and in Chapter 8 of the *Technical Report*. One important finding is that increased use of native vegetation would enhance and improve natural habitat throughout the Village. Selected major natural areas are discussed below.

#### Cook County Forest Preserves

The Forest Preserves along the main stem of the North Branch and the Des Plaines River are our largest natural areas. They contain large areas of important habitat although much of it is degraded by invasive species and lack of management. They are owned and managed by the Forest Preserve District of Cook County and are not included in the *Plan for Nature* with respect to ecological assessments or recommendations.

#### The Grove National Historic Landmark

The Grove is a premier element of our natural resources, especially its restored oak savanna. It is owned and managed by the Glenview Park District and includes The Grove Interpretive Center.

#### The Air Station Prairie

The prairie is a high quality remnant of native habitat protected by the Village and transferred to the Park District. It includes the Evelyn Pease Tyner Interpretive Center.



*Photo 9. Air Station Prairie*

#### Woodworth Prairie

This small prairie remnant is of extraordinary quality and is owned and managed by the University of Illinois primarily as a research facility.

### Lake Glenview and Gallery Park

The lake and adjacent naturalized portions of Gallery Park provide excellent aquatic habitat. It is owned and managed by the Village in cooperation with the Park District and School District 34. Transfer of ownership and management to the Park District is anticipated.



*Photo 10. Great Blue Heron, Lake Glenview*

### West Fork Corridor

The West Fork Corridor includes the river with its wetlands and environs from north to south through the Village. The north portion extends from Willow Road to Chestnut Avenue and includes the Techny Basin, the North Navy Ditch, and related sites. The area provides important aquatic habitat and opportunities for additional restoration.

The middle and south portions include three small Park District parks and the downtown war memorial. The area provides scarce riparian habitat and the opportunity to work with the Park District and private land owners to restore the currently degraded stream to an improved natural condition.



*Photo 11. Work day along the West Fork Corridor*

### Golf Courses

Golf courses cover substantial areas and offer possibilities for restoration of substantial amounts of both aquatic and terrestrial habitats. Glenview contains five courses, which provide varying amounts of natural landscaping and habitat. Two of them, the Glen Club and the North Shore Country Club, are certified by the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for golf courses.

During construction of the Glen Club course, a segment of storm drain was “day-lighted” and incorporated into water hazards on the course. Also,

substantial areas were established with natural landscaping. In the North Shore Country Club, substantial areas have been converted to natural landscaping and bluebird nesting boxes have been successfully introduced. Of the three other golf courses, the Glenview Park District's two courses and the Valley Lo Club, the Valley Lo course offers the greatest potential for providing habitat because it is bisected by the West Fork and lies between other natural area parcels.

#### **8.2.1.6 MANAGEMENT AND RESTORATION NEEDS**

Our natural areas are steadily being reduced in size and quality under pressure from many threats, primarily development and invasive species. Even areas permanently protected from development become degraded if they are not managed. Our original natural areas were shaped and maintained by natural processes such as fire and natural movement of seed. In the absence of fire and natural connectivity, and in the presence of changed hydrology and invasive species, intervention is essential if our remaining natural heritage is to survive. Chapter 11 of the *Technical Report* details the philosophy and techniques of ecological restoration. An excellent source of information on restoration needed in our region is available in the *Biodiversity Recovery Plan* published by Chicago Wilderness. Information on the condition of natural resources in our region can be found in *The State of Our Chicago Wilderness, A Report Card on the Health of the Region's Ecosystems*.

#### **8.2.1.7 PREVIOUS INVESTMENTS**

##### **Investment in Glenview's Natural Resources**

Over time major investments have been made in Glenview's natural resources, including:

- Establishment of the Environmentally Significant Area provisions in its zoning ordinances, which provide protection for The Grove and other natural areas.
- Preservation of the Air Station Prairie.
- Construction of the Evelyn Pease Tyner Interpretive Center.
- Transfer of the Air Station Prairie and the Evelyn Pease Tyner Interpretive Center to the Glenview Park District for long-term management in order to accomplish public access and education.
- Creation of Lake Glenview and Gallery Park.
- Acquisition and protection of the riverbed and adjacent wetlands in the northern portion of the West Fork Corridor.
- Restoration of the river bed and banks downstream from the Techny Basin spillway.
- Acquisition and restoration of the Techny Basin.

- Acquisition of the 9-acre “Lot 16” at the southern end of the Techny Basin.
- Protection and restoration of the North Navy Ditch between Lake Glenview and the West Fork.
- Acquisition of the 4+-acre Baxter parcel along the West Fork near Chestnut Avenue and, in cooperation with Loyola Academy, plans to link it to the North Navy ditch with a path along the river.
- Establishing an agreement with Metra to manage the right of way from Lake Avenue to Willow Road as natural habitat.
- Establishing an incentive program to encourage residents to address drainage problems using rain gardens.
- Creating the Natural Resources Commission.
- Creating a staff position for managing natural resources.
- Creating a staff “Green Team” to address natural habitat and other environmental issues.
- Joining the Chicago Wilderness coalition.



*Photo 12. Swamp milkweed*

### **8.2.1.8 OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPROVEMENT**

Objectives and strategies to guide the Village in prioritizing specific actions to preserve and enhance natural resources are listed below.

#### **Objectives**

1. Preserve natural open space. Priorities should consider: size of area, the quality of natural resources (including habitat, biological diversity and hydrological characteristics), the location of the parcel related to greenway linkages, and potential for restoration and enhancement.
2. Guide the community in natural open space preservation efforts by the Village, the Park District, and other land owners and provide supporting documentation for grant proposals.
3. Enhance, restore, and manage protected high quality natural areas and resources to maintain and improve their ecological health and biodiversity.

4. Take measures to protect rivers, streams, and lakes, in particular the West Fork.
5. Adopt management practices for all natural open space areas that protect natural resources.
6. Encourage private landowners to adopt land management practices that protect and enhance natural resources.
7. Incorporate natural resources protection with outdoor education and recreational opportunities.
8. Improve citizen awareness and understanding of local natural resources and increase citizen involvement in the protection of these resources.
9. Review and apply zoning ordinances and regulations and amend as needed with the goal of protecting and enhancing natural resources.
10. Pursue opportunities for storm water storage and flood reduction.

### **Strategies and Tools**

Mechanisms to achieve these objectives can include facilitating native landscaping, reviewing and applying zoning and development regulations, and implementing natural areas management, maintenance, and enhancement projects.

### Native Landscaping

Encouraging landscaping with an emphasis on the use of native plants can support Objectives 5, 6, 7, and 9. Our living natural resources exist in habitats ranging from single street trees to our largest preserves. A single tree can provide habitat for a variety of insects and both food and nesting space for birds. The choice of which kind of tree to plant can have a major influence since some provide food for native or migrating species while others provide none. Similarly, garden plants can provide food for insects and birds, or not. A decision to drain a wet spot or replace natural vegetation with turf grass in even a small area can have important negative impacts.

Management and restoration of natural resources is not limited to publicly owned or large properties. Use of native plants in “natural landscaping” on private property can have significant conservation value.

### Residences

The present extent of backyard wildlife habitats and natural landscaping with native plants is unknown. However, their value is gaining attention and at least modest increases can be expected. Conservation organizations are promoting the concepts and they are gaining in popularity among homeowners and corporate landowners. Notable programs are sponsored by the Wild Ones organization and are described on their website, [www.for-wild.org](http://www.for-wild.org), and by the National Wildlife Federation, which offers a program for certification of wildlife habitat for homeowners. Rain gardens are another form of homeowner habitat that can provide

benefits to storm water management and habitat. In 2007, the Village initiated a rain garden program to partially reimburse residents who address drainage problems using rain gardens. Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has a very good rain garden website – [www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/wm/nps/rg/index.htm](http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/wm/nps/rg/index.htm)

### Corporate

Corporate use of native landscaping is gaining in popularity. Leading examples are the Prairie Stone development in Hoffman Estates and Prairie Crossing in Libertyville. In Glenview, the Kohl Children’s Museum provides a good example of native landscaping.



*Photo 13. Monarch butterflies*

### Public Parkways, Medians, and Open Spaces

Street parkways and medians are potentially important natural resources with respect to both aesthetics and providing habitat. Our present street trees provide important bird habitat, but little native landscaping exists on our public rights of way.

The Village is certified as a “Tree City” by the Arbor Day Foundation and has an active street tree program for maintenance and replacement. It also has a strong tree preservation ordinance designed to minimize removal of large trees. Greater emphasis on planting native trees could enhance insect and bird habitat.

Native landscaping has been implemented in some of the Village’s public open spaces, such as the Techny Basin and Gallery Park.

### Zoning and Development Regulation

Reviewing and applying zoning and development regulations is the goal of Objective 8, and can be used to support all of the objectives.

In Glenview, the zoning ordinance provisions, with respect to Environmentally Significant Areas, provide strong protection for key areas. Other aspects of zoning and development regulation are also important and warrant further review.

### Environmentally Significant Areas

Four areas have been zoned as environmentally significant under the terms of the zoning code: The Grove, the Air Station Prairie, the Woodworth Prairie, and the northern portion of the West Fork Corridor including the river and the Techny Basin and environs.

### Development Codes, Regulations and Guidelines

As noted, various regulations and guidelines can have substantial impact on natural resources. Often the impact is an unintended consequence of actions taken for other purposes. An example of a thorough review from a natural resources perspective can be found in *Biodiversity: A Plan for the Village of Schaumburg*.

### Acquisition Alternatives

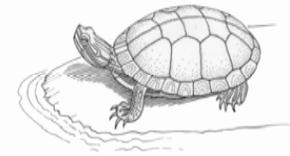
There are several mechanisms for encouraging acquisition or dedication of open space and natural areas, including land donations or the outright purchase of land by the Village, and voluntary or required conservation easements granted to the Village, possibly in conjunction with proposed development or redevelopment.

### Natural Areas Management, Maintenance, and Enhancement Projects

Maintaining natural areas and enhancing natural resources through habitat improvement projects can support Objectives 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, and 9. The Village maintains its natural areas through an annual Natural Areas Maintenance Contract with a qualified firm specializing in native landscaping, and through an intern program and volunteer work days. A variety of habitat improvement projects have been implemented and are planned within the Village. Natural areas maintenance and habitat projects typically adhere to the philosophy and techniques described in Chapter 11 of the *Technical Report*.



Photo 14. Bank stabilization at Lot 16



### **8.2.1.9 RECOMMENDATIONS**

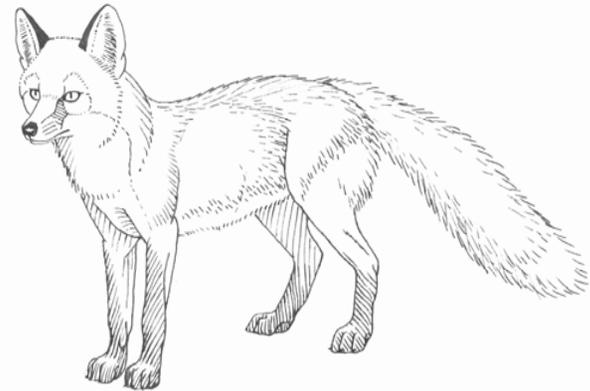
Given the objectives for natural resources in the Village and the mechanisms for achieving them, specific recommendations are outlined below. The objectives have been categorized as either existing or potential Policies or as Action Plans representing potential programs to be considered during future budget processes. The policy recommendations have been categorized into Native Landscaping and Zoning and Development Regulations and the recommended action plans have been grouped by specific project types and their respective locations.

## Recommended Policy Considerations:

### Native Landscaping

1. Consider adoption of a policy encouraging the use of native landscaping where appropriate in residential and corporate settings. The policy may include an incentive program which builds on the success of the rain garden incentive program. Best practices should be incorporated into design guidelines reviewed as part of the Appearance Commission's (AC) Appearance Code update and ultimately considered by the Board of Trustees (BoT).
2. Consider the inclusion of native landscaping as a major element in the storm water management program as part of the Capital Projects (CP) Department's update of the Engineering Standards Manual.
3. Consider a policy which begins replacement of traditional landscaping with native landscaping on parkways and medians where practical. An example of this implementation could entail the installation of native landscaping in the available areas at both of the Lake Avenue railroad underpasses.
4. Continue support of the existing Tree City USA program.

5. Continue enforcement of the Village Tree Preservation Ordinance.
6. Review current policy and ordinances pertaining to the selection of parkway tree plantings giving consideration to habitat value and consider using guidelines such as "Trees Used by Foraging Migrant Birds" (Stotz et al., *Chicago Wilderness Journal*, July 2006).



### Zoning and Development Regulation

1. Continue enforcement of the Environmentally Significant Areas Ordinance at all locations formally designated as Environmentally Significant Areas. Specifically:
  - a. The Grove: noting the primary locations and consideration for potential future development and potential annexation of a large unincorporated area within the ESA.

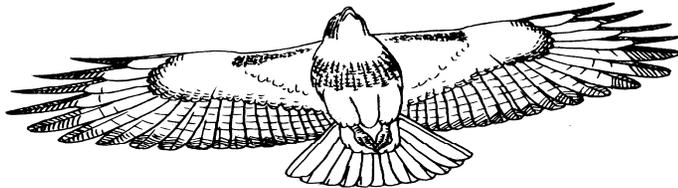
- b. Woodworth Prairie: the Environmentally Significant Areas ordinance will continue to be rigorously enforced to protect the prairie.
  - c. Air Station Prairie:
    - i. Building height limits to the west of the prairie will be enforced in accordance with the established covenants.
    - ii. The Village should use its best efforts to maintain the strip of land on the western edge of the prairie as the “prairie buffer” to provide added protection from neighboring development.
  - d. Techny Basin Area (which includes West Fork, Techny Basin, Lot 16, and North Navy Ditch): the Environmentally Significant Areas ordinance will continue to be enforced.
2. A review of possible candidate Environmentally Significant Areas should be conducted by the NRC for recommendation to the Board of Trustees for review by the Environmental Review Commission (ERC). Examples of potential future Environmentally Significant Areas (ESA) designation may include:
- a. The triangle of land northeast of Air Station Prairie formed by Lehigh Avenue, Cardinal Road, and the Metra right-of-way should be considered for potential ESA designation to complement the prairie.
  - b. Privately owned, undeveloped floodplain parcels along the West Fork should be considered for potential designation as an ESA, or for protection through another mechanism.
  - c. Gallery Park and Lake Glenview should be considered for potential ESA designation.
  - d. Other areas as identified in the Technical Report.
3. A review by the NRC of regulations and guidelines from a natural resources perspective, similar to that in *Biodiversity: A Plan for the Village of Schaumburg*, will be conducted to identify barriers and/or potential incentives for protection of natural resources. A specific example would be an analysis of conflicts between the Tree Preservation Ordinance goals of saving large trees and existing practices required for storm water detention.
4. Mechanisms for natural open space preservation will be explored and documented by the NRC, including land acquisition, conservation easements, and zoning and development regulations, for recommendations to be considered by the Board of Trustees.

**Recommended Action Plans:**

Continued maintenance of existing natural areas will result in increased diversity and habitat value. The Village also has the opportunity to increase and enhance diversity, habitat value, storm water management, recreational value, and other green infrastructure benefits through new projects. The categories of projects likely to provide these benefits include:

1. Natural open space preservation (considering acquisition and a variety of other mechanisms)
2. Habitat restoration/native landscaping of existing and acquired open spaces
3. Detention basin retrofits
4. Streambank stabilization or stream re-meandering
5. Partnerships with private and other public landowners to encourage and incentivize natural resources projects throughout the Village.

The following list of action plans is provided as a guideline, and is not intended to be exclusive of natural resources improvement opportunities that may arise in the future. The projects listed should be undertaken as resources and opportunity allow. A separate long range implementation plan including cost considerations should be developed by the Board of Trustees.



#### Lake Glenview and Gallery Park

1. Lake Glenview and the natural areas of Gallery Park should continue to be managed as natural areas and for wildlife habitat. This should be clearly stated in any agreements transferring management or ownership to another entity.
2. An aeration system should be considered for Lake Glenview.

3. Ongoing shoreline stabilization should continue at Lake Glenview.
4. Parking lot medians lacking groundcover at Gallery Park should be planted with native species where appropriate.

#### West Fork, and adjacent Techny Basin and Lot 16

5. The West Fork Corridor should be strengthened as natural habitat and a place for passive recreation.
6. Wherever feasible, the West Fork riverbanks will be reduced in slope to reconnect the stream with the surrounding landscape.
7. A project to establish better riverbed habitat and protect the levee along the West Fork between Willow Road and the Techny Basin spillway will be considered.
8. Management and maintenance at the Techny Basin will continue to eliminate invasive species and restore native vegetation.
9. Lot 16 should be evaluated (along with costs) to determine its potential for the following elements: extension of wetlands; re-meandering of the river; restoration of natural vegetation; and potential for storm water detention.

#### North Navy Ditch

10. Management will continue to eliminate invasive species and restore native vegetation at the North Navy Ditch.
11. Artificial riffles and riverbed habitat enhancement will be considered at the North Navy Ditch.

Public and Private Property adjacent to West Fork and North and South Navy Ditch

12. Cooperation with Loyola Academy will continue concerning joint use of the pedestrian path along the North Navy Ditch and the West Fork.
13. The pedestrian path along the West Fork should be extended across the Baxter parcel and if possible connected to Chestnut Avenue.
14. West Fork riverbanks at the Baxter parcel should be cleared of invasive vegetation and regraded to connect the stream with its floodplain. A wetland area which can serve as a refuge for fish and other aquatic animals during floods should be reestablished.
15. The Village will work together with the Park District to encourage removal of invasive species and modification of riverbanks to improve habitat at West Fork, Peninsula, Tall Trees, Sleepy Hollow, and Riverside Parks.
16. A program to encourage homeowners adjacent to the West Fork to restore their riverbanks should be developed. The program could include an information campaign and possibly financial support for demonstration projects.

Metra Corridor

17. The Village agreement to manage the Metra right-of-way should be continued.
18. With the exception of the areas immediately adjacent to the Metra station, the right-of-way between Lehigh and the Metra tracks should continue to be managed to eliminate invasive species and restore native

vegetation. The presence of trees in the right-of-way will be minimized in keeping with the character and habitat of the historic railroad corridor.

19. Invasive species could be removed and habitat improved within the Village's maintenance easement at the South Navy Ditch, to strengthen its function as a connection between the Metra railroad corridor and the West Fork corridor.

Miscellaneous Public and Private Property recommendations

20. Encourage property owners adjacent to the South Navy Ditch to incorporate it as an amenity in landscaping or redevelopment plans including storm water or wetland mitigation designs.
21. Encourage continuity with adjacent Village-owned parcels. One such project could be a joint habitat enhancement project at the Valley Lo golf course.
22. Open space and riverwalk opportunities should be considered as part of Downtown redevelopment.
23. Village-owned storm water detention basins should be retrofitted to provide habitat benefits where practical.
24. Owners of private storm water detention basins should be encouraged to retrofit the basins to provide habitat benefits where practical.
25. Suggestions for projects on each of the 99 sites included in the ecological assessments are summarized in Table 3 in Chapter 5 of the *Technical Report*. Many of the sites are in private ownership, and the owners should be provided with the suggestions for their consideration.



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Figure 2b. Ecological Cross-section through Glenview and Environs circa 1840

