



The Village of
Glenview



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CUNLIFF PARK TO REOPEN AS FLOOD RELIEF PROJECT NEARS END

August 21, 2015 – A reopening celebration is planned from 9 to 10 a.m. Saturday, September 12, 2015, at Cunliff Park, 540 Echo Lane, which was closed while work connected with a major east Glenview flood relief project was undertaken this year by the Village of Glenview. In conjunction with the stormwater project, the Glenview Park District renovated the playground area and fieldhouse and added a covered picnic area.

“Working with the Village, the Glenview Park District was able to renovate Cunliff Park while flooding mitigation was being implemented,” said James Warnstedt, Superintendent of Park and Facility Services. “Cunliff Park now has a new playground — with equipment for both tots and older kids — a picnic pavilion, a renovated fieldhouse with ADA improvements, upgraded appliances and enhanced landscaping throughout the park.”

Representatives of the Village, Park District, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago and Cook County will make brief statements at the reopening event at around 9:30 a.m. The public will also have the opportunity to tour the new or renovated aspects of the park and get updates on completion of the East of Harms Regional Stormwater Project.

“Flooding in this neighborhood had long challenged the Village,” Glenview Village President Jim Patterson said. “It wasn’t until we were able to partner with the Park District, MWRD and Cook County that a solution could be implemented in a comprehensive, cost-effective way.”

The flood control project stands to benefit 1,150 single-family homes east of Harms Road between East Lake Avenue and Central Road. When completed, the project will essentially prevent the Main Stem (Middle Fork) of the North Branch of the Chicago River from backing into neighborhood storm sewers.

(more)

The Village storm sewers in the area – installed in the 1960s – had stopped functioning when enough rain fell to cause the river level to reach flood stage. In those conditions, river water flowed back into the local storm sewer, making some roads impassable and flooding some properties. The work, which began a year ago, will re-establish the local level of service originally provided.

As part of the project, a lift station and backup generator were installed in Cunliff Park that will pump stormwater into the river during major rain events. Another lift station and backup generator were also installed at 815 Harms Road.

Additionally:

- New 84-inch storm sewers were constructed under Harms Road to provide for storm water conveyance and detention. Harms Road was closed to traffic north of Glenview Road to Wilmette Avenue for the construction work.
- Backflow prevention devices were installed at three storm sewer outfalls to prevent the river from backing into the local neighborhood.

Through an intergovernmental agreement with the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, \$6 million in cost sharing was provided, which will cover more than half the cost of the project. The Village also entered into an agreement with Cook County to secure \$2 million in Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery grant funds for the project.

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