



The Village of Glenview

NEWS RELEASE

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METRA STATION GETTING 'GREEN' PARKING LOT

July 1, 2011 – A parking lot unlike most others is being installed near The Glen of North Glenview Metra Station – mostly funded with a federal grant.

Instead of a wide expanse of impervious asphalt or concrete, the lot south of Compass Road at Lehigh Avenue is being constructed with pervious concrete, specifically to allow storm water runoff to flow through it, and bio-swales, which are elongated rain gardens. The water passes through small openings in the pervious concrete and through the aggregate base into the earth below.

The idea is to provide vehicular parking while minimizing water pollution and runoff. By allowing rainfall to seep below the parking lot, the storm water has time to infiltrate into the soil below the watershed. That means better water quality for Lake Glenview and downstream rivers and less runoff for Glenview's infrastructure to manage.

The Illinois Department of Transportation was initially wary of allowing the lot to be built with pervious concrete. But with the assistance of Natural Resources Commissioner Judy Beck, who works for the U.S.EPA, Glenview was given permission to move forward with the project.

The lot, in fact, is an IDOT "demonstration project," which will be used to help establish Illinois standards for this type of infrastructure. In addition, 80 percent of its construction cost is being supplied by a federal Congestion, Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) grant.

The environmentally-friendly, sustainable lot was one of many ideas to come from a 16-member Storm Water Task Force, established by Glenview officials in response to village-wide flooding during heavy storms in August 2007 and September 2008.

Two conventional parking lots are also being installed this summer east of Lehigh Avenue on the west side of The Glen of North Glenview Metra Station. In all, the three lots will provide 449 spaces, bringing the total number of parking stalls at the station to 1,473, which is more than 98 percent of the village's parking obligations required by Metra.

Plote Construction Inc. of Hoffman Estates was the lowest of eight bidders. Its \$1.66-million bid was about \$300,000 lower than original project estimates.

The contractor is expected to complete construction by the end of July.

For more details, contact Village Engineer Russ Jensen at (847) 998-9500.

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