

14. Tall Trees Park (Map K)

Site number: K-3

Overall size: 4.60 acres

Ownership: Glenview Park District

Subwatershed: West Fork of North Branch of Chicago River

Mapped Land Cover on Site:

Wet/Wet-Mesic Forest / Unassociated Woody Growth (0.68 acre):

Along the West Fork is a strip, approximately 20-30 feet wide, of cottonwood, bur oak, green ash, elm, box elder, and buckthorn and honeysuckle understory.

Turf (1.30 acres): Multiuse turf grass field located on east half of park.

Ornamental Plantings/Turf (2.26 acres):

Western and north side of park has many mulched landscaped beds with ornamental trees mixed and many large remnant red oak and silver maple trees. Mowed turf grass surrounds the mulched beds.



Large remnant bur oak in the wooded buffer along the West Fork.

Multiuse turf grass field in foreground.

River/Stream/Ditch (0.12 acre): West Fork River borders the east side of park.

Developed (0.24 acre): Playground equipment is located on the west side of park.

Existing Ecological Conditions: This well maintained park is located near East Lake Avenue and Sequoia Trail along the West Fork. Approximately 1,000 linear feet of the west bank of the West Fork borders the east side of the park. The river bank is severely eroded and steep. Exposed tree roots were observed on the steep slopes.



Ornamental planting bed with remnant red oaks in the background.

Along the river a narrow buffer, approximately 20-30 feet wide, contains remnant wet/wet-mesic forest mixed with unassociated woody growth. Several very large remnant bur oak and cottonwood trees, as well as one Ohio buckeye tree were observed in the buffer. Other dominant trees include box elder, green ash, and elm. The subcanopy is dominated by non-native buckthorn and weedy green ash seedlings. Garlic mustard and violets were common in the ground cover layer.



Playground equipment and landscaped planting beds with ornamental trees and shrubs.

A multiuse turf grass field is adjacent to the wooded buffer. West and north of the turf field are numerous landscaped mulched planting beds with ornamental trees and shrubs and many impressive remnant native trees, including large, mature red oaks and silver maples. Mowed turf grass, used as open space, surrounds the landscaped beds.

Playground equipment is located on the west side of the park.

Restoration and Management Recommendations: Streambank and woodland restoration are the primary restoration recommendations for this site. In the wooded buffer, buckthorn and honeysuckle should be cleared and weedy native species, such as box elder, elm, and green ash should be thinned. This will make the river more visible to the public. Garlic mustard should be pulled and/or herbicided. There is room to pull the streambanks back to decrease the slope grade and stabilize the banks. Some remnant trees may need to be removed as a result. Re-vegetate the banks with shade tolerant, native woodland plants.

There may be room for a narrow, single-track walking trail through the woods, along with some interpretive signage on restoration. Placing a few park benches near the river for public use would also increase the river's visibility.



Steep, eroded west bank of the West Fork.

Many of these restoration tasks could be done using volunteer help. This in turn helps educate the public and gets them out into nature, thus hopefully increasing their appreciation for nature and Glenview's natural resources.