

n a t u r e i n
GLENVIEW

Map & Visitor Guide

Glenview has a variety of nature to discover. We are fortunate to have rivers, woods, wetlands and prairies to explore. Nature is as close as your own back door. Look inside for a map and ideas for places to experience nature.



In a state that has lost the vast majority of its natural areas, Glenview is fortunate to have a number of unique habitats left. Some of them are within multi-use recreation areas.

Forest Preserves Along the Des Plaines River

RIVER TRAIL NATURE CENTER ●●●●●
A major wildlife corridor along the Des Plaines River is provided in the Forest Preserve District of Cook County. The preserves can be accessed from Lake Avenue or Milwaukee Avenue. River Trail Nature Center in Northbrook offers interpretive displays and educational programs.

THE GROVE ●●●●●
A historical and ecological gem of national significance, The Grove offers secluded trails, an interpretive center with educational programming, and historical artifacts. Habitats include oak woodlands, a permanent pond, ephemeral ponds, and prairies. There are many opportunities for volunteers, including hands-on ecological restoration.

COMMUNITY PARK WEST ●●●●●
A portion of this Park District holding is being restored to wetland habitat.

FLICK PARK ●●●●●
An arboretum occupies a portion of this popular park and turtles can be seen in a naturalized pond.

JAMES WOODWORTH PRAIRIE ●●●●●
This five-acre, tallgrass prairie remnant displays extraordinary quality and plant diversity. It is owned by the University of Illinois at Chicago, and serves primarily as a research facility. It is open only by appointment. (Call 312-996-2643)

AIR STATION PRAIRIE ●●●●●
This is a high-quality remnant of the tallgrass prairie that, for thousands of years, covered the majority of Glenview. Over 150 rare, native plant species grow here. The Evelyn Pease Tyner Interpretive Center provides educational information and displays. Trails lead to mowed paths as visitors venture out into the prairie.

LAKE GLENVIEW & GALLERY PARK ●●●●●
Lake Glenview was created as part of the redevelopment following closure of the Glenview Naval Air Station. It provides passive recreation, wildlife habitat, and storm water detention. It is surrounded by natural landscaping and paths for walking and bicycling. Gallery Park includes naturalized prairies, meadows, and wetlands.

TECHNY BASIN & SURROUNDINGS ●●●●●
A large contiguous open space area surrounds the West Fork of the North Branch of the Chicago River. A prominent feature is the Techny Basin, which temporarily stores storm-water overflowing

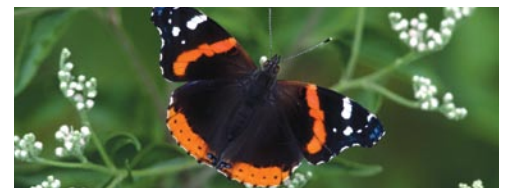
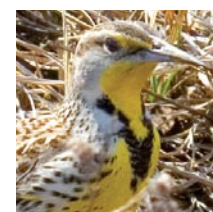
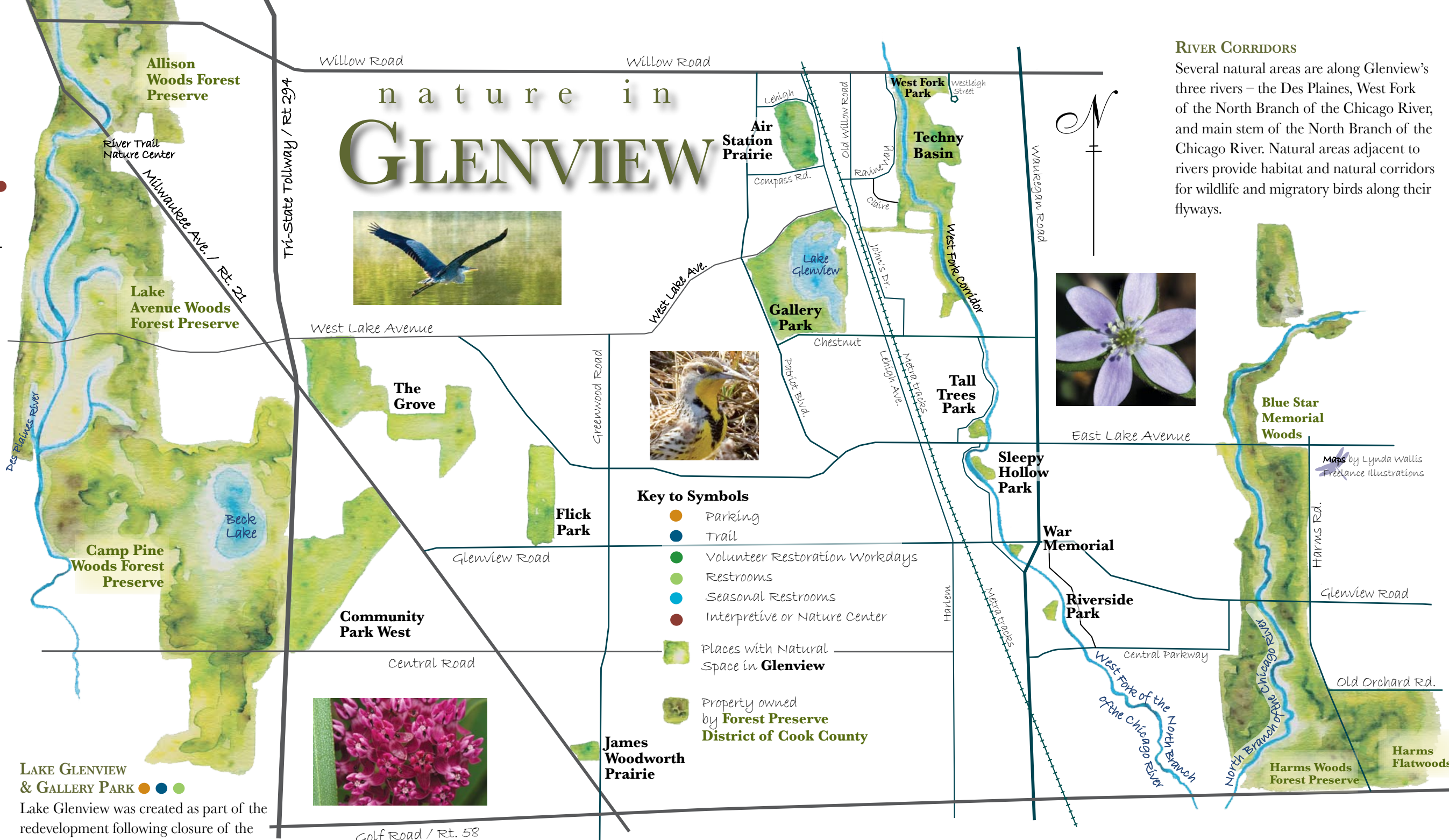
from the river during heavy rainfalls. For about half a mile south of Willow Road, the landscape is primarily restored tallgrass prairie with wetlands along the river. This attracts grassland birds like eastern meadowlarks, and wading birds such as herons and egrets. An asphalt path encircles the top of the basin, allowing visitors to enjoy the view of the river, basin, and wide diversity of birds. Farther south, pedestrian-only unpaved paths pass through wooded habitat along the river system.

The trails can be reached from the West Fork Park parking lot off of Willow Road or from a limited parking area off Claire Court.

Parks along the West Fork
RIVERSIDE ●●●●●
SLEEPY HOLLOW ●●●●●
Several small parks border the West Fork of the North Branch of the Chicago River. These include the Park District's Tall Trees, Riverside, and Sleepy Hollow

parks, and a small downtown War Memorial. Each park provides an opportunity for habitat restoration to highlight the river.
Forest Preserves along the Main Stem of the North Branch of the Chicago River ●●●●●
The Forest Preserve District of Cook County owns woodlands on the east side of Glenview along the main stem of the North Branch of the Chicago River. Wildlife habitat and recreational opportu-

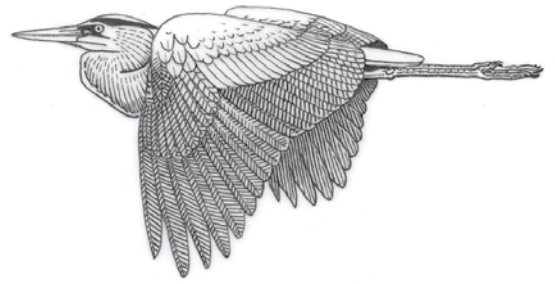
RIVER CORRIDORS
Several natural areas are along Glenview's three rivers – the Des Plaines, West Fork of the North Branch of the Chicago River, and main stem of the North Branch of the Chicago River. Natural areas adjacent to rivers provide habitat and natural corridors for wildlife and migratory birds along their flyways.



Maps by Lynda Wallis
Freelance Illustrations

nature in GLENVIEW

Keep your eyes and ears open wherever you are 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 a limited suite of native species. Each of these places can be enhanced by native plants. Backyard habitats and bird feeders are excellent additions to any landscape plan.



DID YOU KNOW . . .

Glenview's Natural Resources Commission assists in managing and communicating about nature in Glenview.

Its mission:

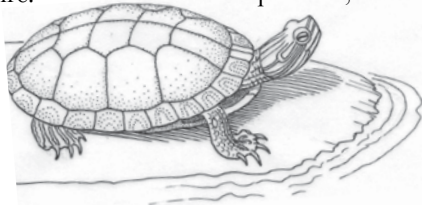
Enhance the awareness and interest of Glenview's residents with respect to nature that surrounds them within the Village.

Identify and promote actions needed to restore the remnants of our rich prairie and woodland heritage.

Partner with the Park District, schools, and other local organizations to promote natural resource awareness and protection.

Receive and take action on appeals under the provisions of the Village tree preservation ordinance.

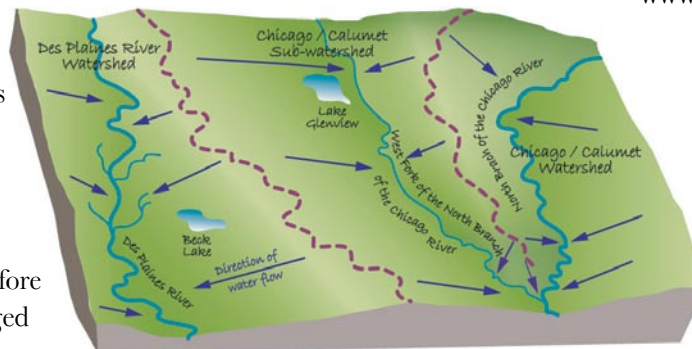
Serve as a forum where ideas and issues relating to natural resources in the Village of Glenview can be discussed. Ecological restoration keeps our natural areas strong and diverse by reinstating natural processes like seed dispersal and fire.



THREE WATERSHEDS

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, and the main stem of the North Branch of the Chicago River. Any point in Glenview is in a watershed – an area in which all water drains to the same main water body – of one of these rivers (*see sketch below*).

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. Prairies, woodlands, and wetlands stretched for miles before agriculture and urbanization changed the landscape.



WATCH FOR WILDLIFE!

Among the striking animals you can see in Glenview are:

- Kestrel
- Great blue heron
- Egret
- Black-crowned night heron
- Green heron
- Red-tailed hawk
- Meadowlark
- Eastern spiny softshell turtle
- Snapping turtle
- Bullfrog
- Muskrat
- Raccoon

The West Fork Corridor and Lake Glenview are among the great wildlife-watching spots.

Keep natural areas natural – take only pictures, leave only footprints.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Your actions can go a long way to protect nature in Glenview and beyond. Recycling, choosing native landscaping, conserving water, reducing car trips, volunteering at an ecological restoration work day or cleanup . . . it all adds up! More information on nature in the Chicago area and great ideas to protect and restore it can be found at these web sites:

The Nature Conservancy protects natural habitats locally and internationally, www.nature.org

Chicago Wilderness protects and promotes local biodiversity, www.chicagowilderness.org

The Wild Ones provides information about landscaping with native plants, www.for-wild.org

The Environmental Protection Agency has local offices and public outreach www.epa.gov/glnpo, www.epa.gov/water/citizen/thingstodo.html

The North Branch Restoration Project hosts ecological restoration workdays in Glenview and nearby, www.northbranchrestoration.org

The Glenview Park District and the Village of Glenview can provide more information about the natural areas described in this publication, 847-724-1700, or online at www.glenviewparks.org, www.glenview.il.us



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