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Glenview receives environmental grant for butterfly gardens

August 17, 2018 – The Village of Glenview is one of 26 public agencies from throughout northern Illinois to receive a Green Region grant from ComEd and Openlands. As part of the annual ComEd Green Region Program, the Village will receive a grant of $7,500 to support an open space project in the community. Specifically, the funding will be used to create four high-visibility, public monarch butterfly gardens that will expand and connect a growing habitat network throughout Glenview. In conjunction, a research-based monarch conservation plan and a supportive review of codes and ordinances will be completed with public participation, education, and events.

"Monarch populations have experienced a steep decline in the past 20 years. Anything the Village of Glenview can do to support these beautiful and iconic butterflies would be helpful," Dr. Robyn Flakne, the Village's Natural Resources Manager, stated.

The Village has not yet finalized the exact location for these gardens. Ideal locations would be public areas that are visible to residents that will readily attract and provide adequate habitat for butterflies.

The Village has already set up a butterfly garden at the downtown Glenview train station. It is located on the north side of the station by the kiss 'n ride drop off.

This is the second year that the Village of Glenview has received a Green Region grant from ComEd and Openlands. In 2014, a $5,000 grant – along with a $125,000 EPA Clean Water Act grant – helped fund the West Fork Stabilization project in downtown Glenview, which naturalized the stream bank of the West Fork of the North Branch of the Chicago River and added a concrete path along the east side of the river north of Glenview Road.

In 2017, Glenview served as a pilot city in the Field Museum's study of monarch butterfly habitat in the metropolitan Chicago area. As part of that study, Village interns surveyed the community for butterfly-friendly gardens that could bolster monarch habitat.

Also, the Glenview Village Board of Trustees in 2016 signed on to the National Wildlife Federation's Monarch Pledge. The pledge is a commitment to create new habitats and educate residents about how they can make a difference.

This marks the sixth year that ComEd is partnering with Openlands, one of the oldest metropolitan conservation organizations in the nation, for the Green Region Program. Due to tremendous interest in pollinator conservation during the 2017 grant cycle, the 2018 ComEd Green Region Program again featured a special focus on projects that help pollinators like butterflies and bees. Illinois is home to thousands of native pollinator species, which provide critical support to our region's flowering and food plant populations. Since the program's inception, ComEd has awarded a total of more than $1,125,000 to communities in northern Illinois for environmental projects.

"ComEd is committed to powering a cleaner and brighter future for our customers and communities. By advancing green initiatives through the Green Region Program, we help enable grant recipients to transform their local communities," said Fidel Marquez, senior vice president of governmental and external affairs at ComEd. "Our partnership with Openlands these past six years helps both the environment and helps our customers to enjoy their communities even more."

ComEd and Openlands share a commitment to supporting communities across the region.

"At Openlands, our mission is to connect the residents of the Chicagoland and northern Illinois region to the nature and resources close to home," said Openlands President and CEO Jerry Adelmann. "ComEd's continued support through the Green Region Program has brought this vision to life, allowing recipients to invest in open space projects that bring joy to citizens where they live, work, and play."

Earlier this year, municipalities throughout northern Illinois submitted their Green Region grant applications, and an advisory committee composed of county government officials and members of the region's conservation community reviewed the applications.

Additional information on the ComEd Green Region Program can be found at www.openlands.org/greenregion.

About the Village of Glenview

The Village of Glenview, about 20 miles north of Chicago's downtown, was incorporated in 1899. With a population of almost 47,000, the Village offers fine amenities and services, and its proximity to local expressways and commuter trains make it one of Chicago's premier suburbs. Glenview operates under a council-manager form of government. The Village President and six trustees are elected at-large for four-year terms. Policy initiatives are carried out by the Village Manager and six municipal departments. Village Hall, at 2500 East Lake Avenue, is open 8 a.m.to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, and operates a website at www.glenview.il.us.

About ComEd

Commonwealth Edison Company (ComEd) is a unit of Chicago-based Exelon Corporation (NYSE: EXC), the nation's leading competitive energy provider, with approximately 10 million customers. ComEd provides service to approximately 4 million customers across northern Illinois, or 70 percent of the state's population. For more information visit ComEd.com, and connect with the company on Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube.

About Openlands

Founded in 1963, Openlands is one of the nation's oldest and most successful metropolitan conservation organizations, having helped secure, protect, and provide public access to more than 55,000 acres of land for parks, forest preserves, wildlife refuges, land and water greenway corridors, and urban gardens. For more information, visit www.openlands.org.

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