

Park District Tallies Survey Results

In September 2005, the Glen Ellyn Park District distributed resident surveys via U.S. mail to 15,000 households. Surveys were also available at the two community centers and the Web page. The Park District Board of Commissioners sought out the residents' opinions on the importance of various capital improvement projects. The Park District received over 1,600 completed surveys. The information we received was very valuable.

The highest ranking project in terms of important and very important was the acquisition of available land to preserve open space in the community. 69% of the responding participants reported that land acquisition was the most important. This high ranking affirms the Park District's mission of preserving open space and hanging on to our valuable land. This ranking is consistent with our goal of being faithful stewards of land and property to serve the residents of the entire Park District.

The second highest ranking projects of importance to our responding participants was the renovation of Lake Ellyn Boathouse with 56%. With recent major renovations to the water quality of Lake Ellyn, renovating and improving the beauty of the Boathouse is a natural fit for a future capital project. It continues to be the jewel of the community and the Park District is committed to being the best caretakers of this property. The building would maintain the same charm and architecture but grow in size to potentially accommodate larger groups. Additional parking will also be addressed.

The next three projects with over 48% of the return ranked as very important included:

- 1) the renovation of Main Street Recreation Center,
- 2) the construction of additional washrooms and shelter at Ackerman Park, and
- 3) the renovation of the concession stand and improvement of parking at Newton Park.

The Park District must remain vigilant at holding on to our assets and over time improve on these assets to keep them from falling into disrepair.

The remaining projects on the survey scored low on importance to our residents. The Park District will continue to review all these projects every year as grants and financial assistance becomes available.

The Glen Ellyn Park District would like to thank all the respondents who took the time to share their opinions about the Park

District's future. We value this input and will use this information in our planning efforts.

Lake Ellyn Project Update

The Lake Ellyn Project is coming along very well with a completion date scheduled for mid November. The project has included the installation of a vortex separator system and a Low Flow Bypass system. These two systems should provide two important improvements to Lake Ellyn including better water quality during the spring, summer and fall months as well as enhanced ice formation during the winter months. We eagerly await the return of water to the lake to enjoy the beauty and serenity of this park.

Newton Park Upgrades



Hopefully you will have seen some changes going on at Newton Park this past fall. The Park District installed a press box and bleachers for the Golden Eagles home football field. Through capital funds and fund raising efforts by the Golden Eagles program, this project was completed in time for the fall season. The Park District is very proud of the Golden Eagles Football and Cheerleading programs and the hundreds of youth who participate every year. We hope this new amenity brings great pride to our Glen Ellyn players when they host teams from surrounding communities.

Glen Ellyn League of Women Voters Thanks Glen Ellyn Park District for Cooperation in Comprehensive Study: Findings Reveal Support and Appreciation for Park District Efforts

The League of Women Voters of Glen Ellyn has released the findings of its comprehensive study of the Glen Ellyn Park District, entitled *Glen Ellyn Park District Long Range Plan Consensus 2005*. The LWV study team "narrowed its focus to major areas," including:

- Land acquisition and park development;
- Intergovernmental relations and public cooperation;
- Recreation and facilities development; and
- Operations (maintenance, finance & organization and staffing).

In an October 25, 2005 letter to Glen Ellyn Park District Executive Director Cory Atwell that included the findings of the study, LWV Co-Presidents Margaret DeLaRosa and Meredith Zelewsky thanked him and the staff for "co-operation and willingness to help us better understand the Park District."

They also expressed appreciation for the Park District's "support of Glen Ellyn League efforts to bring government information to our membership and electorate."

The findings are published in the LWV's November 2005

newsletter, *Voter*, which is distributed to LWV members, Village of Glen Ellyn officials and local business owners. Included is support for the Park District's:

- "continued exploration of land acquisition to meet the park district mission when financially feasible and appropriate;
- "willingness to foster emerging sports and accept responsibility for large recreation programs;"
- "efforts to conserve energy and recycle resources;"
- "funding . . . staff salaries through operating funds rather than bond issues" and
- direction of financial planning taken since the LWV's 1989 study.

In addition, the LWV encourages the Park District to continue cooperation and open dialogue with other governmental bodies; recommends it actively seek broad community input "during the planning process and before adoption of any Comprehensive Plan;" expand "free, and low cost programming for low-income families;" and further develop the Park District Foundation and Board."