

Glencoe Tree Commission 2025 Annual Report

Many people refer to Glencoe as a “Leafy Community.” Surveys reveal that our residents highly value the trees in the Village. Our trees provide many benefits including sequestering carbon, cleaning the air, saving energy, providing beauty & value, shade & cooling, rainwater capture, mental & physical health and wildlife habitat.

The Glencoe Tree Commission’s duty is to provide guidance on the preservation, care, management and protection of trees within the village in accordance with the urban forestry management plan, and best management practices. The Commission makes recommendations to the Village Board for: specific improvements for the preservation, care, management and protection of trees within the Village; to recommend rules and regulations for budget, plans, projects and schedules regarding the preservation, care, management and protection of trees within the Village; to review the Village urban forest management plan and provide recommendations for improvements; to work collaboratively with Village staff to support Village ordinances and urban forest management plan; and to manage and administer all plans, programs, projects and tasks delegated to it by the Village Board.

The Tree Commission accomplished the following initiatives in 2025:

- The Tree Commission participated in the annual Arbor Day Celebration each year with District 35, rotating the location of a new tree being planted on school property.
- The Tree Commission collaboratively and creatively developed a buckthorn removal program to address buckthorn on private property. This program was successfully executed by Village Staff starting in October and November of 2024. Since the start of the program:
 - The Village collected buckthorn from 105 residents.
 - Public Works crews disposed of over 250 cubic yards of chipped buckthorn.
- The Tree Commission launched an annual public awareness campaign to engage residents in a discussion regarding their favorite local trees as part of the “Tree of the Year” nomination. A Burr Oak was selected as the 2025 Tree of the Year and highlighted in Inside Glencoe.
- The Tree Commission proactively discussed tree preservation in association with ongoing development throughout the Village, such as the new Golf Course Clubhouse, Forest Edge Subdivision, and 5 Briar Subdivision.
- Supported and discussed the ongoing planning for a joint tree nursery with the Village and Park District at Shelton Park.
- Engaged with Village staff on revised tree preservation ordinance language, and reviewed updated ordinance language to support the requirements of Urban and Community Forestry Grant, which is funded by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and administered by the Morton Arboretum.

For 2026, the Tree Commission has set the following goals:

- Work with Village Staff to update ordinance language regarding tree preservation and new development.

- Continue to promote educational material regarding the benefit of trees, the threat of invasive species such as buckthorn and pear trees, and proper tree management and care in coordination with the Sustainability Task Force.
- Continue to educate the public about Buckthorn and advocate for the removal of Buckthorn on public and private property. Monitor, promote and assist with Village projects that support the removal of buckthorn, such as the Green Bay Trial Improvements scheduled for construction in 2027.
- Engage other Village commission and community partners by asking them to meet and discuss areas of mutual interest and benefit.
- Meet with the Sustainability Task Force to define roles and areas of cooperation regarding the Village's tree canopy.
- Continue support and promote the celebration of Arbor Day in collaboration with District 35 and Glencoe students.
- Engage in discussions with neighboring municipalities regarding tree care and maintenance.
- Stay educated and engaged on disease or infestations that may impact the Village's urban forest.
- Further engage the community to increase awareness of the benefit of trees.
- Support the Sustainability Action Plan's goals regarding the urban forest.
- Recruit more public engagement with the Tree Commission.

Respectfully Submitted, 6/18/2026

Tree Commission Members

Dudley Onderdonk, Village Board Representative

Brian Lammers, Co-Chair

Nina Schoeder