



To the Glen Ellyn Park District Board of Commissioners

July 11, 2022

**Re: Downtown Green Space/Potential Purchase of US Bank lot**

We are the co-founders of [GO GREEN GLEN ELLYN](#), a start-up community organization with a mission to make it easier for citizens and businesses in Glen Ellyn to be green(er). We have been thrilled to partner with the GEPD on events like Earth Day, SportSwap and the upcoming OAKtoberfest. We also were community advocates for the recent GEPD referendum.

First, congratulations on the passage of that referendum! We know that the GEPD are careful stewards of the district's budget, and clearly the citizens of Glen Ellyn agreed. We'd like to reach out today about one of the elements of the referendum budget – funds for procuring green space/new parks for the community.

Glen Ellyn's downtown is undergoing historic changes. Beyond the much-needed streetscape project, there are now several new, sizable apartment buildings in the process of being built. We welcome the new neighbors that these projects represent. But we need to ensure a balance in our liveable and accessible downtown environment – and that means planning for some “breathing room” among all the new construction.

We are writing to you today to voice our strong support to prioritize a downtown greenspace to accompany the additional development in our village. Your recent victory for the Glen Ellyn Park District Budget Referendum is a testament to the value our residents place on green spaces.

We have met with a number of interested residents who have come forward to support an initiative to create a dedicated greenspace/community park in downtown Glen Ellyn and have asked Go Green to speak on their behalf to the Village and the Park District.

We recognize that this may already be underway and urge you to make a specific plan for green space in the downtown area, while concurrently investigating the feasibility of purchasing the US Bank parcel adjacent to the GEPD's Prairie Path Park.

A green space downtown would be welcoming for both local residents and visitors from the Prairie Path. It could provide a space for families to gather for a picnic or colleagues to meet outdoors. It would help mitigate a “heat island” caused by densely built areas. It would keep residents downtown instead of driving to Lake Ellyn or another park, thereby providing opportunity for additional foot traffic to local businesses. And it could provide a location for outdoor concerts, dance recitals, the French market, special events and more.

As fellow Glen Ellyn residents and volunteers, we appreciate your work as members of the Park District board of commissioners. Thank you for considering this and working to improve the lives of all Glen Ellyn citizens.

Sincerely,

Jacquelyn Casazza and Karin Daly  
Co-founders Go Green Glen Ellyn

[GO GREEN GLEN ELLYN](#) is a start-up community organization with a mission to make it easier for citizens and businesses in Glen Ellyn to be green(er). We serve as a hub of information for local environmental resources as well as a catalyst for community activation. Our focus areas include: 1) Nurturing and creating usable green space, at home and in our community; 2) Fostering sustainable use of resources at home and business.