

Date: August 30, 1995

To: Friends of Whites Woods

From: ~~Tom Simmons~~, Neighbors of Whites Woods Representative

Re: Comments regarding Development Plan for Whites Woods Nature Center

OVERALL IMPRESSION

Excellent idea to increase usage of Whites Woods Nature Center, providing facilities for enhancing nature study and hiking, and potentially ecotourism.

GENERAL CONCERNS

Ambitious project which will require a large amount of funding, and would fragment the entire forest (Whites Woods Nature Center and IUP co-op property) to the detriment of wildlife (e.g. breeding wood warblers, vireos and scarlet tanagers).

SPECIFIC COMMENTS

Name:


Whites Woods Nature Center is compatible with nature study and hiking and does not need to be changed to Whites Woods Park which understates the uniqueness of this resource in close proximity to town.

12th Street Entrance:

- Overall a good idea.
- This is the right place to create a park if needed due to existing court and playground. Residents who use this facility may be encouraged to take advantage of the natural offerings of the Nature Center after reading materials presented in small pavilion.
- Will shade loving ground cover and new shrub planting be native species?

High Point/Overlook:

- More than is needed.
- Fire pit will encourage fires which pose a potential disaster. Should eliminate burn areas and post.
- Picnic areas promote littering and should be limited to 12th street entrance. Benches would be good idea.
- Overlook platform does not add to hiking/nature study use of Nature Center and is not warranted since no expansive natural areas exist (e.g. marshes, lakes). Also, it increases the possibility of accidents.
- Woodland wild flower & fern mix should be native species.



8 Acre Parcel

- A condition of purchase should replanting with deciduous trees native to Nature Center.

Fulton Road Entrance

- Good idea to have parking here & another access point.
- Will wildflower demonstration area be native plants? Standard roadside wildflower plots are high maintenance and require herbicide spraying and re-planting every other year.
- Road is not necessary. The tract is not large enough to warrant interior development.

Nature Center Pavilion:

- Wonderful idea to increase use of Nature Center.
- Whole complex should be moved to Fulton Road entrance and replaced with handicap access trails.

Conclusion:

The overall concept is great, and the cost of the project would be reduced considerably by considering the above comments which would make the plan more compatible with "A Hiking and Nature Study Park".