

**FRIENDS OF WHITE’S WOODS**  
**WWNC CURRENT VALUE & FUTURE CARE UPDATE**  
**FWW Specific Objectives: Assembled List**  
**JULY 2023**

<p>I. Specific Objectives: Outdoor Recreation for All</p>	<p>1. Preserve the community forest park that we have!</p>
	<p>2. Preserve maximum canopy coverage so that the woods remain accessible in hotter weather.</p>
	<p>3. Schedule multiple, seasonal recreation and education activities to bring citizens of the Indiana region into the WWNC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Friends of White’s Woods will continue to work with White Township to develop educational events in White’s Woods.</li> <li>b. Sponsor a White’s Woods “Big Tree” contest in local schools and youth groups.</li> <li>c. Develop a “big tree” tree-identification (type, size, age) loop walk.</li> <li>d. Develop a native plant species loop walk (by season).</li> <li>e. Host an annual Garlic Mustard Festival (which will help to get people in the woods and invasive plants out).</li> <li>f. Host semi-annual educational medicinal plant and plant identification walks.</li> <li>g. Host artist events in the woods: photography, painting (See FWW website).</li> <li>h. Host annual nature-identification scavenger hunts for kids.</li> <li>i. Encourage winter events by scheduling hiking and cross-county ski events to identify winter animal &amp; avian species in the WWNC.</li> <li>j. Develop a “history loop” to celebrate notable environmentalists, including Native American stewards and Indiana, PA native Edward Abbey.</li> <li>k. Develop a network of bike trails to the WWNC 12th Street Entrance, providing access from each direction (including IUP) to help serve a broader population.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>l. Provide bicycle parking at the 12th Street entrance parking lot.</li> <li>m. Provide educational signage regarding at-risk and vulnerable species.</li> <li>n. Host environmental education sessions (for children and adults).</li> <li>o. Encourage reporting of plant, animal, and bird species through ebird and inaturalist.</li> <li>p. Update WWNC trail maps.</li> <li>q. Monitor and protect fragile trails.</li> <li>r. Maintain a clear focus on protecting White’s Woods for passive recreation, the purpose for which this natural area was established.</li> <li>s. Review e-bike, bicycle, and horse-riding policies established in similar parks and establish related policies as needed to protect trails and hikers.</li> <li>t. Support the creation of an Indiana-region greenways plan.</li> </ul>
<p>II. Specific Objectives: Support for DCNR Climate Mitigation and Adaptation Plan in the WWNC</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Keep the 250-acre WWNC forest intact to maximize stormwater management and minimize flooding from increasingly heavy storms due to climate change.</li> <li>2. Keep the 250-acre WWNC forest intact to maximize temperature mitigation for surrounding communities in the context of increasing average and extreme temperatures that result from climate change.</li> <li>3. Keep the 250-acre WWNC forest intact to maximize carbon sequestration to help mitigate the deleterious effects of climate change.</li> <li>4. Monitor endangered, threatened, and “species of special concern” - mammals, birds, and plants--in the WWNC.</li> <li>5. Document arrival of migratory birds.</li> <li>6. Improve pedestrian, mass transit, and bicycle access to the WWNC.</li> <li>7. Work with DCNR on climate mitigation projects.</li> </ol>

<p>III. Specific Objectives: Eco-system Services &amp; the Value of our 80-100 Year-old Forest</p>	<p>1. Maximize ecosystem benefits: stormwater management, air quality (including particulate absorption), temperature mediation,</p>
	<p>2. Celebrate the social, health, and mental health benefits of time spent in a natural area such as White’s Woods: social bonding, stress reduction, physical fitness, and spiritual renewal.</p>
	<p>3. Emphasize that the White’s Woods forest now stores 27,688 tons of carbon and, also, absorbs an additional 1,102 tons of carbon annually.</p>
	<p>4. Join the Old Growth Forest Network to preserve old growth for future generations and to put our forest on the OGFN map.</p>
	<p>5. Investigate expansion of White’s Woods by purchasing adjacent forested properties and thereby providing forested islands large enough to sustain migrating bird populations and other species.</p>
	<p>6. Consider an agreement or a conservation easement with a land conservancy to maximize successful management of this valuable natural area.</p>

<p>IV. Specific Objectives: Preserving the WWNC for Future Generations</p>	<p>1. Listen to the public. Do not interfere with the recreational or aesthetic value of the WWNC. Seek public input at every stage of the management process</p>
	<p>2. Rely on the best science, along with publicly-funded natural area experts to preserve the WWNC community forest “largely in its natural state.”</p>
	<p>3. Protect big trees.</p>
	<p>4. Protect the canopy, to prevent invasive plant growth and protect recreation values.</p>
	<p>5. Complete an inventory and map of native plants in the WWNC. (Keubbing &amp; Holmes, 2021).</p>
	<p>6. Complete an inventory and map of invasive plants (Keubbing &amp; Holmes, 2021).</p>
	<p>7. Complete an inventory (on-the-ground-count) and map of the species type, size, and location of trees in the WWNC. (Holmes, 20230.</p>
	<p>8. Collect data regarding the diversity of people who use the WWNC.</p>
	<p>9. Collect data to determine the presence WWNC of avian, amphibian, and reptilian species that are now listed as “Species of Greatest Concern” by DCNR.</p>
	<p>10. Document date of arrival of migratory bird species.</p>
	<p>11. Document animal species in the WWNC.</p>
	<p>12. Investigate conservation measures suggested by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that will help the stability and recovery of both the Federally-endangered Indiana bat and Federally-threatened Northern long-eared bat.</p>
	<p>13. Inventory and map ecologically sensitive or unique areas in the WWNC.</p>

	<p>14. Identify all at-risk and protected species in the 200 acres that are not currently part of the 43-acre Natural Heritage Area.</p>
	<p>15. Locate and implement plans to preserve the three vulnerable plant species located in the WWNC, as identified in the Natural Heritage Program inventory. (As well as the at-risk species identified in other areas of White’s Woods.)</p>
	<p>16. Implement a long-term, volunteer-based plan for the control of invasive species, including Tree-of-Heaven, Mile-a-Minute, multiflora rose, Japanese barberry and Autumn Olive.</p>
	<p>17. Develop an invasive plant species management plan that prioritizes removal by species level of damage and location. Base this plan on already-implemented plans by other conservancies and land trusts.</p>
	<p>18. Implement this invasive plant removal plan by focusing on one section of the WWNC at a time.</p>
	<p>19. Implement bi-annual preventative invasive plant plan to halt the introduction of new invasive species: survey entry points to WWNC for new invasive plant species..</p>
	<p>20. Conduct an assessment of the size of the WWNC deer population.</p>
	<p>21. Implement a long-term plan to promote native plant growth</p>
	<p>22. Rely on natural succession and take advantage of “blow down” to plant seedlings to maintain WWNC regeneration status.</p>
	<p>23. Rely on least-intrusive methods for invasive plant control. Review other public land policies regarding the use of herbicides in similar parks.</p>

	<p>24. Consider the use of goats to control especially dense invasive growth, to promote ecologically sound plant removal and to draw visitors into the woods. (Utility right-of-way.)</p>
	<p>25. Seek partner funding to conduct a deer fencing or deer contraception pilot program.</p>
	<p>26. Create long-term management plans that factor in both (1) the forests surrounding the WWNC and (2) climate change.</p>
	<p>27. Promote forest songbird habit by planting and protecting both habit and food sources.</p>
	<p>28. Support the DCNR Bureau of Forestry's goal of increasing the percentage of Pennsylvania older-growth forests (80+ years old) by leaving the 80-year-old WWNC intact.</p>
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