IT IS TIME TO TAKE A STAND!

ON BEHALF OF OUR PUBLIC FOREST.

You can be the difference. Communities that work together can succeed.

SUPERVISOR George Lenz said in a recent Township meeting that *FWW* doesn't matter because "*it only has 10-12 members.*"

But nearly 300 people have joined together to build FWW!

And conversations, along with past petitions, surveys, and citizen votes, indicate that *thousands more* strongly agree:

The White's Woods Nature Center

is an essential asset to the Indiana Region!

Now. And even more in decades to come.

- WWNC sequesters over 27,000 tons of carbon.
- WWNC absorbs over 200,000 gallons of stormwater annually.
- WWNC is home to dozens of DCNR-identified "species of greatest conservation need."
- Pennsylvanians value their public forests!
- WWNC offers forested trails within a 10-minute walk for over 10,000 Indiana region citizens and IUP students.
- WWNC hosts thousands of walkers, hikers, runners, bikers, skiers, birdwatchers, plant enthusiasts, and nature photographers - *including you*! - every year.

It's time to make support for the Woods clear to the Township.

PLEASE <u>SIGN UP</u> your friends, uncles & aunts, grandparents, siblings - even kids can join! (It's their future, too.) Join for $5 - $500! (or volunteer your time). And consider an annual donation (See back).

Membership Form Attached or donate online https://charity.gofundme.com/o/en/campaign/savewhiteswoods To send a check: Mail to FWW, P.O. Box 1271, Indiana, PA 15701

DCNR values public input and community values. A declaration of FWW support could make all the difference!

Friends of White's Woods accomplishments 2020-2021:

Eight educational/public webinars: Goats to control invasive plants; the health of White's Woods, stormwater runoff; bird habitat; climate change; i-Tree analysis; Hartley Wood management plan; ecology of invasive plants.

Hired Consultants to Evaluate WWNC: Mike Wolf, Appalachian Forest Consultants, WWNC assessment; Todd Sherbondy, Davey Tree Experts, i-Tree Analysis; Dr. Sara Kuebbing and Dr. Marion Holmes, University of Pittsburgh, Mapping WWNC Invasive Plants.

Response to Draft Management Plan: 250 pages -petition, survey, assembled member letters; forester and biologists assessments; original WWNC Project 70 application, and more.

Alerting DCNR: Contacted DCNR April 15, 2020 to inform them of the Township's unapproved plans for the WWNC; copy DCNR on all public feedback provided by citizens/FWW members to White Township regarding the Township's Draft Management plan; continue to rely on DCNR documents and strategic plans.

Action for Good Government: Successful challenge to alleged violations of the Sunshine Act & pending challenge to alleged violation of the Second Class Township Code; bi-monthly participation in Township meetings.

Alerting the Community: Monthly newsletter; website, FWW member email distribution; plant walks, bird walks; radio interviews, Indiana Gazette letters; Indigo bus posters.

Networking with other Pennsylvania parks & forests organizations (too many to list!) including the PA Parks & Forests Foundation, the Sierra Club, the PA Nature Conservancy, the Western PA Conservancy, the PA Natural Heritage Program, the PA Freedom of Information Coalition, and the National Natural Areas Association.

Applying for Grants: Indiana County Endowment (awarded); American Water Company (unfunded); Sierra Club Huplits Grant (application pending).

Stopped for Now: Destruction of WWNC via the Township's Draft Management Plan per DCNR Bureau of Recreation & Conservation Ruling, released 4.14.21.

FWW Award Nomination: 2021 Evergreen Conservancy Environmental Award.

FWW CURRENT MEMBERS: <u>PLEASE MAKE A COMMITMENT TO DONATING TO FWW AT LEAST ANNUALLY.</u> We need to provide more community education and be ready for possible future legal action to secure the legally-protected future of our public forest for future generations (and good government, too!)

Limited number Chuck Olson (signed) prints available: donations of $100/more.

FWW website: friendsofwhiteswoods.org