

FWW SUMMARY OF FEEDBACK TO PLAN

- I. Of 210 responses (208 individuals and two organizations):**
 - a. 71 used the Township’s online form;**
 - b. 56 sent emails/letters to the Township;**
 - c. 93 used the FWW submission form; 15 included comments and five submitted separate comments via email**
 - d. 10 individuals responded using two of the above methods**

- II. 200 (95%) respondents stated that they support the draft plan (n=196) or the goals of the plan, (n=4), and in many cases indicated reasons for their support. The remaining eight responses critiqued grammar and/or specific management issues (e.g. deer browsing, ticks, erosion, dog walking, invasive plants), but did not evaluate the plan. None of the respondents rejected the plan.**

- III. In addition to overwhelming support for the plan, respondents frequently cited specific reasons especially important to them, as follows:**
 - 69% allowing the forest to mature to old growth and enrolling White’s Woods in the Old Growth Forest Network.**
 - 59% use the least-intrusive management as the “default” choice, and supports natural forest maturation processes.**
 - 58% public involvement in making every management decision.**
 - 58% NO wood should be removed from the forest, recognizing that dead wood is critically important to the health of the forest ecosystem.**
 - 53% need to protect the canopy.**
 - 53% future management must rely on appropriate experts such as forest ecologists.**
 - 50% strictly limit the cutting of any trees.**

- 50%** the role that White's Woods plays in various "ecosystem" services, including carbon absorption and temperature mediation.
- 49%** protection and monitoring of at-risk plant, bird, and animal species
- 49%** the value of White's Woods as a natural area for passive recreation.
- 48%** creation of a "Stewards Committee."
- 40%** the role of Project 70.

IV. Additional specific suggestions were as follows:

- a. Continue hand pulling of invasive plants (15)**
- b. Strategically install deer exclusion fencing (7)**
- c. Increase educational activities, including the use of educational signage (5)**
- d. Improve directional signage**
- e. Improve protection for fragile trails**
- f. Avoid heavy equipment use**
- g. Ban all hunting (9)**
- h. Engage with the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy**
- i. Permit limited (1) or unlimited (2) hunting**
- j. Purchase more land to expand the nature center**

V. Many respondents noted the advantages of WWNC in their narrative:

- a. Health benefits of exercise (6)**
- b. Close proximity to town (7)**
- c. Increase the desirability of the area to self and/or prospective residents (11)**
- d. Share nature with family/friends**
- e. Use WWNC for hiking (13), cross-country skiing (4), dog walking (6), photography**

VI. Many respondents recounted the importance of WWNC to them personally:

- a. Relocated to live near the woods (5)**
- b. Grew up playing in WW**
- c. Taught their children about nature in WW**
- d. Got engaged in WW**

It is important to note that we have reviewed all 210 responses numerous times. And we do believe that this summary provides a very good comprehensive picture of public response to the Stewardship Committee's work. The overall plan and each of its major components and recommendations enjoy overwhelming public support and we congratulate you on your work.