

## Stewardship Plan Feedback Data

- I. 220 responses were received
  - a. 218 individual responses were submitted by 208 individuals; ten individuals responded twice
  - b. Two organizations submitted responses
  
- II. Of 220 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
  
- III. Of the 210 respondents:
  - a. 200 (95%) respondents stated that they support the draft plan
  - b. Four respondents (2%) supported the goals of the plan
  - c. The above reflect 97% (n=204) in support of the plan
  - d. Six responses critiqued grammar and/or specific management issues (e.g. deer browsing, ticks, erosion, dog walking, invasive plants), but did not evaluate the plan.
  - e. None of the respondents rejected the plan.
  
- IV. 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.
  - 60% use the least-intrusive management as the "default" choice, and supports natural forest maturation processes.
  - 55% public involvement in making every management decision.
  - 55% 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.
  - 52% future management must rely on appropriate experts such as forest ecologists.
  - 49% the role that White's Woods plays in various "ecosystem" services, including carbon absorption and temperature mediation.
  - 48% strictly limit the cutting of any trees.
  - 48% protection and monitoring of at-risk plant, bird, and animal species

48% the value of White's Woods as a natural area for passive recreation.

47% creation of a "Stewards Committee."

40% the role of Project 70.

- V. Additional specific **suggestions** were as follows:
- a. Continue hand pulling of invasive plants (16)
  - b. Ban all hunting (11)
  - c. Strategically install deer exclusion fencing (7)
  - d. Increase educational activities, including the use of educational signage (5)
  - e. Improve directional signage (3)
- VI. Many respondents noted the **advantages** of WWNC in their narrative:
- a. Increase the desirability of the area to self and/or prospective residents (11)
  - b. Beauty of the nature center (11)
  - c. Close proximity to town (7)
  - d. Physical and mental health benefits of exercise and nature (6)
  - e. Bring ecotourism to the county (5)
- VII. Many respondents indicated how they **used** WWNC:
- a. Hiking (20)
  - b. Biking (8)
  - c. Dog walking (6)
  - d. Education (5)
  - e. Skiing (4)
  - f. Photography (3)
- VIII. 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
- IX. Recommendations made by **single** individuals:
- a. Improve protection for fragile trails
  - b. Avoid heavy equipment use
  - c. Engage with the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy
  - d. Purchase more land to expand the nature center
  - e. Repair trails
  - f. Improve parking

- g. Increase Native American emphasis
- h. Improve transportation access (e.g. bus routes)
- i. Establish a foundation for financial support
- j. Establish an English meadow near the power lines
- k. Establish a hotline for users to document flora and fauna

- X. The following comments made by few individuals appear to oppose the aggregate data:
  - a. Permit unlimited (3) or limited (2) deer killing, which has been strongly opposed by the community
  - b. Cut and remove dead and/or diseased trees (3)
  - c. Attempt to drastically increase WWNC usage (1), which could disrupt ecology
  - d. Install picnic tables (1), which would likely cause wildlife problems
  
- XI. There is some concern about:
  - a. Potential damage to trails caused by biking (2)
  - b. Danger to hikers posed by bikers (1)
  - c. The leashing policy – both support (1) and opposition (1)