



Friends of White's Woods Monthly Newsletter



White Township Manager To Review Draft Stewardship Plan for White's Woods at February Webinar

White Township Manager Chris Anderson will focus on the development of the White's Woods draft stewardship plan, including the key pillars of the plan, and what this plan means for White's Woods.

Created by the White Township Board of Supervisors in December 2021, the Stewardship Committee welcomed public input through every step of its two years of work and has now opened a period for public comment on the draft version. The comment period will end March 22.

The draft stewardship plan will maintain the forest canopy and control invasive plants. It will focus on the conservation, preservation and protection of White's Woods and recommends ongoing collaboration with local and regional conservation groups.

The plan is being called "a living document" that should be reviewed, revised and kept open to White's Woods Nature Center stakeholders going forward.

In addition, Anderson plans to discuss some recent initiatives including a deer enclosure, map updates and signage.

Appointed township manager in January 2022, Anderson served as assistant



White Township manager Chris Anderson

township manager since 2013. As chief executive, he is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the township (pop. 15,400), the most populous township in the county. Chris has guided the township through a major update of the comprehensive plan (the first revision in 40 years) in 2008 and a second update of the plan in 2020. The holder of a bachelor's degree in regional planning with minor studies in GIS/cartography from IUP, he has overseen the enactment of a fee-based stormwater management program; the implementation of a curbside plastic-recycling program; the construction of a dog park; indoor pickleball courts; softball field with dugouts; the completion of multiple multimodal trail, road and highway projects;

and improvement of township facilities through recreation, road, stormwater and sewer capital projects.

An enthusiastic and dedicated leader of the township with hands-on and administrative oversight experience in the planning, land development, code enforcement, stormwater management, GIS programming, cartography and building departments in White Township, Chris has made his priority the growth and prosperity of White Township as a progressive, forward-thinking community where people want to live, work and play.

Your Comments on Draft Plan Are Crucial To Plan's Adoption

It is so important for the public to support key elements of the White Township Stewardship's Committee draft Stewardship Plan for White's Woods.

PLEASE TAKE THE TIME TO SUBMIT YOUR PUBLIC COMMENT NOW (ends March 22).

This draft plan lays out goals, objectives, and even a management philosophy that are essential to the preservation of White's Woods as a natural area to be left to mature to old growth.

How do I submit public comment? Go to <https://www.whitetownship.org/white-township-stewardship-committee> The link to the complete 2023 Draft Stewardship Plan is near the center of the page: "[White's Woods Draft Stewardship Plan](#)"

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UPCOMING WEBINARS AND EVENTS

Feb. 27: Draft Stewardship Plan Review webinar by White Township Manager Chris Anderson, noon to 1 p.m.

March 21: Saving the Blackwater Canyon webinar by Judy Rodd, Executive Director, Friends of Blackwater, noon to 1 p.m.

April 6: Barberry Pulling Contest. One Day Only. Put together your team of 10 people. *(See article in this issue for more information).*

To register for FWW webinars, which are free and open to the public, please email at info@friendsofwhiteswoods.org. All previous webinars can be viewed at friendsofwhiteswoods.org/events.

For more information, visit: friendsofwhiteswoods.org

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Help Needed Tackling the Barberry in White's Woods

FWW's plan to remove barberry is to gather 10 teams from 10 different organizations to work on Saturday, April 6th from 10 a.m. to noon.

The teams will be directed to specific locations, provided team leaders to explain how to remove the barberry, given bags in which to place the plants for removal, and provided work gloves. The bags filled with barberry will be picked up and removed by White Township staff. Barberry-pullers should wear long sleeves and long pants and bring water. The goal is to field 10-person teams, but even if your team is smaller, please join us.

Japanese barberry is a non-native plant, introduced to the area as a desirable landscaping plant over a century ago. Pennsylvania has recently banned the sale of barberry due to its potential for significant damage to our state's forests. Barberry grows in such dense patches that it crowds out native plants and alters soil chemistry.

Since July 2023, FWW has hosted 11 work sessions to remove barberry from White's Woods manually and has made considerable progress. But much more work remains.

If 100 people work for two hours on one day, we will make tremendous progress in protecting White's Woods.

In addition to the satisfaction of community service and two hours in the peace and quiet of White's Woods, what else will your team receive



Japanese Barberry

from this outing?

- We will declare a barberry-pulling champion team!
- The winning team will receive a prize! (signed White's Woods prints and more.)
- At the conclusion of our work day (two hours), FWW will provide light refreshments.

How can a team sign up?

Send an email to info@friendsofwhiteswoods.org to let us know that you are putting together a team (or if you have questions). Please include an email address and cell number so we can send updates.

Thank you so much for the service your organization already provides for our community. We sure hope that you can join us on April 6th at 10 a.m. (Rain Date for this event is April 13th, 10 a.m. We will keep you posted!)

Share Your Birding Data With the World!

Wikipedia describes eBird as an online database of bird observations providing scientists, researchers and amateur naturalists with instant data about bird distribution and abundance. Originally restricted to sightings from the Western Hemisphere, the project expanded to include New Zealand in 2008, and again expanded to cover the whole world in June 2010. eBird has been described as an ambitious example of enlisting amateurs to gather data on biodiversity for use in science.

eBird is an example of crowdsourcing, and has been hailed as an example of democratizing science, treating citizens as scientists, allowing the public to access and use their own data and the collective data generated by others.

Every image and sound that you add to an eBird checklist makes you a part of the Macaulay Library: the world's premier scientific archive of natural history audio, video, and photographs. Explore shots from your friends and discover birds you never knew existed. eBird documents the presence or absence of species, as well as bird abundance through checklist data. A web interface allows participants to submit their observations or view results via

interactive queries of the database. Internet tools maintain personal bird records and enable users to visualize data with interactive maps, graphs, and bar charts. As of 2022, the eBird website is fully available in 14 languages (with different dialect options for three of them), and eBird supports common names for birds in 55 languages with 39 regional versions, for a total of 95 regional sets of common names.

eBird is a free service. Data are stored in a secure facility and archived daily and are accessible to anyone via the eBird web site and other applications developed by the global biodiversity information community. For example, eBird data are part of the Avian Knowledge Network (AKN), which integrates observational data on bird populations across the western hemisphere and is a data source for the digital ornithological reference Birds of North America. In turn, the AKN feeds eBird data to international biodiversity data systems, such as the Global Biodiversity Information Facility.

Go to ebird.org for more information and to <https://ebird.org/hotspot/L4129964?yr=all&m=&rank=mrec> to see data collected in White's Woods.

Your Comments on Draft Plan Are Crucial

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Here are some of the important elements of the plan:

- Emphasizes the importance of the public's desire to allow the forest to mature to old growth.
- Supports public involvement in making every management decision
- Supports the creation of a "Stewards Committee" that includes FWW.
- Calls for least-intrusive management as the "default" choice.
- Emphasizes need to protect the canopy.
- Underscores the value of White's Woods as a natural area for passive recreation.
- Recommends enrolling White's Woods in the Old Growth Forest Network.
- Specifies that **all downed wood** should remain in the forest. **No** wood should be removed.
- Emphasizes the role that White's Woods plays in various "ecosystem" services, including carbon absorption and temperature mediation.
- Recognizes that dead wood is critically important to the health of the forest ecosystem.
- Strictly limits the cutting of any trees.
- Specifies that future management must rely on appropriate experts such as forest ecologists.
- Commits to the protection and monitoring of at-risk plant, bird, and animal species.
- Recognizes the role of Project 70.
- Supports natural forest maturation processes

PLEASE SUPPORT AS MANY ELEMENTS OF THE PLAN AS YOU CAN!

Input can be provided on (1) a form found on the Stewardship Committee landing page (see previous page), (2) USPS mail (White Township, 950 Indian Springs Road, Indiana, PA 15701), OR by (3) email (wtinfo@whitetownship.org).

For more information, visit: friendsofwhiteswoods.org

We welcome feedback. Email us at: info@friendsofwhiteswoods.org

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