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Reader opposes White's Woods plans

Jul 5, 2020

During a 2009 White Township meeting, Friends of White's Woods suggested removing grapevines and rosa multiflora from White's Woods. Larry Garner, then township manager, indicated the responsibility

to clear plants fell to the Recreation and Parks Commission, not the township, and that FWW may want to volunteer with approval from the commission.

By mid-2019 after giving a one-year notice, both the Indiana Area School District and the Borough of Indiana had withdrawn from the three-member Recreation and Parks Commission, resulting in a loss of \$52,000 per year of funding.

White Township received a Millstone assessment in October 2018 for invasive species and timber management on all White Township properties. Bluntly, was IASD and the borough pressured by the township? Perhaps someone from IASD and the borough could candidly explain their withdrawal. The borough has mentioned that White Township wanted more recreation funds.

See the completed Millstone Stewardship Plan at whitetownship.org. The township has approved \$17,770 for invasive species removal at the Recreation Complex, \$3406 for grass seed not included, and \$20,000 for Phase I of White's Woods. But wait. There's more!

The plan includes multiflora rose at Getty Heights Park, \$1,000 and \$2,200 to landscape its stream. George Lenz sees Japanese knotweed at the municipal building and stream landscaping, \$2,800. Hold on to your socks as other suggestions total almost \$145,000.

A lengthy to-do list goes out to fall of 2024 with no costs listed. It also lists a completed \$50,000 rain-garden/pond. All this while township revenues will most likely be down due to a pandemic. The township brags that we don't have a property tax. We do have a growing list of service taxes (I pay \$72 per quarter), and I would hate to see a huge "White Township Continuing Landscaping" fee line item added to it. And then there's the lawsuit by FWW. Did I mention weeds grow back?

The plan is beyond extravagant and I urge all who are opposed, borough included, to get involved. Opinions emailed via the township main page or letters to the editor will help.

Call the township or attend a meeting to express your opposition. Lastly, visit White's Woods. For many, it may be the last time in your lifetime to see White's Woods Nature Reserve at this level of maturity.

Joel Royer

White Township

