

FRIENDS OF WHITE'S WOODS: QUICK OVERVIEW

White Township Stewardship DRAFT Plan

Released for Public Comment on June 24, 2020

Important Note: FWW is working on a thorough analysis of the Draft White Township Stewardship Plan that has been **POSTED ON THE TOWNSHIP WEBSITE FOR PUBLIC REVIEW**. We have asked independent consultants – foresters and biologists—to formally critique this plan, as well. These thorough critiques take time and will be available beginning June 30, 2020. In the meantime, a “quick take” is possible – because the crux of the “new” stewardship plan with regard to White’s Woods *is identical* to that prepared by Millstone in documents developed between December 2018 and April 2020 (White Township Parks Project: Preliminary Assessment, December, 2018; White’s Woods Timber Valuation, February, 2019; and the Sustainable Forest Management Overview, April, 2020).*

White Township Stewardship **DRAFT** Plan—FWW “Quick Takes”

- **The “new” invasive species management plan is identical to the “old” one:**
Using mechanized “mulching” equipment, Millstone will chew up the entire forest floor. This “bobcat”- sized rototiller needs a lot of space (it can’t squeeze between trees) to grind up the forest floor to a depth of six inches.
- **125,000 linear board feet, much of it commercial grade timber, is to be removed from the 40 acres now labeled “White’s Woods Unit 1.”**
- By contrast, 550,000 board feet, drawn from the **entire 250-acre White’s Woods Nature Center was deemed by DCNR, in 2008, as “excessive” for a Project 70 park.**
- **It appears, that is, that the “new” stewardship plan calls for a significantly larger timber harvest than was rejected by DCNR in 2008 –and a preposterously larger timber harvest for a park designated in the original Project 70 application to remain largely “in its natural state.”**
- This combination of churning up the soil and removing the canopy, according to experts in biology and in forestry, will have a disastrous effect: We can anticipate explosive invasive species plant growth as a direct result in the near future.
- **The “new” plan, like the “old” one, will do massive damage to White’s Woods. The excessive timbering, destruction of the forest floor, and ripping out wide new skid trails will render the WWNC unrecognizable. According to one forester who reviewed the original plan, “there will be a lot of tears.”**

***The WT DRAFT Stewardship plan is a hodgepodge of seven parts, lumping together all White Township Parks. White’s Woods is the only natural area park in White Township.**

