

What strengths does the FWW DRAFT PLAN --WHITE'S WOODS NATURE CENTER: CURRENT VALUE & FUTURE CARE bring to the table?

- it is based on public input;
- relies on input from experts from a variety of fields;
- has a broad focus for the future of the park, including recreation;
- could serve as a basis for grant funding (data-based; specific outline for data needed; identification of climate mitigation plans (as specified by DCNR)
- includes a DETAILED, 47-page map of invasive species and INVASIVE Management Plan - including a preventative plan.
- Recognition of the important role of forest preservation in mitigating climate change.
- DETAILED call for data
 1. Native & invasive plant inventory;
 2. tree species inventory;
 3. wildlife inventory;
 4. documentation of migratory bird arrival;
 5. patterns of diversity of human use;
 6. data to determine the presence WWNC of avian, amphibian, and reptilian species that are now listed as "Species of Greatest Concern" by DCNR;
 7. observation measures suggested by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that will help the stability and recovery of both the Federally-endangered Indiana bat and Federally-threatened Northern long-eared bat;
 8. Inventory and map ecologically sensitive or unique areas in the WWNC
- Relies on natural succession and least-intrusive management techniques
- Relies primarily on volunteers

This plan recognizes that public preference for the primary management goal for the WWNC has been clearly articulated by the public over the last year: Over a thousand petition signatures, survey respondents, and letter-writers have spoken: A management plan for the WWNC must abide by the original White Township/Indiana Recreation Board Project 70 commitment to leave the WWNC "largely in its natural state." Leave it as a natural area.

This public conviction has, in fact, been reiterated three times in the past 25 years.