

B-2 Brown Woods Management Plan

Cotter commented that Parks and Recreation has been in contact with the foundation and actively looking for how to spend fund money most efficiently. Meyer asked how much money is expected to be in the plan. Cotter responded there is approximately \$19,000 in the Brown woods fund, but there are many needs competing for spending priority such as hazard tree removal and expanding trails.

B-3 Daylighted Stream at Switchyard Park

Sparks reiterated that Eco Logic continues to be under contract for the legally required wetland monitoring with a report expected to be delivered in December. The week prior to the meeting, a trash cleanup removed items from the floodplain area. The last round of deer repellent was applied in the area

Myers asked if the 3rd Street construction and Hidden Rivers Pathway project involved daylighting. Sparks responded that daylighting the stream is not part of that project, and construction will hopefully be completed by the end of the year.

B-4 Ongoing Restoration Projects

Sparks provided updates on small restoration projects that are part of the Sustainability Action Plan (SAP) goals. Invasive plant management remains a priority, with mechanical and manual removals as well as herbicide applications. After large-scale invasive management, low-mow practices are being sought to be expanded in park spaces to minimize fuel use and provide more animal habitats. One year following low-mow practices being implemented, regionally sourced trees are looking to be planted, with a minimum of 5,000 trees stocked annually. New tree plantings, maintenance, and tree replacements are part of the regular efforts from Parks and Recreation.

B-5 Mill Property Donation & Trail Extensions

Cotter reported that the property was accepted at the Mill east of Weimer road, close to east-west trail from Switchyard Park to Wapehani. This section, approximately 900 feet long and paved will be used as part of the Clear Creek Trail extension.

Parkhurst asked Cotter if the end of the B-Line feeds into the Bloomington Rail Trail and if it is managed by the city or county. Cotter responded that it is a city managed trail.

C. New Business

C-1 Education Update

Swift provided updates on Nature Day returning to being in-person this year, reporting that Griffy Lake and Leonard Springs have hosted over 350 students. Every Tuesday sixth graders from Monroe County go out to Leonard Springs Nature Park, and every Thursday fourth graders go out to Griffy Lake Nature Preserve for a day of environmental education programming.

The Adopter Programs (Trail, Stream, Acre) are continuing, and the Indiana Parks and Recreation Association will be having a conference 2nd, 3rd, and 4th of November with sessions open to the general public. The Environmental Education Association's (EEAI) annual meeting will be held in Spring Mill on November 12-14th.

C-2 Griffy Lake Loop Trail & Fishing Pier Project Update

Cotter provided updates on project bids, which came \$1m over the \$1.7m budget. Working with ENB Paving and the consultant that did the design, construction alternatives as well as additional funds were found to allow for the construction of the walkway along the west side of Headley Road. A cost cutting measure taken was to change the surface from concrete to limestone fines.

Additionally, the accessible fishing pier will be built along with the walkway at the north end, but the floating docks that will jut out from the pier will not be included in this portion of the project. On the southern end of the causeway there will be a set of stairs to get people up to the trail just west of Headley Road. Limestone blocks were originally proposed for the retention wall, but Redi-Rock Kingstone will be used instead.

Swift added that when construction begins to build the new retention wall, the lake will be partially drained and Headley will become a one directional single-lane road going north bound for the duration of the project. Permits extend through July 2022 but Cotter is hopeful the major construction will be complete by the end of this year.

C-3 CHAP Program Update

Cotter provided updates on CHAP at Griffy Lake Nature Preserve, scheduled for this November 13, 14, 20, 21, 27, and 28. With the help of White Buffalo, a total of 43 hunters were vetted and will be taking part in the hunt. Hunters can donate any unwanted deer to local food kitchens with the cost of processing covered by the program. Monitoring plant height will continue as a way to measure the efficacy of deer reduction. Eco Logic was hired to conduct these deer browse studies. Bruce Wilds Security was hired to assist with park security to ensure no one enters the park during the program. Letters were sent to property neighbors and signs posted around the park.

C-4 Griffy Lake Prescribed Burn Project Updates

Cotter stated that the planned prescribed burn at Griffy Lake Nature Preserve will include 7 acres on the other side of Headley Road from where the 8 acres were burned last year. The proposed burn plot is located north of the main parking lot. Small beech and maples are being targeted to give space to hickory and oak trees. Dates have not been set for the burn, as they are dependent on humidity and wind conditions, but are looking to try in November or late March. Habitat Solutions has been hired to coordinate the burn with the help of the Bloomington Fire Department. Property neighbors will be notified ahead of the burn date.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 5:53PM

**NEXT MEETING: WEDNESDAY, December 8th, 2021
(Tentatively) Switchyard Park – Pavilion**