

Great Lakes Urban Forestry Management

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January 10th, 2024
Attn: Chris Pollock / Jennifer Knitter
Woodridge Park District
2600 Center Dr
Woodridge, IL 60517
Re: Jubilee Point Park – Letter of Support

To Whom it May Concern:

My name is Steve Lane, and I am the Lead Urban Forestry Consultant with Great Lakes Urban Forestry, and have been familiar with Woodridge Park District's staff and projects for the better part of 10 years now. Additionally, I am an Ecologist, and my work and study focuses very heavily on the important interactions between trees, and the ecological communities which support them. It is primarily for these reasons that staff at Woodridge Park District asked for my assistance in reviewing the plan set for Jubilee Point park and to provide this letter of support.

The existing plant community at Jubilee Point Park is extremely low quality. The dominant woody plant species are European Buckthorn, which is highly invasive and keeps other more desirable trees such as Oaks from establishing, as well as Cottonwoods and other weak wooded successional species which outcompete more desirable native trees. The herbaceous species are all of low quality as well. The plan set which I reviewed will actually provide enhancement to this area by planting more native trees, wildflowers, and grasses, which in turn will attract wildlife, birds, and beneficial insects, and begin to build an actual ecological community for all forms of life to enjoy. And that doesn't even include the enhancement which are planned for humans, which will attract more people to this site so they can learn about these fascinating ecosystems and plant communities.

In short, I fully support this project as it is currently planned and believe it will provide ecological enhancement to the area, which will attract beneficial wildlife and birds, and also be a sanctuary for people to learn about and enjoy nature. While I understand there have been some arguments against this development which are based on the "loss of greenspace", this is a misinterpretation of the plans. These are clearly plans for removal of invasive and aggressive species, and replanting with native species. This is not a reduction in greenspace, it's an enhancement of greenspace.

Best regards,

Stephen Lane

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steve Lane', is written on a light-colored rectangular background.

Lead Urban Forestry Consultant
Great Lakes Urban Forestry Management
ISA Certified Arborist #IL 4565A-AM

