

Glenway Woods Management and Sustainability Plan October, 2022 Open House Comments

What opportunities do you think this draft framework provides for Glenway Woods and the community?

- Please protect native plants.
- Protect native species – spring/ephemerals!!
- Encourage oak regeneration as possible.
- Improve degraded woods (if not too developed).
- Please keep it as natural as possible. We love a natural playground (i.e. no plastic lookalikes). Pretty please :)
- Incorporate mountain biking trails where it works, corridor connector.
- Protect native species, spring ephemerals.
- Yes to mountain biking trails. Can be so fun for kids. The small amount of trails would be great for beginners.
- Multi-Use Space!
- Love the idea for mixed use.
- Keep the space wild. Our kids love to play in these areas and it is so special to be able to take kids to the woods locally. Provide a designated area for play signage? Forts?
- Love community group input – nature play opportunities encouraged.
- Focused area for children & families to explore outside – free of playground equipment, metal, plastic structures, etc.
- Leashed dogs & (maybe) limited mountain biking next to the existing bike path.
- If any facilities are provided I would suggest benches. At the trail head only access to drinking water and restrooms or directions to the nearest location where public restrooms are available could be helpful. Also trash cans at entrances.
- Enhance opportunity for natural, peaceful, passive enjoyment (walking, nature play, birding, etc.). Keep it WILD.
- 2.4.3 – Interpretive signage- Explain Native American connection- effigy mounds, camps, trail markers.
- 2.4.3 – Interpretive signage- Include signage about the history of the woods (& golf course?) property. Refer to Westmorland: A Great Place to Live, pg. 29 – p. 30.
- Let's recruit & activate neighborhood groups to take ownership over helping city maintain the area once improved.
- A few well-maintained, wide dirt paths for ADA use.
- Love the opportunity for on-leash dog walking since it is limited in the Arb.
- Involve Arboretum UW, Edgewood as far as partnerships for grants, restoration.
- Long range management plan will be important.
- Yes, critical for biological survey.

- Positive on separate uses for bike & trail.
- Yes to leashed dogs – off leash only in the winter on the golf course?
- A few benches & signs – signs in cemetery leading to the trailhead.
- Improved trail maintenance & therefore foot safety.
- Native plant growth & education.
- Signs so not lost – if culturally appropriate have Ho-Chunk plant & maintain “trail trees.”
- Signage (though hopefully minimal) will encourage use of the trails! Including signs stressing how the bike trails are beginner friendly.
- Opportunity to add paved access between Fox/Sheldon and the cemetery – improve access from Dudgeon/Monroe to the new activities at the golf course clubhouse.
- Improve quality of woodland habitat by nurturing native species and controlling invasives.
- Please preserve natural exploration area it is today. Kids + families love it! Quiet, serene area is lovely.
- Please keep on leash dog walking, snowshoeing + hiking in natural peaceful setting.
- Glad to see your efforts in formalizing park status.
- Agree with a consolidated trail system with a focus on minimizing erosion and restoring natural species.
- Keep mountain biking near bike path.
- Yes! Separate mtn bike trail near commuter path.
- Yes! Keeping lovely large natural area beyond new mtn bike path.
- Yes! Improved high visibility signage about approved use.
- Yes! A couple benches? A couple picnic tables?

What concerns do you have for these proposals?

- Diverse opportunities. Why dogs & bikes? Other places.
- Strongly prefer no dirt bikes, dangerous to walkers.
- No dirt bikes or mountain biking.
- Neighbor volunteers are stretched thin.
- Concern – drainage untreated sewage into Lake Wingra from dogs (danger but no evidence).
- Separate bikes from walkers for walker safety.
- Too much development, too little woods (its small).
- If no development is not an option (?), then the question becomes, what should it look like: 1. The wood are too small for too many different styles of use; 2. I believe the best focus should be pedestrian use; 3. Bikes paths if allowed (not recommended), should be restricted to the edge of the woods parallel to the SW bike path; 4. If improvement is necessary/inevitable, I would recommend modeling on how Milwaukee County

established and designed their natural areas some 80-90 years ago; 5. Keep the natural feel to the area as much as possible.

- My concerns rest with mountain biking. However it was explained to me that any proposed paths would be parallel to existing SW bike path and not integrated into the woods themselves like Quarry Park. I feel we don't need another Quarry Park set up so close as the other two areas are. When walking thru Quarry I'm uncertain which paths are bike and what are hiking. I know there is a sign map at entrance but you forget when actually hiking. It makes me feel unsafe and then I don't use as much. Thanks for considering this.
 - No mountain bikes or e-bikes!
 - Diversify habitat, more mature forest. More species than oak.
 - No mountain biking.
 - Dogs on leash fine.
 - Wider paths are not necessary (just improve them so they're planned, not eroding).
 - Diversify habitat more mature forest, more species than oak.
 - No mountain biking.
 - Dogs leash fine.
 - Please limit any lighted pathways.
 - Limit the development of the kiosks – no vending, plumbing, or electricity.
 - What I want:
 - Keep as natural as possible so kids & adults can experience a natural WOODS in the city. Preserve the trees and understory as much as possible while removing invasive species (buckthorn, poison ivy, garlic mustard, etc.).
 - Preserve areas for birds, fox, and other wildlife habitat.
 - Preserve/improve storm runoff into Lake Wingra.
 - Allow young kids to explore, imagine, play with 'structures' or defined areas for this.
 - What I Don't Want:
 - Removal of evergreen trees because they are needed for nesting sites for owls and other raptors and provide winter shelter for other birds.
 - NO MOUNTAIN BIKES or other bikes. Bikes compete with and decrease safety of use by young children, walkers, wildlife. They also increase erosion and deterioration of trails and can have negative impact on tree roots, etc. There are lots of bike trails throughout the city and mountain bikes do have Quarry Park and other sites.
- [Additional response to this comment: "I like this!"]*
- No unleashed dogs; and perhaps no dogs. People walking dogs along the bike trail and in the neighborhood have shown that some **consistently** refuse to pick up dog poop which does not support young kids' exploration, etc. Dogs off-leash have caused problems in the neighborhood-barking and running at other dogs and people/kids. You simply cannot predict when an off-leash dog, or a dog on a loosely held leash, is going to bolt because it got triggered. If it happens on the neighborhood sidewalk, it will happen

in the woods. And be harder to contain. Dogs are a danger to young fox pups which we have every year, and to young owls that take 1st flights out of nests and cannot get back up, so remain on ground until they are strong enough to fly up – this can be a couple weeks while the parent feeds them on the ground.

-No paved walks, lights, or other infrastructure. Leave as natural WOODS.

-There are LOTS of managed parks throughout the city; and dog parks throughout city. This MIGHT be the only 'wild' place for kids. I guess I don't want it to become a "park." I'd just like some city help to deal with the invasive brush and trees so it can remain close to what it has been for this neighborhood for half a century or more.

- Specific limited hours for off leash dog walking.
- Protect indigenous culture of the community by conserving prairie wildlife and trail grounds. I agree w/ others, don't make another dog park/etc, keep it as natural as possible.
- Striving for mixed use could ruin the attributes that make this space valuable and unique. Let's not diminish the natural, peaceful beauty by turning it into a dog park w/ fence, etc. Limit or exclude development infrastructure and uses that would conflict with natural amenities and feeling of tranquil seclusion.
- Need to make sure there is high vis. at the bike/walker intersection.
- No bikes please. No lights.
- Pay attention to stormwater management.
- How much will it cost?
- Management of water and impact on Lake Wingra is important.
- Prefer no bikes (mtn or e-bikes). Interactions w/ walkers dangerous, difficult to contain. If must include in this park need to assure safety measures to keep mtn bikers on intentional mtn bike trails + out of wood trails where conflicts w/ small kids + erosion could be an issue.
- Loose dogs & poop bags for walkers/birders.
- Noise levels from bikes & dogs.
- Erosion from bikes/etc. (environmental damage), less quiet space to bird/walk in.
- Could community volunteers help this happen in 2 years instead of 10? We're ready!
- The Glenway Woods is a very interesting natural area that has a long history of being a quiet place to roam for adults as well as children. It's also a great place for kids to explore nature. I would be very saddened to see it opened to off-leash dogs or to biking or activities that would change the nature of this place.
- While I love to bike and am a dog lover, I don't think it is possible to combine biking and off-leash dogs with a quiet birdwatching wildlife friendly habitat. Many people are uncomfortable around un-leashed dogs. Unleashed dogs will also be doing their business wherever they want and not necessarily within eyesight of their owner. In addition, both these activities would encourage more invasives and, in the case of biking, more erosion. Do be careful of the impact on Lake Wingra in any plans.

- It could use a Friends group or some Parks assistance to organize volunteers to remove invasives and perhaps add and tend to native plants or other maintenance work.
- I live in an adjacent neighborhood but use the SW bike path and the trails in this woods at least weekly, and sometimes more, in all seasons. I really do not see the need to plan or do anything to change the nature of this woods and space. I use the trails for running and walking (mostly running) and really, really appreciate that they are in a natural condition, windy, bumpy, etc. the way a woods should be. The trails are 'maintained' by regular foot traffic. I am totally fine with dogs, whether on leash or off, and I have no opinion about mountain biking use one way or the other, but would err on the side of allowing bikes. I enjoy seeing the dogs and bikers and everyone knows how to handle themselves. In the winter it has been used for "fat bikes" and that seems fun and I would hate for people to be told they couldn't do that, or frankly, be told they can't do anything. It seems unnecessary to regulate. I really don't think it requires any intervention or changes for people to enjoy it, other than perhaps some work on managing invasive plants. I very much appreciate that it's a natural woods and would be sad if it were changed into something else. DOES NOT NEED benches, signs, fences, stations, grading, wood chips, gravel, or anything like that - other than anything the stormwater folks say is necessary to control run off in the low areas / to prevent environmental problems. It certainly doesn't need parking! Or signage. While it should be a place for everyone, the fact is unless you stumble upon it, you don't know it's there, and that's what makes it fun. Every neighborhood should have a secret woods for people to discover. I hope that all Madison neighborhoods have something like this...I would focus on creating more natural spaces in other, less privileged neighborhoods.