

FOREST PRESERVE ADVISORY BOARD
REPORT TO COUNCIL

Report No. 2019-02

SUBJECT: Comprehensive revision and update to the Forest Preserve Management and Maintenance Guidelines

DATE: June 27, 2019

BACKGROUND: Council tasked the Forest Preserve Advisory Board with reviewing and revising the Management and Maintenance Guidelines during the November 24, 2014 City Council meeting. The Board has undertaken this task over the past four years.

DISCUSSION: FPAB has revised and updated the original Management and Maintenance Guidelines. Many sections have been rewritten, and new sections have been added. FPAB has renamed the guidelines as “Stewardship Guidelines” to reflect a new philosophy of forest management. This philosophy acknowledges that change and disturbance are natural processes, but that human activity can cause changes that can distress an otherwise healthy ecosystem. Stewardship acknowledges that changes to the forest should be assessed and addressed to preserve healthy functioning of the forest ecosystem. This philosophy informs the entire document, but specifically the updates to the Trails, Disturbances, and Invasive Species sections, and the new Wetlands section.

FPAB made limited use of the recommendations and edits to the guidelines that were provided to City Council in *Volume II (Goals and Recommendation)* of the *Forest Health Assessment Report* by A. Morton Thomas Inc. (AMT), but relied most heavily on the expertise of the board members throughout the revision process.

These new stewardship guidelines represent the work of the existing advisory board: Bryan Bruns, Valerie Elliott, Susan Gregersen, Donna Hoffmeister, Leeann Irwin, Owen Kelley, Damien Ossi, and John Paul Schmit, under the leadership of former chair Valerie Elliott and current co-chairs Donna Hoffmeister and Damien Ossi. It also represents the work of several former members who have since rotated off of the board: Jason Martin, Annie Montes, Joseph Murray, and Lauren Young, and the guidance and input of several staff liaisons: Celia Craze, Erin Josephitis, Terry Hruby, and Jason Martin.

RECOMMENDATION: FPAB asks Council to accept this report, publicize these new draft guidelines, and schedule a work session to discuss them with FPAB and the public. When the guidelines have been reviewed by Council, FPAB recommends that the City employ a technical/copy/style editor to review the guidelines. Like the original Management and Maintenance Guidelines these new Stewardship Guidelines have been authored by many people, and a fresh look from an outside editor can unify the language and style and may find discrepancies or contradictions that have been missed.

ATTACHMENT: Forest Preserve Stewardship Guidelines (52 pages).