

FOREST PRESERVE ADVISORY BOARD  
REPORT TO COUNCIL

Report # 2019-06

SUBJECT: Proposal for a Firefly Sanctuary

DATE: 17 Sept. 2019

BACKGROUND: Mary Ann Canter spoke to Forest Preserve Advisory Board about her proposal for a Firefly Sanctuary at our August 29, 2019 meeting, which we discussed at our September 17, 2019 meeting.

DISCUSSION: There appear to be very few steps needed for creating a Firefly Sanctuary in Stream Valley Park:

- Keeping light levels low by not introducing a new light source or making a change in the type of light source that would adversely impact the fireflies, such as replacing the sodium light bulbs with LEDs;
- Maintaining the stream as a source of water;
- Mowing the edges of the field less frequently to allow taller grasses along the edges of the existing field;
- Eliminating applications of insecticides in the area;
- Posting informational signage

RECOMMENDATION: FPAB supports Ms. Cantor's proposal to create a firefly sanctuary in Stream Valley Park. We believe it would be worthwhile for the city to create such a delightful and educational natural resource, while still allowing the grassy area to be used informally by neighborhood children.