

SUBJECT: Updates to the Forest Preserve Stewardship Guidelines

DATE: November 21, 2019

BACKGROUND: FPAB received comments on our update to the Stewardship Guidelines from the Advisory Board on Trees (ACT) on August 31, 2019, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB) on September 19, 2019, and from Council and residents at the September 25, 2019 Council Work Session.

DISCUSSION: The Forest Preserve Advisory Board has made the following changes to the Stewardship Guidelines in response to the comments submitted by ACT, PRAB, City Council and residents:

- Removed references to exotic species and replaced with non-native species in Ecosystem Health (p. 10);
- Deleted the reference to a controlled burn in Ecosystem Health in response to a suggestion from ACT (p. 12);
- Added a concern for public safety to the approach to trail maintenance to the Trails chapter (p. 13);
- Added language about the use of volunteers in trail maintenance to the Trails chapter (p. 13);
- Added an example of biological control in the Invasive Species chapter (p. 24);
- Added a map of waterways to the Wetlands chapter (p. 26);
- Added captions to all maps and figures in the document and added references to these maps in the text;
- Added Appendix B which summarizes legal protections for the Preserve;
- Defined the term “forbs” in the glossary; and
- Corrected several typos.

RECOMMENDATION: FPAB recommends that Council accept the edited guidelines. We again request that an independent technical writer be hired to review the Guidelines. Many people have worked on these new Stewardship Guidelines; a fresh look from an outside editor could unify the language and style and find discrepancies or contradictions that we have missed.

Attachment: edited version of the Forest Preserve Stewardship Guidelines, edited November 2019, approved by FPAB on November 21, 2019