

Burr Oak Woods Conservation Area Idea Gathering Stage Public Input Summary



Outdoor Skills Day at Burr Oak Woods Conservation Area

Missouri Department of Conservation
August 2017



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The Missouri Department of Conservation (the Department) is seeking public input as we develop and revise conservation area management plans.
- The Burr Oak Woods Conservation Area (CA) is a 1,071-acre conservation area in Jackson County, which features a combination of habitats including forest, woodland, glade, old field, grassland, a fishing lake, and fishless ponds. It is one of nearly 1,000 conservation areas owned or managed by the Department. Conservation areas support the Department's mission by offering places to restore and conserve fish, forest, and wildlife resources, and providing opportunities for all citizens to use, enjoy, and learn about these resources. Conservation areas are different from state or local parks that may place a greater emphasis on team sports, recreational activities, or social gatherings.
- The Department conducted a public involvement idea gathering phase (March 1, 2017- May 31, 2017) to gather input as staff begins to develop a 10-year management plan for Burr Oak Woods CA.
- During this time period, we heard 25 comments from 23 respondents.
- Common themes heard during this idea gathering stage included suggestions to add more trails, develop the area north of Pink Hill Road, and appreciation for Burr Oak Woods CA and Nature Center.
- The Burr Oak Woods CA planning team will take comments into consideration as they draft a 10-year area management plan. The draft plan will be available online (likely Spring 2018) for a month-long comment period at mdc.mo.gov/areaplans.

INTRODUCTION

Public Comment on Conservation Area Management Plans

The Missouri Department of Conservation (Department) wants to know what Missourians think about its nearly 1,000 conservation areas around the state. The Department is in the multi-year process of updating management plans for conservation areas and invites public comments. To preview draft management plans and share comments online, visit mdc.mo.gov/areaplans.

Department conservation areas cover almost 1 million public acres for the purpose of restoring and conserving forest, fish, and wildlife resources, and for providing opportunities for all citizens to use, enjoy, and learn about these resources. Most Missourians are within a 30-minute drive of a Department conservation area.

Missourians care about conservation and use conservation areas for many different reasons. These areas help people discover nature through various activities, and help make Missouri a great place to hunt, fish, and enjoy other outdoor activities. We want to know how conservation areas are important to Missourians. Encouraging public comments on Conservation Area Management Plans is part of the Department's ongoing efforts of working for and with Missourians to sustain healthy forests, fish, and wildlife.

Conservation Area Management Plans focus on natural resource management and public use on conservation areas. The plans do not address regulations on hunting, fishing, and other area uses, which are set by the Conservation Commission and enforced under the *Wildlife Code of Missouri*. The Department will consider all ideas received and will work to balance the issues and interests identified with the responsibility of managing areas for the present and future benefits to forest, fish, wildlife, and people. Decisions on which ideas to incorporate into area plans and on how to best incorporate them will be based on the property's purpose, its physical and biological conditions and capabilities, the best roles of the property in its local, regional, and statewide context, and on the professional expertise of Department staff.

Questions? Please contact Missouri Department of Conservation Public Involvement Coordinator, Amy Buechler at 573-522-4115 x3252, or amy.buechler@mdc.mo.gov.

Burr Oak Woods Conservation Area

This area is mostly forested, but it also features established prairies, restored glades, savannas, woodlands, numerous ponds, and creeks. Facilities/features: A large nature center offering exhibits and interpretive programs, picnic areas, pavilions, six hiking trails, viewing/photo blind, and viewing decks and bridges.

Public Involvement

The idea gathering phase for development of the Burr Oak Woods Conservation Area Management Plan ran from March 1, 2017 – May 31, 2017. The objective of this phase was to inform stakeholders about the area planning process and ask them to share their ideas. To communicate about this comment period, staff:

- Developed fliers about Burr Oak Woods Conservation Area idea gathering phase and posted at Burr Oak Woods Conservation Area.
- Posted an online comment form available at mdc.mo.gov/areaplans.
- Sent news releases to local media outlets and posted on Missouri Department of Conservation Facebook page and Twitter feed.
- Sent an announcement to the area plan email list (8,000+ recipients).
- Made personal visits; sent mail and email to neighboring landowners, non-governmental organizations, Blue Springs Chamber of Commerce.
- Announced comment period at public programs.
- Comment table available at nature center lobby.
- Shared comment information with nature center volunteers.
- Posted on nature center Facebook page.
- Included information in May/June *Nature & You* newsletter.

Next Steps

The area planning team will take comments into consideration as they draft a 10-year management plan for Burr Oak Woods Conservation Area. The draft area management plan will be available online (likely Spring 2018) for a one-month-long comment period at mdc.mo.gov/areaplans. After that comment period, the plan will be finalized, and the final plan posted online.

DEMOGRAPHIC SUMMARY OF RESPONDENTS

Who responded?

From March 1, 2017 – May 31, 2017, we received 25 comments from 23 respondents for the Burr Oak Woods Conservation Area Idea Gathering Stage.

Table 1. Total number of respondents commenting during the idea gathering phase by respondent category.

Organization Type	Respondents
Individual Citizens (no affiliation listed)	23
TOTAL	23

How they responded

Table 2. Total number of each response type received.

Response Type	Comments
Web Comment Form	22
Hard Copy Comment Form	3
TOTAL	25

Where respondents are from

Table 3. Total number of responses categorized by each respondent's location.

State	Respondents	Percent
Missouri	22	96
Kansas	1	4
TOTAL	23	100

THEMES AND ISSUES IDENTIFIED THROUGH BURR OAK WOODS CONSERVATION AREA IDEA GATHERING PHASE (March 1, 2017 – May 31, 2017)

The Burr Oak Woods Conservation Area Idea Gathering Stage was available for a public idea gathering period March 1, 2017 – May 31, 2017. The Missouri Department of Conservation received 25 comments from 23 respondents. A brief summary of public input themes can be found below. The area planning team will take comments into consideration as they draft a 10-year management plan for Burr Oak Woods Conservation Area. The draft area management plan will be available online (likely Spring 2018) for a one-month-long comment period at mdc.mo.gov/areaplans. After that comment period, the plan will be finalized, and the final plan posted online.

Terrestrial Resource Management

- Supports managing habitat for birds.
- Suggests planting native wildflowers north of Pink Hill Road.
- Approves controlled burning of prairie areas.
- Concerned with trees cut down along Bethany Falls trail.

Aquatic Resource Management

- Suggests providing a fishing pond.

Public Use Management

Deer/Turkey Hunting

- Supports managed deer and turkey hunts.

Dogs

- Opposes allowing pets on area.
- Suggests allowing leashed dogs on designated trails.
- Suggests developing a dog training area that includes a wetland area for retrievers.

Camping

- Suggests adding camping opportunities north of Pink Hill Road.

Wildlife Watching

- Enjoys birdwatching at Burr Oak Woods CA.

Bicycles

- Appreciates bike riding at nature center.
- Opposes allowing bicycles on area.
- Suggests adding multi-use (hiking/biking) trail north of Pink Hill Road.

Trails

- Suggests adding more trails. Suggests adding trails north of Pink Hill Road.
- Suggests adding more trail markers.
- Suggests focusing on trail maintenance.
- Suggests adding a walking/jogging/biking path along the main road.
- Enjoys the trails as they are now.
- Suggests providing topographic trail map in addition to the existing map.
- Concerned with noisiness of gravel trails. Suggests switching to wood chips.

Running

- Suggests allowing running on area trails or developing a trail for runners.
- Suggests promoting and fundraising for Burr Oak Woods Conservation Area through a fun walk/run.

Volunteer Service

- Suggests having scout groups and other volunteers assist with roadside clean-up.

Nature Center

- Suggests adding a snack bar in with the nature center with patio seating.
- Suggests upgrading the current movie screen and sound capabilities in the auditorium and showing full length nature movies.
- Suggests creating a “homework home” where supervised children can come to do their homework with other children.

Interpretive Programs

- Suggests adding more programs that would draw more users who may not normally visit the area.
- Suggests hosting camping events for families to camp near nature center with access to restrooms.
- Suggests hosting programs in cooperation with birding organizations.
- Suggests adding tree identification signs.
- Suggests adding 1800s educational area with a log cabin north of Pink Hill Road.

Administrative Considerations

Area Infrastructure

- Suggests adding more benches so users can rest and view the scenery.
- Suggests opening up the area north of Pink Hill Road for greater public access. This may include adding a bridge over Pink Hill Road and adding another parking lot.
- Suggests redeveloping Bethany Falls trail head, including an update of the shelter and restroom.
- Suggests improving the parking area on Strode Road.

Area Regulations/Enforcement

- Suggests prohibiting boom-boxes and other loud audio devices.
- Suggests adding security cameras. Concerned about illegal uses of area after-hours.
- Opposes reservable shelters, parties, or weddings at this area.

Acquiring Land

- Supports expanding this area as opportunities arise.
- Supports acquiring more land to preserve natural communities.

Other Considerations

- Suggests properly marking Burr Oak Woods Conservation Area on Google Maps.
- Suggests opening the nature center on Sundays.
- Enjoys Burr Oak Woods Conservation Area.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1. Burr Oak Woods Conservation Area Idea Gathering Stage Vertical Poster

We Welcome Your Comments



As BURR OAK WOODS CONSERVATION NATURE CENTER celebrates its 35th year, the Missouri Department of Conservation is seeking input from visitors and our neighbors to develop an Area Plan to guide the next 10 years.

- To view the plan on line or submit comments, visit <mdc.mo.gov/areaplans>.
- Copies of the plan and comment cards are also available at the front desk.

Missourians care about conserving forests, fish and wildlife

*The plan will focus on land management and public use rather than on educational programs. The Nature Center is one of nearly 1,000 conservation areas owned or managed by MDC. These areas offer places to restore and conserve fish, forest, and wildlife resources and provide opportunity for citizens to use, enjoy, and learn about these resources. Conservation Areas are different than state or local parks that may place a greater emphasis on recreational activities.

Thank you for your interest in the management of your Burr Oak Woods Conservation Nature Center and Area!

Appendix 2. Burr Oak Woods Conservation Area Idea Gathering Stage Horizontal Poster



We Want To Hear From You

As Burr Oak Woods Nature Center celebrates its 35th year, the Missouri Department of Conservation is seeking visitor input to develop an Area Management Plan* to guide the next 10 years.



Stop by the front desk to pick up a comment card or visit mdc.mo.gov/areaplans to submit comments online through May 31.

For additional information contact us at 816-228-3766 or by email at burr.oak@mdc.mo.gov

*The plan will focus on land management and public use rather than on educational programs. The Nature Center is one of nearly 1,000 conservation areas owned or managed by MDC. These areas offer places to restore and conserve fish, forest, and wildlife resources and provide opportunity for citizens to use, enjoy, and learn about these resources. Conservation Areas are different than state or local parks that may place a greater emphasis on recreational activities.

Appendix 3. Burr Oak Woods Conservation Area Idea Gathering Stage Hard Copy Comment Card



We Want To Hear From You

As the Burr Oak Woods Conservation Nature Center celebrates its 35th year, the Missouri Department of Conservation is seeking visitor input to develop an Area Management Plan to guide the next 10 years.

Here's your opportunity to share your ideas and comments.

Name _____

Your email: _____

Organization affiliation (if any): _____

Complete mailing address: _____

Space on the back side for your written ideas and comments.

Please return your completed comment form to the front desk or mail it to:

Burr Oak Woods Conservation Nature Center
1401 NW Park Road
Blue Springs MO 64015-7727

You can also share your ideas online at: **mdc.mo.gov/areaplans**



over →

Appendix 4. Burr Oak Woods Idea Gathering Stage Press Release

March 17, 2017



MDC seeks public input for Burr Oak Woods plan
Citizens can offer ideas for area management through May 31

Kansas City, Mo. – The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) wants to know what Missourians think about its nearly 1,000 conservation areas around the state. The Burr Oak Woods Conservation Area in Blue Springs is among the areas with management plans currently under review.

MDC invites the public to provide comments about Burr Oak Woods to aid staff in updating plans for an area popular as a hiking and wildlife viewing destination. Interested persons or groups – including recreational users, neighboring landowners, conservation groups, elected officials and government agencies – can share ideas online through May 31 at <http://mdc.mo.gov/areaplans>.

This plan will focus on management of the forest, woodland, trails and restored native grasslands on the area. The Burr Oak Woods Nature Center building and educational programs are not part of this area management plan.

Burr Oak Woods was purchased in 1977 and was among the first conservation projects developed in a metropolitan area using funds from the one-eighth of 1 percent sales tax approved by voters in 1976 for forests, fish and wildlife. The area's 1,071 acres include forest, woodland, and restored native grassland habitats. Burr Oak Creek passes through the property. Six hiking trails thread among the varied habitat, with some sections passing the creek and impressive limestone bluff outcrops.

The Nature Center and trailheads are accessed via the entrance at 1401 N.W. Park Road in Blue Springs. But the conservation area also includes land north of Pink Hill Road. One north parking lot offers access to the area off Strode Road.

MDC staff will review comments as they develop a draft management plan for Burr Oak Woods Conservation Area. Decisions on which ideas to incorporate into area plans and on how best to incorporate them will be based on the property's purpose, its physical and biological conditions and capabilities, the best roles of the property in its local, regional and state-wide context, and on the professional expertise of MDC staff.

When the initial draft is complete, the Burr Oak Woods Area Plan will be posted online for additional public comments and will be available for viewing at <http://mdc.mo.gov/areaplans>.



Photos: MDC welcomes suggestions from the public for a long-range management plan for the Burr Oak Woods Conservation Area in Blue Springs. This plan is for management of forest, woodlands and native prairie restorations at the area.

Photos by Bill Graham, Missouri Department of Conservation

MEDIA CONTACT:

Bill Graham

Media Specialist

816-759-7305 x1131

Bill.Graham@mdc.mo.gov

Appendix 5. Nature & You Newsletter



As Burr Oak Woods celebrates its 35th year, the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) is seeking visitor input to develop an Area Management Plan to guide the next 10 years. The plan will focus on land management and public use rather than on educational programs.

Burr oak Woods is one of nearly 1,000

conservation areas owned or managed by MDC. These areas offer places to restore and conserve forest, fish and wildlife resources and provide opportunity for citizens to use, enjoy and learn about these resources. Conservation areas are different than state

or local parks that may place a greater emphasis on recreational activities.

Visit <https://mdc.mo.gov/areaplans> to submit comments online, or stop by the nature center to fill out a comment card through May 31. For more information, feel free to contact us at 816-228-3766, or by e-mail at BurrOak@mdc.mo.gov.

Nature & You • May/June 2017 3

Appendix 6. Burr Oak Woods Nature Center Facebook Notice

Posted at Burr Oak Woods Nature Center Facebook Page



Burr Oak Woods Nature Center
May 22 · 🌐

As Burr Oak Woods celebrates its 35th year, the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) is seeking visitor input to develop an Area Management Plan to guide the next 10 years. The plan will focus on land management and public use rather than on educational programs. Burr oak Woods is one of nearly 1,000 conservation areas owned or managed by MDC. These areas offer places to restore and conserve forest, fish and wildlife resources and provide opportunity for citizens to use, enjoy and learn about these resources. Conservation areas are different than state or local parks that may place a greater emphasis on recreational activities. Visit <https://mdc.mo.gov/areaplans> to submit comments online, or stop by the nature center to fill out a comment card through May 31. For more information, feel free to contact us at 816-228-3766, or by e-mail at BurrOak@mdc.mo.gov.



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MDC manages nearly one million Missouri acres for conservation and public use. Browse FAQs and comment on conservation area management plans.

MDC.MO.GOV

👍 Like 💬 Comment ➦ Share

Glorioso Tree and Heather Renee Barnhart like this.

Appendix 7. Burr Oak Woods Nature Center Neighbor Letter

Hello neighbor!

I am contacting you to establish a new line communication with you. Being our closest neighbors, I know you have a vested interest in the management of Burr Oak Woods Conservation Area, and we want to know what you think.

We Want To Hear From You

As Burr Oak Woods Conservation Nature Center celebrates its 35th year, the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) is seeking visitor input to develop an Area Management Plan to guide the next 10 years. The plan will focus on land management and public use rather than on educational programs. The Nature Center is one of nearly 1,000 conservation areas owned or managed by MDC. These areas offer places to restore and conserve forest, fish, and wildlife resources and provide opportunity for citizens to use, enjoy, and learn about these resources. Conservation Areas are different than state or local parks that may place a greater emphasis on recreational activities.

Visit mdc.mo.gov/areaplans to submit comments online, or stop by the Nature Center to fill out a comment card through May 31. For more information, feel free to contact us at 816-228-3766, or by e-mail at [Burr Oak@mdc.mo.gov](mailto:BurrOak@mdc.mo.gov)

There are also times when I would like to be able to contact you to let you know about specific activities occurring on the conservation area or the nature center such as a prescribed burn or a youth managed hunt.

Please consider emailing, mailing or stopping by to share your name and contact information. This information will not be shared. Feel free to contact me any time. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Lisa LaCombe
Burr Oak Woods Nature Center Manager
1401 NW Park Road
Blue Springs, MO. 64015
816 228 3766
lisa.lacombe@mdc.mo.gov

Appendix 8. Comments Received During Burr Oak Woods Conservation Area Idea Gathering Phase (March 1, 2017 – May 31, 2017)

<p>I think the managed deer and turkey hunts that are held at this location are great opportunities and should be continued. Thanks for your consideration.</p>
<p>The populace loves Burr Oaks in Blue Springs, even when a child, young adult, and now as an adult I count on Burr Oaks. It's been around nearly as long as I have. 1979 year born citizen.</p>
<p>I love Burr Oak Woods. I feel that it has been managed very well. I would only suggest that MDC continue to focus on trail maintenance.</p>
<p>The pine forest at the entrance has been delightful for me and my friends to find birds and to hike. Please continue to provide bird habitat throughout the property. The property north of Pink Hill Rd. could be improved for native wildflowers and a family-friendly trail. Also add some Benches to rest and to view the scenery. Access to a fishing pond would be nice.</p>
<p>My primary comment is: Keep out any business or residential development within the park itself. Do a fundraising walk/run within the park twice a year to supplement state funding (on a small scale of course) and promote Burr Oaks itself. I see folks running in the park all the time. Maybe get boy/girl scout troops or other volunteer individuals involved in keeping roadside cleaned up.</p>
<p>Have the area marked on google maps. For some reason, the area does not come up in green, which google uses to designate nature areas / parks / recreational spots.</p>
<p>develop dog training areas including a wetlands area for retrievers. allow running on the trails or develop a trail for runners.</p>
<p>I I lived about 5 blocks away from Burr Oak Woods for the first 18 years of my life, and still visit it frequently. I would like it to stay as natural and peaceful as possible. I don't really want any changes done to it, at least none that I can think of. The trails are wonderful, and I love that there are different kinds to pick from. My family and I always has used Burr Oak Woods for walking/hiking, meditation, and to learn about and observe nature.</p>
<p>Enjoyed hiking at Burr Oak Woods last week. The trails are very well maintained and easy navigate. The only suggestions I would have is more trail markers, so you are always reminded that you are on the right path, and more identification tags on trees as you take the Missouri Tree Trail. Both of these improvements would be perfect projects for either a scout troop or a scout working on their Eagle Badge. I look forward to more hiking at Burr Oak Woods.</p>
<p>Thank you!</p>
<p>Visited 3/22/2017 to view earl Spring - ie, bud swell on trees. Very few wildflowers emerging yet. Loved the Grey Fox story on the trail signs. My suggestions: id and mark more trees - "harder" ones. The few you have marked are pretty much universally known by anyone who has grown up here and even thinks to walk a trail for fun. This should be easy and a definite improvement. Secondly mark a few trails enroute to make walking longer trails possible. It can</p>

get confusing out there. Once again, an easy fix and does not have to be an eyesore. Thirdly, its been dry. No good time for prairie burning, I assume. Darn. Last the Bethany Falls Trail looks like a blowdown site with many trees cut low and nicely but still rather unsightly in a natural area. I wonder if any further cleanup is possible. We like this park. Trying to id the oaks and hickories is great fun.

This is a followup to the email I just sent 3/23/2017. It is hard to get to the comment page on Burr Oak Woods proposals. Other proposals are readily accessed. EX. If you use the generic link, many projects pop up as links. Not Burr Oak project. The only way I got here - to this page - is by typing Burr Oak Woods in the header. I think some people will give up.

It would be nice to open up the property north of Pink Hill Road for greater public access. In this area it might be possible to add additional hiking trails, organized group camping, educational areas with possible log cabin recreation - 1800's settlement educational area. This would require parking and access road upgrades. You could tie this area to the nature center with a pedestrian bridge across Pink Hill Road.

You might consider adding a snack bar in the nature center with patio seating.

Upgrade movie screen and sound capabilities in the auditorium. Show full length nature related movies similar to science city.

The CAs that are close to cities need a strong draw to bring those who might not otherwise get outdoors to the area. Burr Oak woods has much to offer now, but it is generally drawing citizens who enjoy and visit the outdoors often. Maybe a game of some kind for adults, children or both many people enjoy a challenge. A reward of some sort could be offered. To tie it into a sporting event of some sort might help people relate. I love all of the CAs I've visited. I just wish more people would put down their cell phones, step away from their computers and tvs and enjoy the GREAT outdoors. That's why innovated ideas are need to draw them out . Thank You

More walking trails please! We'd love to see trails added to some of the areas that have none right now: by the entrance, by the area where you can park your cars on the north side of the road between the entrance and the Nature Center and off of Pink Hill Rd.

Also please open the Nature Center on Sundays! That is a prime day to visit the area and it seems odd that it's not open. You are missing a key day for families, etc. to visit the center. To us it would make more sense to have it closed say Mon & Tue than Sun and Mon. You'd still have three days to allow schools, etc. to visit. But having it closed on one of the two days when most families, etc. can visit together is crazy.

We live real close to Burr Oak Woods and love riding our bikes there and walking the trails. We try to do so at least once a week. We feel very blessed and honored to have it so close to us. We love it, and it's a great Conservation Area!

Expansion on the north side of Pink Hill to include a network of running trails, and biking trails. Keep the more recreational trails separate from the main area.

This area has been a favorite of ours for many years. I grew up in the area and remember visiting as a child as well. Overall BOWCA is well run and a great local resource.

We would love to see redevelopment of the Bethany Falls trail head area (update of the shelter and restroom). We would also be interested in primitive and/or group camping in the area north of Pink Hill, perhaps accessible from Strode Rd. A camping event would also be neat if just offered once or twice a year where families could camp near the nature center w/ use of the restrooms.

We also enjoy bird watching and would be interested in a program in cooperation with Audubon or other organizations to have bird counts at BOWCA.

Develop trails in the northern portion of the conservation area. Figure out how to connect trails in the highly frequented southern portion of the conservation area with trails in the northern portion of the conservation area. Possible connections include a pedestrian underpass (preferred option), either newly constructed (preferred solution) or using an existing culvert (if available). The other option would be a surface level pedestrian crossing with stripes and signs and a blinking light and a button to stop traffic to enable pedestrians to safely cross.

Continue to expand trails in the southern portion of the conservation area, which can be minimally improved--like the newly opened trails in northeasterly part of the southern portion of the conservation area.

Improve the new parking area accessed from the north boundary of the northern portion of the conservation area.

Consider trails along the water courses in some of the ravines.

Provide (an) additional trail map(s) with real topographic lines and markings--in addition to the existing map. The new map could be for purchase if budget is a concern.

Continue the prohibition of bikes, ATVs and pets on all trails in the conservation area. Add prohibition of boom-boxes and other loud audio devices.

Expand the acreage of the conservation area as opportunities arise. I

P.S. We like the conservation area, use it regularly, and have used frequently for years.

Burr Oak Woods is an excellent well managed conservation area that provides people a place to get outside and explore nature. The trails are well maintained and provide many opportunities to

view wildlife. Also, the no pets policy is very important to keeping the area as 'natural' as possible and is what makes this area attractive to many over other areas. If there is room for even more trails I would be all for it. Maybe one that lines the edges of some of the fields.

Just following this now.

Love the trails, hate the gravel. The sound the gravel, or chat, make is loud and annoying. I believe it scares the wild life and takes away from a nice walk in the woods. I understand the need to maintain the trails, but could you use something a little less noisy, like wood chips? I'm finding it difficult to distinguish the difference between a walk in the woods and a walk through the neighborhood.

I also noticed this winter that the trails, when wet, were quite slipper and dangerous with the gravel. I don't ever remember this happening in the past when the trails were mostly dirt.

What's with all the trees being chopped down? The last weekend when I went for a walk on the Bethany Falls trail I was miffed and dismayed to see so many big trees littering the side of the trail. I understand the need to keep the guests safe, but there were many trees off into the woods that met with a chainsaw addict. I must say I'm not a fan of chopping down trees so younger trees can live. This is not the way of the wild. I want an older forest with large trees towering over me on my walks through the woods. Not the product of someone justifying their jobs.

Burr Oak Woods Conservation Area is not a park, and I hope the new management plan will continue to reflect an emphasis on the conservation of the area - no dogs, no reserving shelters, no parties or weddings, etc. There are plenty of beautiful parks in the area where those kinds of activities can take place.

A walking/jogging/biking path along the main road in the park would be fantastic. The current combination of pedestrian and vehicle traffic is a disaster waiting to happen, especially late in the day when the sun is in the eyes of drivers heading into the area. It can be very hard to see foot traffic and bicycles on the road, and they don't seem to realize they are in potential danger.

Security is an issue, with vehicle break-ins high on the list of observable problems. Misuse of the area, though, like drug use, drinking, lighting fires, etc will also eventually discourage responsible users of Burr Oak Woods from coming out to use this conservation area. Maybe security cameras? Is it possible to have some kind of patrol of the area during and after hours?

Thank you for the opportunity for input!

(Hardcopy comment): buy more land to preserve natural communities

(Hardcopy comment): I love this place grew up coming here and now my kids is time and they love it

(Hardcopy comment): 1. I would love to see certain trails be designated for leashed dogs. 2. I would love to have a designated "homework Home" after school 1 or 2 times/week, kids can

come (w/ an adult) and do homework. Being around other kids during homework may help encourage kids to do what they don't want to do.