

Lebanon Township is creating a forest stewardship master plan for public forests owned by the Township

Funded by a grant from the Highlands Council, this plan will provide guidance regarding how to better care for our forests. Creating this plan involves multiple steps including <u>selecting the goals</u> and <u>soliciting feedback from stakeholders</u>.

Eight goals were identified to help determine which action-oriented objectives and stewardship recommendations are will be included in the plan for public forests owned by Lebanon Township:

- 1) Protect and improve water quality, which includes managing forests to reduce erosion, runoff, and pollution into streams and wetlands
- 2) Reduce non-native invasive plants like barberry, stiltgrass, mile-a-minute, bamboo, etc.
- 3) Reduce grazing of overabundant deer which heavily impacts forest vegetation
- 4) Increase passive outdoor public recreation such as hiking, fishing, wildlife viewing, etc.
- 5) Increase the ability of water to enter the ground and recharge the groundwater supply
- 6) Increase habitat for a diversity of native wildlife
- 7) Reduce impacts of forest pests and diseases like emerald ash borer, beech leaf disease, etc.
- 8) Increase vegetation diversity to help forests survive droughts and warmer temperatures

Let us know what you think about these goals for public forests owned by Lebanon Township

Click here to take the survey by March 22 or visit https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/P25W3KB.

You may also email us at Itenv@lebtwp.net or provide comments in person at one of our meetings (7pm on March 4 or April 9 at the municipal building).