



MEMORANDUM

110593

9/27/11

TO: Environmental Concerns Committee

THROUGH: Carl S. Goldsmith, Director of Public Works *cy*

FROM: David P. Gorman, Asst. Director of Public Works *DPG*

SUBJECT: **Buckthorn Removal Project**

DATE: September 21, 2011

Following up on discussion from the Committee's meeting on August 23rd, this memo defines the scope of the proposed buckthorn removal project and outlines the process, including a requested recommendation from the ECC for consideration by the Village Board. The project would take place on Lombard Pride Day, April 28, 2012.

Volunteers and Oversight:

Volunteers would be directed by Assistant Director of Public Works Dave Gorman and ECC Members Dustin Smith and Jason Cooper. These ECC members are licensed landscape architects. Approximately 100 volunteers would be needed for this project, split between both trails. These volunteers would come from the groups that routinely help on Pride Day, including Comcast, scouts, civic clubs, church groups, PTA groups, local businesses, and families. Additional volunteers are expected through the IPP's not-for profit corporation (see attached letter) and the Sierra Club. All volunteers would sign waivers and would be asked to bring their own loppers, hatchets and leather work gloves. The Village would also have a limited supply of used work gloves available. The ECC Members would be responsible for one path each and would travel amongst work crews by bicycle. The Assistant Director would travel both paths to provide additional oversight, as well as visiting other areas in the Village where other volunteers will be removing trash from Village properties.

Scope of Work:

The entire lengths of the Illinois Prairie Path (IPP) and the Great Western Trail (GWT) through the Village limits contain buckthorn so it is envisioned that full removal from the paths would take multiple years. Other invasive trees may be girdled or removed in a limited number under the direction of the landscape architects. The work period is to be 9AM to noon as in past years in order to keep the effort manageable and to stop at lunchtime.

Pre-Project:

The Village would apply for a right-of-way permit from DuPage County. A letter would be sent to each property owner directly adjacent to the IPP and GWT to inform them of the purpose and scope of the project. Small signs would also be placed intermittently on

the day of the event and left in place for the following couple weeks. Questions would be directed to the Village's website and the Assistant Director of Public Works. While the majority of the public should understand that the removal of buckthorn is a necessary improvement, there will likely be complaints about the temporary barren areas, which would fill in with other desirable plants due to the newfound space and sunlight. Some additional seeds would be cast in those areas by the landscape architects, as their limited supplies of self-collected and donated seeds allow, in order to supplement what is believed to be an already sufficient seed bed.

Saturday 4/28/12 (Lombard Pride Day): Volunteers would work in crews with their own loppers and hatchets to cut buckthorn trees up to 2" diameter at ground level. Larger trees would be "girdled", which is cutting a ring around a tree to prevent nutrient transport in order to kill a tree without needing to remove it. No chain saws would be used in the interest of safety. One adult per crew would then brush herbicide (Triclopyr) onto the stumps. This chemical is classified for general use but chemical resistant gloves are necessary. The volunteers would remove the debris to a Village right-of-way for later pickup by Village crews during normal working hours.

Monday 4/30/12 – Friday 5/4/12: Village employees would chip the brush and remove it from the right-of-ways. The chips would be stored for a period deemed sufficient by the Village's Forestry & Urban Landscape Supervisor to kill seeds as a result of the heat generated in the storage pile.

Subsequent Work: Additional cutting and removal later in the year could be conducted by volunteers after providing notification to and obtaining written permission from DuPage County. This is anticipated to be an annual project in order to fully remove and control the buckthorn and, eventually, other invasive trees and bushes.

Costs:

There would be no costs incurred for labor since all work by paid employees is to be during regular working hours. The only costs would be for the arboricide and chemical resistant gloves, which can be covered within the existing Forestry budget.

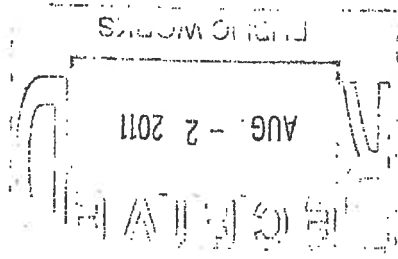
Recommendation:

Staff recommends that the ECC vote to recommend the Buckthorn Removal Project to the Village's Board of Trustees and to authorize Staff to submit the requisite right-of-way permit application to DuPage County.

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attachment: IPPc letter dated 7/23/11

cc: Steve Kremske, Forestry & Urban Landscape Supervisor



Saturday, July 23, 2011

David P. Gorman
Asst. Director of Public Works
Village Of Lombard
1051 S. Hammerschmidt Avenue
Lombard, IL 60148
(630) 620-5740

David P. Gorman:

The Illinois Prairie Path not-for-profit corporation (IPPC) fully supports the Village Of Lombard's Environmental Concerns Committee's efforts to eradicate buckthorn along the Illinois Prairie Path (IPP). I understand this process will take place in conjunction with the Lombard Pride Day. *4/28/12*

Removal of buckthorn and other invasive vegetation species along the IPP is a high priority of the IPPC Board of Directors. If there is anything that we can do to help with this effort, please let us know.

Bob Sobie, President
The Illinois Prairie Path not-for-profit corporation
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