



Riverwoods Preservation Council

A group of resident volunteers

dedicated to preserving the ecological heritage of the community.

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Dear Friends and Neighbors:

The Riverwoods Village Board is considering major changes in the rules regarding fences in the Village, which would have a profound effect on our woodlands. The Riverwoods Preservation Council is on the front lines, speaking on behalf of our woodlands. Now we need your support.

The RPC recently conducted an expert study to examine the health of our woodlands. The study concluded that, while Riverwoods is blessed with many wonderful old trees, the woodlands are under great stress. The study identified the likely causes, and recommended measures to improve the health of the woodlands.

These issues can be complex and controversial. We don't claim to have all of the answers to the environmental challenges facing our community. However, we are advocating a common sense approach that makes the health of our woodlands a top priority.

For example, rather than limiting deer fences before analyzing the environmental and financial impact of such changes, the RPC has urged the Village Board to develop an integrated woodland management plan that would include educating residents about caring for the woodlands, managing deer populations and making the Village's existing programs for reforestation and invasives removal more user-friendly.

What else has the RPC done this year? We conducted the second annual helicopter deer survey with the Lake County Forest Preserve and wildlife biologists, initiated a "census" of the largest and oldest trees in Riverwoods, hosted a lively Mayoral Candidates' environmental forum, presented a program on gypsy moths that led to a renewal of spraying in response to heavy infestation, reported bi-monthly on Village Board meetings and published articles in the Village Voice.

What will the RPC be doing in the future? As a follow up to the RPC's woodland health study, we will work with the Environmental and Forestry Committees of the Village Board on a proposed woodland management plan. We will complete the mature tree census, and will continue to present timely educational programs, Board reports and Village Voice articles.

Most importantly, RPC will continue to speak up regarding environmental issues that impact our Village. We want to continue to represent your interests, so we need to hear from you. Please send us your comments! Our email, snail mail and website addresses are provided at the top of this letter.

The RPC is supported by your contributions, which have paid for our past efforts. We are an all-volunteer organization, but we sometimes call upon expert scientists who can be expensive. We need your donations to continue our important work. Please complete and return the form on the back of this letter with your tax-deductible check. **Thank you!**