

Recommendations and Priorities

1. **Maintain the position of Forester/Horticulturist with an appropriate salary and an adequate budget.**
2. **Remove from the parks all serious threats to park and human health as soon as they are identified.**

Details:

Oak wilt and hazard trees, for example, require immediate attention because falling trees can injure residents and their property while a tree disease can kill many of the trees in our parks.

3. **Recruit and organize volunteers to help the Forester/Horticulturist.**

Details:

Cultivate a group of core volunteers who not only support the Forester in his/her efforts in park maintenance, but also invest themselves in community commitment to the Village. With the help of the Parks Committee, the Forester can educate volunteers to rid parks as well as their own property of noxious and exotic plants. Because invasive species are ever present, this needs to be an ongoing program.

A committed corps of volunteers can educate their neighbors about the perils of dumping on park land, the rigors of the tree ordinance, and the seasons for pulling garlic mustard. These volunteers can also work with the Forester and the Garden Club to develop "adopt-a-park" projects and with the schools to teach young people about stewardship.

4. **Continue to eliminate invasive non-native species from Shorewood Hills.**

Details:

Educate Village residents about invasive non-native plants and continue to remove them from parklands.

5. **Replant and maintain appropriate native plants where non-native species have been removed.**

6. **Establish lines of communication among all Village committees whose actions and decisions affect parklands and shorelines.**

Details:

Chairs of all these groups should meet twice each year to discuss their priorities and review the effects of recent actions on the parks system as a whole.

7. **Establish a method of assessing parks progress.**

Details:

Have the Village Forester establish a system of record keeping for each park. This record should include the annual goals for each park, the efforts made to achieve the goals, and the results of those efforts. These assessments will allow Foresters and Village residents to learn which methods work. In addition, records of successful restoration are necessary to justify new major efforts. The records will also create a useful history for all future Foresters, Parks Committees, and Village Boards and justify funding for parks restoration and maintenance.

8. **Safeguard lands currently designated for park use and increase total parklands whenever possible.**

Details:

Protect all lands that are currently functioning as parklands. Accept gifts of free parkland and purchase parkland when available.