

June 3, 2024

This is a revision of a letter I sent in 2021.

October 25, 2021

To: The City of the Village of Douglas City Council

From: Betsy York, 143 Harbor Ct. Douglas

Subject: Wildlife Plans

In the Tri-Community Master Plan and in the Douglas City Plan, there are many mentions of people wanting Wildlife corridors and retention of wildlife habitat but there is no goal or work plan in either document.

I would ask Council to make sure these two factors are included in future plans with specific work plans and goals.

We have experienced a lot of growth in town and have seen a lot of wildlife habitat, mainly trees and brushy areas, disappear.

All the chopped trees and bushes beneath are home for wild animals. Part of the charm of this area is the rural or woodsy feel. Once you live here, you fall in love with your new neighbors...geese, fox, deer, turkeys and many more.

Planting trees is one of the best things we can do to help the planet and it is good for visitors and business. Visitors to this area like the natural feeling of trees and wildlife. The most popular item picked up by visitors at the Saugatuck Douglas Convention and Visitor's Bureau is the Hiking Trails map created by Chris Clark.

For many residents, the natural feel of trees and brush are healing and good for the soul. I would guess that many visitors look forward to seeing local animals.

I think it would be good for Douglas to make sure we preserve that which brought us to this area in the first place. As a point of information, if you are not aware, the Township is revising their ordinances and are willing to share their revisions which include some good tree and lighting ordinances.