

**Bird Box Subcommittee of the Wyomissing Park & Shade Tree Commission –**

**Summary of Zoom meeting on Friday, February 28, 2025.**

Lucy's walkaround with Duane on February 26

- 4 boxes are to be removed and not replaced at this time, for a variety of reasons: These are #4, 9, 19, and 28 on the 2024 map
- 1 box in poor condition in 2024 and removed due to the sewer project will not be replaced until all work in that area is concluded: Box #17
- 6 boxes are to be replaced, along with the posts: #3, 5, 7, 14, 25, and 27.
- Duane carefully marked the exact locations for new boxes, with an arrow to indicate to the crew which direction entrance holes are to face (east). Since his crew's work load is about to explode, they will need to get this done next week (week of March 3)
- Lucy wrapped orange electrician's tape around Bo 29 to obstruct the entrance hole. This box AND nearby Box #1 were claimed by the same male House Sparrow last year, who trapped and killed a Tree Swallow in Box #29. Limiting him to one box this spring should make it easier to trap him. Then Box #29 can be made available.
- When I told Duane that I suspect snakes repeatedly took bluebird eggs or hatchlings from Box #14 (in the middle of the small, level meadow behind the Sherk Bench) he told me that he has seen more snakes in that section of the park than anywhere else. I asked him to remove the present box, with its wooden post, and install a T-post without a box at this time. An effort will be made to install a stovepipe baffle on this post to deter the snakes, and when we obtain boxes from Ken Leister we should not need help from the park crew to install the box.

These changes will leave 12 boxes in the section of the park between Ruth's Bridge and Old Mill Rd, and 13 boxes between Ruth's Bridge and the Quarry.

We reviewed the most recent message from Ken Leister, in which he shared that both he and his wife have been ill. He hopes to have boxes for us by March 8.

The 5 boxes built by Art Zdancewic were painted white by Jean Seelig, to help protect nesting birds during heat waves. Water-based, exterior latex paint with a high Light Reflectance Value was used.

On February 27, during a work session involving Lucy, Jean, and Helen, entrance hole protectors were installed on the 5 white boxes and 5 Noel guards were made. We will keep the Noel guards in reserve, installing them only on boxes with evidence of predation.

New number medallions will be attached to boxes only after the park maintenance crew has installed the new boxes.

The same field data sheets used last year will be used again, with training of the new monitors in their use. Helen is going to attempt to create a Google Document all the

monitors are able to edit, in order to enter their weekly observations. We will adjust the system as needed.

Lucy will act as a trainer, trouble-shooter, and 'float' monitor this year – leaving the 25 boxes to be divided among 5 monitors in this way:

Helen Davis:        Boxes #1, 2, 3, 4, 6

Quindi Franco:    Boxes # 5, 8, 10, 18, 29

Margaret Cosbey: Boxes # 11, 12, 25, 26, 27

Jean Seelig:        Boxes # 16, 20, 21, 24, 30

Chris Hennessy  
(and Annabelle)    Boxes #13, 14, 15, 31, 32

Each monitor is responsible for doing a pre-season check of their boxes, so that any cleaning or minor repairs can be accomplished prior to the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of March. The monitoring season will begin the week of March 16.

**PUBLIC EDUCATION:** Lucy and Jean will work together to create 2 8 1/2 x 11" notices for the park kiosk near Old Mill Rd. One notice will explain the appearance of the white boxes, and the other will urge park-goers to avoid approaching close to the boxes and inform them that anyone who wishes to commit regular time and effort to managing the nest box trail can contact our borough manager. We talked about posting photos of the cavity-nesting birds that typically use our boxes.

# Why White Nest Boxes?

Some of the new nest boxes installed in the park this year have been painted white to help protect eggs and young birds from dangerous heat. The temperature inside a box can be as much as 10 degrees higher than the outside air temperature. We used an exterior, water-based latex paint with a high Light Reflectance Value.



# **PLEASE! DO NOT APPROACH NESTING BIRDS**

**All the oversight and regular monitoring beneficial to the birds that use the Wyomissing Park nest box trail is provided by a team of trained volunteers, with the approval of the borough.**

**Park visitors are asked to enjoy observing these birds from a respectful distance, to minimize disturbance during egg-laying and raising of the young.**

**If you are interested in devoting regular time and effort to helping with this project, contact:**

**Wyomissing Borough Manager  
Michele Bare 610-376-7481**



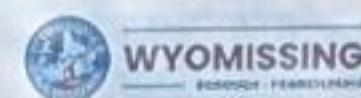




GLOBAL LYME ALLIANCE



The plan, which is currently underway, will recommend changes to the way the park landscape is managed in order to improve stormwater management, environmental quality, and human enjoyment.



WYOMISSING  
BOROUGH, PENNSYLVANIA



#### HELP NEEDED! Wyomissing Park's 'Bluebird Trail'



Campaigns to encourage placement of nest boxes for bluebirds began in the 1960's, motivated by concern for the conservation of the species and by the enjoyment to be had from having this beautiful bird as a neighbor. Ongoing challenges to the success of this bird include competition for nesting cavities from the non-native House Sparrow, over-use of pesticides on lawns and in agriculture, exposure to PCBs, and outdoor cats.

Bird species who need cavities for nesting and who have benefited from provision of boxes include the Eastern Bluebird, Tree Swallows, American Kestrels, Purple Martins, and some owls and wrens.

Research has determined box design features important for nesting success, such as the size of the entrance hole, depth of the box, and area of the box floor.

Over 30 boxes in the park are designed for bluebirds but are used by a variety of other native birds as well: Tree Swallows, House Wrens, and Carolina Chickadees. The House Sparrow—an aggressive non-native bird from Europe which takes boxes away from the native birds and may kill them in the process—has become a problem in some sections of the park.

Nest boxes that are not properly designed, monitored, and managed can do more harm than good, as they may result in nesting efforts doomed to failure by predation, insect infestation, House Sparrow attack, or other hazards.

Management of the nest boxes in this park is carried out with oversight from the borough and with the assistance of the park maintenance staff. Any activity involving nest boxes in the park must be coordinated through the Borough Manager, Michele Bare, 610-376-7481, ext. 108 or [mbare@wyomissingboro.org](mailto:mbare@wyomissingboro.org). Boxes installed without permission, and those without a monitor registered with the Borough may be removed or moved.

More help is needed now with both monitoring the boxes and keeping the boxes in good repair. If you are interested in being trained to join the team, or have carpentry skills to offer, please contact the Borough Manager.

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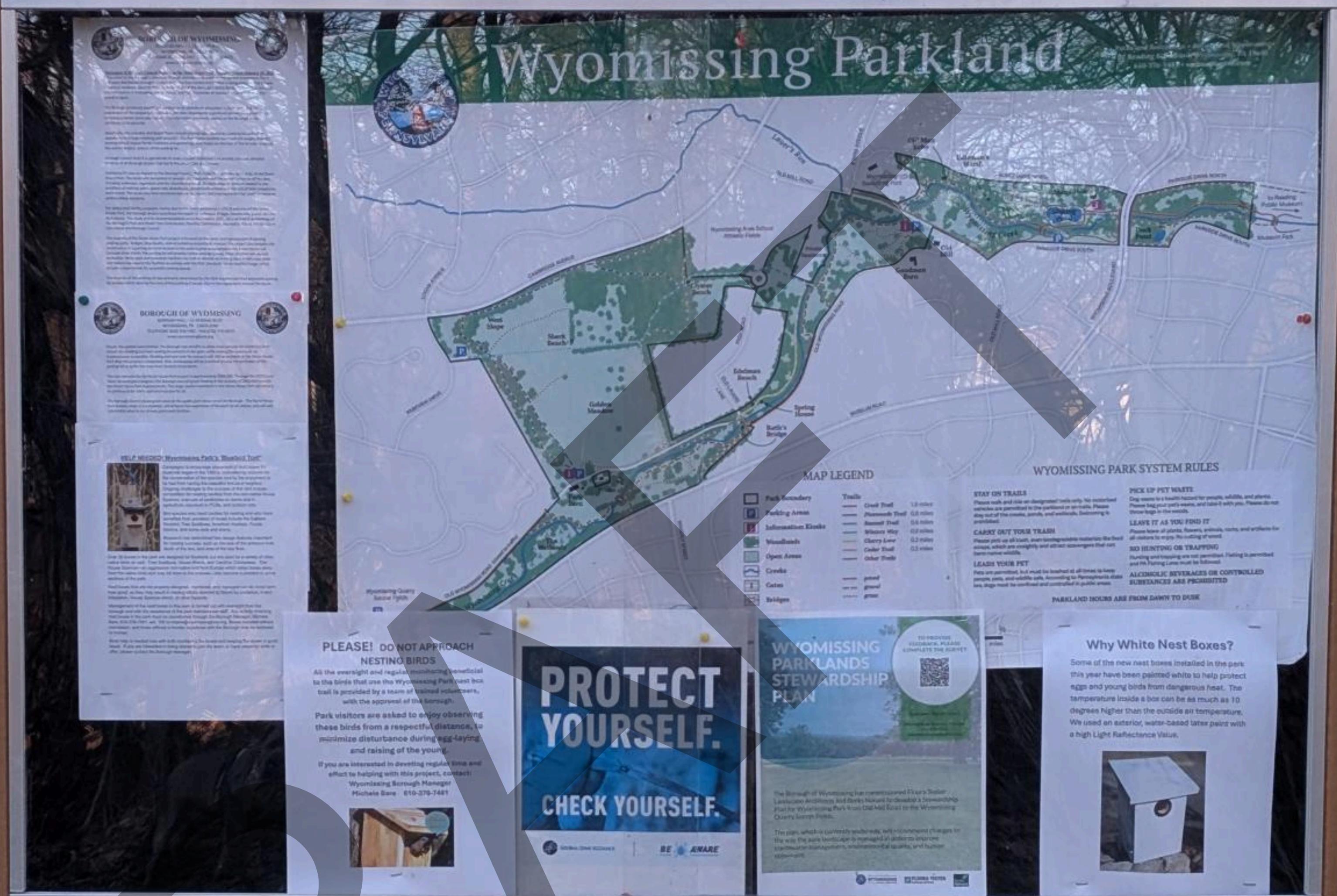
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## Park & Shade Tree Commission

Good afternoon,

I am greatly interested in preserving the green spaces & trees of Wyomissing. I am a 5 1/2 year resident and enjoy walking Old Wyomissing. On my walks I have noticed some weakened trees or trees that could just use some TLC as far as better planting or mulching. While I have no formal training, I previously owned over an acre of land and educated myself on the importance of trees and the types for windbreaks, soil erosion, wildlife & beautification.

I do work a full time job but would be able to work my schedule around when your group meets. I would also be willing to be on a subcommittee, with interest in the bird box committee.

Thank-you for your consideration.

Regards,  
Carol Nye  
939 Franklin St  
Wyomissing  
[REDACTED]

DRAFT

# Daniela Modesto

63 Wyomissing Hills Blvd  
Reading PA, 19609  
[REDACTED]

February 17, 2025

Dear Jen,

As I mentioned briefly in my email, I have a deep love and appreciation for all things nature related. It is difficult to overstate how much I care for our neighborhood and all the trees surrounding us. This area would not be what it is, were it not for the plants and trees that provide us with so much beauty and health.

A little bit about me - I currently work full time in clinical research but also have a gluten and dairy-free website where I focus on cooking with local ingredients for better health. My aim is on educating people about cooking simply with good ingredients to support their health and wellness.

I would be a fool if I didn't mention the intricate connection that people and plants play in each other's lives, though not enough of us feel this connection to the outdoors. I'd love the opportunity to be involved in helping with anything that expands our green spaces and educates people in understanding that they can make a difference in their local environment.

My plan for the spring is to plant herbs that attract pollinators and can also be cultivated to be made into tea. (Working with herbs tea is another fascination) I also like to grow vegetables I can easily pick from my back yard.

I would be honored to be considered for the role as a member of the Park and Shade Commission.

Thank you for your time!

Sincerely,  
Daniela

Dear Members of the Park & Shade Tree Commission,

I am writing to express my strong interest in joining the Wyomissing Park & Shade Tree Commission. As someone deeply committed to fostering a strong sense of community, I would welcome the opportunity to contribute my time and experience to preserving and enhancing our community's outdoor spaces.

My passion for community engagement has shaped much of my involvement over the years. I previously served as a school board member in another township, where I gained firsthand experience working collaboratively to address local needs and advocate for policies that benefit residents. Additionally, for nine years, I led a nonprofit organization, further strengthening my ability to organize initiatives, engage with stakeholders, and drive meaningful change.

Beyond my professional and volunteer experience, I have a personal connection to our parks and open spaces. Each day, I take a three-mile walk through the community, during which I make a point to pick up litter—an effort inspired by a beach walker I encountered in Key West. This simple act has reinforced my appreciation for maintaining clean and accessible public spaces. Our parks serve as vital gathering places that promote health, recreation, and a sense of belonging, and I would be honored to help ensure they continue to thrive.

I welcome the opportunity to discuss how my background and passion align with the committee's goals. Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to contributing to Wyomissing's outdoor spaces and the community it supports.

Sincerely,  
Jeff Doubek