

# Evangelista



**Floral and Landscape Studio**

September 25, 2019

To: Whom it may concern

My name is Wanda Evangelista. I am the owner of Evangelista Floral and Landscape Studio. We have been working with the owners of The Alcove over the last year with regard to the existing status of the approximate 6 acres of forest, prairie and grass areas.

Our initial goal was to identify the function of the property and the condition of the landscape surrounding its use. In doing so, we brought in experts in the Chicagoland area to review the existing conditions of the landscape.

We identified neglected forest, prairie and grassland areas. These areas which should be rich in biodiversity and wildlife are currently detritus, unhealthy and unsightly. There is overcrowding of invasive plant species, a lack of wildlife, pests and habitat which is denuded and denigrated by neglect and mismanagement, all of which can be restored through modern conservation practices and careful stewardship.

The owners have requested a plan to restore the forest and prairie areas as well as the landscape function of the asset. Our goal in correlation with the owners is to showcase the historic value of the building, facilitating regeneration, and improving the canopy, understory and prairie for aesthetics and wildlife habitat — all with minimal disturbance.

Although this plan is in the preliminary stages, in order to complete the heavy task of restoration, it is necessary to include the community and government offices in the planning and economic benefits of these changes to community, wildlife and humans to restore this area.

Healthy forests produce nut production for wildlife, faster tree growth and potential forest production, desirable natural tree production and wildlife cover in the understory for nesting, fawning, loafing and hiding.



Healthy prairies build soil, capture carbon, trap sediment and support pollinators. Depending upon our individual preferences, prairies also provide us with flowers to enjoy, birds and butterflies to watch, and bees for pollination. Prairie restoration enhances the environment. It increases the abundance of native plants, increase ecological diversity, and therefore creates habitats for native animals and insects. Prairies absorb a lot of rain, reducing erosion and runoff, just to name a few benefits.

Healthy Grasslands provides our ecosystem with sufficient clean water, helps prevent floods, and promotes the natural production crops. Grasslands are also essential to carbon sequestration, which is crucial to soil health.



Successful **restoration** generates a wide range of benefits—not only forest quantity and quality, but enhanced food security, improved air and water quality, climate change resilience, job creation, and more. I suggest strong support of the initiative of the owners to rejuvenate the natural landscape of the property.

If I can answer any questions, please contact me directly.  
Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter.

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