

Open Space Management Plan

The abundant open space within and surrounding Fairfax is a defining characteristic of our community. The hills, trees and meadows create a greenbelt for recreation, and habitat for native animals and plants, which enriches the natural environment we all share. Our goal is to manage the lands acquired for open space in a manner which best preserves and protects this precious resource. To accomplish this, we will work in partnership with scientists, conservation specialists and other experts to create appropriate management plans and to monitor these plans once they are in place.

Fire Policies

Fairfax Open Space Committee (FOSC) shall strive to reduce fire hazard on its lands in partnership with the Fire Department and other appropriate agencies.

FOSC shall plan and conduct fire hazard reduction activities in a manner that protects natural resources.

FOSC shall assess fire hazard conditions when acquiring new lands.

FOSC shall encourage owners of adjoining property to create defensible space surrounding their homes.

Trail Policies

FOSC shall allow trail-based uses on open space for the enjoyment of the public.

FOSC may limit any or all uses by foot, bicycle or horse when appropriate.

FOSC may designate shared use on old trails as well as new ones built by FOSC.

FOSC shall prohibit trail use conduct and other trail uses that compromise the protection of natural resources or the safety of open space visitors.

FOSC shall prohibit the use of motor vehicles on open space, with authorized exceptions.

Trail Design, Construction, and Management policies

FOSC shall use best management practices in the design, construction and maintenance of trails in cooperation with other Town agencies and committees.

FOSC shall coordinate trail design and construction with the owners and managers of adjoining lands.

FOSC shall work to provide information, including signs, to trail users that facilitate visitor orientation, nature interpretation, code compliance and proper trail etiquette.

Non-Native Plant and Animal Practices

FOSC shall strive to reduce populations of non-native species, for the benefit of native habitats and species.

FOSC shall inventory populations of, establish control priorities for and develop control strategies for non-native species in consultation with appropriate scientists.

FOSC shall prohibit introduction of non-native species.

FOSC shall accommodate remnants of non-native species when they contribute to an understanding of historic and cultural landscapes.

Special Status Species Policies

FOSC shall partner with other organizations in regional efforts to inventory Special Status Species and to develop regional habitat conservation plans that protect Special Status Species, wildlife corridors, ecosystems and biodiversity.

FOSC shall develop strategies to protect these habitats and to resolve conflicts between public use of District lands and the protection of Special Status Species.

FOSC shall prohibit visitor conduct that harms Special Status Species or the quality of their habitats, including prohibiting access to their habitat.

Parking Policies

FOSC shall rely primarily on nearby public roads to provide visitor parking.

FOSC shall strive to provide multiple points of entry to open space in order to avoid concentrations of vehicles.

FOSC shall encourage visitors to walk, bicycle or carpool to open spaces.

FOSC should work cooperatively with police and fire departments to enforce lawful parking at entrances to open spaces.

Access for the Disabled Policies

FOSC shall strive to provide access and programs for people with disabilities within the context of its policies, legal requirements and lawful exemptions.

Public Outreach Policies

FOSC shall conduct outreach to inform Fairfax residents of open space resources.

FOSC shall encourage public participation in its decision-making processes, and specifically encourage participation of neighborhoods adjacent to open spaces.

FOSC shall provide outreach in multiple languages.

AMENDMENTS to Open Space Management Plan – specifically for Frank Egger Grove (Melvin Property)

1. Hours – Sunrise to Sunset
2. No bikes
3. Dogs on leashes
4. Noise ordinance enforced
5. No disturbing the wildlife
6. No fires
7. No smoking

Approved by Fairfax Town Council 8/2/06