

Parkland Resource Management Policy

Revised August 2020

The forest land and stream area along Turkey Run belong to the Truro Homes Association and are managed by the Board of Directors. The THA Articles of Incorporation and its restrictive covenants govern how the Board seeks to preserve the parkland. As a general rule, the Board's policies are implemented by the Parkland Committee.

The covenants require that this common area be managed for the general benefit of all Truro homeowners. Board has adopted an ecosystem philosophy in managing the forest and stream resources on the behalf of the Association. In other words, the parkland area will be managed to assure that natural processes are allowed to operate to the greatest extent practicable. In doing so, a philosophy of "the least management the better" has been adopted. It is recognized that invasive plant species are not part of the natural ecosystem. Invasive plant species will be removed from the parkland at the discretion of the Parkland Committee. Similarly, only native plants will be planted in the parkland.

The natural process of decay and regrowth will be allowed to occur unless a particular tree or the path of the stream presents a hazard to persons or property. (i.e., Trees along the pathways, roads, near playgrounds, or adjacent to homes may be trimmed or removed.) Chainsaws and other wood cutting devices can only be used in the parkland by volunteers upon approval of the THA Board or the Parkland Committee. Only licensed and insured contractors can cut down standing trees over 4 inches in diameter. Truro covenants provide that no tree with a diameter greater than four inches may be cut unless approved by the Board. Therefore, trees should generally be left in the woods to decay, rather than be cut, stacked, or removed as firewood, however, the Parkland Committee may remove unsightly tree debris on a case-by-case basis. Under this policy, the parkland will not require a high level of active management with the constant removal of brush or dead and dying trees.

The Parkland Resource Management Policy promotes a concept that Truro parklands should not be managed as an arboretum. To do so would be overly expensive to homeowners and would impede the natural process of our forest. The Board recognizes that the wooded areas may not look as neat and orderly as they would under more intrusive management, but allowing nature to take its course is more important. We believe that this policy will promote erosion control, wildlife habitats, and enhance the aesthetics of our parkland and stream.

The policy above relates to the flora and fauna of the parkland. There are two other distinct areas of interest:

Improvements – bridges, stream banks, and playground equipment to be maintained for safety and structural integrity; color scheme to be consistent with Association theme of earth tones. Adjacencies – those areas of entrance from public streets to be maintained so as not to be obtrusive to the front yards of adjacent private residences.

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