



POLICY & PROCEDURE MANUAL

SECTION	RECREATION AND CULTURE	POLICY NUMBER	4-6-1
SUB-SECTION	County Forest	EFFECTIVE DATE	May 11, 2017
SUBJECT	Dufferin County Forest Recreational Use		
AUTHORITY	Community Services Dufferin Oaks – April 25, 2017 Council Motion #23 - May 11, 2017		

PURPOSE:

To effectively manage recreational use of the Dufferin County Forest in accordance with the social, environmental, and economic sustainability objectives in *Our Forest, Our Future: Dufferin County Forest Management Plan 2016-2036*.

STATEMENT:

This policy applies to all tracts of the Dufferin County Forest.

PROCEDURES:

1. **Generally Accepted Uses**

Unless otherwise restricted in this policy and associated by-law, generally accepted outdoor recreational activities are permitted in the Dufferin County Forest.

2. **Main Permitted and Restricted Activities by Land Use Classes**

Appendix A shows the main permitted and restricted activities divided according to the land use classes in *Our Forest, Our Future: Dufferin County Forest Management Plan 2016-2036* (Table 7, pgs. 36-37).

3. **Trails**

Users must stay on established trails at all times while in the Dufferin County Forest.

4. **Motorized Vehicles**

Motorized vehicles, other than snowmobiles, are not permitted in the Dufferin County Forest.

5. **Electric Vehicles**

Access by electric motorized vehicles is permitted for users with mobility difficulties and for game retrieval.

6. **Parking**

Parking is permitted only in designated areas.

7. **Hunting, Fishing, Trapping**

In general, hunting is not permitted in all tracts of the Dufferin County Forest, please refer to Appendix A for tracts where hunting is permitted.

There is no hunting or discharge of firearms allowed in any Dufferin County Forest between June 1 and September 30.

Patterning/sighting of firearms is not permitted in the Dufferin County Forest.

Between October 1 and May 31, hunting and discharge of firearms are permitted only on the tracts as listed in Appendix A and within the seasons and other restrictions and requirements as determined by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry.

Only temporary portable tree stands, which must be removed after every use, are permitted.

Hunters are required to purchase a permit from the County for hunting in the Dufferin County Forest. The permit will be valid from October 1 of a given year to May 31 of the following year. If deemed necessary, the County may restrict the number of permits issued.

All hunters must be members in good standing of the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters and are required to present proof of membership prior to obtaining a permit to hunt in the Dufferin County Forest.

Fishing is permitted only within seasons and other restrictions and requirements as determined by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry. However, there are no significant fishing opportunities in the Dufferin County Forest.

Trapping is permitted only within the seasons and other restrictions and requirements as determined by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry and only at the following tracts: Melancthon, Riverview, and Amaranth South. Trapping areas will be assigned on a first come, first serve basis, renewable annually at the County's discretion. All trappers are required to present proof of membership in the Ontario Fur Managers Federation prior to being granted permission to trap.

8. **Snowmobiling**

Snowmobiling in the Dufferin County Forest is permitted on designated Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs (OFSC) trails only. Snowmobilers must display a current OFSC trail permit and follow all OFSC rules/regulations while using the designated trails in the Dufferin County Forest.

9. **Foraging**

In order to conserve the natural environment, users are not permitted to disturb, cut, kill, remove or harm any plant, tree or natural object in the Dufferin County Forest, including for the purposes of foraging.

10. **Dogs**

Dogs must be under control or on-leash at all times within the Dufferin County Forest.

11. **Safety**

The use of audio devices that impair your awareness of other users is not permitted in the Dufferin County Forest.

Helmets are required for anyone mountain biking, horseback riding, or snowmobiling in the Dufferin County Forest.

12. Campfires

Campfires are not permitted in the Dufferin County Forest.

13. Respect for Property

Discarding of garbage in the Dufferin County Forest is not permitted.

Willful damage to any structures in the Dufferin County Forest is not permitted.

14. Drones

Use of drones in the Dufferin County Forest is not permitted without prior authorization from the County Forest Manager or his/her designate.

15. Mansfield Outdoor Centre

The County of Dufferin has a long-standing exclusive land use agreement with the Mansfield Outdoor Centre for lease of designated trails in the south part of the Main Tract for cross-country skiing between December 1 of a given year and March 31 of the following year. The agreement will be renewed annually at the County's discretion.

16. Organized Recreational Events

Non-profit groups wishing to hold an event/tour for more than 30 people in the Dufferin County Forest will be required to sign a Property Use Agreement. For-profit/commercial groups of any size wishing to hold an event/tour in the Dufferin County Forest will be required to sign a Property Use Agreement (Appendix B).

Groups are advised to inquire as to date availability for events as soon as possible (at least three months in advance of event date) to avoid disappointment. In order to minimize conflicts, only one event per tract per day will be granted an event permit.

Groups participating in forest stewardship activities such as trail building, trail maintenance, and garbage removal are not required to have an event permit for such activities.

Access to the open area at the Main Tract for overnight stays/event staging will be limited to groups holding organized recreational events having a valid Property Use Agreement.

There will be no camping permitted in the Dufferin County Forest other than as part of an event for which there is a signed Property Use Agreement.

17. Separation of Trail Uses

The County Forest Manager or his/her designate will work with stakeholders to establish separate designated trails in the Main Tract for user groups. Trail maps will be distributed to users through a variety of means and signs will indicate designated trails in the Main Tract. To enable the establishment and maintenance of designated trails, user groups that have designated trails will be expected to:

- i. have an organized group that will provide proof of current liability insurance with the County of Dufferin as a named insured;
- ii. perform trail building, trail maintenance, and forest stewardship activities in agreement with the County;
- iii. provide and post appropriate signs in agreement with the County;
- iv. monitor activities to aid enforcement and;
- v. sign a Property Use Agreement with the County (Appendix B).

18. Fees

Fees for recreational use of the Dufferin County Forest will be established in the County's fees by-law and will be available on the County website and by request.

19. Forest Management

Forest management activities will be conducted so as to minimize impacts on designated recreational trails.

20. Dufferin County Forest Advisory Team

The County will establish a team made up of five residents of Dufferin County and one member of the Community Services/Dufferin Oaks Committee. The team will meet at least once annually to discuss the management of the Dufferin County Forest. The purpose of the team will be to ensure that the interests of stakeholders in the Dufferin County Forest are represented and effectively communicated to the County of Dufferin. Representation will be solicited from the general public to coincide with the new term of County Council, or as required to replace or add members. The Terms of Reference for the Dufferin County Forest Advisory Team are in Appendix C.

21. Code of Conduct for Dufferin County Forest Users

These guidelines have been adapted from various sources.

a. General Rules

Expect and respect other trail users.

- Remember that on shared use trails there are a variety of other users enjoying the trail with you.
- Keep to the right to allow other users to pass on your left. When stopping for a break, move to the side to allow others room to pass
- Stay on the trail; don't create new trails.
- Respect neighboring landowners by staying off private property.
- Avoid excessive noise.
- Leave the trail as you found it; whatever you pack in, pack out.
- Maintain control of your pets. Carry a leash for your dog and be prepared to use it. "Stoop and flick" when waste is on the trail.
- Some trails may close seasonally or during forest management activities. Obey trail closure signs.
- Check the trail conditions. If you are leaving tracks over ½" (1.25 cm) deep don't use the trail.
- Do not scare horses by approaching silently or rapidly. When approaching from the front, stop and let them pass unless the rider indicates otherwise. If approaching from behind, alert the horse and rider from about 30 feet (nine metres) away with a friendly "hello". Ask the rider the best way to pass.
- During hunting seasons wear bright coloured clothing to increase visibility.
- Obey all signs.
- Yield on trails according to the following:



b. Walkers, Hikers, Runners, Snowshoers

- Remember that on shared use trails there are a variety of other users enjoying the trail with you.
- Do not scare horses by approaching silently or rapidly. When approaching from the front, stop and let them pass unless the rider indicates otherwise. If approaching from behind, alert the horse and rider from about 30 feet (nine metres) away with a friendly “hello”. Ask the rider the best way to pass.
- Keep control of your pets, particularly when sharing the trail with mountain bikers, children, horses or snowmobiles.
- Don’t walk on groomed cross-country ski trails.

c. Equestrians (adapted from: Headwaters Horse Country)

- Remember that on shared use trails there are a variety of other users enjoying the trail with you.
- Wear a helmet
- Before heading out on the trail, get informed about where horses are permitted and not permitted. Obey trail closure and seasonal use signs. Ride only on trails that are marked as being open to horses and stay on those trails. Don’t make new trails or use unsigned trails. In winter, stay off groomed cross-country ski trails.
- Horses can cause a lot of damage to the trail. Do your best to leave the trail as you found it. Avoid going on wet trails even if there are no closed signs posted. If your horse leaves tracks deeper than ½” (1.25 cm) stay off the trail.
- Kick manure off the trail (hikers and bikers will appreciate it). Take out what you take in and nothing else (leave the wildflowers and wild life behind). Manure and trailer contents must be removed from parking lots and disposed of offsite. Do not dispose of on gravel roads.
- Before taking your horse on the trail, train him to handle situations that may occur there. Horses that kick, bite or are very spooky are not safe on a shared trail. Always ride with a more experienced horse and rider especially if you or your horse are new to trail riding.
- Enjoy your ride at a leisurely pace especially when your view of the trail ahead is restricted. To avoid damaging the trail or causing injury to other trail users, keep to a walk or a gentle trot. Never gallop on the trail.
- Keep to the right when meeting oncoming trail users. If you are passing someone in front of you, make sure they know you are behind them. Pass in single file on the left after getting their permission to pass. If they are traveling with dogs or children, ensure they have them under control before passing. If others are passing you, tell them the safest way to get by. If you stop for a rest, move to the right side of the trail so that others have room to pass.
- Whoever is travelling uphill is given the right of way so that they don’t lose momentum. This applies for bikers, hikers and horse riders.
- When you hear or see other trail users, speak up to let them know you are there. Call out a friendly greeting so they aren’t caught by surprise as they come around a corner. You can decrease negative encounters by educating non-horse people in a friendly and respectful manner about how to safely approach and pass horses.
- Always be prepared for the worst case scenario. Carry identification on yourself and on your horse in case you become separated. Let someone know where you are going and when you expect to return. Carry a basic first aid kit as well as a cellphone, water and some food.
- It is highly recommended that you have off-farm liability insurance coverage that will protect you in case you lose control of your horse and damages ensue

d. Cyclists (adapted from: International Mountain Bicycling Association Canada)

- Remember that on shared use trails there are a variety of other users enjoying the trail with you.
- Do your utmost to let your fellow trail users know you're coming — a friendly greeting or bell ring are good methods. Try to anticipate other trail users as you ride around corners. Bicyclists should yield to other non-motorized trail users, unless the trail is clearly signed for bike-only travel. Bicyclists traveling downhill should yield to ones headed uphill, unless the trail is clearly signed for one-way or downhill-only traffic. In general, strive to make each pass a safe and courteous one.
- Respect trail and road closures — ask the County Forest Manager or his/her designate for clarification if you are uncertain about the status of a trail. Do not trespass on private land. Obtain permits or other authorization as required.
- Be sensitive to the dirt beneath you. Wet and muddy trails are more vulnerable to damage than dry ones. When the trail is soft, consider riding in a different area. This also means staying on existing trails and not creating new ones to bypass soft areas. Don't cut switchbacks. Be sure to pack out at least as much as you pack in.
- Inattention for even a moment could put yourself and others at risk. Obey all bicycle speed regulations and recommendations, and ride within your limits.
- Do not scare horses by approaching silently or rapidly. When approaching from the front, stop and let them pass unless the rider indicates otherwise. If approaching from behind, alert the horse and rider from about 30 feet (nine metres) away with a friendly "hello". Ask the rider the best way to pass.
- Know your equipment, your ability and the area in which you are riding and prepare accordingly. Strive to be self-sufficient: keep your equipment in good repair and carry necessary supplies for changes in weather or other conditions. Always wear a helmet and appropriate safety gear.
- Don't ride on groomed cross-country ski trails.

e. Cross-Country Skiers

- Remember that on shared use trails there are a variety of other users enjoying the trail with you.
- Use common sense and personal awareness, particularly in intense cold or when sharing the trail with snowmobiles.
- Keep to the right to allow other users to pass to your left. Be alert for other trail users and ski in control, particularly when your vision of the terrain ahead is restricted. Always assume that there could be someone up ahead, and be prepared to stop.
- Do not ski late in the day. Plan to be off the trail by dusk.
- Carry sufficient wax, food, drink, and clothing for unexpected eventualities.
- Keep track of your progress and where you are. For remote areas, leave your itinerary and expected return time with someone. Obey all posted signs and warnings. Keep off closed trails.
- Do not stop where you obstruct the trail or are not visible from above or at a bend.
- Before merging onto a trail, look both ways (particularly uphill), and yield to others. When going downhill or passing others, ski in control to avoid the persons below and beside you.
- Do not scare horses by approaching silently or rapidly. When approaching from the front, stop and let them pass unless the rider indicates otherwise. If approaching from behind, alert the horse and rider from about 30 feet (nine metres) away with a friendly "hello". Ask the rider the best way to pass.

f. Snowmobilers

- Remember that on shared use trails there are a variety of other users enjoying the trail with you.

- Wear a helmet
- Be safety conscious. Be aware. Ride with care.
- Stay on the designated Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs (OFSC) trails.
- Enjoy wildlife viewing opportunities, but avoid stressing any species.
- Avoid sudden stops and starts and quick directional changes with acceleration.
- Slow down when your vision of the trail ahead is restricted, at night, or over unfamiliar terrain.
- Always assume there could be other trail users ahead, and be prepared for a controlled stop.
- Keep your speed and engine rpm low and steady when approaching and passing other trail users, homes, etc.
- Slow down, communicate, and be courteous when approaching or passing other trail users.
- Your snowmobile may scare a horse. When approaching from the front, stop, turn off your machine, and let them pass unless the rider indicates otherwise. Approach slowly from behind, allow the rider to signal when it is alright to pass. If the horse reacts, stop and wait for the rider to regain control.
- Park and dismount from your snowmobile and walk to sensitive, scenic, historic and cultural areas.
- Remove your helmet when talking to other trail users.
- Don't ride on groomed cross-country ski trails.
- When parking along a trail, park snowmobiles in single file over to the right as far as possible to avoid obstructing the trail. Ensure you are visible and turn off your machine.
- Obey all laws, regulations and by-laws regulating the operation of your snowmobile.

g. Hunting, Fishing, Trapping

- Remember that on shared use trails there are a variety of other users enjoying the trail with you.
- Obey all laws, regulations and by-laws regulating hunting, fishing, and trapping.
- Be well-practiced and know your firearm's capabilities and limitations.
- When shooting, do so accurately and safely.
- Insist that other hunters obey all laws and report lawbreakers.
- Avoid offensive behaviour and situations, such as displaying your harvest on your vehicle or behaving coarsely during or after the hunt.
- Make full use of the animals you take.
- Respect neighboring landowners by staying off private property.

Recreational Use of the County Forest – Policy 4-6-1

Appendix A: Main Permitted and Restricted Activities by Land Use Classes

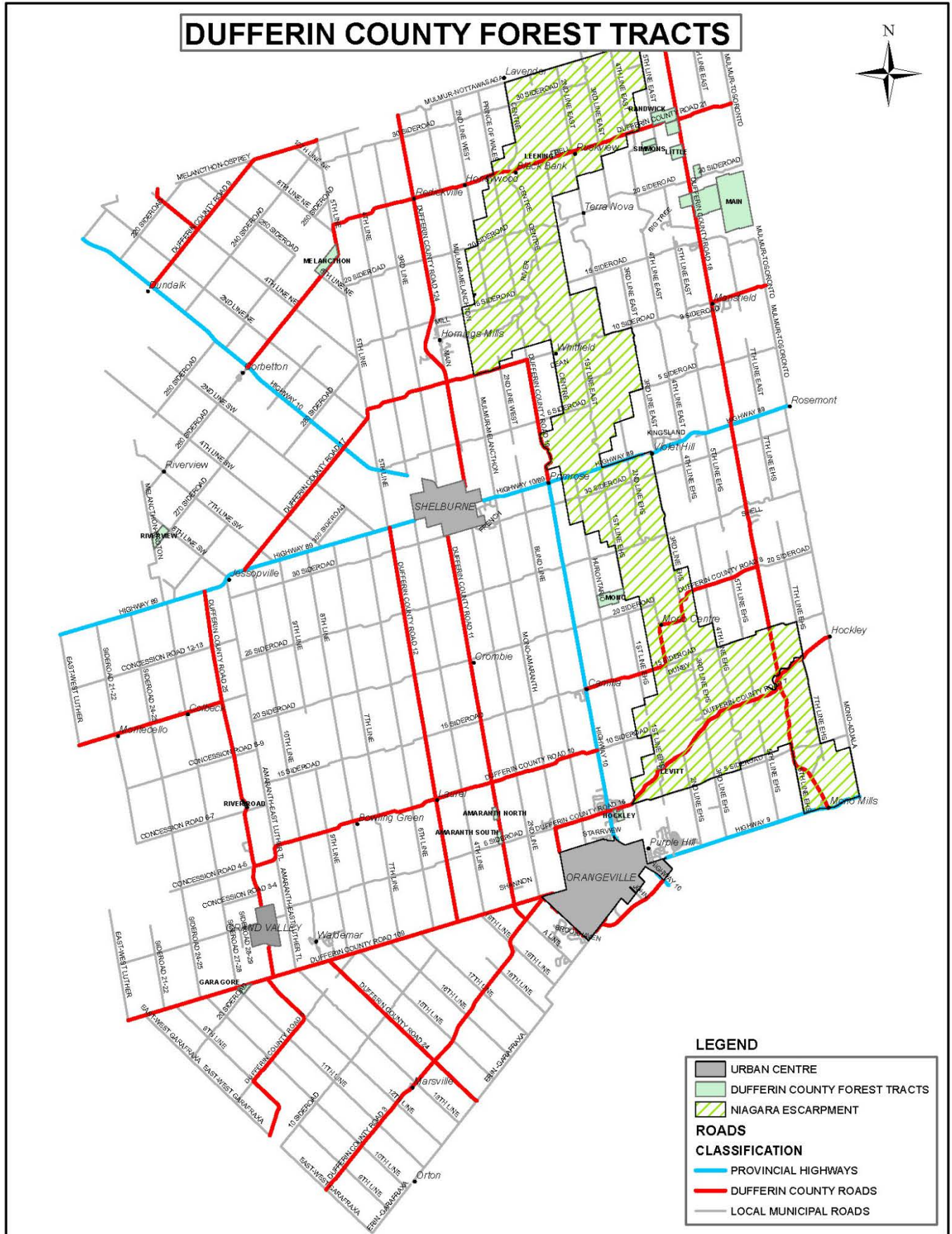
Tract & Compartments	Land Use Class	Area (ha)	Hiking/Running/Nature Appreciation	Skiing/Snowshoeing	Fat (Winter) Mtn Biking	Mtn Biking
Amaranth (42a), Laurel Wetland Complex	natural	12	y	y	n	n
Amaranth (43b, 43c), Farmington Swamp	natural	10	y	y	y	y
Amaranth (43a)	managed	2	y	y	y	y
Gara-Gore (44a)	managed	15	y	y	y	y
Hockley (49), Orangeville Wetland Complex	natural	20	y	y	y	y
Leening (50)	natural	8	y	y	n	n
Levitt (51)	natural	4	y	y	n	n
Little (48)	natural	47	y	y	n	n
Main (7-10, 12-19, 21a, 22, 23a, 23b, 24b, 24c, 25b, 25c)	managed	316	y	y	y	y
Main (11, 20a, 21b, 23c, 24a, 25a, 26-30, 31a, 31d), Oak Ridges South Slope Forest	natural	266	y	y	y	y
Main (31b, 31c)	natural	24	y	y	y	y
Melancthon (32a, 32b, 32c, 33a, 33b, 33d)	managed	12	y	y	y	y
Melancthon (33a, 33c, 33d, 34a, 35a), Melancthon 1	natural	48	y	y	y	y
Mono (39-40, 46)	managed	68	y	y	y	y
Randwick (1-4c, 5-6)	managed	115	y	y	y	y
Randwick (4d), Walker's Creek Wetland	natural	2	y	y	y	y
River Road (45)	managed	3	y	n	n	n
Riverview (36, 37b, 37c, 37d, 37e, 38a, 38b)	managed	27	y	y	y	y
Riverview (37a, 38c, 38d), Melancthon 2	natural	13	y	y	y	y
Simmons (47)	managed	42	y	y	y	y

Tract & Compartments	Land Use Class	Area (ha)	Horseback Riding	Hunting	OFSC Trails	Other Motorized Vehicles
Amaranth (42a), Laurel Wetland Complex	natural	12	n	n	n	n
Amaranth (43b, 43c), Farmington Swamp	natural	10	y	y (except June 1-Sept 30)	n	n
Amaranth (43a)	managed	2	y	y (except June 1-Sept 30)	n	n
Gara-Gore (44a)	managed	15	y	y (except June 1-Sept 30)	n	n
Hockley (49), Orangeville Wetland Complex	natural	20	n	n	n	n
Leening (50)	natural	8	n	n	n	n
Levitt (51)	natural	4	n	n	n	n
Little (48)	natural	47	n	n	n	n
Main (7-10, 12-19, 21a, 22, 23a, 23b, 24b, 24c, 25b, 25c)	managed	316	y	y (except June 1-Sept 30)	y	n
Main (11, 20a, 21b, 23c, 24a, 25a, 26-30, 31a, 31d), Oak Ridges South Slope Forest	natural	266	y	y (except June 1-Sept 30)	n	n
Main (31b, 31c)	natural	24	y	y (except June 1-Sept 30)	n	n
Melancthon (32a, 32b, 32c, 33a, 33b, 33d)	managed	12	y	y (except June 1-Sept 30)	n	n
Melancthon (33a, 33c, 33d, 34a, 35a), Melancthon 1	natural	48	y	y (except June 1-Sept 30)	n	n
Mono (39-40, 46)	managed	68	y	n	y	n
Randwick (1-4c, 5-6)	managed	115	y	y (except June 1-Sept 30)	y	n*
Randwick (4d), Walker's Creek Wetland	natural	2	y	y (except June 1-Sept 30)	n	n
River Road (45)	managed	3	n	n	n	n
Riverview (36, 37b, 37c, 37d, 37e, 38a, 38b)	managed	27	y	y (except June 1-Sept 30)	y	n
Riverview (37a, 38c, 38d), Melancthon 2	natural	13	y	y (except June 1-Sept 30)	n	n
Simmons (47)	managed	42	y	y (except June 1-Sept 30)	n	n

* pilot event being considered

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Appendix A: Main Permitted and Restricted Activities by Land Use Classes



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Appendix B: Property Use Agreement

Property Use Agreement

B E T W E E N:

The Corporation of the County of Dufferin

"County"

- and -

XXX

"User"

The *Municipal Act, 2001*, S.O. 2001, c.25, ("*Municipal Act, 2001*") authorizes the Corporation of the County of Dufferin ("County") to enter into agreements for the use of property owned by the County.

The County is the owner of County Forest Lands throughout the County of Dufferin.

The User is NOT a manufacturing business or other industrial or commercial entity to which section 106 of the *Municipal Act, 2001* applies.

The User is desirous of entering into an agreement whereby it would be entitled to use County Forest Property located within tracts set out in Schedule A" ("Property").

County Council passed the Dufferin County Forest Recreational Use Policy consenting to the entering into of Property Use Agreements.

NOW THEREFORE in consideration of the covenants and agreements herein contained the parties agree as follows:

USE OF PROPERTY

1. The County consents to the User using the Property for the following purposes:
("Event")

TERM

2. This agreement shall be for a term commencing on the date that this agreement is executed by the County until the xx.

EVENT FEE

3. The User shall pay the County the appropriate fee, as outlined in the County Fees By-law.

MAINTENANCE

4. The User is responsible for all costs relating to maintaining the Property for the use made of it by the User during the term of this agreement. The County has no obligation to maintain or repair the trails and/or bridges on the Property for the benefit of the User.

TREE REMOVAL

5. The User and any of its members, employees or agents are prohibited from cutting any trees, branches or brush without the prior written approval of the County Forest Manager or his/her designate. If the County Forest Manager consents to any cutting, such cutting must be completed so as to create as little damage to the natural vegetation as possible. Such consent shall be obtained from the County Forest Manager.
6. The User agrees that any cutting or other damage, that in the opinion of the County Forest Manager or his/her designate has been caused by the User or its members without the approval of the County Forest Manager, shall be rectified at the User's expense upon written notice by the County Forest Manager.

EVENT ROUTE

7. The route of the event must follow established trails. No new trails may be created without prior approval from the County Forest Manager or his/her designate.

SIGNS

8. The User shall be responsible for posting signage on all trails and/or bridges or other signage as requested by the County, at its expense. Any signs or other markings posted specifically for an event must be posted no sooner than two weeks prior to the event date, and must be removed no later than two weeks after the event date.

PUBLIC ACCESS

9. All trails and/or bridges on the Property must remain open to the public and the public shall be allowed to use them without any fees being charged by the User.

INSURANCE

10. The User shall obtain liability insurance in the amount of \$5,000,000.00 showing the Corporation of the County of Dufferin as an additional insured and including a provision for cross liability for insurance against all damages or claims for damages or liability. The User shall provide the County with proof of the insurance required under this agreement by providing a certificate of insurance prior to this agreement being executed by the County followed by a full copy of the policy once issued and by providing a renewal certificate of insurance once annually until this agreement has expired or is terminated. The User shall maintain the insurance policy in effect throughout the term of this agreement.

INDEMNITY

11. The User shall indemnify, save harmless, and waive all rights against the County from and against all suits and claims for loss, damage, accident, death or injury of any nature or kind whatsoever arising out of or connected with the use and maintenance of the Property or any preparation or construction of or on the Property by the User, its members, employees, agents, or any other person using the Property.

TERMINATION

12. If any term of this agreement is breached by the User then, at the option of the County this agreement may be terminated immediately upon written notice by the County Forest Manager or his/her designate.
13. In addition to the right of termination, the County may at any time terminate this agreement upon 30 days written notice to the User.

RESTORE LANDS

14. Upon completion of the Event the User shall restore the lands to a state which, in the opinion of the County Forest Manager or his/her designate, is as good as or better than the original condition prior to the Event.

COSTS

15. The User is responsible for the costs of preparing, enforcing or releasing this agreement or any other documentation relating to the carrying out of this agreement.

STATUTES

16. The User agrees to comply with all applicable municipal, provincial, federal, and other laws, statutes, ordinances and requirements in regard to the same.

ENTIRE AGREEMENT

17. This agreement shall constitute the entire agreement between the parties and the parties further acknowledge that there is no representation, warranty, collateral agreement or adverse condition affecting this agreement other than as expressed herein in writing.

SEVERABILITY

18. The invalidity or unenforceability of any provision of this agreement shall not affect the validity or enforceability of any other provision hereof and any such invalid or unenforceable provision shall be deemed to be severable.

SCHEDULE

19. Schedules attached hereto form part of this agreement.

NOTICE

20. Where this agreement requires notice to be delivered by one party to the other, such notice shall be in writing and delivered either personally or by facsimile or e-mail transmission, by one party to the other party at their addresses noted below. Such notice shall be deemed to have been given, if by personal delivery, on the date of delivery, and if by facsimile or e-mail transmission, on the date of delivery with electronic confirmation of receipt obtained:

The Corporation of the County of Dufferin – Dufferin County Forest
936029 Airport Road
Mulmur, ON L9V 0L3

Attention:
County Forest Manager

Telephone: 519-941-1114 ext. 4011
Facsimile: 705-435-9876
E-mail: forestmanager@dufferinmuseum.com

User
Address

Attention:

Telephone:
Facsimile:
E-mail:

BINDING

21. This agreement shall ensure to the benefit of and be binding upon the parties hereto, their respective successors and assigns.

EFFECTIVE DATE

20. This agreement is effective from the date it is signed by the County.

THE PARTIES HAVE SIGNED THIS AGREEMENT ON THE DATES SET OUT BELOW:

THE CORPORATION OF THE
COUNTY OF DUFFERIN

Date: _____

Warden

County Clerk

We have the authority to bind the Corporation.

Date: _____

USER

Per: _____

Name:

Title:

Per: _____

Name:

Title:

I/We have the authority to bind the User.

Recreational Use of the County Forest – Policy 4-6-1

Appendix C: Terms of Reference – Dufferin County Forest Advisory Team

Purpose:

The purpose of the Dufferin County Forest Advisory Team (DCFAT) is to:

- provide community input and advice to County staff regarding the Dufferin County Forest Management Plan and Dufferin County Forest Recreational Use Policy and;
- assist County staff in communicating plan and policy revisions.

Dufferin County Forest Goal:

To protect the quality and integrity of ecosystems in the Dufferin County Forest, including air, water, land and biota; and, where quality and integrity have been diminished, to encourage restoration or remediation to healthy conditions; while providing a variety of social and economic benefits to the public.

Assumptions:

- recreational pursuits in the forest are a privilege, not a right;
- the Dufferin County Forest is not parkland, preserve or for single-use, however, some areas may not be suitable for all activities and;
- the Dufferin County Forest is owned and managed by the Corporation of the County of Dufferin, and is not Crown land.

Criteria for Analysis of Recreational Activities/Events:

- activity must have minimal environmental impact;
- activity must not have significant impact upon other forest users;
- activity must be compatible with forest management activities;
- activity must not pose significant liability concerns to the County and;
- activity should not require significant County staff intervention for administration or policing.

Membership:

Representation will be solicited from the general public to coincide with the new term of County Council, or as required to replace or add members. Five members will be selected according to the following criteria:

- commitment to advancing the purpose of the Dufferin County Forest Advisory Team;
- interest and respect for a broad range of issues regarding the management of the Dufferin County Forest;
- respect for the procedures agreed to by the members;
- willingness to serve as a volunteer on the Advisory Team;
- aged 18 or over; and
- resident of Dufferin County.

In addition, one member of the Community Services/Dufferin Oaks Committee will be appointed to the Dufferin County Forest Advisory Team.

Structure:

The Advisory Team will meet at least once annually to discuss items relevant to its purpose. The County Forest Manager or his/her designate will attend all meetings and assist as required. The Advisory Team may choose to obtain feedback from recreational users and the broader public when deemed necessary.