



# Andrews Community Forest



## Welcome!

The Andrews Community Forest is a 428-acre, largely forested parcel just outside Richmond Village and open to the public. Thanks to the generosity of the Andrews family and other private donors, in 2018 the Town acquired the Forest through a conservation agreement with the Vermont Land Trust and the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board. Visitors are welcome to enjoy its many recreational and educational opportunities.

**Comment [IAFS1]:** General Comment: Is there a Town format for these Committee pages (e.g. should the membership, meeting schedule and previous meetings sections have more priority?)

The Forest is part of a large, state-significant forest block extending to and over the Green Mountains. The ACF contains many hard-mast stands, predominantly oak and beech, along with several uncommon natural communities. Along with its role as a critical wildlife corridor for its forest block, the ACF provides important habitat and travel paths for black bear, bobcat, whitetail deer and many other species of wildlife and plants. Trails and logging roads provide visitors with access to many parts of the Forest.

The ACF is located within the ancestral lands of the Western Abenaki People. We aspire to honor the Abenaki's legacies of stewardship, respect and kinship towards the forests, other ecosystems and all living things in the land we now call Vermont.

### Visiting the ACF

Parking is available in a small lot on the north side of Rt. 2 **1.1** miles east of the traffic light in Richmond village. The forest is open from dawn to dusk. We ask visitors to respect the land and its many wild inhabitants, keep dogs on a leash, remove all waste, and follow the other rules and guidelines. The ACF is open to hunters so take all precautions if you visit during hunting seasons.

[Recreational map](#)

Smartphone version (Real-time navigation; **requires** free [Avenza Maps](#) app) [WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO CONVERT THE REC MAP TO A FORM ENABLING AVENZA-EQUIPPED VISITORS TO LOCATE THEMSELVES ON IT]

**Comment [IAFS2]:** From Google Maps – along Rt 2.

**Comment [IAFS3]:** Map at kiosk or one that has trail names? <https://infoacf.files.wordpress.com/2024/01/existingproposed2.jpg>

**Comment [IAFS4]:** Required? That link seems to show only a 30-day trail period. Are there other options ( I don't know – I've never used phone apps for navigation)

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### News

- A visitor recently spotted a Golden-Crowned Kinglet in the forest. Join us in looking for other north-bound migrants on May 5, 2024 for [a springtime bird walk](#).
- The Urbanik Way trail needs a little TLC and will be closed on [April 27-29](#), 2024.
- There's still one open spot on the ACF Committee for a Trails Committee representative. To apply, send a letter of interest to Assistant to the Town Manager

**Comment [IAFS5]:** A member of ACFC will be assigned to maintain this?

**Comment [IAFS6]:** (Tentative)

**Comment [IAFS7]:** (Tentative)

Duncan Wardwell at [dwardwell@richmondvt.gov](mailto:dwardwell@richmondvt.gov). Please fill out and enclose [this form](#) with your letter.

- Have you visited the ACF's [iNaturalist](#) site? See what others are seeing there, and record your own observations!
- Keep up with ACF news on [Facebook](#) – and take part in its making by attending an ACF Committee meeting (see below for dates).

**Comment [IAFS8]:**  
Wow! Cool site!  
This one is interesting:  
<https://www.inaturalist.org/taxa/60598-Ixodes-scapularis>  
(Black leg tick)

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## Flora and Fauna

### **Ecology and Resource Reports**

[Vermont Land Trust](#) (2017)

[Audubon Vermont](#) (2017)

[UVM Field Naturalist Program](#) (2019)

Arrowood Environmental Assessments ([2021](#)) ([2022](#))

[iNaturalist ACF page](#)

[From Farm to Forest](#), an overview of the Forest and its human history, by Angus Bisgard Cummings

### **Maps**

[Forest Block](#)

[Landscape Connectivity](#)

[Natural Communities](#)

[Sensitive Natural Areas](#)

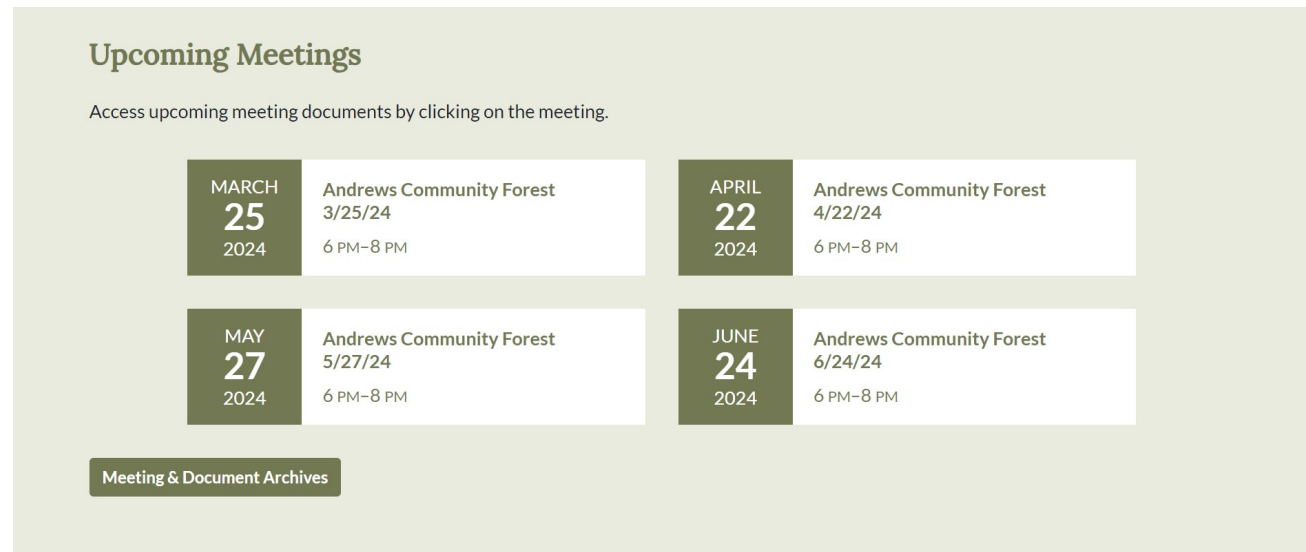
# ACF Management Committee

The ACF is a municipally-owned property with the Town of Richmond's Selectboard ultimately responsible for the Forest's management and stewardship. The Selectboard delegates this responsibility to the Andrews Community Forest Committee, a seven-to-nine person committee with some members representing the Conservation Commission and the Trails Committee. The ACF Committee oversees management of the Forest in accordance with the ACF Management Plan, the Conservation Easement, and Town and State policies and regulations.

[Facebook page](#)

[ACFC bylaws](#)

[Contact the Committee richmondtownforest at gmail.com](mailto:richmondtownforest@gmail.com)



The graphic features a light green background with the title 'Upcoming Meetings' in a bold, dark font. Below the title is a line of text: 'Access upcoming meeting documents by clicking on the meeting.' There are four meeting cards arranged in a 2x2 grid. Each card has a dark green vertical bar on the left containing the month and date in white text. To the right of the bar, the text 'Andrews Community Forest' is followed by the date and time in a smaller font. At the bottom left of the graphic is a dark green button with white text that reads 'Meeting & Document Archives'.

### Upcoming Meetings

Access upcoming meeting documents by clicking on the meeting.

MARCH <b>25</b> 2024	Andrews Community Forest 3/25/24 6 PM-8 PM	APRIL <b>22</b> 2024	Andrews Community Forest 4/22/24 6 PM-8 PM
MAY <b>27</b> 2024	Andrews Community Forest 5/27/24 6 PM-8 PM	JUNE <b>24</b> 2024	Andrews Community Forest 6/24/24 6 PM-8 PM

Meeting & Document Archives

Members	Term Start	Term End	Type
Wright Preston	2021	2024	Appointment
Melissa Wolaver	2022	2025	Appointment
Bradford Elliott – Conservation Commission Recommendation	2023	2026	Appointment
Daniel Schmidt – Co-Chair, RCC Representative & Communications Assistant, richmondtownforest at gmail.com	2021	2024	Appointment
Chase Rosenberg – Trails Committee Representative	2022	2025	Appointment
Ian Stokes - Co-Chair, richmondtownforest at gmail.com	2023	2026	Appointment
Cecelia Danks	2022	2025	Appointment
VACANT - Trails Committee Recommendation	2021	2024	Appointment
Julian Portilla	2023	2026	Appointment

If you'd like to join the ACF Committee, send a letter of interest along with [this form completed](#) to Assistant to the Town Manager Duncan Wardwell at [dwardwell@richmondvt.gov](mailto:dwardwell@richmondvt.gov).

## ACF Management Plan

The ACF Committee manages the Forest according to the [ACF Management Plan](#). The Plan reflects extensive public input gathered through a “visioning” process conducted in 2018. It describes the natural resources and human histories of the forest, and provides management objectives and action plans in accordance with the public inputs, the Conservation Easement and relevant Town policies and regulations. [Conservation Easement](#)  
[Richmond Town Plan](#)

## [Richmond Zoning Regulations](#)

### **Updating the Management Plan**

The ACF Management Plan was written to be a “living and evolving document,” one needing periodic updates to reflect our continually expanding understanding of the Forest and its functions, resources and stewardship needs.

The ACF Committee is currently working to update the Plan based on a revision proposed by a Committee working group in late 2022 (links below). That revision, and a trail expansion proposal that preceded it, have elicited extensive public comment. We welcome continuing community interest, expert inputs and open discussions relating to this high-priority project of the Committee.

- [Proposed Plan revision \(2022\)](#)
- [Proposed Plan revision \(2022\) \(showing changes from current Plan\)](#)
- [Indigenous Land Acknowledgement and Use Agreement](#), a proposed appendix to the upcoming Plan revision
- [Proposed trail map \(2022 revision\)](#)
  - [Trail consultants' report and proposal](#)
  - [Responses to Committee survey \(2022\)](#)
  - [Public meeting comments \(2023\)](#)
  - [Other comments and background information](#), an ad-hoc collection of letters to the ACFC, research findings, maps and other materials relating to minimizing the impacts of trail traffic on wildlife and Forest ecology.

# Forestry Management Plan

The ACF's [Forestry Management Plan](#) is built on the principles of “ecological forestry,” which uses the harvesting of trees to enhance biodiversity by emulating natural disturbances and encouraging the development of complex, diverse and healthy forests. Forestry activities in the ACF are also designed provide opportunities for the public to learn about the forest management and stewardship. Proceeds from selective logging of trees in the Forest have gone to the ACF budget, and leftover firewood has been donated to a program providing it for free to people in need.

## **Forestry Maps**

[Forest Stands \(2019\)](#)

[Forest Stands -Topo \(2019\)](#)

[Management Intensity Zones \(2019\)](#)

[Forestry Activities Map \(2019\)](#)

## **Video**

[Ecological Forestry in the ACF](#)

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## Ongoing management activities

### **Power line maintenance**

VELCO maintains the power lines that run through the Andrews Community Forest according to a longstanding easement supporting access to and work on their infrastructure. Activities can include maintenance on transmission towers, managing plants with the potential to interfere with the lines when larger, and removing trees posing a threat to the lines. Periodically, VELCO staff works to control invasive plants growing along the transmission lines. Active work areas will be within the transmission line area and will be

easily visible to forest visitors. News of pending VELCO maintenance work will be posted in the “What’s New” section here.



## Town of Richmond

203 Bridge St.  
P.O. Box 285 (mailing)  
Richmond, VT 05477

[Contacts](#)

## Quick Contacts

**Town Clerk:** 802-434-2221

**Town Manager:** 802-434-5170

**Police Non-Emergency:**  
802-434-2156

**Fire Non-Emergency:**  
802-434-2002

**Richmond Rescue Non-Emergency:**  
802-434-2394

**Finance:** 802-336-2094

**Planning & Zoning:** 802-434-2430

**Highway Garage:** 802-434-2631

**Water & Sewer:** 802-434-2178

**Animal Control:** 802-363-7162

**Library:** 802-434-3036

## Helpful Links

[Departments](#)

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