

VISION

The Andrews Community Forest will serve Richmond as a thriving ecosystem where conservation, education, and recreation harmoniously coexist. Through sustainable management practices, our community aims to preserve the forest's ecological integrity and contributions to its forest block, while providing opportunities for local community engagement, environmental education, innovative forestry practices, and outdoor recreation. By creating a model of responsible land management, generations of local residents and visitors will connect with and enjoy nature, share in the Forest's stewardship, and foster a deep appreciation for its rich biodiversity and cultural heritage.

MISSION (here presenting in a concise form the 'Purposes' spelled out in the Easement):

The Town of Richmond's mission in managing the Andrews Community Forest to uphold the Purposes and other directives of the Conservation Easement as well as those found in applicable local, state and federal policies and mandates. We will:

1. Keep the ACF available for public use and enjoyment, including non-motorized, non-commercial recreational, educational, and other appropriate community uses.
2. Protect its productive forestland, wildlife habitats, biological diversity, natural communities, riparian buffers, wetlands, soil and water quality, and native flora and fauna, along with the ecological processes that sustain them.
3. Guide the Forest's management through open, public discussions and decision-making.
4. Strive to conserve key features and functions of the ACF, including:
 - Its values as a relatively natural and unfragmented forest, providing important landscape connectivity and wildlife habitat to one of Vermont's largest forest blocks
 - Its uncommon natural communities and sensitive habitats, including Dry Oak Forest, Dry Oak-Hickory-Hophornbeam Forest, Dry Red Oak-White Pine Forest, Red Pine Forest, and Vernal Pools
 - Its streams and their wooded buffers which maintain water quality, riparian habitats and corridors for species movement
 - Its ability to sustainably provide both dispersed and trail-based recreational opportunities
 - Its high potential for demonstrating how ecological forestry practices, by emulating natural disturbances, can encourage the development of a complex, diverse and healthy forest
 - Its resources for engaging the public in learning about forest ecology, habitat protection, and sustainable recreational and forestry practices and stewardship
 - Its long cultural history and traditions, including those described in the management plan's Indigenous Lands Acknowledgement text and concepts.

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Comment [BE1]: Question raised: Does this need greater definition?

Comment [BE2]: Suggestion to clarify identity of "we" as used throughout the document, perhaps by making the Vision a community statement and the Mission be that of the Town/ACFC. Edits here reflect that. (We could also make the Vision clearly that of ACFC.)

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Comment [BE3]: Suggestion made to delete tthis

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Comment [BE4]: Suggestion was made to delete this...others to keep concepts of modeling and responsibility

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