

# Andrews Community Forest Committee

## Management Mission and Vision (6/1 Draft)

**Commented [BE1]:** Ian noted: "Is the heading as intended:? (It's the only mention of the Committee)." I responded that the text will be incorporated into the Management Plan, and thus it's Committee origin will be clear. The same should apply for the web page.

### VISION

The Town of Richmond will manage the Andrews Community Forest to maintain its ecological integrity and role in a large, connected landscape of natural communities and habitats. The ACF will serve as a place where conservation, education, recreation and forestry harmoniously coexist, providing current and future generations with opportunities to enjoy nature, share in the Forest's stewardship, and foster a deep appreciation for its rich biodiversity and cultural heritage.

### MISSION

The Town of Richmond's mission in managing the Andrews Community Forest is 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.

**Earlier versions:**

**Original, with mark-ups & revisions**

The Andrews Community Forest will serve Richmond as a thriving ecosystem where conservation, education, and recreation harmoniously coexist. Through sustainable management practices, we aim 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. Together, we strive to create a model of responsible land management where generations connect with and enjoy nature, share in the Forest's stewardship, and foster a deep appreciation for the rich biodiversity and cultural heritage of our region.

**5/20/2024**

The Town of Richmond will use sustainable management practices to maintain the Andrews Community Forest's ecological integrity and contributions to its forest block, while providing opportunities for local community engagement, 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.