

**Ted Stiles Preserve at Baldpate Mountain  
Forest Stewardship Plan: DRAFT 10-Year Objectives**

**Overarching Objective: Improve Forest Health**

<b>1</b>	<b>Forest Diversity, Structure and Function</b>	
1A	Foster a diverse and abundant herbaceous layer	Forest herbs, grasses and ferns. Species diversity and density characteristic of the Sourlands / Piedmont physiographic province.
1B	Foster a diverse and abundant shrub layer	Species diversity and density characteristic of the Sourlands / Piedmont physiographic province.
1C	Mimic forest gap dynamics to support advance regeneration	Assure that canopy gaps regenerate with native herbs, shrubs and trees, especially including replacement canopy trees. Assure advance tree regeneration.
1D	Foster old growth characteristics to the maximum extent possible where appropriate	Foster old growth characteristics (e.g., multi-age tree structure)
1E	Mimimize edge effects along permanent non-forest habitat	Soften edges to limit invasive species habitat and bird nest predation along permanent non-forest areas (e.g., meadow, developed areas)
1F	Assess opportunities to increase carbon sequestration	Explore potential to increase carbon sequestration
1G	Enhance wildlife habitat	General considerations such as increasing coarse woody debris, favoring mast producing trees, creation of cavity trees
1H	Incorporate expected climate change impacts	Determine impacts on susceptible species and provide recommendations to mitigate impacts
1J	Assess canopy tree storm susceptibility	Determine at-risk stands and potential for preventative stewardship efforts
1K	Assess emerald ash borer susceptibility	Determine at-risk stands and potential for preventative stewardship efforts
<b>2</b>	<b>Protect and Enhance Rare Animals</b>	<b>Includes state endangered, rare and special concern ranks</b>
2A	Northern Copperhead	Protect and enhance all necessary habitats for survival and reproduction of Northern Copperhead (while reducing potential human interactions)

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2B	Priority Neotropical Migrants	Protect and enhance all necessary habitats for survival and reproduction of priority Neotropical migrants; Species include: Hooded Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, Veery, Wood Thrush, Worm-eating Warbler
2C	Wood Turtle	Protect and enhance all necessary habitats for survival and reproductions of wood turtles
2D	Vernal Pool Habitat	Assure ecological health of vernal pools to support amphibian populations
2E	Other rare animals	Protect and enhance additional rare species documented on or nearby the site by the Natural Heritage Program (including Bald Eagle, Cliff Swallow, Cobblestone Tiger Beetle, Shortnose Sturgeon)
<b>3</b>	<b>Protect and Enhance Rare and Conservative Plants</b>	<b>Includes state endangered, rare and special concern ranks along with species with PSI CC ranks of &gt; 7.</b>
3A	Rare plants (documented on site by the Natural Heritage Program)	Protect and enhance populations of rare plants; Species include: Eastern Redbud, Field Sedge, Green Violet, Ohio Spiderwort, Pale Indian Plantain, Slender Toothwort, Squirrel-corn, Virginia Snakeroot, Yellow Giant Hyssop, Wild Comfrey, Willdenow's Sedge and additional data sensitive species.
3B	Rare plants (documented on nearby sites by the Natural Heritage Program)	Protect and enhance populations of rare plants; Species include: Aunt Lucy, Franks Love Grass, Small-fruit grooveburr

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3C	Conservative plant species (documented on site through plant stewardship index survey conducted in 2013 by Jared Rosenbaum)	Protect and enhance populations of conservative plants provided a Coefficient of Conservatism rank > 7 provided through the Plant Stewardship Index; Species include (bolded species have CC ranks > 8 ): <b>American Germander, Butternut, Black Cohosh</b> , Black Huckleberry, Bladdernut, Bloodroot, <b>Blue Marsh Violet, Blue Wood Sedge</b> , Canada Brome, Evergreen Wood Fern, Fragile Fern, <b>Green Milkweed</b> , Hairy Solomon's Seal, <b>Horsebalm</b> , Indian Pipe, Lopseed, Maple-leaved Viburnum, <b>Marginal Woodfern, Narrolw-leaved Sedge, Northern Beech Fern</b> , Pagoda Dogwood, Perfoliate Bellwort, <b>Pubescent Sedge, Rock-cap Fern, Scott's Spleenwort, Showy Orchis</b> , Silvery Glade Fern, Smooth Rockcross, Southern Beech Fern, <b>Round-lobed Hepatica</b> , Solomon's Seal, Spreading Sedge, Tall White Lettuce, Violet Wood-sorrel, Virginia Bluebells, Wild Ginger, Wild Licorice
<b>4</b>	<b>Deer Management</b>	
4A	Continue existing deer management program	DMP administered by Mercer County Park Commission
4B	Expand strategic deer management options	Explore expansion or improvement of hunting methods
4C	Expand deer harvesting on adjacent lands	Includes properties owned by Mercer County and private landowners
<b>5</b>	<b>Invasive Species Management</b>	
5A	Reduce tall, shade tolerant invasive shrubs	Species include: Oriental Photinia, Linden Viburnum, Siebold's Viburnum, Winged Burningbush
5B	Reduce selected additional species	Species include: Tree-of-Heaven, Japanese Wisteria, others
5C	Control multiple species within selected high conservation value locations	Multiple invasive species will be treated within restoration areas and places with rare animals and plants
<b>6</b>	<b>Permanent Early Successional Habitats</b>	
6A	Foster mountaintop meadow	Maintain diverse assemblage of native wildflowers and grasses of meadow restored in 2014/2015
6B	Foster ecological health within existing Right-of-Way corridor	JCP&L electrical power ROW along northern property boundary

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<b>7</b>	<b>Recreation/Education/Cultural</b>	<b>Integration of Recreation/Education/Cultural Interests</b>
7A	Maintain Trail System	Remove hazardous trees from high use areas such as trail corridors and vistas; Consider suitability for future trail creation
7B	Maintain Historical/Cultural Structures	Maintain vegetation to preserve/protect historical structures
7C	Education	Utilize forest stewardship as an educational tool
<b>N/A</b>	<b>Landowner Approval and Certifications</b>	<b>Co-owners will agree on each step of the FSP process before information is provided for stakeholder comment (See below).</b>
A	Meet all requirements established by each co-owner (Mercer County Parks Commission, NJDEP - Division of Parks and Forestry, Hopewell Township, Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space)	Input / approval for each co-owner will be sought at key points during the FSP process.
B	Meet all requirements established by Natural Resources Conservation Service grant obligations	Guidelines provided by NRCS.
C	Meet all requirements for Forest Stewardship Council approval	Submission under New Jersey Audubon. Guidelines provided by FSC.
<b>N/A</b>	<b>Stakeholder Process</b>	<b>Each process will include advertisement on the websites of Mercer County Park Commission and Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space. In addition, stakeholders will be contacted directly via e-mail containing relevant documents for review. Each process will include a 30-day comment period. All comments and responses will be posted to MCPC and FoHVOS websites. There will be a second 30-day comment period for responses to initial comments followed by receipt of stakeholder grievances to be submitted to FoHVOS/MCPC.</b>
A	Stakeholder Period #1 - General Intent, Forest Inventory Sampling Design, Known High Conservation Value Areas (HCV's), FSP Objectives	Receive and address stakeholder comments, Includes seeking stakeholder input on potential HCV's
B	Stakeholder Period #2 - Draft FSP	Receive and address stakeholder comments