

Dufferin County Forest Rules

County Forest Do's

- Non-motorized recreation such as hiking, mountain biking, cross country skiing, and horseback riding.
- Obey all signs, including those designating trail uses.
- Snowmobiling in the Dufferin County Forest is permitted only on designated and signed trails that are part of the Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs (OFSC) network. All of the rules that apply to OFSC trails anywhere in Ontario apply to the trails in the Dufferin County Forest. [Check trail status here.](#)
- What you carry in, please carry out.
- Remember your emergency number! Each entrance to the County Forest is posted with a six digit "address" on a green sign. Remember this number for emergencies.
- In case of emergency, call 9-1-1.
- If you wish to hold a recreational event, please contact the [County Forest Manager](#) to find out if your date is available prior to completing a [County Forest Event Permit Application](#).



- Enjoy your visit to the Dufferin County Forest!

County Forest Don'ts

- No motorized vehicles except snowmobiles on designated [Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs](#) trails.
- No campfires.
- No camping.
- No littering or dumping.
- No hunting allowed in any Dufferin County Forest tract between June 1 and September 30. A forest use permit is required for hunting at all other times. For more information, [click here.](#)
- Unless you have a valid ticket from the [Mansfield Outdoor Centre](#), do not use groomed/track-set cross-country ski trails leased to the Centre from December 1 to March 31.

Help Prevent the Spread of Invasive Plants

Use of recreational trails can be a lot of fun, but also has the potential to spread invasive plants and their seeds. Studies have shown that trails act as a pathway for spread of invasive plant species. Invasive plant seeds can cling to clothing, boots, pets, horses, and vehicles like mountain bikes and be spread along trails. Also, going off trail can create disturbances which can create places for invasive plants to become established.

What You Can Do

1. **Stay on the path:** When you venture off the path you risk picking up plant seeds and creating disturbed areas where invasive species can easily establish.
2. **Clean your gear:** Check all your gear at the end of your adventure for plant material, and clean it off before leaving the trailhead.
3. **Groom your pet:** Inspect your pet after a walk and wash off any mud that might be carrying invasive plant seeds.
4. **Report all invaders:** Take a photo and report any sightings of invasive species to the Invading Species Hotline at 1-800-563-7711 or visit www.EDDMapS.org/Ontario
5. **Spread the word:** Motivate your friends and family to take action by sharing information about invasive species, and the implications an invasion would have on our environment and economy!

Facts and Figures

- the Forest is a 1,066 hectare (2,636 acre) area, owned by the County of Dufferin, divided into fourteen tracts, distributed across all six of Dufferin County's rural municipalities
- the largest single area is the Main Tract (607 hectares/1,501 acres) located in Mulmur Township, just north of the hamlet of Mansfield
- major tree species include red pine, white pine, white spruce, eastern white cedar, larch, red oak, sugar

maple, white ash, black cherry, white birch, and poplar

- a variety of ecosystems is represented, including conifer plantations, upland tolerant hardwoods, upland oak, bottomlands, wetlands, and creeks
- the Forest is managed and used for a number of purposes, including recreation, natural heritage protection, erosion and water control, provision of wildlife habitat, outdoor education, protection of biodiversity, and support of the rural economy through timber production
- a provincially recognized Life Science Area of Natural and Scientific Interest - the Oak Ridges South Slope Forest - is located in the Main Tract provincially or locally significant wetlands are located in the Randwick, Melancthon, Riverview, Hockley, and Amaranth Tracts.

Forest Rules

Recreational use of the Dufferin County Forest is governed by the [outdoor recreation plan](#) and [Dufferin County By-Law 2017-39](#). The purpose of the policy and the by-law is to protect the environmental integrity of the Dufferin County Forest and to manage public use of the Forest through the regulation of certain activities.