

CONNESTEE FALLS NATURAL RESOURCES STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE (NRSC)

The NRSC was chartered by the CFPOA Board to develop a long term Natural Resources Stewardship Plan (NRSP) to promote the responsible management and conservation of our natural resources. The NRSP is a strategic framework created to promote the responsible management and conservation of our natural resources.

Its development has been and will continue to be a collaborative effort between the NRSC and outside experts, as well as CF stakeholders including administration and staff, permanent committees, clubs and organizations, and the general membership. This plan is intended to be a “living or dynamic document” which will be updated when a specific management program or plan is further developed and if/when new issues arise that require action.

NRSC MEETING GUIDELINES

All members of the NRSC including permanent, alternate, sub committee, and task force members are asked to respect these meeting guidelines:

1. Attend scheduled meetings (currently twice a month, every other Tuesday) either in person or via zoom as often as possible.
2. Be prepared to address the agenda items by reviewing previous meeting notes and agenda related information in advance. (If unable to attend, please provide comments on agenda items in advance of the meeting.)
3. Utilize collaborative efforts and consensus to develop path-forward for agenda items.
4. Utilize technology (email and google docs, sheets, forms, slides) to communicate with other committee members in a timely manner.
5. Respect the opinions of others including NRSC members, guests, and the community in general.
6. Recognize that it is ok to disagree, but it is not ok to be disagreeable.

NRSC GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The following principles from the Connestee Falls Mission Statement guided the NRSC committee while developing this Stewardship Plan.

Conservation and Management of assets – We recognize our unique assets and actively plan to maintain and enhance the value of private and common property.

Stewardship of the environment – We strive to ensure that our homes, infrastructure and activities are harmonious with our natural surroundings.

In addition to the guiding principles, the NRSC developed the following statement of values and strategies to help prioritize and develop future stewardship plans.

NRSC STATEMENT OF VALUES

Value 1: Identify and minimize threats to ecosystem resilience such as fire, flooding, erosion, and invasive species.

Value 2: Identify and preserve any rare, unique, or biologically important natural habitats that exist within Connestee Falls.

Value 3: Engage Connestee Falls' member volunteers whenever possible, and call on experts when necessary to assist with natural resources stewardship.

Value 4: Curate and utilize relevant research and expertise as it relates to ecosystem (forest and water) management.

Value 5: Provide educational materials and programs that will propagate these values throughout the community.

Value 6: Strive to achieve a balance between managing the natural resources found within Connestee Falls with human needs.

NRSC Strategies for Success

Strategy 1: Listen to community stakeholders and other committees for the purpose of understanding opinions and concerns.

Strategy 2: Secure expertise from outside organizations.

Strategy 3: Make data-driven and science-based recommendations.

Strategy 4: Generate support for this and future Stewardship Plans.

Strategy 5: Utilize effective educational programs such as *BearWise*, *Leave No Trace*, *NC Firewise*, and *Keep Wildlife Wild* programs to inspire people to protect and maintain our natural environment.

Resources for Candidate review:

[2021 NRSC Responsibilities and Duties](#) chartered by the CFPOA Board of Directors

[NRSC Website](#) Homepage includes links to the NRS Plan and Action Plan and access to committee information, Education/Activities/Events/Articles, Initiatives/Invasives/Volunteer, and Resources/Bearwise/Hiking

[2022 NRSC Deer Talk](#) with NCFS Biologist Justin McVey

[2023 NRSC Bear Talk](#) with Dr. Dave Herminghuysen

[2022 NRSC Community Survey](#) Executive Summary 2023

[2022 Natural Resources Inventory Report](#) and [NRI Presentation](#) with Owen Carson