

Vista and Vegetation Policy and Procedures

Amended 2-26-2019

It is the policy of the Orleans Conservation Trust (the Trust) to consider requests for the trimming, removing of vegetation and cutting of trees on Trust property on a case-by-case basis.

Objectives that may be considered in response to such requests are:

- providing views and vistas for public enjoyment on its lands;
- removal of invasive species from its land and promoting the use of native species;
- maintaining paths for neighborhood or public enjoyment where the property supports such use.

The following will assist the Trust in making decisions concerning such requests:

- A Trust representative will view the property and meet with the applicant to gain a clear understanding of the request and report findings to the Trust's Land Management Committee.
- Where necessary, issues of public safety, health and liability will be handled expeditiously with the appropriate Town or County agency.
- Any activity that is within 100 feet of a resource area (including but not limited to wetland, coastal bank, dune or salt marsh) is within the jurisdiction of the Conservation Commission. Permission from the Conservation Commission must be granted before any alteration may begin.
- Other matters such as removal of debris due to storm damage, overgrowth of invasive species, general eyesores and maintenance of a pre-existing view across Trust property will be addressed by the Land Management Committee.
- The Trust may consider requiring the services of a qualified and insured landscape or tree business for the professional removal or alteration of vegetation, with costs to be paid by the applicant.
- In certain circumstances, the Land Management Committee may allow specified maintenance trimming to be performed by an authorized person under the direction of a Trust representative, with an established understanding of what, how and when vegetation may be altered.
- The Trust expressly prohibits the storing of brush, logs, yard debris or other organic material on Trust property. Where debris has been illegally dumped on Trust property, the violator will be identified and required to remove the debris or bear the full cost of such removal.

- If a Land Management Plan exists for a particular parcel, those recommendations take precedence over any request. Deed research will be done to determine if certain activities are allowed or restricted for the subject property. The policy applies, for example, where the Trust owns property over which abutters retain a legal view easement.
- Every effort possible will be made to document conditions before and after vegetation alteration activities occur.