A Few Basics

Reston Common Area space is:

- Owned by Reston Association (RA).
- Protected for the benefit of the whole community, for today and the future.
- Set aside permanently as natural buffers between developed areas.
- A setting for recreation and environmental education.
- Home to a great variety of plants and animals.
- Maintained by professional RA staff.
- Supported through the annual RA assessment.

What is Your Role?
Reston residents, in partnership with RA, are responsible for protecting an irreplaceable community asset. Keeping Reston open space healthy and useful for everyone is easier if we all do our part.

Reston is blessed with considerable open space, in actual land and in its character. RA presents these guidelines to help you understand how to protect the natural beauty we all value.

Need More Information?
Call RA at 703-437-7658. RA has professional staff who help take care of your community. They frequently work with RA members on specific open space needs and are eager to talk with you or enlist your help with open space projects.

How do we do it?
Our approach is to let Nature take care of nature as much as possible. The benefits:

- The land is stabilized and protected from erosion.
- Native trees, shrubs and wildflowers are added each year.
- The stream beds are less eroded and Reston lakes receive less sediment that at some time must be removed.
- A greater variety of native plant and animal species can live here.
- The normal cycle of plant growth and decay enriches the soil and provides animal habitat and food.
- Far less hands-on maintenance is needed, helping to control RA’s costs.
- RA property is marked with boundary markers and is accessible to all residents.

Photos Contributed By:
Charles A. Veatch, Pete Staples & Sean Bahrami

Guidelines for the Care & Use of Reston's Common Area

Visit us at www.reston.org.
Official Rules for the Use of Reston Association Common Area

1. Owners, including Owners of property adjacent to the Common Area, shall not attempt to nor improve, alter, landscape or mow Reston Association (RA) Common Area.

2. Owners, including Owners of property adjacent to the Common Area, shall confine all fencing (including invisible fencing), sheds, or any other development to their own property.

3. RA meadows in the Common Area shall be mowed annually by RA staff only.

4. Smoking is prohibited within all RA Community Buildings, and is also prohibited in all Pool facilities; on and within all Tennis Court facilities and Picnic Pavilions; on all Ballfields, Multi-purpose Courts, Garden Plots or Garden Plot Areas; and on or within Tot-Lots or Tot-Lot Areas. This smoking ban is also in effect for up to a 25 foot perimeter around these buildings or facilities, to the extent that the 25 feet, or any portion thereof, comprises RA Common Area.

5. Horseback riding shall be confined to designated bridle paths.

6. Dogs are to be walked on a leash in accordance with Fairfax County regulations. Cats, while on Common Area, must also be walked on a leash. Except for services dogs, no pets are permitted on active recreation areas including but not limited to such areas as playgrounds, picnic and multi purpose courts, and play fields.

7. Dumping of any refuse including but not limited to grass clippings, leaves, Christmas trees, appliances, old sofas, crank case oil, etc. is prohibited. [Also see Amended Deed Section VI.2(b)]

8. No invasive exotic plants or animals (especially invasive plants such as bamboo and English ivy), shall be introduced to the RA Common Area.

9. Unless specifically authorized by the Association, the use of any motor vehicles or other motorized vehicle, other than governmental police, fire and rescue vehicles, on walkways or other Common Area is prohibited. [Also see Amended Deed Section VI.2(db)(10)]

10. Loitering, as defined by Fairfax County Code Article 1 Section 5-1-2, is prohibited. Specifically, it shall be unacceptable for any person to loiter at, on or in RA Common Area in the following manner:
   a. To interfere, impede or hinder the free passage of pedestrian or authorized vehicular traffic;
   b. To threaten or do physical harm to another member or members of the public;
   c. To threaten or do physical damage to the Common Area; or
   d. To breach the peace or engage in disorderly conduct by the use of words, or acts or other conduct that clearly threaten, intimidate or present a danger to others.

   Except where 10 a - d apply, before contacting local law enforcement, Reston Association, in its sole discretion, may contact an appropriate organization(s) to assist in the intervention with or removal of individuals from the Common Area.

11. Unless specifically authorized by the RA Board of Directors, the following actions are prohibited in the RA Common Area:
   a. Carrying or discharging of firearms, air guns, archery equipment, including but not limited to bow and arrow, and B-B guns;
   b. Hunting, trapping, harvesting or collecting of any wildlife, including but not limited to mammals, birds, reptiles, and amphibians;
   c. Feeding of non-domesticated wild animals (except songbirds);
   d. Practices that attract non-domesticated wild animals or those that may be vectors for infectious diseases, including, but not limited to, leaving pet food out of doors overnight in a location accessible to non-domesticated wild animals;
   e. Fires or burning;
   f. Overnight camping; and
   g. Harvesting or collecting plant life, except as authorized by the Association.

12. Fishing in the Association's Lakes and Ponds is permitted as per Section 8(i) of Common Area Rules & Regulations Resolution 2 on Lake Use & Access.

13. Geocaching (use of Geographic Positioning Systems (“GPS”) to locate a cache of materials) is permitted only by Members under the following rules:
   a. Members interested in performing Geocaching must notify the Association of all cache sites.
   b. Cache sites located on the Common Area must be completely hidden from view.
   c. Cache sites must not be permitted near wildflowers, a wildlife nest or den.
   d. Cache sites located in the Association’s Common Area known as the Walker Nature Education Center, must be no more than 10 feet from a pathway or trail edge.
   e. The Association shall not be held liable for any injuries or personal property damage incurred by those participating in Geocaching on the Common Area.

14. The Board of Directors may, for specific management purposes on certain properties, amend these rules or implement additional rules to meet land and resource management objectives.