

BY-LAW NO. 7156-25

OF

THE CORPORATION OF THE COUNTY OF SIMCOE

A By-law to govern the use of lands known as the Simcoe County Forest.

Whereas Section 11(3) of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, S.O. 2001, c. 25 provides that a Municipality may pass By-laws respecting matters within the sphere of jurisdiction of culture, parks, recreation and heritage; and

Whereas by the adoption of Item CCW 2025-252 of Committee of the Whole, County Council deems it desirable to establish rules and regulations for governing the use of lands designated by the County as County Forest.

Now therefore the Council of the Corporation of the County of Simcoe enacts as follows:

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1.0 DEFINITIONS

In this By-law:

“All-Terrain Vehicle” is as defined in the *Highway Traffic Act*.

“Authorized Parking Area” means an area of the County Forest designated, set aside for or established, for the parking of a vehicle, which may have posted regulations with respect to the use of the area.

“Biking” is cycling on a mountain bike, bike, unicycle, or tricycle which may include electrically assisted power.

“County” means The Corporation of the County of Simcoe.

“County Forest” means land owned by the County and designated by the County as the Simcoe County Forest.

“Control” includes care and custody.

“Council” means the Council of The Corporation of the County of Simcoe.

“Designated Trail” means that part of the County Forest that has been marked, posted or blazed for the purpose of a trail by the County or as authorized by the County through a Use Agreement.

“Foreign Material” means any items, debris, waste, refuse or other contaminants that are not intended to be part of the County Forest.

“Liquor” is as defined in the *Liquor License Act*.

“Motorized Snow Vehicle” is as defined in the *Motorized Snow Vehicles Act*.

“Motor Vehicle” is as defined in the *Highway Traffic Act*.

“OFAH” means the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters.

“OFATV” means Ontario Federation of All Terrain Vehicle Clubs.

“OFTR” means Ontario Federation of Trail Riders.

“OFSC” means the Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs.

“Officer” means a Police Officer, a Municipal Law Enforcement Officer, or other person appointed by the County to enforce this By-law.

“Off-Road Vehicle” is as defined in the *Off-Road Vehicles Act* and includes All-Terrain Vehicles and motorcycles but does not include dune buggies as defined in the *Off-Road Vehicles Act*.

“Organized Event” includes any event that takes place in the County Forest where person(s) are charged a fee or the event is advertised but does not include organized hikes or nature walks.

“Refuse” includes but is not limited to paper wrappers, food containers, discarded food, disposable eating utensils, newspapers, drink containers of all kinds, disposable diapers, broken glass, grass clippings, yard waste, and inert fill of any kind.

“Run at Large” means being at any place other than the premises of the owner of the dog and not Under the Control of the owner.

“Temporary Access Permit” means a permit granted by the County to a person, user group, or organization permitting the temporary use of the County Forest under the conditions and requirements outlined in the permit.

“Under the Control of” means when a dog is off leash, the dog remains within sight and earshot of the owner, responds reliably to voice commands, and does not approach within one (1) meter of any person or animal without prior consent.

“Use Agreement” means an agreement between the County and a person, user group or organization outlining all requirements for use of the County Forest.

“**Valid Permit**” means a current authorization issued by a recognized recreation club permitting the operation of the Off-Road Vehicle, provided the operator complies with the *Off-Road Vehicles Act*, *Motorized Snow Vehicles Act* and the *Highway Traffic Act*.

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2.0 BY-LAW APPLICATION AND ADMINISTRATION

2.1 By-law Applicability

This By-law applies to all County Forest lands and any premises located therein which are under the Control and management of the County, together with the boulevards, and approaches thereto and connecting the same.

2.2 Emergency - Maintenance Vehicles - Exemption

Notwithstanding any provision of this By-law, vehicles operated on behalf of an ambulance service, fire department, police department, the County or person(s) working under the authority of the County shall be exempt from the provisions of this By-law.

2.3 By-law Administration

This By-law shall be administered by the County Forestry Department.

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3.0 PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES

3.1 No person in the County Forest shall:

- (a) operate a Motor Vehicle;
- (b) place or dispose of any Refuse or Foreign Material;
- (c) have open fires;
- (d) camp;
- (e) consume or possess Liquor;
- (f) conduct target practice, paintball, airsoft, or any other activity that discharges projectiles;
- (g) cut, prune, dig, damage or gather trees, shrubs, groundcover or firewood;
- (h) construct an unauthorized structure;
- (i) allow a dog to Run at Large;
- (j) allow a dog off-leash on the properties designated and as set out in Schedule 2 to this By-law;
- (k) remove, alter, deface or destroy any sign, gate, barrier, or fence;
- (l) damage any access road or Designated Trail;
- (m) install an unauthorized sign;
- (n) enter, interfere with or disrupt logging operations;
- (o) construct an unauthorized trail;

- (p) hunt on the properties designated and as set out in Schedule 1 to this By-law, as it may be updated and published from time to time;
- (q) hunt without a valid OFAH membership;
- (r) construct a tree stand, shelter, or any structure with the use of hardware which penetrates a tree;
- (s) possess a tree stand January 16th through September 14th;
- (t) disturb or remove any object of potential archaeological significance;
- (u) dig;
- (v) use a metal detector;
- (w) operate an Off-Road Vehicle or Motorized Snow Vehicle on a closed trail or access road in the County Forest;
- (x) operate an Off-Road Vehicle or Motorized Snow Vehicle in the County Forest without valid insurance or licence for the vehicle;
- (y) operate a Motor Vehicle, Off-Road Vehicle, or Motorized Snow Vehicle in the County Forest except in accordance with the provisions of this By-law or unless such use is authorized; or
- (z) disobey a posted sign within the County Forest.

3.2 No adjacent landowner shall encroach upon the County Forest in any manner.

3.3 No person shall permit a minor person under their guardianship or care and control to do any of the activities prohibited under this By-law.

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4.0 ACTIVITIES APPROVED

4.1 For greater clarity the following activities are permitted:

- (a) walking, hiking;
- (b) cross country skiing, snowshoeing;
- (c) orienteering, geocaching;
- (d) nature appreciation, nature study;
- (e) dog sledding;
- (f) horseback riding;
- (g) dog walking Under the Control of or on-leash;
- (h) biking;
- (i) snowmobiling on open OFSC Designated Trails provided a Valid Permit has been obtained;
- (j) operating Off-Road Vehicles on open OFATV or OFTR Designated Trails provided a Valid Permit has been obtained;
- (k) hunting and fishing in select County Forest lands as per provincial and federal hunting and fishing regulations. Hunters are required to be

members of OFAH. Hunters are only permitted to use portable and temporary tree stands and ladders between September 15th and January 15th;

- (l) trapping provided authorization has been obtained from the County;
- (m) harvesting non-wood forest products such as tree seed/cones, mushrooms for personal use; and
- (n) those activities approved through the execution of a Use Agreement or Temporary Access Permit.

5.0 FIRST NATIONS AND METIS

- 5.1** This By-law does not limit or supersede any recognized constitutional rights of Indigenous peoples to hunt, fish or trap within the County Forest.

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6.0 USE AGREEMENTS / TEMPORARY ACCESS PERMITS

- 6.1** No person or organization shall conduct an Organized Event in the County Forest without an executed Use Agreement or Temporary Access Permit.
- 6.2** An organization that wishes to use the County Forest for the purpose of establishing a Designated Trail or for such other purpose as deemed appropriate by the County is required to enter into a Use Agreement.
- 6.3** Every person or organization entering into a Use Agreement or Temporary Access Permit shall pay a fee as established in the Use Agreement or Temporary Access Permit.
- 6.4** No person who has entered into a Use Agreement or Temporary Access Permit with the County shall contravene any of the terms or conditions of the Use Agreement or Temporary Access Permit.

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7.0 ENFORCEMENT AND PENALTY

- 7.1** Where any person contravenes any provisions of this By-law, such person is subject to the provisions of the *Trespass to Property Act*.
- 7.2** An Officer may enforce the provisions of this By-law.
- 7.3** Where any person contravenes any of the provisions of this By-law, the permission of such person to remain within the County Forest is revoked.
- 7.4** An Officer may order a person believed to be in contravention of this By-law to:

- (a) cease the activity that is in contravention of the By-law; and/or
- (b) leave the County Forest; and/or
- (c) abate or remove the encroachment within a time period prescribed by the County.

7.5 Any person who is alleged to have contravened any Section of this By-law shall identify themselves to the Officer upon request, failure to do so shall be deemed to have hindered or obstructed the Officer in the execution of their duties.

7.6 Any person who provides false information to an Officer shall be deemed to have hindered or obstructed the Officer in the execution of their duties.

7.7 No person shall hinder or obstruct an Officer in the enforcement of this By-law.

7.8 Any person who contravenes any provision of this By-law is guilty of an offence and upon conviction is liable to the maximum fine as provided for in the *Provincial Offences Act*, and every fine is recoverable under the *Provincial Offences Act*.

7.9 The court in which the conviction has been entered and any other court of competent jurisdiction thereafter may make an order prohibiting the continuation or repetition of the offence by the person convicted, and such order shall be in addition to any other penalty imposed by the court on the person convicted.

7.10 If at the direction of the County, a person fails to abate or remove an encroachment under Section 3.2 and Section 7.4(c), the County may, in addition to any other enforcement and penalties under this By-law, enter upon the land from which the encroachment originates to abate or remove same at the expense of the person directed to abate or remove and collect the cost of so doing in the same manner as property taxes, as provided for in Section 446 of the *Municipal Act*.

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8.0 APPLICABLE LAW

8.1 Every person who uses the County Forest is subject to all applicable Municipal By-laws and all Provincial and Federal laws and regulations and any person violating any By-law or law may be required to leave the County Forest.

8.2 The County may use set fines for certain offences in this By-law and the procedures of the *Provincial Offences Act* shall apply.

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9.0 MISCELLANEOUS

9.1 Short Title

This By-law may be referred to as The County Forest Recreation By-Law.

9.2 Severability

It is declared that notwithstanding that any Sections of this By-law may be found by any court of law to be bad or illegal or beyond the power of the Council to enact, such Sections thereof shall be deemed to be severable and that all other Sections of this By-law are separate and independent therefore and enacted as such.

Repeal

9.3 That By-law No. 6753 is hereby repealed.

By-law enacted this 25th day of November, 2025.



Warden





County Clerk

SCHEDULE 1**TO COUNTY FOREST RECREATION BY-LAW NO. 7156-25**

Hunting is prohibited within the County Forest Tracts listed below:

MUNICIPALITY	TRACT	LOCATION
Barrie	Dyer	CON 12 PT LOT 1
Barrie	Bloxham	CON 10 N PT LOT 5 (old Innisfil)
Essa	Rippon	CON 3 W PT LOT 32
Innisfil	Webb	CON 12 N PT LOT 26
Innisfil	Montclair	CON 4 S PT LOT 16 PLUS PLAN;162 LOTS 12 13 15 & 16
Springwater	Museum	CON 5 PT LOTS 12 & 13; CON 6 PT LOTS 12 & 13; RP 51R28669 PARTS 1, 2 & 3; RP 51R30321 PART 3
Springwater	Midhurst	CON 4 E PT LOT 12
Springwater	Hickling	CON 5 W PT LOTS 14 & 15
Penetanguishene	Thompson	CON 1 LOT 114
Tiny	Thompson	CON 2 OS LOT 114
Tiny	Charlebois	CON 2 OS LOT 112 LOT 114; CON 2 OS PT LOT 113 RP;51R1305 PARTS 1 2 & 6; CON 2 OS PT LOT 113 PL 51R;1305 PARTS 3 5
Midland	Martin's Valley	CON 1 OS PT LOTS 111 TO 113;51R21219 PART 1
New Tecumseth	Tottenham	CON 1 N PT LOT 6; CON 1 S PT LOT 6

SCHEDULE 2

TO COUNTY FOREST RECREATION BY-LAW NO. 7156-25

Dogs are permitted on-leash only within the County Forest Tracts listed below:

MUNICIPALITY	TRACT	LOCATION
Springwater	Museum	CON 5 PT LOTS 12 & 13; CON 6 PT LOTS 12 & 13; RP 51R28669 PARTS 1, 2 & 3; RP 51R30321 PART 3