



ATV's and Dirt Bikes Not Allowed in Bethany Land Trust Preserves and Town Open Space

We know that many people who ride ATVs and dirt bikes share something important with all of us who care about the outdoors: a love of the woods, the trails, and being outside. We also understand that there are fewer and fewer places where riders can legally enjoy their sport. That frustration is real, and we respect the desire to find places to ride. However, Bethany Land Trust preserves and town open space are protected lands intended for recreation, hiking, wildlife, conservation, and quiet enjoyment. Motorized vehicles are not legally permitted on them.

Motorized vehicles cause damage that is difficult and expensive to repair. Tires tear up trails, widen footpaths, expose tree roots, compact soil, and create ruts that channel rainwater into erosion. They also damage sensitive plants, disturb wildlife, and creates safety concerns for hikers, walkers, and other visitors who use the preserves. What may look like a harmless ride can leave damage that takes years to repair and can permanently change the character of the land.

Bethany Land Trust and the Town have taken steps to prevent unauthorized motorized access, including installing barriers and other physical measures at vulnerable entrances. We are also using cameras to document activity and identify vehicles and riders entering the preserves illegally. These measures are necessary because simply posting signs has not been enough to prevent repeated violations. We would much rather spend our time and resources caring for the land than repair damage caused by illegal vehicle use.

Our request is simple: please do not ride ATVs, dirt bikes, or other motorized vehicles on Bethany Land Trust preserves and town open space. We ask riders to respect these protected lands and the people and wildlife who depend on them. Continued illegal riding will be documented and reported to law enforcement, and we will pursue appropriate enforcement when necessary to protect the land. We would much rather have cooperation than conflict, and we hope every rider will help keep these preserves protected for everyone.

Looking ahead....

October 4th: Visit our booth at the Bethany Harvest Festival

October 11th: 1-3pm - Native American Ceremonial Stone Structures Hike in Whispering Pines

November 5th: 7pm - Fall Program, Lakeview Lodge, 265 Beacon Road Bethany Topic TBA

November 22nd: 6-8pm - Super Moon Evening Hike in the Van Epps Preserve

Bob Harrison – Bethany Land Trust Trails Chair