



### Bush Hogging Policy – Conservancy Grassland<sup>1</sup>

- Any grassland that is adjacent to residential property will have a 4' to 5' wide "buffer strip" mowed biweekly by the HOA.
- Grassland will be "bush hogged" **twice a year**, once in **mid-summer** and once in **mid-fall**, unless an area is deemed to be a "Designated Wildlife Habitat." Bush-hogging involves cutting vegetation with a rotational mower that is pulled behind a tractor.
- Designated Wildlife Habitat will be bush hogged **once a year in mid-fall** to allow for ground nesting birds to fully fledge, mammals to raise their young, pollinators to flourish, and wildflowers to reproduce and spread.

Designated Wildlife Habitat are areas that provide food, water, cover and a place to raise young, and are maintained to have a positive effect on the health of the soil, air, water and habitat for native wildlife. Designated Wildlife Habitat areas contain or are adjacent to areas that contain, as per National Wildlife Federation Wildlife Habitat Certification standards:

- Food – Seeds, berries, nectar, foliage, fruits, sap, pollen.
- Water – Lake, stream, vernal pools, pond, wetland.
- Cover – Woodland, vegetative ground cover, bramble patch, meadow, pond.
- Places to raise young – Meadow, snags, dense shrubs, nesting structures, caterpillar host plants.
- Sustainable practices – Riparian buffer, promote native species proliferation, minimize habitat fragmentation.

Designated Wildlife Habitat areas that are adjacent to residential property will have an additional buffer strip of **12' bush hogged in mid-summer** by the Conservancy in addition to the HOA biweekly buffer strip mowing, to limit tick migration and plant encroachment onto private property.

- "Naturalization Grasslands" are designated grasslands that:
  - Are not directly adjacent to residential property.
  - Do not pose an immediate invasive species threat.
  - Increase habitat connectivity.
  - Allow for natural succession and reforestation.

Naturalization Grasslands are managed to allow for natural succession with **no annual bush hogging** unless deemed necessary by the Conservancy. They are monitored annually to determine the need for bush hogging or treatment for undesirable species.

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<sup>1</sup> Established Conservancy trails will be mowed bi-weekly by the Conservancy during the mowing season.