

Krusch Preserve Management

Plan for Sandblow and Meadow: Accepted by the Preserve Committee 10.30.25

OVERVIEW: The Krusch Preserve Management Plan (approved by Vermont Land Trust and adopted by the Town of Cambridge 7 November 2022) specifies that these areas should be kept open to provide varied habitat for our mostly-forested Preserve.

Recommendation to add to our current management plan:

The meadow and the sandblow can best be maintained as open habitat by selective cutting every few years to encourage the current cover and by vigorously controlling the invasive species. DO NOT MOW either area. See the below detailed report on the recommendations from the Audubon Vermont expert on maintaining open areas (meadows and shrublands) for biodiversity.

Mark LaBarr of Audubon Vermont, an expert on managing grassland and shrubland for biological diversity, made a site visit on 12 September 2025 to advise us on the two PAKNP open areas. Mark observed excellent habitat in both the meadow above the Preserve entrance and the Sandblow. He finds our invasive species problem controllable. He advises NOT to mow either area. Selective cutting of trees will keep areas from reverting to woodland. Additional advice is below.

MEADOW MANAGEMENT:

This pristine old pasture habitat should not be mown. The native grasses are thick and sturdy enough to prevent most incursions. Trees in the field should be removed when they grow large enough to shade the meadow. The recommendation is to do selective removal every few years after marking the trees to be removed. Drop and leave as is, girdle, or cart wood away. Encourage a soft buffer between woodland and meadow. If we want to plant additional shrubs. add grey birch, native viburnums, hawthorn shrubs, grey stem dogwood, and red osier dogwood. Preserve all the native hawthorns.

- Keep the trail well mowed to discourage the spread of Reed Canary Grass.
- Milkweed - Encourage distribution by shaking seeds from pods in the fall.
- Hawthorn – an excellent species for bird and insect diversity. Keep all
- Asian Honeysuckle and Buckthorn - Control annually.
- Reed Canary Grass – Keep it on the south side of the trail. If it spreads, chemical application can be applied to the stem to kill the roots.
- White pines - should be encouraged on the south side of the trail to shade the Reed Canary Grass.

SANDBLOW MANAGEMENT:

The sandblow plant cover is stable and will remain so with minimal intervention. **Do not mow** - the soil is fragile. The raspberry bushes (Rubus) are valuable shrubland habitat cover. Selective annual cutting will keep trees from dominating. The perimeter is currently a good transition zone, a soft buffer between forest and field.

- Native Hawthorn is highly desirable - Do not cut.
- Asian Honeysuckle and Buckthorn - **Control annually**. Attention near the sign.
- White pine -Thin the trees while a manageable size. Cut a few trees annually after the first cut.
- Boxelder - Control the new trees now before it becomes too dominant. Some may stump sprout. Keep the large old tree.
- Poplar - Cut as needed. Every 5 years remove large poplars. It grows from the roots and will come back.
- Mullein – an excellent cover on the lower slopes.
- Sumac – the bushes below the asparagus patch need surveillance to stop expansion. The area by the butternut is at maximum height and may remain.
- Willow - Encourage growth at the bottom of the trail
- Labyrinth. Leave the small pine. Every few years flag small poplars for removal. Maintain raspberry bushes between paths at reasonable height. Remove blackberry shrubs.

Attached to the Minutes of the 10.30.25 Krusch Preserve Committee.

