

TREE POLICY

ORCAS ISLAND FOUNDATION

Mission Statement: To Balance the needs of Indralaya's human community with the need to protect the Integrity and Biodiversity of the Trees at Indralaya in accordance with the concept of Ahimsa.

PHILOSOPHY OF LAND USE AT INDRALAYA

The following policy is based on all the forest values (aesthetic, spiritual, genetic, recreational, biological), in accordance with the historical Indralaya principle of working cooperatively with nature, visible and invisible.

To balance the needs of humans with protection for the trees and wildlife, the camp property is divided into two zones, thereby formalizing a policy that has been in place since the early 70s. At that time, it was determined that the deeper purposes of the camp were served by leaving nature untouched in the natural forested areas.

Zone A - A people area

Zone B - A natural forest area

Boundaries to be defined and mapped.

The PEOPLE ZONE is the area of greatest human activity. It includes the camp buildings and spaces around them, the grove, small stands of trees, access roads, parking areas, the meadow and garden. Perimeters will be clearly defined and recorded.

The NATURAL ZONE or Nature Sanctuary is the area left in its natural state. It includes forest, beaches, and mossy meadows in the southern section of the property. Posted signs will give the name and phone number for Indralaya, the status of the land and the basic rules of the camp.

LAND MANAGEMENT CRITERIA

PEOPLE ZONE:

1. Monitor safety - cabin, human and fire.
2. Define and maintain a forest edge to allow sunlight in the meadow, orchard, and garden.
3. Provide filtered sunlight, not clear unobstructed sunlight, around cabins and buildings.
4. Views - selective limbing of trees will be the first choice with never more than 25% of a tree's leaf bearing branches removed. Topping and removal of trees is a last resort.
5. Firewood for camp use will be taken from this zone. Low usage of firewood will be promoted for conservation and ecological reasons.
6. Regular removal of seedlings, saplings, shrubs, exotic species, fallen and dead trees, undergrowth and debris from roads, paths, meadow, garden, and areas around buildings.

7. Promote natural regeneration and retain some saplings to maintain temporal variability.
8. Removal of exotic (non-native, introduced) species e.g. ivy, broom, Himalaya blackberry, and English holly.
9. Protect the natural diversity of ages, heights, and species of trees.
10. Maintain trees that act as wind breaks.
11. Protect wildlife trees (any standing, dead or living tree with special characteristics that provides habitat, food, and shelter for wildlife).
12. Maintain natural riparian areas beside the shorelines.
13. Trees from this zone may be cut and used for camp building projects but not sold for profit.
14. Trees may need to be removed because of disease or danger but not for the sole purpose of making a profit.
15. For the purposes of this policy a tree is defined as larger than 3.9 inches in diameter. The diameter is determined by dividing the circumference of the trunk 4.5 feet above the ground by 3.142.

NATURAL ZONE:

1. Allow nature to maintain a fully functioning forest within the natural historic range of spatial and temporal variability.
2. Protect wildlife trees.
3. Leave leaves, twigs and fallen trees on the ground to enrich the soil, except as needed for fire crown protection.
4. Avoid disturbing bird nests and logs that provide an ecosystem for birds, fungi, mosses, lichens, beetles, centipedes, salamanders, toads etc.
5. Respect wildlife and their habitats.
6. Encourage the natural diversity of ages, heights, and species of trees.
7. Maintain narrow, permeable (water can penetrate) paths.
8. Monitor for safety.
9. Remove exotic (non-native, introduced) species example, ivy, broom, Himalaya blackberry, and English holly.