

Trees down in Town Open Space Policy
(Adopted by the Town Council 7/9/07)

The Town of Cape Elizabeth owns hundreds of acres of forested lands. Most of these areas are accessible to the public on town owned trails and abut neighborhoods. “Acts of Nature” will result in the toppling of some trees on town land. The following policy guides the disposition of fallen trees.

1. Trees down on trails. Residents are encouraged to report trees down on town trails to the Town Planner, who will relay the information to the Conservation Commission. The Conservation Commission will use this information to do a periodic assessment of trails. The Commission will remove trees as they can, but they are a volunteer group with limited labor resources. As funds allow, the Conservation Commission may also contract out tree removal on town trails. If an abutting homeowner would like to help out and remove trees on trails, their contribution is appreciated.
2. Trees down in open space. When trees fall down on town conservation land and are not blocking town trails, the town will not be removing those trees. Upon request to the Town Planner, a homeowner may volunteer to remove the tree. In this circumstance, only the fallen tree and no other vegetation may be removed. Under no circumstances should the homeowner’s yard increase in size to include town owned land.
3. Trees that threaten to fall and block trails. When a tree located on town land is dead and may fall on a town trail, the Town Planner may give permission to remove the tree.