
Trash Along Trails on County Reforestation Parcels

Per the Rules for Use of St. Lawrence County Lands, adopted by resolution by the St. Lawrence County Board of Legislators May 6, 2013; Section 3 – “Dumping, no person shall throw, dump, deposit, or place on or in any County lands or structures any refuse, trash, garbage, rubbish, litter or any nauseous or offensive matter”.

When a complaint is made by the public to the St. Lawrence County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) Office, the complaint will be logged on a trash complaint log. The complaint will be verified as being on a County Reforestation Parcel.

- If the complaint is actually on a State-owned parcel, the complaint will be forwarded to the Potsdam DEC Office, either an ECO or the Supervising Forester. Date when the complaint was forwarded will be noted on the trash complaint log. If able to, the complainant will be informed that it is actually on State-owned land and the DEC was made aware of it, or they can inform the DEC office themselves.
- If the complaint is on a County Reforestation parcel, but along the County Multi-Use Trail, the complaint will be forwarded to the County Trail Coordinator to address. A request for confirmation that the complaint was addressed will be made. Date when the complaint was forwarded and any follow up will be recorded on the trash complaint log.
- If the complaint is on a County Parcel and not along the County Multi-Use Trail, the complaint will be logged on the trash complaint log. A SWCD staff person will evaluate the situation. If able to, it will be addressed at time of evaluation. If the complaint is something large, like an appliance, assistance will be requested from County Highway Department, as SWCD is not equipped to handle such items. An attempt to identify the person(s) dumping on the parcel will be made, within the capacity of the SWCD.

An attempt will be made to visit each County parcel that is managed by the SWCD once a year. These visits will be a general review of the forest stand and to look for any problems, including dumping.

If a parcel is identified as having a trash dumping problem and the dumping continues, the SWCD staff will inform the SWCD Board of Directors and request permission to temporarily gate the parcel, to deter dumping. If gating is determined appropriate, the County Administrator will be notified of the temporary action. The temporary length of gating will be for a period no less than 6 months and no more than 18 months.

The SWCD has a limited budget to address dumping complaints. Attempts will be made to quickly address all complaints, however, if budget constraints prohibit action taking place, alternative solutions will be sought. If no alternative is found, the complaint will be addressed when funding can be made available.