




# Craneridge Tree Restoration Project

Area 1: 2023

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Woodlands & Habitat Committee





# Woodlands & Habitat Committee



## How we support the Craneridge Mission:

- We are woodland habitat stewards following sustainable woodland management.
- We focus on building a strong sense of community by connecting neighbors with our natural habitat.





# Our Woodlands: the Pluses\*

- Craneridge offers a one-of-a-kind woodland neighborhood experience.
- Mixed-wood forest (Eastern Hemlock, American Beech, Red Maple, Big-tooth Aspen, Black Cherry, Yellow Birch) has high value for wildlife habitat, recreation, and water quality.
- The high proportion of Eastern Hemlock, an important tree species, is especially valuable.
- Opportunity exists for the creation of trails and native gardens in some less developed areas.
- The size and organization of Craneridge lends to community education and engagement.



From DEC 2021 Forest Stewardship Plan\*



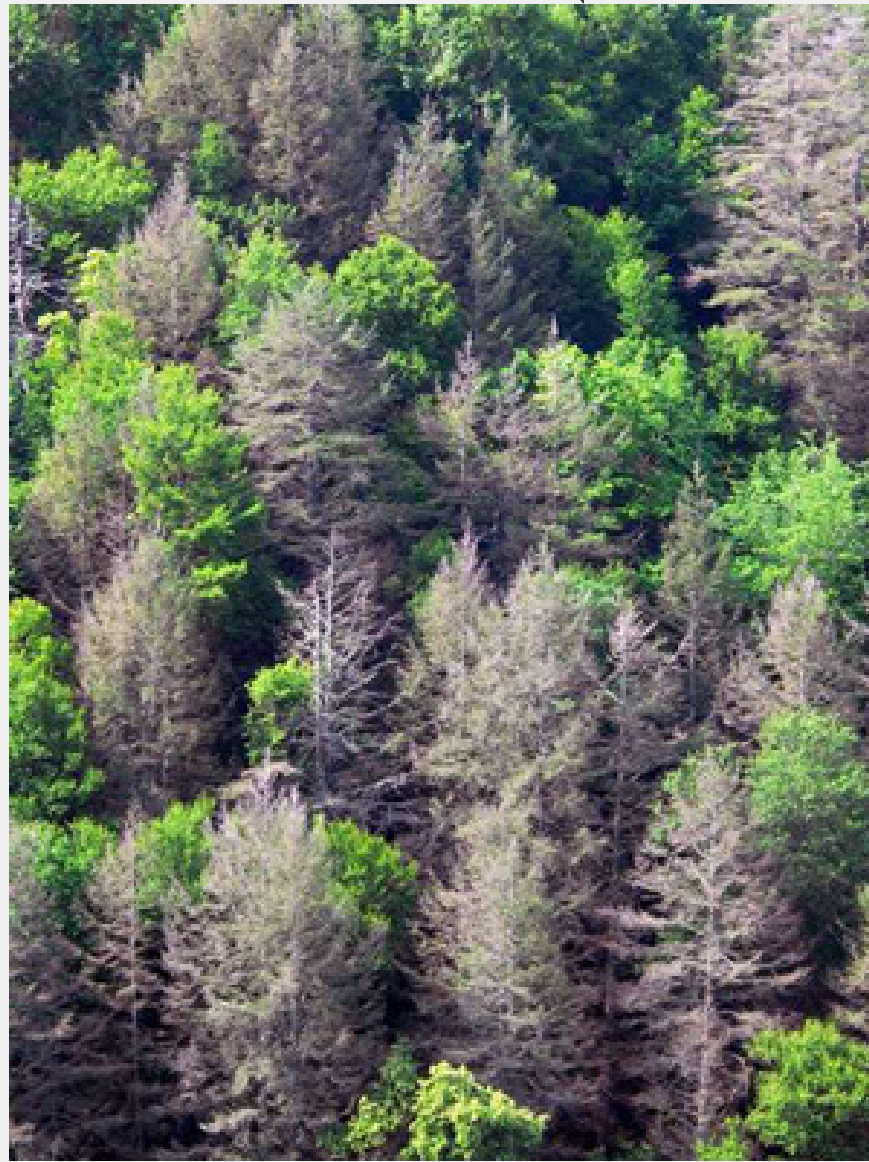


## And... Current Challenges

- Tree diversity could be improved – by introducing native trees that are resistant to current diseases and pests.
- Deer population is excessive (3-4 times healthy populations), making tree regeneration very difficult without deer protection.
- Invasive plants found in our neighborhood will outcompete desirable native plants, which support wildlife.
- Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA) has spread into WNY and is 100% fatal. Only current treatment is two targeted pesticides.
- Due to Beech diseases, we are losing many of these trees.
- In the western two-thirds of Craneridge, a majority of trees are Eastern Hemlock and American Beech.



# Hemlock Woolly Adelgid. The Outcome



Western Pennsylvania



Great Smoky Mountain Park



# Our Plan: Mini-Forests

## Objectives

- Using low-cost reforestation best practices, plant 1 mini-forest\* in a pre-designated common area (fall 2023).
- Test success rate in our high deer population area (2023-2028).
- Create neighborhood guidelines on how to plant native trees and shrubs using tubes or cages on private property (early 2024).
- Educate neighbors on how to successfully care for trees within the smaller scale of their properties (2024 onward).
- Engage neighbors throughout the process and to help maintain after planting.

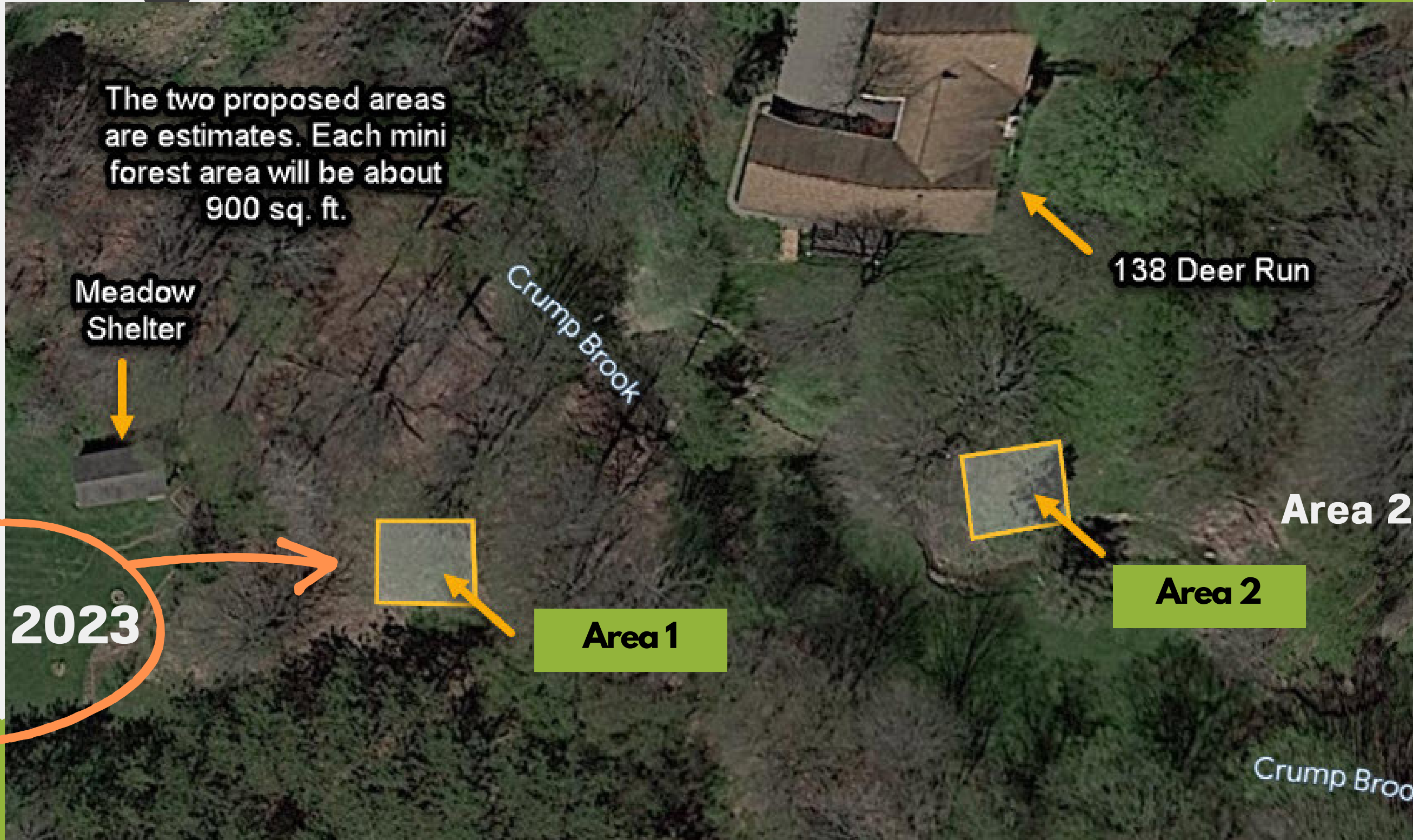
\* Mini forests more closely replicate what happens in natural forests. Both trees and shrubs are spaced more closely together allowing for faster growth and regeneration.

# Project Summary

- A 1,000 sq. ft area within the Meadow adjacent to the new woodland path.
- Plant 125 trees and shrubs. Royal Fern Nursery is supplying the plants (1-5 gallon pots).
- Deer protection is required until plants are mature enough to withstand deer damage.
- We'll use 5' area fencing temporarily. NOTE: fencing offers the highest level of deer protection.
- Proposed area is on common property and **not easily seen** by most residents and yet it is **easily accessible**.
- Holes will be dug using a motorized auger. No tilling.
- One-on-one meetings and ongoing communications started after Labor Day. We've met with homeowners adjacent to the planting area, and they are enthusiastically in support.
- Recruiting volunteers for planting will be key.



# Our Plan: Proposed Area



**Area 1: 2023**

**Area 2**

**Area 2: Future**

**Area 1**







# Saving Our Trees...

- Fifty years ago, when our association covenants were written, our trees were not facing the diseases and risks they face today. And human caused deer over-population was far less of an issue.
- Foresters, ecologists, and woodlands habitat experts, name deer over-population as the **#1 issue preventing reforestation** and habitat restoration.
- For conservation areas, fencing is widely recommended as the primary and most effective solution.
- **If we do not plant a lot more trees and adequately protect them from deer, the next generation of Craneridge residents could be facing a neighborhood with a lot less trees and wildlife.**



# Deer Protection: Our Approach

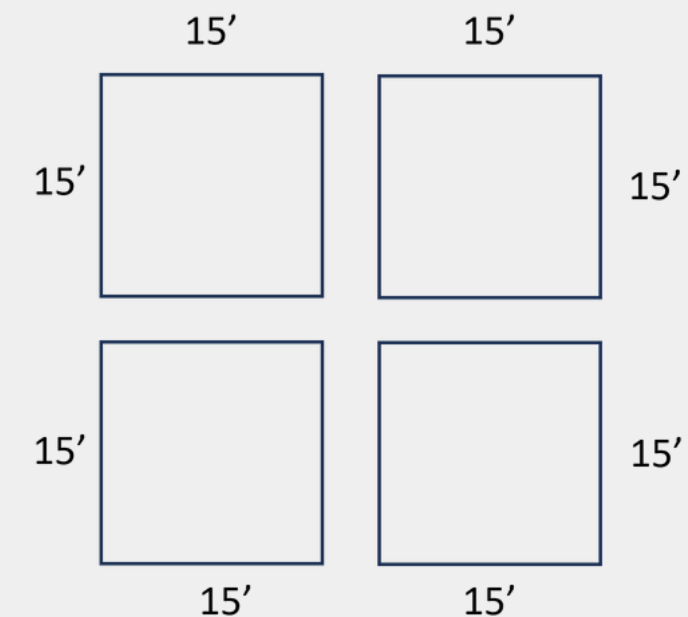
## Objectives

- Protect against deer browsing in the lowest cost, most effective way until trees and shrubs are mature enough to withstand damage (3-4 years)
- Protect Craneridge assets (i.e., acquired trees and shrubs)
- Keep maintenance to a minimum (maintenance = volunteer time)

To accomplish these objectives, we plan to protect the plants by dividing each area (e.g., Area 1) into four sections.

Deer are far less inclined to jump into small fenced areas.

Each smaller area will be approximately 15' x 15' with a total area of approx. 33' x 33' (4' walking space between smaller areas)

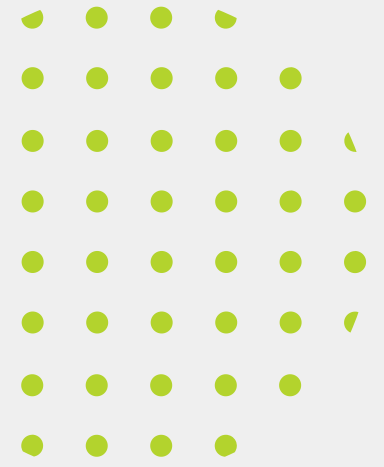




# Temporary Deer Exclusion

## Area Fencing

Fencing Material + Fence  
Posts 8' 4 x 4"





# Schedule

- **Area Prep:** Between now and planting weekend
- **Planting Weekend:** Saturday/Sunday, Oct. 28-29
- **Monitor:** Starting November 1





# Tree and Shrub List

<b>Tree/Shrub Species</b>	<b>Botanical Name</b>	<b>Unit</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Total</b>
American Sycamore	<i>Platanus occidentalis</i>	\$15	20	<b>\$300</b>
Black Cherry	<i>Prunus serotina</i>	\$15	22	<b>\$330</b>
Eastern Larch	<i>Larix laricina</i>	\$12	2	<b>\$24</b>
Northern White Cedar	<i>Thuja occidentalis</i>	\$15	7	<b>\$105</b>
Pawpaw	<i>Asimina triloba</i>	\$15	3	<b>\$45</b>
Red Maple	<i>Acer rubrum</i>	\$12	8	<b>\$96</b>
Tulip Poplar	<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	\$15	9	<b>\$135</b>
White Oak	<i>Quercus alba</i>	\$15	7	<b>\$105</b>
White Pine	<i>Pinus strobus</i>	\$15	5	<b>\$75</b>
American Hazelnut	<i>Corylus americana</i>	\$10	8	<b>\$80</b>
Black Elderberry	<i>Sambucus canadensis</i>	\$10	6	<b>\$60</b>
Buttonbush	<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	\$10	5	<b>\$50</b>
Nannyberry	<i>Viburnum lentago</i>	\$10	2	<b>\$20</b>
Ninebark	<i>Physocarpus opulifolius</i>	\$10	5	<b>\$50</b>
Swamp Rose	<i>Rosa palustris</i>	\$10	12	<b>\$120</b>
Witch Hazel	<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>	\$10	5	<b>\$50</b>

