

A photograph of a dirt path winding through a dense forest of tall trees. The path is bordered by wooden railings on both sides. Sunlight filters through the leaves, creating dappled shadows on the ground.

Living next to open space

For homeowners sharing property boundaries with Columbia Association

Enjoy and protect our forested open space.

Columbia is ranked as one of the most livable cities in the US for its blend of culture, nature and sustainability. Open space is the backbone of our daily life.

Columbia Association owns and maintains more than 3,600 acres of open space and 114 miles of interconnected pathways.

The parks, paths, and facilities provide opportunities for residents to enjoy the outdoors, live a healthier and more active lifestyle and gather with friends and family.

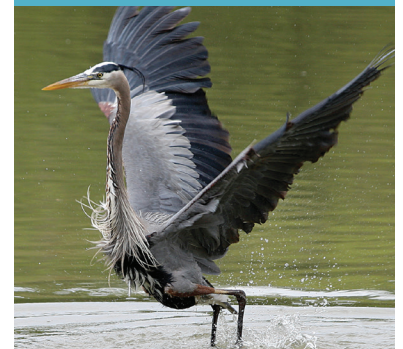
If your property backs to CA open space, you may enjoy increased privacy from neighbors, visits from owls and foxes, blackberries and black raspberries just a few steps away, and the magic of thousands of fireflies lighting up your summer nights.

The many advantages of living next to open space are balanced by a responsibility to be a good steward to our natural areas so they can function as needed.

The forested land in open space filters our water, protects us from flooding, moderates our local climate, and preserves biodiversity of plants, insects, birds, and other wildlife.

Visit

Learn more about CA open space
columbiaassociation.org/open-space/





Help conserve and protect our natural resources

Private structures like sheds, patios and trampolines belong in your own yard. Respect property boundaries.

Backyard pet waste washes into open areas and harms water quality. Please remove waste promptly.

Dogs and cats may injure wildlife; keep dogs leashed and prevent cats from hunting by keeping them indoors.

Fertilizers, herbicides, and insecticides used on private property flow downhill, ending up in open space and our streams.

To prevent harm to water and wildlife, we encourage these alternatives to synthetic chemicals:

extension.umd.edu/resources/yard-garden/lawns/lawn-care-and-maintenance/.

Fallen leaves, sticks and yard waste may be composted on your own property or disposed of through county pick up.



Invasive plants spread into open space from private property (and vice versa). For the sake of our forests, we encourage you to remove English Ivy, Barberry, Burning Bush, Autumn Olive, Vinca and other invasive plants from your yard. Learn to identify them here: dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/Documents/midatlantic.pdf.

Mowing, clearing, or gardening in open space without approval is not permitted. If you have a yard that extends into open space or concerns about invasive plants in your adjacent open space, email: OpenSpace.ResourceRequests@columbiaassociation.org.

Calling all Weed Warriors, Pull and Planters or Stream Waders

We welcome residents to join us in maintaining the health of open space through our volunteer programs including, Pull and Plants, Weed Warriors and Adopt-a-Spots. Visit columbiaassociation.org/engage/volunteer/



Do I live next to CA or county property?

If you're not sure, ask your village manager or use the county interactive map to find out data.howardcountymd.gov/InteractiveMap.html.