

Collective Spaces Farm

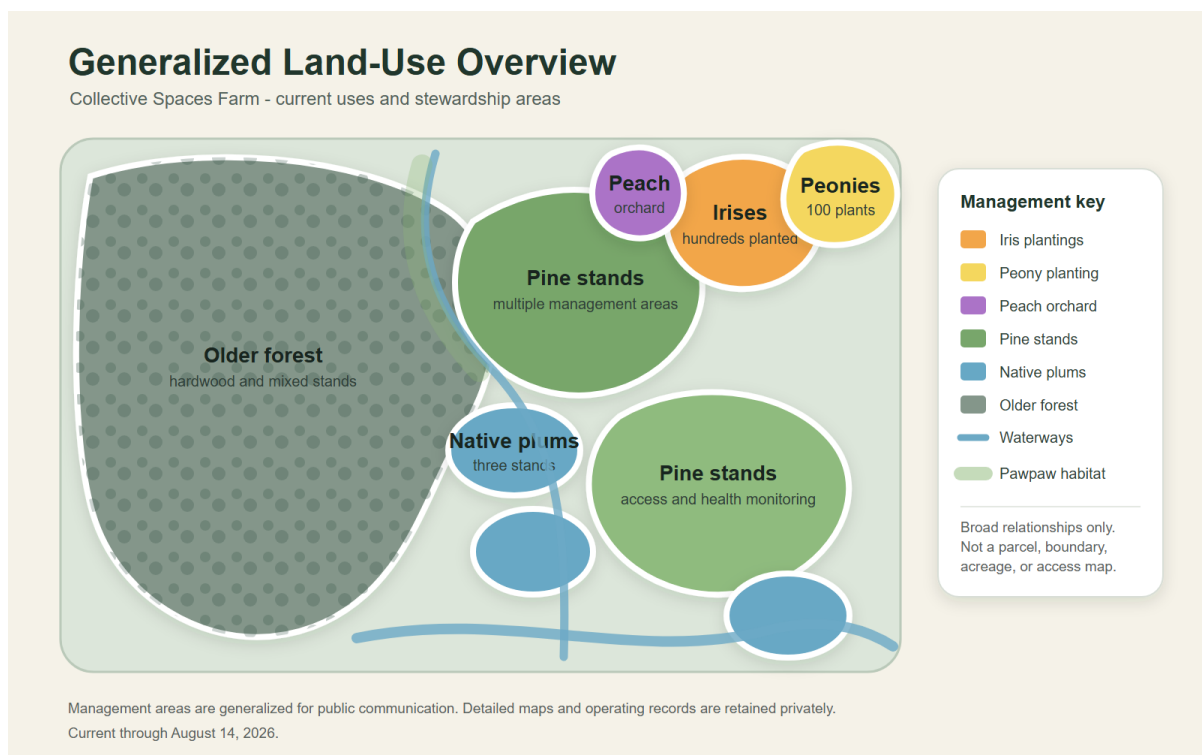
Public Farm and Land Stewardship Plan

Current through Aug 14, 2026

Plan Purpose

Collective Spaces Farm manages approximately 206 acres in Halifax County, Virginia for cut-flower production, orchard and native-fruit harvests, pine timber, older forest stewardship, waterway protection, and crop-based agritourism. This plan sets the farm's operating direction, seasonal work, and management priorities for the next three years.

The base program uses existing plantings, buildings, equipment, records, and owner labor. Work is scheduled around crop condition, land condition, weather, equipment capacity, and visitor safety. The plan is reviewed annually and adjusted from recorded results.



Generalized management-area overview for public communication. This is not a parcel, acreage, boundary, or access map.

Farm Profile

- Approximately 206 acres across three adjoining parcels, based on current Halifax County GIS records.
- USDA Farm Service Agency records identify 211.45 farmland acres and 24.04 cropland acres. These are administrative program measurements from past farm data and are not used as legal parcel acreage.
- Current owner-mapped uses include iris and peony plantings, a small peach orchard, three native-plum stands, pine timber stands, older forest, open land, waterways, and farm access areas.
- Hundreds of wild native pawpaw stems grow along waterway corridors and are monitored as a future harvest resource.
- The owner estimates that roughly 100 acres are partial hardwood and older forest. Stand-by-stand records will refine this figure over time.
- A steel shelled working barn supports farm operations. The farm operates a Kubota MX5400 tractor, Baualight MP360 forestry mulcher, and other attachments and tools consistent with farm and orchard management.

The older USDA field map reflects the field layout that existed before the current owners acquired the property. Current crops, orchards, timber stands, forest areas, and management units are recorded on a separate owner map.

Farm Enterprises and Resources

Perennial Flowers

Many hundreds of irises and 100 peonies were planted in spring 2026. The iris cultivars are not yet known. During bloom, the farm will record flower type, bloom period, usable stem length, stem strength, vase performance, and marketable quantity. Peonies will be managed as establishing plants and harvested only when plant condition supports it.

The farm's flower program is directed toward cut-flower sales through direct retail, area farmers markets, and florists. Paid Pick Your Own days may be offered for irises and sunflowers. Peonies will be harvested by the farm.

Orchard and Native Fruit

The current peach orchard contains approximately 12 trees with more plantings scheduled as funding allows. Three native-plum stands contain several hundred trees in total. The farm will track bloom, fruit set, drought effects, harvest quantity, and access by stand.

Hundreds of wild pawpaw stems occur along waterway corridors. These are tracked by patch because many stems may be connected by roots and fruiting depends on age, light, and cross-pollination. Harvest will begin after producing patches are identified.



Irises blooming shortly after planting on Apr 4, 2026 . The cultivar is unknown.



Native plums harvested at the farm during a pick your own event on Jun 14, 2025 .

Pine Timber Stands and Older Forest

The owner-mapped pine stands are designated as long-term timber stands. Management includes maintaining access, observing species and age class, monitoring stocking and health, thinning where stand condition warrants it, retaining suitable crop trees, and recording timber removed and stand response. Suitable trees are also selected for bounded Cut Your Own Christmas Tree activities.

The pine timber schedule is:

- **August 2026-August 2027:** assign stand identifiers and record approximate species, age class, stocking, health, access, and thinning priority;
- **2027-2030:** complete thinning in stands where density, health, access, or tree size indicates it and record removals and stand response;
- **Every three to five years thereafter:** reassess stocking, growth, health, storm damage, access, and the need for additional thinning; and
- **25-40 years from stand establishment:** use this as the working planning window for harvesting mature timber, with stand-specific timing refined after species, age class, site condition, and product objectives are recorded.

Older hardwood and mixed forest is managed for forest health, natural regeneration, habitat, soil and water protection, safe access, and useful production and harvest. Named management areas, repeat photographs, and condition notes guide the work.

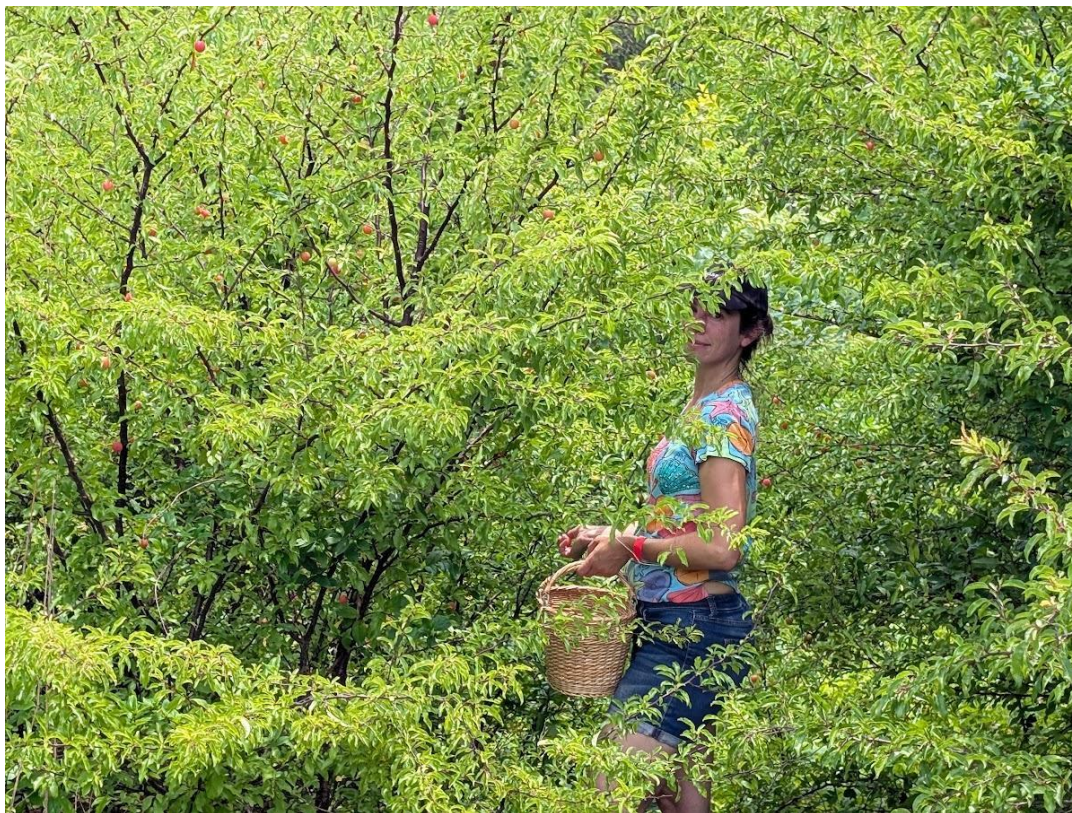
Water, Soil, and Riparian Areas

Sandy Creek and internal drainage corridors are central land features. Routine stewardship includes protecting streamside vegetation, avoiding equipment work on saturated ground, maintaining ground cover, observing crossings and culverts, and recording erosion or storm damage.

Documented Farm Activity

Period	Activity
June 2025	The farm harvested approximately one gallon of native plums. Dated photographs document picking and harvested fruit.
June 2025	The farm held a community native-plum Pick Your Own opportunity attended by Halifax County residents. Public promotion and dated photographs document the activity.
Autumn 2025	The farm held a community Cut Your Own Christmas Tree weekend. The event is owner-documented; the surviving visual record is limited.
Spring 2026	Several hundred irises and 100 peonies were planted.
2026 growing season through August 14	Drought conditions resulted in no reported sellable fruit production.

The 2025 community harvest activities were initially offered as paid opportunities, and payment was waived for visitors who could not afford it. No sales were completed. Future records will distinguish products sold, distributed without charge, retained for owner use, or offered through an event.



Community native-plum picking on Jun 14, 2025 .

2027 Production and Market Program

The farm's primary near-term channels are cut flowers and crop-based agritourism. The 2027 program is to:

- evaluate and sell marketable iris stems through direct retail, farmers markets, and florists;
- maintain the 100 peonies as establishing plants and harvest only quantities supported by plant vigor;
- plant a sunflower field when the field, seed, labor, and maintenance capacity are ready;
- offer paid Pick Your Own days for irises and sunflowers when crop quantity and visitor readiness support them;
- continue native-plum picking and Christmas-tree cutting when harvest quantity, safe access, and owner capacity support them;
- coordinate promotion with area farmers markets where practical; and
- harvest pawpaws after producing patches are identified.

Product availability, market commitments, and event dates will be set from the quantity and condition recorded during the growing season.

Forest and Land Stewardship Program

The farm's owner-directed program will:

- maintain farm, observation, emergency, and limited visitor access;
- manage pine stands as a long-term timber crop, including scheduled stand review, thinning, and harvest;
- maintain older forest health, regeneration, habitat, and resilience;
- protect waterways, wet ground, soil, and streamside vegetation;
- use existing equipment selectively for access and brush control;
- retain native fruit, suitable Christmas trees, mature trees, habitat features, and regeneration;
- detect hazards, storm damage, erosion, and invasive plants;
- select visitor-access Christmas trees before an event is promoted; and
- keep repeatable written and photographic records.

Each named management area receives an observation record covering vegetation, access, health, regeneration, erosion or drainage concerns, wildlife or habitat features, completed work, and the next priority.



Owner-operated tractor and forestry mulcher used for access, brush management, field preparation, and land stewardship.

One-Year Work Program: August 2026-August 2027

Period	Primary work
August-October 2026	Record drought effects; assign management-area identifiers; establish photo points; identify the sunflower area; begin crop, forest, activity, and equipment records; establish the first pine timber stand baseline.
October 2026-February 2027	Inventory suitable Christmas trees; inspect pine stands and set thinning priorities; maintain priority access under suitable conditions; inspect equipment and the working barn; identify manageable market and florist opportunities.
March-May 2027	Record iris and peony bloom and condition; test iris stem and vase performance; record peach, plum, and pawpaw bloom or fruit set; plant sunflowers when field and maintenance capacity are ready; observe pine growth, health, and regeneration.
June-December 2027	Test limited flower sales; hold bounded crop-supported agritourism days; record native-fruit production and every harvest destination; complete priority thinning that can be safely performed with available resources; complete the annual review.

Three-Year Direction: 2026-2029

Year 1 - Establish the Operating Baseline

Create repeatable crop, harvest, market, visitor, equipment, and management-area records. Determine actual flower quality, crop timing, fruit production, pine stand condition, and visitor capacity.

Year 2 - Produce, Thin, and Repeat

Repeat flower and agritourism activities that fit the crop and workload. Complete priority pine thinning, compare repeat photographs, and concentrate land work on the most useful management areas.

Year 3 - Consolidate the Farm System

Use three seasons of records to define dependable products, harvest windows, visitor activities, timber work, and land-management priorities. Update the next three-year program from those results.

Recordkeeping and Annual Review

The farm maintains simple records for:

- farm and forest work;
- planting and crop observations;
- timber stand observations and thinning;
- harvest quantity and destination;
- sales, waived payments, and free distribution;
- agritourism activities;
- equipment maintenance;
- forest and water observations;
- dated photographs; and
- the annual operating review.

Consistent dates, named locations, photographs, and short factual entries are the standard. Measurements are refined when they become useful to operating decisions.

Supporting Records

Supporting records include USDA Farm Service Agency records, Halifax County GIS records, the owner's current land-use map, dated farm photographs, public event material, equipment photographs, activity logs, harvest records, and annual reviews. Detailed parcel, access, financial, participant, and sensitive-resource records are retained in the private farm binder.

Review Cycle

This plan will be reviewed at least annually and updated when plantings, harvests, visitor activities, timber work, land conditions, equipment, or management priorities materially change.