

Guidelines: What you can do on Crown lands without a permit

Purpose

This guidance document explains what kinds of short-term, low-impact activities you can do on Crown lands without express permission from the Department of Natural Resources, if you follow the conditions listed.

These rules apply to Crown lands and submerged Crown lands, being lands below the ordinary high water mark. These rules do not apply to [designated beaches above the ordinary high-water mark](#) under the [Beaches Act](#), provincial parks managed under the [Provincial Parks Act](#), or other lands under control of the Province.

You may conduct certain low impact activities (listed below), and may enter, traverse over, or be present upon Crown land to conduct those activities. This does not convey rights to the land. This access and use are non-exclusive (i.e. does not allow the holder to curtail public access over the area).

Definitions

These definitions will provide an explanation of terms that may not be familiar to everyone wishing to use Crown lands. All terms in this section are found throughout this guidance document.

- a) Crown lands: are all or any part of the land under the administration and control of the Minister of Natural Resources through the *Crown Lands Act*.
- b) Low impact activities: Activities that do not result in breaking of soil, removal of timber or other ground disturbance (do not dig, disturb the ground or cut trees).
- c) Personal use: activity is not for a commercial purpose (activity is for yourself, not for selling). Resale of materials is not permitted.

Low Impact Activities on Crown Lands (do not require a permit):

- Travel on maintained Crown roads (permits for vegetation management or other disturbance activity is still required).
- Personal use filming or use of drones.
- Collecting small amounts of sea glass by hand, below the high-water mark of a beach.
- Repairing a wharf within its previously approved footprint, using the same materials and following all conditions within the original approval. A permit to operate a vehicle on a beach is still required in all cases.
- Orienteering.
- Research that does not disturb soil, vegetation, wildlife or species at risk.
- Up to two moorings located within 60 m (196 ft) of the ordinary high-water mark of your property, directly in front and straight out following the trajectory of your property line.
- Small-scale foraging of plants and fungi, excluding timber, by hand for personal use.
- Small-scale foraging of seaweed by hand for personal use.
- Rock collecting by hand on a beach, up to 500 g (17 oz), as a souvenir for personal use.

- Removal of balsam tree tips for wreath material for personal use, to a maximum 12 kg (25 lb). Material must only be gathered after cold weather has hardened needles. Harvest only tips useful for wreaths 30-60 cm (12-24 in) long, use hand clippers or shears, tree stems not to be cut or scarred, no trees less than 3 m (10 ft) in height to be cut.

Conditions

- In some cases, authorizations are also required from other provincial government departments or from other levels of government.
- It is the responsibility of each user of Crown land to undertake activities in accordance with this guidance and to understand the risks associated with such activities.
- Do not enter Crown lands, including roads, where there is explicit public notice, by signage or other means, prohibiting or restricting access. This includes when site access is restricted due to active industrial activities.
- Where Crown lands are subject to a lease or licence, this guidance will only apply where the lease or licence holder has authorized the activity. In any other case, permission from the Department must still be obtained.
- You must obey all posted signs and notices. Persons may not conduct themselves or undertake any activity upon Crown lands contrary to any explicit public notice, by signage or other means.
- Necessary authorizations that fall outside of (a) the *Crown Lands Act* and/or (b) the *Beaches Act* (as it pertains to Crown lands below the ordinary high-water mark) are still required for activities captured by these guidelines. If another law restricts an activity, you must follow that law. You must follow all federal, provincial and municipal laws, regulations, and by-laws.
- Activities must not negatively impact vulnerable, threatened or endangered species.
- Activities must not negatively impact areas identified for consideration as core habitat in a recovery plan under the *Endangered Species Act*.
- You take part in activities at your own risk and must act responsibly.
- You cannot build or put up structures or buildings on the land.
- Take all garbage and materials with you when you leave. Do not damage the environment.

Compliance and Enforcement

The Department may check any activity, at any time. If you do not follow these guidelines or any applicable laws, you may be asked to leave Crown land or stop your activity, and you may face enforcement actions.

The Department may restrict or prohibit activities where needed to protect Crown lands and will provide notice when doing so. The Department will retain discretion to restrict, prohibit, and enforce any activities covered by this policy as may be needed to ensure the protection of Crown lands. Any restriction, prohibition, and/or enforcement in respect of activities otherwise covered by these guidelines will be undertaken with appropriate notice.

Questions

For additional information please contact any of the [Department's local offices](#).