



HARVARD UNIVERSITY
HARVARD FOREST

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Harvard Forest Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Policy & Guidance Updated: December 2017

Use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) at the Harvard Forest must follow the Harvard University Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (Research) Policy, and all applicable Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regulations. This document summarizes these policies, and provides guidance on procedures to follow when planning a UAV flight at the Harvard Forest.

Harvard University Policy

In a nutshell, Harvard University allows only faculty, students, staff, and approved other persons to fly UAVs from within or above University property. In addition, all flights must follow FAA policy and be registered with Harvard University. Flights solely over Harvard Forest may be registered using the Harvard Forest RPA and notification system (see below) instead of the University-wide system. Recreational or hobby flights are allowed only if the operator is a member of a University sanctioned hobbyist club.

More details: <https://vpr.harvard.edu/unmanned-aerial-vehicles-committee>

FAA Policy

In a nutshell, when you fly for work/business, these are the basic things an operator must know for flying under the small UAS rule (14 CFR part 107):

Pilot Requirements:

- Must be at least 16 years old
- Must pass an initial aeronautical knowledge test at an FAA-approved knowledge testing center
- Must be vetted by the Transportation Safety Administration (TSA)

Aircraft Requirements:

- Less than 55 lbs.
- Must be registered

Operating Rules:

- Class G airspace*
- Must keep the aircraft in sight (visual line-of-sight)*
- Must fly under 400 feet*
- Must fly during the day*
- Must fly at or below 100 mph*
- Must yield right of way to manned aircraft*
- Must NOT fly over people*

- Must NOT fly from a moving vehicle*

*All of these rules are subject to waiver

More information on FAA rules: https://www.faa.gov/uas/getting_started/

Apps for determining current airspace restrictions:

- https://www.faa.gov/uas/where_to_fly/b4ufly/
- AirMap (available for free from Google Play or itunes)

Harvard Forest Requirements

No UAV activity is allowed within 100 meters of a Harvard Forest buildings or property boundaries without prior written authorization from the Harvard Forest UAV committee (Figure 1).

At the beginning of a project, and annually thereafter:

- In the Research Project Application (<http://harvardforest.fas.harvard.edu/conducting-research>), include plans to fly a UAV in the 'Permits' section, along with registration and remote pilot license information, if available (required prior to UAV use).
- Any flights launched from a walk-up tower must be reviewed by the Tower Safety Officer (at this time, Mark VanScoy, mvanscoy@fas.harvard.edu) and all safety requirements followed.

At least 24 hours prior to a flight:

- e-mail a flight plan to hffacil@fas.harvard.edu and aabarker@fas.harvard.edu, including
 - Remote Pilot in Command (name and license number)
 - Location
 - Date and flight window
 - Equipment (including registration number)

The day of the flight:

- Remote Pilot in Command must follow all responsibilities as described in small UAS rule (14 CFR part 107). This includes, but is not limited to:
 - Preflight inspection of UAV
 - Ensuring weather conditions are appropriate for flight
 - Awareness of people, property, or other potential ground hazards.
 - https://www.faa.gov/uas/media/Part_107_Summary.pdf

Harvard Forest UAV committee:




Audrey Barker Plotkin (aabarker@fas.harvard.edu),

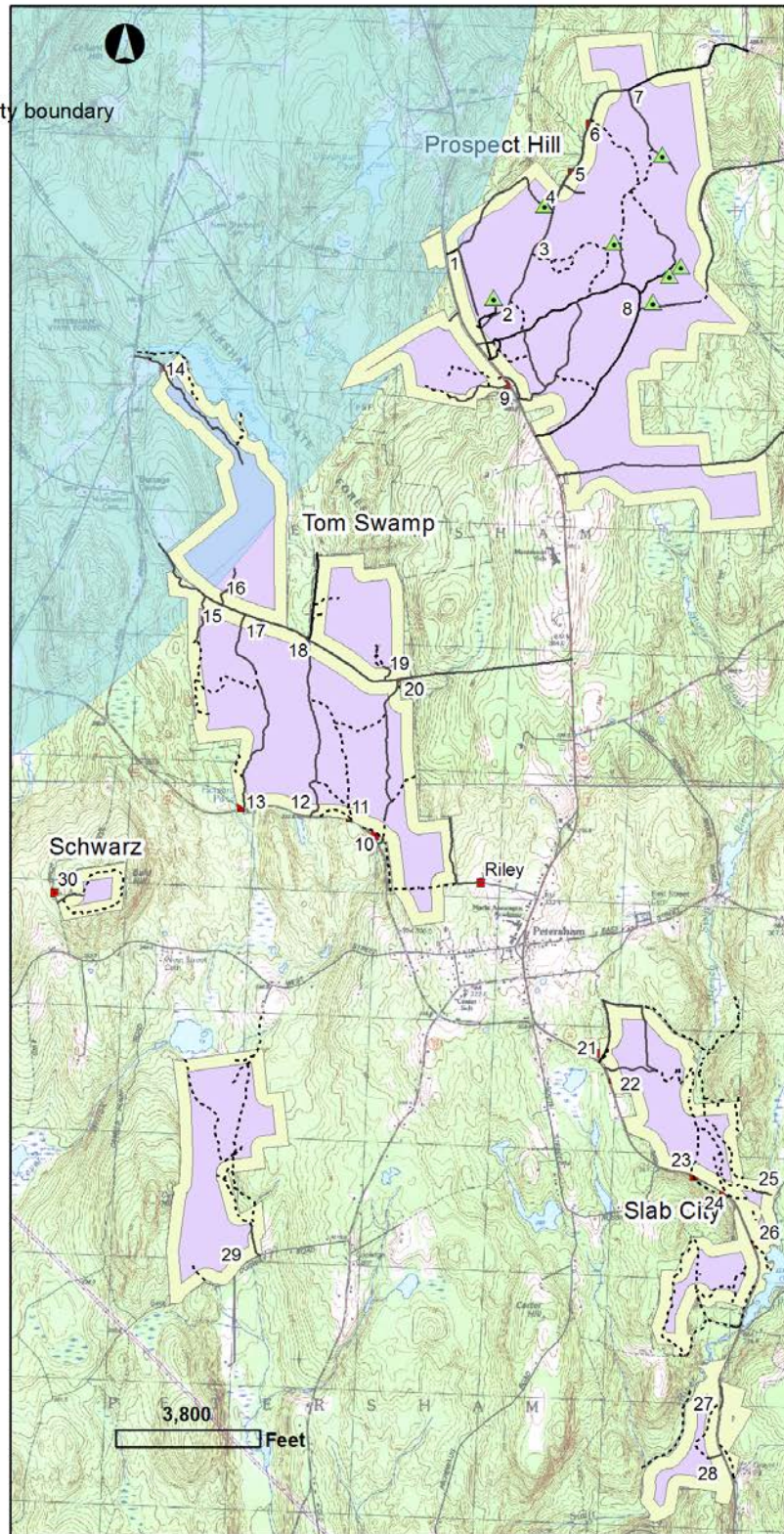
Eddie Ellin (ellin@fas.harvard.edu),

Mark VanScoy (vanscoy@fas.harvard.edu)

Figure 1. HF land showing property boundaries and where is <5miles from Orange Airport, and 100m buffer from HF boundary.

Legend

-  100 meter buffer from property boundary
-  5 miles from Orange Airport
-  Harvard Forest property



Date: 6/9/2017