

High Prairie Farms Metro District Open Space Rules and Incident Reporting

The High Prairie Farms Metro District is asking Timbers homeowners for help with reducing/eliminating damage to our open spaces. We have recently experienced open space damage caused by: vandalism (trees being cut down and new benches/concrete pads damaged), small fires (in some cases requiring South Metro Fire District response), bicycle/moto-cross paths cut into hills causing vegetation damage, and motorized vehicles (mainly ATV's or dirt bikes) damaging open space vegetation and landscape. While most of these incidents were mitigated by our District Grounds Manager, there was a cost to the District. The frequency of such incidents has increased, which is very concerning. In particular, given the constant fire danger in our area, any fire started by kids or homeowners presents a high risk of wildfire causing permanent property damage to our community. Homeowners may remember the "Burning Tree fire" in 2011, where juveniles started a grass fire south of our community. They should also remember the evacuation orders and the very real risk of complete loss of our homes. Even with the heroic response by South Metro Fire, we were lucky the wind changed direction as the fire reached Bayou Gulch Road. Even if the Douglas County fire restriction ratings allow open fires, there are **NO FIRES allowed in the District open spaces at any time.**

In order to prevent vandalism and open space property damage, we are asking all Timbers homeowners to help with the following:

1. Understand your property boundary lines, especially when your property is adjacent to District open space. It is an unacceptable excuse for homeowners to utilize motorized vehicles or start fires in District open space, because you thought it was your property.
2. Ensure all members of your household understand the District open space rules:
 - a. No motorized vehicles (gas or electric) can operate in any District open space area/walk paths without authorization from the District.
 - b. No Fires on any part of the District open space. If you see an open fire, call 911 and/or South Metro Fire District immediately.
 - c. No landscape changes/ground digging can be done to open space areas without the approval of the District .
 - d. All Dogs must be on a leash and dog waste must be picked up and disposed of at the dog stations positioned at several locations along walking paths
3. If you observe anyone vandalizing or damaging open space, take pictures of the individuals and call the Douglas County Sheriff. Also contact the District by calling (303) 779-5710. NOTE: Depending on the incident, the District can pursue civil action. The District has a reward policy for any individual who provides evidence leading to a conviction.