



October 1, 2018

To: Paul Colucci, Chairperson, and Town of Gardiner Planning Board
From: Shinrin Yoku LLC, Applicant, for the Heartwood project

Heartwood Wildlife Mitigation Plan

The purpose of the Wildlife Mitigation Plan is to minimize effects of the lodging facility on wildlife and wildlife habitat that are present in the area while keeping Heartwood guests and employees safe, healthy and happy.

As Heartwood seeks to provide a nature-immersive experience for its guests, the presence of many types of wildlife is welcome and part of the appeal of visiting the property.

Certain types of wildlife (e.g., deer, bears) can cause damage to property or present danger to guests. The existing fence surrounding the property is the primary mitigation measure to prevent large mammals from entering the site. This fence will be repaired during the construction phase and maintained on an ongoing basis.

For wildlife that does enter the site, Heartwood personnel will follow the DEC's detailed guidance on ways to eliminate conflict, help abandoned or injured wildlife, and, if needed, manage conflicts with wildlife.¹ Heartwood personnel will be required to be aware of the DEC's guidance and treat wildlife with respect and caution and according to DEC guidelines.

Prior to arrival or upon arrival, guests will be informed that Heartwood is meant to be nature immersive and strives to be sensitive to its environment. Guests will receive tips to reduce their impact while visiting. Sustainability and appreciation for nature will be featured prominently throughout the Heartwood marketing materials in order to attract a self-selecting, environmentally conscious clientele. Guests will be made aware of Heartwood's sustainability plan on our website which will include the use of hand dryers, water filling stations and avoidance of plastic lids, cups or straws.

The site selection, site plan, and design of Heartwood have also taken wildlife mitigation into consideration. The vast majority of the development is planned for an already-cleared area which has had human impact for decades. No loss of contiguous forest area will occur. Structures were designed to blend in with nature to maintain existing visual conditions and encourage safe and healthy coexistence between guests and wildlife.

The creation of easements along the Shawangunk Kill prevents development and major habitat alteration in those areas forever.

¹ Help Abandoned or Injured Wildlife <https://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/261.html>

Nuisance Wildlife Species - Controlling Problems with Wildlife: <https://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/7005.html>