



South Mountain Conservancy

South Mountain Reservation Stewardship, Advocacy & Public Engagement



FAIRY HOUSE MAKERS - HOUSE BUILDING GUIDELINES

Get ready.....Your Fairy Trail building will be an artistic and architectural experience.

The Fairy Trail Makers operates under the umbrella of the South Mountain Conservancy, which serves as steward and advocate for the South Mountain Reservation. It works to preserve, protect, and restore its ecology, natural beauty, and infrastructure through volunteer programs, promoting sustainable use, informing public policy and engaging the community with programs for all ages.

The Fairy Trail draws thousands of families every year and is a magical introduction to the wonders of the woods. The importance of preserving nature takes on special meaning when children consider how their respect of nature can help fairies, who are endangered by loss of habitat. That's also why it's so important for fairy houses to be camouflaged—to blend into the environment without razzle-dazzle sparkles or bright colors.

MAKERS: If you build it, they will come...fairies and visitors!

Imagine yourself as a tiny fairy who might want a cozy place to sleep, a fun playground, a gathering place with friends, or perhaps a library with books. Find a theme and take a fresh look at nature's small wonders in your yard, gardens, favorite woods, or South Mountain Reservation. Can that acorn become a fairy cereal bowl or seed pod transform into a bathtub with a little help from your imagination?

- All Fairy Houses should be made of natural materials that can go back to nature over time.
 - What do you need to build a fairy house?
 1. Flat bases and wood.
 2. Branches and bark that has fallen from trees
 3. Scavenged acorns, pinecones, and other pods from plants that have fallen to the ground, dried reeds/grasses, small sticks/twigs, seashells, dried flowers (a bag of potpourri works well), small tree cookies, dried moss, native vines, tree bark are all ideas good for house details.
 4. Tiny stones, gravel, etc. for walkways.
 5. Anything natural that you find outdoors.
 6. Outdoor glue (Gorilla hot glue sticks work best).
 7. Spray varnish.

A 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Corporation

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- Build on a flat piece of wood, slate roof tile, or a wooden cutting board to provide a sturdy platform for your fairy house, which will make it more stable when transporting it to the trail.
- Outdoor glue must be used (Gorilla glue sticks and a glue gun work best, please don't use traditional hot glue). We don't want your house to come apart when exposed to weather.
- The fairy house does not have to look like a regular "house" in miniature, it can be very simple (see samples below).

Building materials should not be taken from living plants:

- If you would like to use moss, please don't dig it up from the Reservation.
- Store-bought moss is acceptable to use as an alternative to preserve the natural growth in the Reservation.
- Keep hardware, such as door hinges, minimal.
- Don't forget to add accessories; fairies enjoy sitting at tables and chairs and resting in beds.
- Keep in mind that Fairy Houses should be built to withstand the seasons.
- Be certain that your Fairy House blends into the environment; no razzle-dazzle sparkles or bright colors.
- Please do not add any names or titles to the houses.

THE BENEFITS OF MAKING FAIRY HOUSES

This activity is enjoyable for kids to engage in.

- Your children are outside enjoying the natural environment.
- It gets them away from computer screens for a bit of time.
- It encourages healthy, creative, and imaginative play.
- Best of all, it creates an opportunity to make memories and build connections.

And you get to make a fairy house! What could be better than that?

CONTACTS:

Fairy Trail Coordinators, Julie Gould and Beth Kelly can be contacted at
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or

Join the "South Mountain Fairy Trail" Facebook group.

Information on the South Mountain Conservancy and the South Mountain Reservation can be found at: <https://www.somocon.org/>



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