



TOWN OF NORTHBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

7 Main Street Whitinsville, MA 01588

Phone: (508) 234.0817

conservation@northbridgemass.org

CONSERVATION LAND USE REGULATIONS

These rules govern the use of conservation lands that are under the management of the Conservation Commission. Several conservation lands are protected by a Conservation Restriction which includes more stringent restrictions.

Northbridge's conservation lands are open to all for a variety of passive recreational uses and other pursuits that do not damage the land or impair other people's enjoyment. These are your lands. Please enjoy them and take care of them.

- 1) Conservation lands are open daily from 6 AM to 6 PM (November through April) and 8 AM to 8 PM (May through October). After hours use may be permitted by the Conservation Commission (with approval from the Board of Selectmen and the Fire and Police Departments).
- 2) Horses and mountain bikes are permitted except in certain areas to prevent damage to resources or trails. A list of restricted use trails is available from the Conservation Commission.
- 3) Motorized vehicles (including e-bicycles) are prohibited except for emergency responses or trail/habitat construction and maintenance activities.
- 4) Dogs must be leashed or under control at all times. Pet waste must be bagged and packed out.
- 5) No alcoholic beverages or recreational drug use are permitted.
- 6) No person shall cut, break, remove, deface or defile any natural or manmade object. Plants may not be collected or removed unless authorized by the Conservation Commission. Non-game wildlife, including vertebrates and invertebrates, shall not be harassed, collected or removed. Edible fruits, berries, nuts, fiddleheads and mushrooms may be harvested for personal use.
- 7) Aside from Castle Hill Farm (which has site-specific restrictions), hunting and trapping is permitted pursuant to Massachusetts Department of Fish and Wildlife regulations. Tree stands are permitted without written approval from the Conservation Commission provided the stand is marked with a weather-proof tag (identifying the hunter's name and phone number) and that the stand is removed no later than 30 days from the close of the hunting season.
- 8) Discharge of firearms except during hunting season by licensed hunters is prohibited. Discharge of paintball guns is prohibited.
- 9) No fires are permitted.
- 10) No disposal of waste material (including landscape waste) of any kind is permitted. All trash must be packed out.

Each noncriminal violation of these regulations is punishable by a fine of \$50. Any person found guilty of violating any of these regulations in a criminal proceeding in the District Court shall be subject to a fine of \$200. The Conservation Commission may also require restoration of damages.

Do not leave valuables in parked vehicles. The Town of Northbridge is not responsible for any thefts or damage to vehicles.

If there are questions, please contact the Northbridge Conservation Commission at 508-234-0817 or conservation@northbridgemass.org.

Adopted via a vote of the Conservation Commission that occurred during a public hearing on 11/15/2023