



TOWN OF ANDOVER MASSACHUSETTS

Town Offices
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Rules and Regulations governing the use of Conservation Land in the

TOWN OF ANDOVER

1. The Andover Conservation Commission as agent of the Town of Andover shall be responsible for all Conservation Land under its control either by deed provisions, easements, Town Meeting vote or informal arrangement with other departments or individuals.

2. Signs shall be posted listing lawful and unlawful activities on designated Conservation Land. Violations hereof shall be punishable by fines; First Offense \$25.00, Second Offense \$50.00 and every succeeding day \$50.00.

2a. Lawful Activities:

1. Fishing is allowed under the provisions of applicable state laws;
2. Parking on designated road(s), parking areas or trails;
3. Bicycling permitted on designated trails;
4. Authorized community gardening activity as permitted by the Commission;
5. Authorized maintenance or construction work;
6. Non-motorized water craft and/or electric powered trolling motors on Commission controlled waterways; (Exempt- Emergency Watercraft)
7. Dogs held on leash only.

2b. Unlawful Activities:

1. No alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs of any kind are allowed on any Conservation Land at any time;
2. Hunting, except Bow Hunting-see number 4 below;
3. Trapping; except as authorized by the Conservation Commission pursuant to its management of Conservation Land;
4. Bow hunting, except by special town issued permit only during deer hunting season on designated Conservation Land only;
5. Discharging firearms;
6. Cutting, defacing or removal of trees, bushes, plants or deadwood;
7. Dumping or littering of any items or material, including yard waste such as leaves and brush;

8. Operation of ATVs and motorized dirt bikes. Permits for motorized vehicle use may be granted to visitors with qualified disabilities who show appropriate documentation.
9. Paintball or War Games.
10. Construction of off-road bicycle BMX style trails and jumps.

3. Conservation properties are made available in accordance with laws governing recreational use under MGL Chapter 21 Section 17c. Neither the Conservation Commission nor the Town of Andover assumes any liability for injuries, damage to property or loss to persons while on said properties.

4. All persons are welcome on designated Conservation Land of the Town without permit from sunrise to sunset. Conservation Land is meant to be preserved in a natural state. Visitors to designated areas are encouraged to leave them cleaner than they were found and to practice "Leave No Trace" ethics. Violations should be reported to the Overseers of particular reservations, to the Conservation Commission or to the Andover Police Department. Cans, bottles, garbage, paper, plastic and any other debris whatsoever shall be placed in receptacles if provided by the Town or taken away if no municipal receptacles are on the site.

5. The Conservation Commission alone may authorize the following:

- a. Trails to be cut or marked, dams to be built, or any structures such as a bridge, tower, boardwalk, birdhouses, handrail, and picnic table to be built or placed on Conservation Land;
- b. Community gardening in specified areas;
- c. Overnight camping to Scouts and similar youth organizations (a responsible adult leader present is required) or other group approved by the Conservation Commission or its representatives. Every such group shall obtain a written camping permit from the Andover Conservation Commission office and a fire permit from the Andover Fire Department for campouts if open fires are planned. The Andover Fire Department will issue permits for open fires only after the camping permit has been obtained. The Commission shall designate the exact site to be used and shall mandate sanitary arrangements. Said permit shall be issued for each twenty-four (24) hour period. Any persons camping on Conservation Land without said permit(s) shall be subject to prosecution and fines. The Commission reserves the right to deny said permit.

Adopted by vote of the Commission on: April 3, 2018

(Supersedes document of 12-23-2002)