

**SUDBURY CONSERVATION COMMISSION
LAND USE POLICY
&
REGULATIONS FOR USE OF SUDBURY CONSERVATION LANDS
Adopted July 13, 2009
Amended January, 22 2024**

MISSION STATEMENT:

To preserve and protect the Town's valuable water, land, animal, and plant resources for the benefit of present and future generations (under the legal authority granted by the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act, the Sudbury Wetlands Administration Bylaw, and M.G.L. Chapter 40 section 8C); to educate the community on the benefits of resource protection and to encourage community participation in all town resource issues; to promote enjoyment and stewardship of our open spaces and natural resources

CONSERVATION LANDS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

The following is the list of the conservation properties in Sudbury with managed trails or non-motorized boat launches that are open to the public:

Barton Farm	Landham Brook
Broadacres Farm	Lincoln Meadows (north and south parcels)
Davis Farm	Newfell Conservation Land
Frost Farm	Nobscot Conservation Land
Haynes Meadow	Piper Farm
Hop Brook Marsh	Poor Farm Meadow
King Philip Woods (including the Libby parcel)	Tippling Rock

The Sudbury Conservation Commission invites everyone to enjoy the conservation lands in Sudbury for passive recreation, such as hiking, wildlife observation, and cross-country skiing. The Commission has adopted these regulations under the authority given in M.G.L. Chapter 40 section 8C for the purpose of protecting wildlife, preventing erosion, and providing an enjoyable experience for all persons using the trails.

The following Rules and Regulations are intended to ensure that the conservation lands are managed and maintained in accordance with the requirements of the Conservation Commission Act (M.G.L. Chapter 40, section 8C) and the Mission of Sudbury's Conservation Commission. Prohibited activities are activities that will result in destruction of natural resource values, either individually or cumulatively or diminish the public's passive enjoyment of the properties. Uses permitted on Sudbury Conservation lands are uses that will not negatively impact the natural resource values and functions and which are compatible with natural resource processes, wildlife, wildlife habitat, and passive public enjoyment of the lands. These Regulations may be made more restrictive for any specific parcels as deemed necessary by the Commission for the protection of the natural resources and the safety of the public. These Regulations shall apply equally to all properties owned by the Conservation Commission, irrespective of the presence or absence of trails or boat launches, or other amenities.

For any activity seeking written permission, the Conservation Commission shall apply the following criteria to the activity:

- ✓ Does the activity contribute to the Conservation Commission's responsibilities under M.G.L. Chapter 40 section 8C and the Mission Statement?
- ✓ Will the activity help or enhance the natural resource functions of the site?
- ✓ Will the activity reduce or enhance the passive enjoyment of the property by the general public?

ACCESS, HOURS AND FEES

The listed conservation lands are open to the public from ½ hour before sunrise until ½ hour after sunset. No fees are charged for the use of Sudbury Conservation properties. A Land Use Permit is required for organized groups of five people or more. Regular, organized user groups will be requested as part of their permit to provide land stewardship activities. After-hours use may be requested for camping or other outdoor pursuits. The Commission will determine the compatibility of the use with the Mission Statement, these Regulations, and the impact to nocturnal wildlife and conservation land neighbors.

Access shall be on sanctioned trails only. No people or pets are permitted off trail, except with express permission from the Conservation Commission.

PROPERTY AND GOODS

No trails shall be cut or marked, nor dams built, nor any structure such as lean-tos, bridges, towers or handrails constructed, without written authorization of the Conservation Commission.

No person shall cut, break, remove, deface, defile, or ill-use any rock, building, fence, bench, bog bridge, sign or other structure or property, or have possession of any part thereof.

Depositing or leaving rubbish, litter, demolition or yard debris, garbage, excavated fill or any hazardous waste is prohibited.

No person shall engage in business, sell, or expose for sale, post, place, or give away any goods, wares or circulars.

PLANTS

No trees, shrubs, herbs, or other vegetation may be defaced, disturbed, cut or otherwise injured or removed, except as permitted below.

Samples may be collected for education or documentation purposes with written permission of the Commission.

The Conservation Commission or its designee may approve, in writing, vegetation clearing for trail creation, maintenance, or invasives species management.

No firewood may be collected and/or removed from any conservation land except with prior written permission from the Conservation Commission.

ANIMALS

Hunting, fishing, trapping, catching, injuring, destroying or interfering in any way with birds, reptiles, amphibians, mammals or any other wild animals is prohibited except as stated below.

Fishing is not permitted on Conservation Lands.

Bow hunting for white-tailed deer is permitted in season, with a permit from the Conservation Commission and in accordance with Deer Management Program Regulations.

Horse riding is allowed on designated trails. The Conservation Commission reserves the right to close any trails to horses at any time should trail conditions warrant closure. Riders are expected to remove any horse waste from the trails and not dispose of it in any wetland area.

Groups of more than five riders or organized horseback activities require a permit from the Commission.

Dogs shall be restrained in accordance with the Public Safety Bylaw (Article V, Section 3). More than 4 dogs per person shall require written permission from the Conservation Commission. Dog owners/walkers are expected to remove any dog waste from the property. Dog owners/walkers shall yield to horse riders and other trail users.

CAMPING AND FIRES

Camping may be allowed with a responsible adult present at all times. Campers shall obtain prior written permission from the Conservation Commission, and must each time notify the chief of police of both exact dates of occupancy, and identity of the accompanying adult.

Open fires are not permitted. A permit from the Fire Department is required for any camping stoves.

ALCOHOL AND FIREARMS

Possessing or consuming any alcoholic beverage is prohibited.

Possessing of weapons or discharging any firearms, firecrackers, rockets, sparklers, or fireworks is prohibited, and in accordance with all federal, state and local regulations, except as permitted by the Conservation Commission

Possessing any bows or crossbows, or releasing arrows or bolts, is prohibited, except for bowhunters carrying a valid Town of Sudbury bowhunting license.

VEHICLES

No motorized vehicles of any kind are allowed except for government emergency vehicles or vehicles authorized, in writing, by the Conservation Commission.

Bicycles, including all-terrain non-motorized bicycles, are permitted on designated trails only. The Conservation Commission reserves the right to close any trails to bicycles at any time should trail conditions warrant closure. Bike riders shall ride responsibly and shall yield to all other trail users.

Agriculture is a large part of Sudbury's past and many conservation lands include former pasture and crop areas. Several parcels of conservation land were purchased by the Town for the purpose of continuing the agricultural traditions and maintaining the historic town character. Therefore, the Conservation Commission periodically will enter into License Agreements with farmers for the purpose of keeping the historic fields in continued agricultural use. Any fields licensed for farming will include the requirement that the farmer must continue to permit public access to the land around the perimeter of the fields during the growing season and throughout the property outside of the growing season. Farm equipment may access appropriate farm roads and fields.

OTHER ACTIVITIES AND USES

Any activities and uses not set forth here require the permission of the Conservation Commission.

The Conservation Commission may undertake or contract with others to undertake all necessary management actions notwithstanding any of the other provisions of this document.

Public nudity is prohibited.

Swimming and wading are prohibited.

All trash, litter, cans, refuse, bottles etc. shall be removed from the land by the user and disposed of or

recycled properly.

No glass bottles or containers or any kind are permitted on conservation land.

Please park to maximize the space available. Please do not block the emergency entrance gate.

FINES

A fine of not more than \$100.00 per day shall be imposed for any violation of these Regulations, or of a permit issued under these Regulations, according to the following schedule: \$(150) for a second offense, and \$200.00 for a third or subsequent offense. These fines may be imposed (under the provisions of M.G.L. Ch. 40 Section 21D) by the police or by Commission members or staff. Each day shall constitute a new offense.

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Chief of Police: July 29, 2009

Fire Department: July 29, 2009

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