



About This Property

The Nobscot Conservation Land is 118 acres of woodland, meadows, historic sites, and an abandoned apple orchard. It is located south of Route 20, with access and parking on Brimstone Lane. The original 78 acres of the parcel was purchased in 1974 for passive recreational activities. A gift by Alderice Mailett in 1985 added another 40 acres. The area is ideally suited for hiking, nature study, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing. The Nobscot Scout Reservation, which borders this parcel, is private property and is not part of the Nobscot Conservation Land. However, it is also open to the public.

From the parking lot on Brimstone Lane, the conservation land lies on both sides of the road. On the uphill side of the parking lot is the slope running up Nobscot Hill, the peak of which lies not far over the town line in Framingham. The path up the steep embankment levels out and traverses an abandoned apple orchard. Before the forest reclaimed it, Mt. Wachusett and Mt. Monadnock could be seen from this view point, as could Round Hill and the spires in the Town Center. On the downhill side is a tract which includes considerable wetlands.

There are a number of interesting geological features such as kettle holes and eskers that tell the history of a land formed by receding glacial ice. For Native Americans in the Sudbury Valley, Nobscot was a hill they called Penobscot, "Place of Falling Rocks" and was a spiritual place for the Nipmuc people. The colonists of Sudbury and Framingham shortened the name to Nobscot. The Nobscot Conservation Area once comprised several farms with open fields, stone walls, and farm buildings. Today, only the stone foundations of buildings and the stone walls remain, and much of the land has reverted to woodland.

Nobscot contains the famous dam built in the 1930's by Henry Ford, founder of the Ford Motor Company. In 1923, Ford stepped in to protect the Wayside Inn as a "splendid example of colonial America." He purchased nearly 1,500 acres surrounding the Inn and built a traditional New England-style white chapel and a field grist mill (rumored to be the "most photographed historic site") in the Wayside Inn area. Ford had a dam built in an attempt to create a reservoir for firefighting in the Wayside Inn area. The wall was built at least 30 feet high and 900 feet long out of stone and concrete. Obsessed with historic authenticity, Ford made sure all construction and renovations were accomplished in "the traditional manner" using only man- and oxen-power. Unfortunately, the dam never worked as intended, only succeeding in holding back only enough water to form a wetland. The reasons given were that the soil was too porous behind the dam, and the feeding stream has very little water most of the year. This dam is now referred to as "Ford's Folly".

The entry point from Brimstone Lane is an extremely steep climb with wooden log steps. The forested area contains minor hills and moderate slopes with multiple tree roots and rocks along the trail. Some of the slopes along minor trails can be steep; however, the main trail is generally wide with average difficulty, except for a few more challenging slopes. The trail to Ford's Folly is in the opposite direction from Nobscot Hill. This trail winds through wooded areas, which contain some slopes, tree roots, and rocks. Some of these wooded area trails along both sides of Brimstone Lane also contain brush. Ford's Folly is accessed via a narrow path along the top of the structure, so hikers should use caution.

Land Use Regulations

- Conservation Land is open to the public ½ hour before sunrise until ½ hour after sunset.
- No trails shall be cut or marked, nor dams built, nor any structure such as lean-tos, bridges, towers or handrails constructed.
- 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.
- Fishing, trapping, catching, injuring, destroying or interfering in any way with birds, reptiles, amphibians, mammals or any other wild animals is prohibited.
- Hunting prohibited except as permitted by the Conservation Commission.
- 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 General Bylaws (Chapter 117 – Article II). 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. All dog waste must be removed from the property and properly disposed of.
- Possessing or consuming any alcoholic beverage is prohibited.
- Possession of weapons or the discharge of firearms, firecrackers, rockets, sparklers, or fireworks is prohibited, except as permitted by the Conservation Commission.
- No motorized vehicles of any kind are allowed except for government emergency vehicles or vehicles authorized, in writing, by the Conservation Commission.
- 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.
- Public nudity is prohibited.
- Swimming and wading is 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.
- Camping permitted by permit. Open fires are prohibited.

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 MGL Chapter 40 Section 21D, by the Police or by Commission members or staff. Each day shall constitute a new offense.

NOBSCOT

Trail Guide



Town of Sudbury Conservation Commission



275 Old Lancaster Road

Sudbury, MA 01776

978-440-5471

<https://sudbury.ma.us/conservationcommission/>

Nobscot Conservation Land

- Parking
- Kiosk
- Private Trail
- Vernal Pools
- Town Line
- Bay Circuit Trail
- Trails
- Topography
- Stone Walls
- Streams
- Ponds
- Buildings
- Roads
- Wetlands
- Forested Areas
- Developed Areas

