

STOW CONSERVATION LAND REGULATIONS

Stow's Conservation Land is permanently protected by the Town and managed by the Stow Conservation Commission. It provides wildlife habitat, groundwater recharge, passive recreational opportunities, and many other community benefits.

These regulations have been adopted by the Stow Conservation Commission for all town-owned Conservation Areas. The regulations are designed to preserve natural resource values, minimize user conflicts, and foster visitor safety. Persons using Town property do so at their own risk and should be aware that properties may be monitored with remote cameras.

Please report suspicious or inappropriate activity, downed trees, or other hazards to the Stow Conservation Department at 978-897-8615 and urgent matters to the Stow Police Department at 978-897-4545.

PERMITTED ACTIVITIES:

PASSIVE RECREATION: Hiking, jogging, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, photography, nature study, picnicking, fishing (as permitted by state law).



DOGS:

- All dogs must be leashed at all times in the following locations: Flag Hill, Heath Hen Meadow Brook, all parking lots, agricultural fields, and community gardens.
- At other areas, dogs that reliably respond to verbal commands may be off leash within sight of owner/keeper. A leash must be carried for each dog, and dogs must be held or leashed when encountering others on the trail. *Please be courteous, off leash walking is a privilege.*
- No more than two dogs may be walked at once per adult.
- Owners are responsible for removing dog waste from all properties. Do not leave poop bags behind.



BICYCLES:

- Restricted to colored, marked trails at all areas and must yield to other trail users including pedestrians and horseback riders.
- Trails may be closed during wet or muddy seasons.
- Riders are advised that trails are maintained for pedestrian use and hazards may be present.



HORSES:

- Restricted to colored, marked trails at all areas. Horses are not permitted on wooden bridges and boardwalks.
- Trails may be closed during wet or muddy seasons. Riders must yield to pedestrians.
- Riders are advised that trails are maintained for pedestrian use and hazards (including overhead clearance) may be present.



PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES:

- Hunting, trapping, and target shooting or carrying firearms/bows/traps for such purposes.
- Camping and campfires, except for organized groups with a permit.
- Use or parking of motorized vehicles of any kind (cars, trucks, snowmobiles, ATVs, motorbikes, remote controlled aircraft, etc.) except in designated parking lots and at community gardens.
- Littering or dumping of any kind including yard waste, leaves, brush and woodpiles. Release of animals.
- Collecting firewood, mushrooms, rocks, plants or animals.
- Use of conservation land, trails, or parking lots after dark (from ½ hour after sunset to ½ hour before sunrise).
- Creating, trimming or marking trails, using chainsaws or performing any other land management work.
- Smoking or use or possession of alcohol or illegal drugs.
- Commercial activities, fee-based programs or events, or organized group activities without a permit.

Individuals violating these regulations may be subject to a fine of up to \$300 per day. For further information or to obtain permits, contact the Stow Conservation Department at 978-897-8615 or conservation@stow-ma.gov.