



TOWN OF UPTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Conservation Commission

Land Use Regulations

Town of Upton Conservation Commission

The following rules are established in March 2024 by a majority vote of the Upton Conservation Commission under its authority (Chapter 40, Section 8C) to regulate use of town conservation areas and other land managed by the Conservation Commission.

Upton's conservation lands are open to all for hiking, nature study, biking, cross country skiing, snowshoeing, horseback riding, camping 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 one hour before sunrise until one hour after sunset. After hours use may be permitted by the Conservation Commission.
- 2) Horses and bicycles are permitted except in certain areas to prevent damage to resources or trails.
- 3) Motorized vehicles are permitted only when authorized by the Conservation Commission. Pedal-assisted class-1 electronic bikes without the use of a throttle, and other-powered motorized devices are permitted with consideration toward safety and the integrity of the trails.
- 4) Dogs must be leashed at all times. Dogs, while hunting or training for hunting, may be off leash provided they are under voice command.
- 5) No alcoholic beverages are permitted.
- 6) No person shall cut, break, remove, deface, alter 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 sustainably harvested for personal use.
- 7) Hunting and trapping is permitted pursuant to Massachusetts Department of Fish and Wildlife regulations. Treestands are permitted without written approval from the Conservation Commission provided treestand guidelines are followed. The guidelines are available from the Conservation Commission and the Town of Upton website (www.uptonma.gov).
- 8) Discharge of firearms except during hunting season by licensed hunters is prohibited. Discharge of paintball guns is prohibited.
- 9) No fires are permitted except by permission of the Conservation Commission.
- 10) No disposal of waste material of any kind is permitted. All trash must be packed out.
- 11) Overnight camping may be permitted at the discretion of the Conservation Commission to groups having an adult leader present at all times. All campsites must be at least 50 feet from established trails and 100 feet from wetlands, ponds or streams. Use of portable stove and open fires are allowed with written permission from the Conservation Commission. All wastes must be packed out.
- 12) Group use of conservation land for private, non-commercial functions, such as for weddings, is allowed with prior notification and approval of the Conservation Commission. Applications for other group events will be accepted only from non-profit and governmental organizations.
- 13) No new trails may be built without the approval of the Conservation Commission.

VIOLATIONS HEREOF are punishable by a fine of \$50 for the first offense and \$100 for subsequent offenses. The Conservation Commission may also require restoration of damages.

If there are questions please contact the Upton Conservation Commission at 508-529-6286 or at concomm@uptonma.gov.