

Town of Franklin

Tel: (508) 520-4929

Fax: (508) 520-4906



Conservation Commission

355 East Central Street • Franklin, Massachusetts 02038-1352

Policy Statement: Franklin Conservation Land Use

It is the policy of the Franklin Conservation Commission to preserve Conservation land in perpetuity for the enjoyment of natural areas for the residents of Franklin and visitors, and to allow neither net loss of Conservation land nor net loss of wetlands resources under Conservation care and custody. It is also the policy to regulate any and all outdoor uses and alterations, to encourage universal access wherever possible, and to allow responsible use of chemical, biological or mechanical means of maintaining Conservation land. This policy enables the Franklin Conservation Commission to promulgate specific rules and regulations for the use of Conservation land.

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Town of Franklin Conservation Property Rules and Regulations

Policies:

- Conservation properties are open to all persons free of charge from ½ hour before dawn to ½ hour after dusk. Any property left unattended on Conservation land ½ hour after dusk shall be considered abandoned.
- Persons using Conservation properties do so at their own risk, The Franklin Conservation Commission does not accept any liability resulting from the use of Conservation properties.
- Passive recreation that does not affect the property nor other people is permitted; e.g. hiking, jogging, catch and release fishing, canoeing, kayaking, bicycling, picnicking, bird watching, etc.

Permitted Activities with Conservation Authorization:

- Written authorization from the Conservation Commission is required for the following activities. Please allow 2 – 3 weeks processing time for permits. The Conservation Commission can be reached at (508) 520-4929.
 - Overnight camping and/or cooking fires in designated fire rings, provided that The Franklin Fire Department has been given prior notification. Their phone number is (508) 528-2323.
 - Construction of any structures such as dams, bridges, lean-tos, etc.
 - Construction of new trails or maintenance of existing trails.
 - Commercial activities or organized group activities.

Prohibited Activities:

- Littering. All waste must be removed from Conservation properties.
- Dumping of any kind.
- Cutting, collecting, disturbing or damaging plants, animals, soils, signs or structures other than previously authorized.
- Motorized vehicles, other than official public safety, maintenance and motorized handicapped vehicles, except on designated ways or parking areas. No overnight parking of vehicles without prior authorization.
- Hunting, trapping, possession or discharge of firearms, pellet guns, paintball guns, bows and arrows.
- Release of animal, or introduction of plant life without authorization.
- Smoking.
- Alcoholic beverages or any type of glass containers.
- Bicycles off of trails.
- Dogs off of leashes. Animal waste shall be removed by the owner.
- Swimming.
- Excessive noise such as generators, tools, RC cars/trucks/boats/aircraft, music, etc.
- Any activity not expressly permitted.

Enforcement:

- These rules and regulations are issued with the authority of MGL Ch.40, sec.8C. Violations of these rules are punishable by fines of up to \$100 per day and are enforced by the Franklin Police Department and the Conservation Commission.
- All regulations covered by Town of Franklin Bylaws Chapter 37 Town Properties, Chapter 125 Peace and Good Order and Chapter 151 Solid Waste. These regulations supplement those Bylaws.

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Franklin Conservation Commission Property Use Permit

_____ is(are) requesting a Conservation Permit
(Applicant, Organization or Group Name)

for _____
(Why you want to use Conservation Property. Use additional sheets of paper if needed)

Start Date: _____ End Date: _____ Location: _____

I(We) understand that all Town of Franklin Bylaws as well as Town of Franklin Conservation Property Use Rules must be followed under penalty of law. I(We) also understand that I(we) are required to notify the Franklin Fire Department at (508) 528-2323 if I(we) intend to use a fire ring in addition to obtaining a Conservation permit.

Signature of Applicant: _____ Telephone #: _____

Date Submitted: _____

Date Approved – Denied: _____

Date Applicant Notified: _____ Person Giving Notification: _____

Signature of Commissioners:

- PERMITS MUST BE APPLIED FOR 3 WEEK IN ADVANCE OF ANY ACTIVITY REQUIREING A PERMIT IN ORDER TO ASSURE THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION HAS TIME TO ISSUE.
- THIS PERMIT MUST BE IN THE POSSESSION AT ALL TIMES OF AN ADULT WHO IS PARTICIPATING IN THE PERMITTED ACTIVITY.