

Town of Marshfield

Rules and Regulations for Use of Conservation Lands

As Amended by Marshfield Conservation Commission on September 30, 2009

After a Public Hearing on September 30, 2009

Effective Date: Ten days after filing with the Town Clerk

The Marshfield Conservation Commission has the authority under Massachusetts General Law Chapter 40, section 8C to manage conservation land and to implement rules and regulations to accomplish that goal.

1. Everyone is welcome to enjoy the Marshfield Conservation Lands at no charge from dawn to dusk.
2. Hours of use may be extended for a specific event or use if written permission has been obtained from the Conservation Department Staff for the specific extended time. Applications for the extended time must be made at least 14 days in advance of the event or use. The written permission shall be carried by the person in charge of the event at all times during the event.
3. Organized commercial or group activities on Conservation Land require prior written permission by the Conservation Department Staff. Applications for the activity must be made at least 14 days in advance of the activity. The written permission shall be carried by the person in charge of the activity at all times during the activity.
4. No work of any type including, but not limited to trail clearing, trail maintenance, excavation, filling, building structures, and posting signs shall be carried out on Conservation Land without prior written permission from the Conservation Commission.
5. No installation of memorials or displays is allowed on Conservation Land without prior written permission from the Conservation Commission.
6. Certain conservation land may be used by private entities for agriculture provided that a written agreement for the use has been signed by the Conservation Commission. Such agreement shall be for certain areas specifying certain allowable agricultural activities which shall strive to establish a sustainable agricultural system on the property and naturally enhance soil health and fertility, species diversity, and wildlife habitat without reliance on heavy use of fertilizers, herbicides, or pesticides. Any approval of use is solely at the discretion of the Conservation Commission and may be revoked at any time.
7. Certain conservation land may be used by Marshfield citizens for small non-commercial vegetable gardens provided that annual written permission has been granted by the Conservation Commission. These community gardens shall be managed by the Conservation Commission which may impose certain rules or restrictions as deemed appropriate and may accept the assistance of other groups in the management details.

8. Smoking is prohibited.
9. Fires and camp stoves are prohibited without written permission from both the Conservation Commission and the Fire Department.
10. Public nudity is prohibited.
11. No person shall cut, break, remove, deface, defile, or ill-use any structure, fence, or sign, or have possession of any part thereof. No plants (including trees, bushes, grasses, or flowers) shall be defaced or cut without written approval from the Conservation Commission. This prohibition applies to dead as well as living vegetation.
12. Wildlife, including vertebrates and invertebrates, shall not be harassed, collected, or removed. Feeding wildlife is prohibited. Nuisance animals shall not be relocated to Conservation Lands from other properties.
13. Discharge of firearms is prohibited on Conservation Land. Discharge of paintball guns and pellet guns is prohibited.
14. Hunting is prohibited on Conservation Land.
15. Trapping is prohibited on Conservation Land.
16. No person shall tamper with the operation of any fish ladder or interfere with migrating adult or juvenile herring or eels in any watercourse or water bodies controlled by the Conservation Commission.
17. Conservation Land is closed to any type of motor-powered vehicle (cars, trucks, dirt bikes, ATV's, snowmobiles) except in designated driveways and parking areas, or vehicles necessary for emergency response by the Marshfield Police and Fire Departments, or with prior written permission of the Conservation Commission.
18. Horses and non-motorized bicycles are permitted on the trails except in certain areas to prevent damage to resources or trails. The person accompanying the horse shall promptly remove feces deposited by the horse on Town Conservation Land. A list of restricted use trails shall be determined as needed by the Conservation Commission and is available from the Conservation Commission.
19. Alcoholic beverages are prohibited on Town property, including Conservation Land. Glass containers for any purpose are prohibited on Conservation Land.
20. Dumping, littering, filling or any other deposition of imported materials, including but not limited to garbage, debris, earth, leaves, grass clippings or brush is prohibited in Conservation Land. (Please use the town compost area for yard wastes. Call the Public Works Department for information.) Users must carry out everything that they carry in.

21. Pets may enter Town Conservation Land provided that they are leashed. The person accompanying the pet shall promptly remove feces deposited by the pet on Town Conservation Land. Pets shall not be allowed to endanger wildlife or the natural vegetation.
22. The Conservation Commission may undertake or contract with others to undertake all necessary management actions notwithstanding any of the other provisions of this document.

The Conservation Commission does not have the personnel to patrol conservation lands, and cannot assume for the Town any liability for injuries, damage to property, or other loss to persons going on such areas. Such persons assume, by reason of entry, all risks involved.

Violations of these rules and regulations may be punishable by fines up to \$100 per violation under Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 40, Section 8C, which is administered by the Marshfield Conservation Commission or its agents.

TAKE ONLY PHOTOS, LEAVE ONLY FOOTPRINTS