



Visiting Durham Conservation Areas – A Land Ethic

Each of us plays a significant role in protecting Durham's public lands. Our actions affect local animals, plants, and ecosystems. When visiting Durham's parks and trails, please consider the following:

Plan Ahead and Prepare

- Know the regulations and particular concerns for the area you'll visit.
- Please follow all COVID-19 safety protocols. https://www.ci.durham.nh.us/sites/default/files/fileattachments/town_administration/page/58191/mask_ordinance_and_map.pdf
- Prepare for extreme weather, hazards, and emergencies.
- Schedule your trip to avoid times of high use.
- Visit in small groups when possible. Consider splitting larger groups into smaller groups.

Travel on Trails

- Please travel on the trail to limit travel damage. Travel damage occurs when surface vegetation or communities of organisms are trampled on beyond recovery.
- Stick to the trail even if it means getting your feet muddy – skirting around muddy sections widens the path, thus widening the muddy areas.

Dispose of Waste Properly

- Pack it in, pack it out. Pack out all trash, leftover food, and litter.
- Utilize toilet facilities beforehand whenever possible.
- Pack out toilet paper and hygiene products.
- Bag and pack out pet waste.

Leave What You Find

- Preserve the past: examine, photograph, but do not touch cultural or historic structures and artifacts.
- Leave rocks, plants, and other natural objects as you find them.
- Avoid introducing or transporting non-native species.
- Do not build large structures or dig trenches.

Respect Wildlife

- Observe wildlife from a distance. Do not follow or approach animals.
- Never feed animals. Feeding wildlife damages their health, alters natural behaviors and exposes them to predators and other dangers.
- Do not release animals from your yard or property.
- Control pets at all times or leave them at home.
- Avoid wildlife during sensitive times: mating, nesting, raising young, or winter months.

Be Considerate of Other Visitors

- Respect other visitors and protect the quality of their experience.
- Be courteous. Yield to other users on the trail and restrain pets when others are approaching.
- Step to the downhill side of the trail when encountering a large group.
- Let nature's sounds prevail.
- Avoid loud voices, playing music, and noises when out on the trail.



Written by Roanne Robbins for the Town of Durham, 2020