

Uxbridge Conservation Land Use Regulations

April 16, 2013

Uxbridge Conservation land is open to the public from dawn to dusk, and visitors are welcome.

In order to help protect these natural areas:

- No littering (with paper, food, airsoft pellets, paintballs, or other non-natural materials).
- No cutting or picking vegetation. Berry picking is allowed.
- No feeding of wildlife.
- Dogs are allowed on leash or under control, as per Uxbridge Bylaw. Clean up after them.
- Motorized vehicles area allowed only in designated parking areas.
- Hunting of turkey and deer and fishing are allowed in conformance with DFW regulations.
- Camping and campfires allowed only with a special permit from the Conservation Office.
- Swim at your own risk
- Hand-carried boats only. No gasoline powered watercraft.

1. Dog Walking is allowed on Uxbridge Conservation properties as long as dogs are leashed and sensitive resource areas and positive visitor experiences are preserved. Dog walkers may not walk more than three dogs at a time. SVT staff and volunteers will monitor use for impact indicators. After prior notice to the Board, staff has the discretion to set further restrictions on dog walking for reasons of ecological impact (such as within sensitive bird nesting area or rare plant habitat) or visitor enjoyment (such as if there is a high number of user conflicts). These additional restrictions may take the form of requiring dogs to be on a leash, closing certain trails to dog walkers, or closing entire properties or portions thereof.
2. Camping is not allowed on Uxbridge Conservation properties due to intense impacts of soil compaction, loss of woody debris, potential litter, waste, potential disruption of neighbors and unsightliness. Staff has discretionary authority to grant special use permits on a case-by-case basis, as deemed appropriate.
3. Bicycling is allowed only on marked trails.
4. Horseback riding is allowed on Uxbridge Conservation properties only as designated by the staff. The current level of use is light to moderate; therefore, the impacts to the natural resources and other visitor uses are low and acceptable. Uxbridge Conservation staff and volunteers will monitor use for impact indicators. Staff has the discretion to post trail closure signs for ecological deterioration (disruption of wildlife, erosion, wetland disturbance, introduction of exotic plants, etc.), safety concerns (suitability of terrain, low branches, conflicting uses) and visitor enjoyment (walkability of trails, horse manure, frequency of negative encounters). The staff reserves the right to close properties if the impacts of horseback riding negatively affect the natural resources and other visitor uses throughout the property.
5. Fishing is allowed on Uxbridge Conservation properties according to state laws and regulations. Uxbridge Conservation staff and volunteers will monitor use for impact indicators – ecological, safety and visitor use – and will periodically confer with Mass Fish & Wildlife staff about any new information on impacts to aquatic species of concern. Staff has the discretion to close properties or certain water ways on Uxbridge Conservation property to fishing if the activity is posing a threat to the general well-being of the property, including its biodiversity and ecological health.
6. All Swimming is at the visitor's own risk, with the exception of participants in a town-sponsored swim program.
7. Non-motorized Boating is allowed at Pout Pond, with hand-carry access only and only via the sandy beach.