

Town of Dennis

Conservation Areas Rules and Regulations

The Town Of Dennis operates over 80 conservation areas totaling nearly 900 acres. The Dennis Conservation Commission welcomes residents and visitors alike to enjoy these areas in a safe and respectable manner. In order to protect the natural resources of the areas, the following rules have been enacted. Violations of these rules shall be punished by fines of up to \$300.00 for each offense.

1. All Conservation Areas close at 9:00pm and reopen the following day at 5:00am.
2. Alcoholic beverages and illicit drugs are prohibited from Town Conservation Areas.
3. No person shall engage in business, sell or expose for sale, or give away any goods, services, wares or circular.
4. Tents and camping trailers are not permitted. NO OPEN FIRES ARE PERMITTED.
5. Fireworks are prohibited.
6. Rubbish, refuse and litter must be brought to and placed in the containers provided for such purposes or removed. Burying any trash is prohibited.
7. Emptying holding tanks and disposal of human wastes on conservation land and its adjoining waters is prohibited.
8. Public nudity and acts of lewd or lascivious behavior are prohibited.
9. No cars, trucks, or other powered vehicles or tools are allowed except on designated roads. Parking in upland areas is allowed in designated areas only.
10. No person shall traffic or allow an accompanying pet to traffic into areas that are posted off limits. All Visitors shall stay on marked, established trails and keep off vegetation, eroding banks and dunes.
11. Hunting, fishing, and shellfishing shall be done in accordance with applicable State and Local laws and will be strictly enforced while occurring in or on a Town of Dennis Conservation Area

Hunting for in-season game is allowed in the following conservation areas as long as it is being done in accordance with applicable state and local laws: Crowes Pasture, Fresh Pond, Simpkins Neck, and Roemig-Jacquinet. Waterfowl hunting may be allowed periodically from the Swan

Pond Islands. Each year, hunting regulations and a map showing Approved Hunting Areas is posted on the Town of Dennis Natural Resources web page.

12. In Conservation Areas no person shall cut, break, remove, deface, defile or ill-use any structure, fence, sign or have possession of any part thereof. No growing trees, bushes, plants or flowers shall be defaced or cut, nor shall trails be cut or marked, nor dams built, nor any structure such as a lean-to, bridge, tower or handrail be constructed, without authorization of the Conservation Commission.
13. No person shall dig or disturb soils in a conservation area without written permission from the Department of Natural Resources. Any culturally significant findings must be reported to the Natural Resources Department immediately.

14. No person shall feed, harass or disturb wildlife in a Dennis Conservation Area

Dogs are allowed in Conservation Areas only when leashed and/or under the control of an adult or licensed hunter. Dog Owners must clean up after dogs and stay on the paths at all times.

Horses are prohibited from all Conservation Areas except Crowes Pasture, where they are allowed on designated trails in the upland areas year round. Horses are prohibited from the beach and intertidal flats from APRIL 1 THROUGH LABOR DAY. Riders are required to pick up and remove droppings immediately, and ride in a safe manner. Adequate cleanup equipment must be carried with the rider(s) at all times. Any organized, planned trips involving parties of 4 or more horses shall obtain a special use permit from the Natural Resources Department prior to riding. The Town does not maintain specific trails for horseback riding and will monitor impacts from horse traffic.

15. Metal detecting, artifact collecting and digging on conservation lands by unauthorized individuals are prohibited per M.G.L. c. 9, s. 27C.
16. Parties of more than twenty persons shall be required to obtain special permission from the Natural Resources Department and shall one individual in the group who shall agree to assume the responsibility for the activities of all members of the group while on the conservation area. Such a permit, shall be issued only by the Natural Resource Officer, or their designee, who shall designate the area at which the event will be held-
17. In addition to these Conservation Area Rules, the Off Road Vehicle Rules and Regulations for Crowes Pasture and Chapin Beach, Beach Regulations, Shellfish Rules and Regulations, all other applicable Town of Dennis By-Laws and Regulations and Massachusetts General Laws apply in the Dennis Conservation Areas.

This is to certify that the above rules and regulations for Conservation Areas were adopted by the Dennis Conservation Commission on May 13, 1975 and revised on March 2, 1989, July 6, 1995, April 18 1996, Jan. 20, 2000, August 17, 2017, July 19, 2018, and supersedes all previously adopted Rules and Regulations.