



On Saturday, April 7, 2012, the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) will begin enforcement of new guidelines for the Middlesex Fells Reservation, including rules about off trail use and a dog-designated area.

The new guidelines stem from the release of a long-term management plan for the reservation, which is focused on restoring and protecting natural resources and determining areas most suitable for recreation. The plan, developed by DCR with input from the public, includes efforts to protect natural and cultural resources and enhance the user experience at DCR's Middlesex Fells Reservation.

The DCR will continue its outreach and educational efforts to ensure that users understand and are aware of all the rules at the reservation. DCR will also be devoting additional resources toward increasing enforcement of these rules and regulations, which include:

- Park is closed from dusk to dawn.
- Dogs must be on leash (except inside the designated off-leash area of the Sheepfold field). Dogs at the Sheepfold must be under voice control of handler.
- There is a limit of 3 dogs per handler.
- Dog waste must be picked up and disposed of. Don't leave bags along trail.
- Bikes are not permitted on single-track trails except where expressly allowed.
- No biking during the month of March.
- No person shall engage in any business without written permit from the DCR.
- Injuring or otherwise disturbing animals or birds or their habitat is prohibited.
- Dumping and littering are prohibited.
- No off-trail use without a DCR permit.
- No trespassing on posted Winchester Reservoir property.
- Breach of peace, profanity, disorderly or offensive conduct, and possession of alcohol are forbidden.
- Users must obey all posted signs.

DCR's Middlesex Fells Reservation is a popular urban reservation with a variety of uses and users. The DCR asks all users to practice the following etiquette.

- Respect other users, expect other users.
- Be friendly and courteous.
- Share the trails. Ride, walk or run on the right, pass on the left.
- Stay on the official trails. Going off trail or on user-created trails creates erosion, damages habitat and causes new trails which can't be maintained.
- Bicyclists should yield to equestrians, runners and hikers. Keep your bike under control and at a safe speed.

- Avoid unpaved trails when they are muddy or wet.
- Warn people when you are planning to pass.
- Anticipate other trail users around corners and blind spots.
- Ride within your ability at all times.
- Respect wildlife.
- When a horse approaches, move off the trail and ask the rider for instructions.
- Leave no trace. Pack out your litter.
- Don't use bells or horns, which may frighten horses.
- Dogs should be kept on leashes and under control on all trails.
- Respect private property.