

RICHARD P. SMART CONSERVATION AREA STEWARDSHIP/MANAGEMENT PLAN

Purpose: The purpose of the Richard P. Smart Conservation Area is to preserve wildlife habitat and clean water resources, to establish low-impact recreational use for the public and to protect the rural character and the shoreline along the Winnepesaukee River.

Scope: The Richard P. Smart Conservation Area consists of 30+/- acres. No subdivision, building of any kind, road construction (other than a footpath), utility or sewerage line, fertilizing, introduction of non-native species, billboards, illumination, excavation, earthmoving, beach construction or other improvements, disturbances or changes in natural conditions, as documented by a baseline study, shall be permitted. The area may be enlarged by fee simple gift, purchase or by easement.

Access: Parking is allowed on Cofran Avenue in the designated parking area. The access area may be fenced and gated if necessary.

Permitted Uses: The Richard P. Smart Conservation Area is open for low impact public recreation and nature observation from dawn to dusk. Fishing (no lead sinkers) and hunting will be permitted during times and seasons as determined by the NH Department of Fish & Game. Permitted activities include: hiking, horseback riding, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, and mountain biking.

Non-Permitted Uses: Use of motorized wheeled vehicles and snowmobiles are prohibited. No littering, vandalism, fires, fireworks, camping, alcohol consumption or structures of any kind will be permitted. No tree cutting or removal of vegetation without prior approval of the Board of Selectmen. Notification shall be provided to the Conservation Commission. No beach area will be constructed.

Stewardship: A Conservation Committee, appointed by the Board of Selectmen, has responsibility for the oversight of construction and annual maintenance of trail, monitoring of usage and response to misuse of the area, liaison with education, conservation and outdoor recreation groups, monitoring water quality* and documentation of bird and wildlife populations over the years.

*Water quality is monitored by the Upper Merrimack River Local Advisory Committee

History: The Northfield Historical Society will be asked to provide research into the historical usage of the Richard P. Smart area. Existing stone walls, mill foundations, dam site, and other artifacts will remain undisturbed to the extent possible upon the recommendation of the Conservation Commission and approval of the Board of Selectmen.

Education: The area will be open to educators for supervised wildlife study, observation, research and other educational purposes with prior review of the Conservation Commission and approval of the Board of Selectmen.

This stewardship/management plan shall be reviewed annually.

**AN ORDINANCE REGULATING THE USE OF THE RICHARD P. SMART
CONSERVATION AREA AND ACCESS TO SAID AREA
FROM TOWN PROPERTY AND HIGHWAYS**

WHEREAS, the town of Northfield owns an 30^{+/-} acre parcel of land abutting the Winnepesaukee River known as the Richard P. Smart Conservation Area in order to preserve water quality and wildlife habitat; and,

WHEREAS, the Town of Northfield's Conservation Commission has developed a Stewardship/Management plan to protect the environment while permitting limited low impact recreational uses;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED, that under the authority of RSA 41:11 and 41:11-a, which allows the Board of Selectmen to manage town highways and town property, the following activities shall not be permitted:

1. Littering, vandalism, the kindling of fires, fireworks, camping, alcohol consumption, or the erection of structures of any kind.
2. Tree cutting or removal of vegetation without prior approval of the Board of Selectmen. Notification shall be provided to the Conservation Commission.
3. Use of motorcycles, "dirt bikes", trucks, automobiles or snowmobiles.

Violators of this ordinance shall be fined up to five hundred dollars \$500.00 and may be held liable for damages to town property.

This ordinance shall become effective upon adoption by the Northfield Board of Selectmen.

Public Hearing held on June 20, 2006
Adopted by the Selectboard on October 3, 2006
Amended by the Selectboard on May 7, 2019