

Chelmsford Conservation Site Stewardship



Chelmsford Conservation Site Stewardship

Site Steward(s)

- Keeps an eye on the site through regular visits
- Cleans trash, clears trail debris
- Identifies work party maintenance/improvement opportunities
- Escalates when more hands/expertise are needed

General Trail Stewards

- Organizes and/or joins work parties on all sites
- Identifies mid- and long-term site improvement opportunities, plans and proposes projects to ConCom

Site Conservation Commissioner

- Maintains regular communication with site steward
- Provides updates to ConCom on site status

Conservation Commission

- Regularly reviews status on all sites
- Reviews and approves proposed site improvement projects

Conservation Agent

- Supports all other roles as needed
- Provides coordination as needed
- Reviews site event requests

Conservation Reservation Stewardship

General Trail Stewards:

- Steve Mayotte
- Dave Sperry
- Bill Dowling
- Geoff Bryant
- Will Obendorf
- Rick Burgess
- Amy Venier
- Karl Bischoff

Conservation Reservation	Site Commissioner	Site Steward(s)
Deep Brook	Bill Vines	Bill Vines
Oak Hill	Bill Vines	Bill Vines
Crooked Spring	Chris Garrahan	Dave Sperry Beth Benoit
Koulas	Bill Vines	Will & Sue Obendorf
Lime Quarry	Marc Gibbs	Bill Robbins
Warren-Pohl	Karl Bischoff	Karl Bischoff Steve Mayotte
Wright Reservation	Karl Bischoff	Amy Venier
Russell Mill	John Swenson	NEMBA*
Thanksgiving Forest	Peter Spawn	Jeff Boutin Michael Bell
Red Wing Farm	Marc Gibbs	Bob Morse Mike Riley
Cranberry Bog	Karl Bischoff	Rick Burgess Karl Bischoff

*New England Mountain Biking Association

Sample Posting on Kiosk

George B.B. Wright Reservation
120 Parker Road, Chelmsford, MA

To report an issue at this site:

Please email or call the Chelmsford Conservation Agent: David Koonce at dkoonce@chelmsfordma.gov (978) 250-5231 #2

Please include the **site** (e.g., Wright Reservation), the problem **description** (e.g., tree down across the trail), and the **location** on the site, and a **photo** if possible.

Please use “*what3words*” (download the app – it assigns 3 unique words to specific locations) if possible, for specific location information - this helps our crew to easily find the problem.

Thank you!

Chelmsford Conservation Commission



Sample Site Management Plan

Cranberry Bog Reservation

60 Elm St., Chelmsford

Ongoing site management:

1. Remove trash from parking area and near entrance.
2. Keep signs visible (cut back vegetation).
3. Clear obstacles on trails: remove downed limbs, etc.
4. Ensure trail markers are present and clear for new visitors.
5. Ensure accessibility parking sign in place.
6. Maintain kiosk postings. Ensure only approved postings are present.
7. Protect the Pink Lady Slippers along the trail.
8. Remove invasive plants per Chelmsford Conservation Commission invasive plant removal guidelines.
9. Ensure visibility along entrance on Elm St.
10. Keep dam flow area clear of debris.
11. Clear vegetation from dam, especially on impoundment side.
12. Identify improvement opportunities, review with conservation agent and Conservation Commission.
13. Keep trail from parking area to dam clear and wide enough for emergency vehicles.
14. Monitor water levels at dam. Alert conservation agent if water reaches high levels.
15. Identify and report issues such as new beaver dams, encroachments, motor vehicle use on trails, vandalism, etc.



Potential Projects:

- Relocate handicap parking spot closer to gate, mark for van size space.
- Create accessibility trail from parking area to dam #1. Move stone near gate to enable wheelchair access.
- Modify/upgrade the kiosk to meet ADA requirements.
- Develop guidelines for the flashboards at CB Dam #1.
- Invasive Management:
 - a. Along entrance trail from Elm St. parking area towards dam.
 - b. Behind/below parking area - direction Carlisle.
- Get signage for turtle nesting on dam (June??).
- Develop site interpretive signage (history, nature, etc.)
- Coordinate projects with community groups (scouts, church groups, neighborhood groups, etc.)
- Organize and execute site educational walks.

Site Projects: Recent and Ongoing

Wright Reservation: Raised Walkway Extension *Completed Fall of 2024*

8-10 Volunteers

- ~180' extension of existing walkway over muddy trail
- Walkway design borrowed from Bedford (MA) Trails Committee





Site Projects: Recent and Ongoing

Warren-Pohl:

Invasive Plant Removal;
Create scenic view

Warren Family and volunteers



Site Projects: Recent and Ongoing

Koulas Farm

Vernal Pool Habitat Sign

Volunteer



Site Projects: Recent and Ongoing

Thanksgiving Forest
Native Pollinator Garden,
incl. water cube shed

Neighborhood volunteers



Site Projects: Recent and Ongoing

Trail Map Refresh

Wright Reservation (Pilot)

- Reflect changed conditions since last updated
- Include trail difficulty and surface info
- Update online availability and access of maps

Volunteers

