

WELCOME TO CRYSTAL GORGE!

HISTORY – The Crystal Gorge Conservation Area is located on Haverhill's western border between Crystal Street and the Atkinson, N.H. town line. The entire area comprises 65.5 acres of hilly and somewhat rocky woodlands. This Conservation Area was created in 2000 when the City purchased 46.5 acres from a private landowner with matching funds provided through a Commonwealth of Massachusetts Cooperative Conservation Grant. These 46.5 acres were combined with an existing 19 acres of City land to create the entire 65.5 acres. As you explore the trails in the area you will note the numerous old stone walls that indicate that the area had historically been used as pastureland in past centuries.

NATURAL RESOURCES – The Crystal Gorge area is located within the Crystal Lake watershed which is a source of our City's drinking water supply. Throughout the woodlot are numerous small streams, wetlands and vernal pools that weave between the rocky ledges that are so prominent here. The largest of these ledge areas form a unique geologic feature we refer to as Crystal Gorge. These steep-sided rock outcroppings of ledge provide an outstanding area to sit and enjoy the views and wildlife of the stream area that runs through the Gorge.

The woods, streams and vernal pools in the area provide excellent habitat to support a diverse population of wildlife such as porcupine, fisher, mink, spotted salamanders, wood frogs, spotted turtles, and pileated woodpeckers. Please keep in mind to just look, but don't touch or disturb the wildlife.

RECREATIONAL USE – The Crystal Gorge Conservation Area is accessible from the parking lot located on the north side of Crystal Street. Please park in a manner that does not block any other motor vehicles. You can obtain a trail guide from the box located on the main entrance sign and we encourage you to stay on the cleared trails as you explore the area. Hiking, x-country skiing, snowshoeing, mountain biking and bird watching are some of the allowed activities that we encourage you to enjoy when you visit. Thank you.

TRAIL AND RECREATION AREA REGULATIONS

The Crystal Gorge Conservation Area is open to the public for hiking, biking, nature study, photography, x-country skiing, snow shoeing and other activities that do not damage the land or disrupt other people's enjoyment of it. To protect this area please obey the following list of state and local laws pertaining to the area:

It is Forbidden in the area:

- to operate a dirt bike, A.T.V., snowmobile, moped or other motor vehicle on the trails.
- to discard litter of any kind.
- to consume or possess any alcoholic beverages.
- to remove or deface any signs, structures, natural features, plants or wildlife nests.
- to tent, camp, or make open fires.
- to have unleashed dogs.
- Violations are punishable by a fine of up to \$300.00 plus the replacement or repair costs of damages.

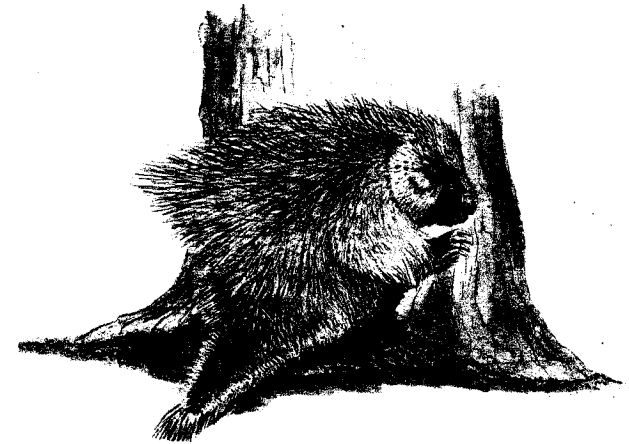
WE NEED YOU !!!

You can help us maintain and improve our Conservation Area:

- * Report illegal activities to the Conservation Department at 374-2334 (office) or 373-1212 (police). A Haverhill Conservation Officer will respond ASAP to investigate the violation. Take a bag along when in the area to pick up litter as you walk. Always take out what you bring in. We are always receptive to anyone interested in volunteering to help maintain or improve the area. If interested, call the Conservation/Trails Office.

THANK YOU !!!

Crystal Gorge Conservation Area




CITY OF HAVERHILL



John J. Guerin, Jr.
Mayor

Conservation Department and
Trails Committee
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Crystal Gorge Conservation Area

-  Public Trails
-  Stone Walls
-  Public Parking
-  Streams
-  Wetlands
-  Ledges

